

portion of it is, therefore, crude, and indigested and without order. Were it a treatise on morals, religion, history, or science, which could not suffer by the delay necessary to mature and methodize it, I should be unpardonable, and deserve the severest castigation of criticism, for presenting it to the public in this unfinished state. But the exigencies of the times are so pressing, that were it delayed till I could digest it properly, it might be wholly out of season.

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It would be unjust were I not to acknowledge the numerous and weighty obligations I owe to the 'Weekly Register,' edited by H. Niles, the best periodical work ever published in America, from which I have drawn a large portion of the facts and documents which I have employed. I venture to assert that no American library can be complete without this publication.

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I have carefully studied to be correct in point of fact and argument. But the circumstances under which I have written, render it probable that I may have fallen into errors. I shall therefore regard it as a most particular favour, if any gentleman who discovers them, however minute, they may be, will frankly point them out, and they shall be most cheerfully corrected. If of sufficient importance, I shall make a public acknowledgement in the newspapers. If the cause I espouse cannot be supported by truth, candour, and fair argument, may it perish, never to find another advocate!

*Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 1814.*