

At the present order of things taking place, I thought my services in the *prime*, entitled me to be noticed in the *decline* of life; I therefore made application to some influential characters in this town, *to no effect*,—owing I presume, to make provision for their favorite *dependants*. But I am so far happy to be possessed of a mind superior to *self*, for I do not envy *them* their princely fortunes, or their favorite *dependants* of their competency. I am well aware that this my present development of this enigma of *Merlin's* may stagger for a moment the minds of some, in consequence of a confined idea, that the spirit of prophecy has long since ceased with the Apostles; but probably not being acquainted with that science of sciences, the science of Correspondence, might still avail,—yet admitting I am singular, I hold that the one and indivisible great Supreme, for reasons unfathomable to our finite understandings, has, in all ages of the world, selected instruments and endowed them with the spirit of prophecy, in order to be communicated for the benefit of mankind,—as well likewise do I make an essential difference between the spirit of prophecy, and miracles,—the latter I readily allow, have ceased. It is as firmly fixt in my mind as the Apalacian mountains are to the centre, that in all ages, instruments have been selected at the hands of Omnipotence, to bring about his purposes in this sublunary world. It is in this point of light that I consider the assembling of that illustrious band of patriots, who assembled at *Norfolk*, respecting the late transactions, between the Leopard and the Chesapeake, and the spirited letter of the Mayor of the borough of Norfolk to the British commodore;—which is the sole motive that induces and emboldens me to prefix his name to this my present publication, without previously obtaining his consent; and I indulge a hope it will be considered by him a sufficient apology therefor. Devoutly hoping that the rulers of my native country for once, will be disposed to take measures to prevent an open rupture between the two countries, and fix matters in future on a durable basis;—undoubtedly you will join in sentiments with me; and after committing each one to the all protecting arm of that being that is able to protect, with permission I beg leave to subscribe myself,

*Your open and Inflexible friend,*

JOSEPH LEIGH.

*Portsmouth, August 13, 1807.*