

If Mr. Bennett of the Herald circulates nearly 50,000 newspapers weekly, as he says, and if Mr. Noah's press continues to receive some share of public support, is it not an advantage to society to obtain in this volume, their characters correctly described by themselves! They are the representatives of a class. Should the time arrive in which the statesman, lawyer, and editor will be ready to hire out their talents and influence to the highest bidder, will not the effects of concentrated wealth, and lucrative offices in the gift of partisan leaders, applied to the easy virtue of the Croswells and the Blairs, the Noahs and the Bennetts, with others of their class, tend to mislead many, and endanger the public welfare! Are not a band of deceptive hireling editors like a ledge of sunken rocks, on which, if no beacon is raised to warn the mariner, the most gallant ship may be wrecked!

Has not treason been committed against the state! The public will read this volume and deliver its impartial award.

Treason, in the general nature of it, must be the crime of many. It implies plots and conspiracies, which are carrying on by correspondence, and are to be discovered by *papers*. The safety of the state, which is superior to every other consideration, makes it necessary to use all possible means to unmask the machinations of treason, that the dreadful effects may be prevented. *Papers*, therefore, may be taken possession of, and letters intercepted, as warlike stores are secured, that the designs of the conspirators may be made known to those whom they would betray, and frustrated.

When, at a time of much doubt and difficulty, during the struggle for independence, treason was ready to deliver the important fortress of West Point to a powerful enemy, for money, its designs were opportunely defeated, by the seizure of certain papers in a distinguished officer's boot. When Messrs. Bishop and Kemble had conspired with others to betray their country, and nullify public justice for gain, the letters of these senators and their associates, even the most private and confidential, were published to the world, as a warning to others. General Jasper Ward fared no better. When a treaty was under consideration in the United States' Senate, which Mr. Tappan believed to be injurious to his country, he hesitated not a moment in publishing its most secret conditions, fearless of the consequences of a violation of the rules—and in the case of Jacob Barker, and others, indicted for conspiracy in 1826-7, private letters and agreements were produced, unhesitatingly, for the general good. I quote high authority when I mention the case of Mr. Calhoun and General Jackson, in which, after a visit to Mr. Crawford, by a rival of Calhoun, accompanied by Mr. Cambreleng, the secrets of Mr. Monroe's cabinet, in days long gone by, were laid bare, by Mr. Crawford, private letters exposed, and dissension sown broad-cast between long tried friends—not that the public service might be benefited, but to enable an ambitious aspirant to seize the helm of state, of which he was of all candidates the most unfit and unworthy. Very different was Mr. Crawford's course, when called on by Congress for official papers, to show the tampering and bargaining with the *deposit Banks* of his day. Many were suppressed, whole passages omitted, or garbled—and the exposure of this did not lengthen his step-ladder to Mr. Monroe's seat.

Mr. Cambreleng's views of the sanctity of confidential correspondence, may be readily inferred from the contents of the following letter, marked "private," addressed to his friend, Mr. Jesse Hoyt, at New York, from Washington, and dated May 19th, 1832.

"DEAR H—,

I have seen a copy of W—'s PRIVATE letter to Clayton. It is a deliberate BUT CONFIDENTIAL attack on me, and was designed to coax the Judge to favor him, which was of course repelled. W— asked to have the letter returned—it was so—but *what W— does not know—the Judge took a copy of it. IT'S A ROD IN PICKLE*, and will expose some small contradictions of his present statements—and show some little duplicity. The Judge can tell him that he found my statement of the Webb and Noah case too moderate, and that he wrote it over himself.

Don't mention about the letter to Clayton—he will probably publish it. The Bank will come up in the Senate next week—it won't disturb us before the middle of June.

Sincerely yours,

C. C. CAMBRELENG."