

on the oath of a police officer, who swore he found a printed proclamation of a treasonable character in his great coat pocket, a proclamation, which O'Coigley on the scaffold, and about to appear before his God, called heaven to witness he had never seen. The officer had, it is supposed, put it in his pocket, for the offered reward. Papers may be *abstracted* from—papers *may be added* to, those seized or examined. The case of Glentworth shows that Mayors, Recorders, Judges, Senators, and District Attorneys, have defended and acted on very different principles from mine; and these too the very men of whom this volume more especially treats. The writer, while he condemns their procedure, invites them to examine his. He invades no privacy—betrays no confidence—circulates no secret record—but refers to parts of a correspondence which was, it is presumed, intentionally placed before him, in proof of a formidable conspiracy against the liberties and franchises of the American people. No honest man can or will conceal treason.

In many cases, the letters I have used, are given in full. Sometimes extracts are taken. It may be said that the latter are garbled. My objects were to shorten the work, and publish no private matter, unless it had a bearing on the subject before me. If any one feel aggrieved, or, if there are those who doubt the genuineness of any part of the correspondence, he or they will easily find the way to produce the originals in a court of law. I shall be most happy to aid in such a course whenever it becomes necessary. Some of the documents will, no doubt, be called for by the Governor or Legislature of N. Y.—others may find their way to the United States Senate.

I may here state, that the *italics* and CAPITALS used to mark particular passages of quoted papers are, in most cases, not so marked in the originals.

The views of certain gentlemen whose political opinions are adverted to in succeeding chapters, with reference to that part of our *adopted* laws, which, if we are to believe the postmaster of New York, Mr. R. H. Morris, ought to be obeyed, though he assures us that it never was written or printed, and therefore could not be known to the people—their peculiar views, and his “on the right of search for private papers,” are so well known to this community, as also *their practice* in strict concordance with these *unknown laws*, that I need only allude to them here. Nero is said to have caused *his* regulations to be written in small characters, and posted so high that they could with difficulty be read. Mr. Morris's borrowed rules, be they real or fictitious, are worse than the Cæsar's, for you can find them nowhere! The convention will, I trust, provide a code of genuine “home manufacture.”

Men estimate differently their obligations to society. In the case of Judge Van Ness, the Bank of America refused to produce the minute book that had the entry of the \$20,000 “gratuity.” Had I been their most confidential servant, and seen such an entry as would have proved a minister of justice unworthy of his seat, I would have very soon made my country aware of it, whether it suited the bank or not. So, in like manner, do I denounce the conduct of the Bank of the State of New York in concealing the account current of a man proved to have embezzled much of the public money, more especially when it is seen that its president was the political and personal friend of the defaulter. Mr. Blair told us through his *Globe* of August 14, 1839, that the “independence of the judiciary” is “an independence of common sense and common justice”—and when such men as him turn ‘state's evidence,’ is it not time to begin considering of new safeguards? Mr. Blair spoke by authority of a governor who had placed a political tool on the seat once filled by Judge Van Ness in the supreme court, to preserve him, as he said, from ruin.

The compiler of this volume deeply regrets that there are in this lovely country the materials for such a record of human folly. [He derives no pecuniary advantage from its publication, but would be the last man in America to shun the responsibility therewith connected.] Ignorance, prejudice and extreme destitution, have ever been inimical to the preservation of freedom and peace. Ages of bloodshed and rapine, presented to our view in the history of the past, will prove unavailing for example, unless our whole community shall be thoroughly educated, sincerity cherished as the first of virtues, and that violence of party spirit which divides our villages, towns, counties and states, into two opposing armies, as it were, ranged under the banners of partizan chiefs, aided by presses, orators, electioneers, and other apparatus of dissimulation and sordid selfishness, annihilated. Much can be