

ter, and would probably obtain him the command of the internal legions—Turning with abhorrence & detestation from a piece that is degrading to the character of a gentleman, and disgraceful to the columns of a newspaper, I shall leave its author to the gnawings of a guilty conscience, and the corroding of envious and disappointed ambition—I will not fellow citizens insult your understandings by pointing out the “brilliant” the polish and the strength” of my opponents’ mind they are conspicuously displayed throughout his literary productions, his splendid dialogues and recent publication, are the monuments of his fame, they will perpetuate his memory, and transmit his name unfaded from generation to generation—one observation more, and I shall discard this part of my subject, the whole of which I have entered upon with regret, and which nothing but the most liberal abuse, and the grossest perversion of facts, could have prompted me to pursue—the liberty of the press, and the freedom of opinion, are the peculiar boast, the inestimable inheritance of the citizens of united America—to investigate the conduct of public officers, and candidates for public favor, is the prerogative of the people—I for one, have thought proper to exercise that privilege—whether I have done it with calmness, with moderation, and with independence, rests with you to determine, and to you I appeal for the correctness of my conduct, and the propriety of Mr. Johnson’s—if he has disproved the charges alleged against him, decide in his favor, and if he has not (which is evidently the case) refuse your support to the man who can betray your interest for a mess of pottage.

The certificate of Mr. Johnson’s very worthy ‘compeer’ the right honorable doctor Goodlet, famous for his ‘fibbing’ during his iteration in the county of Knox, is an infamous falsehood—I can establish it by indubitable evidence if necessary. Mr. Johnson doubts my knowledge of the Latin language.—Whenever he may deign to put it to the test, by the ordeal of his examination, I am prepared to satisfy his curiosity. Let him take care, that I do not prove more capable of examining him.

The manner in which Mr. Johnson mentions the petitions in favor of governor Harrison’s reappointment, is truly insulting to a majority of his constituents. That nine tenths of the electors of Knox, were, and still are in favor of the administration of the territory, is a fact that cannot be denied without a wilful departure from the truth. I feel for my countrymen when I hear them compared to “birds of passage” and charged with living in “kitchens”—surely Mr. Johnson was dreaming of Knights, of Stars and Garters, and conceived himself seated on a throne, and addressing his abject vassals. Freemen know how to repel such indignities, and it is presumed their actions will accord with their information.

LEX TALIONIS,  
ALIAS  
N. E. WESTFALL.

Having seen an oblique attempt in the Sun of the 17th inst. to implicate governor Harrison as the patron or author of Phocion, I think it my duty to state, that he was not concerned either directly or indirectly, in dictating or writing that essay, nor did I hear him speak of the charges exhibited by Phocion against John Johnson, prior to my having received them through a different channel, I composed and wrote the major part of that production in the presence of a gentleman whose affidavit will be obtained and published should Mr. Johnson deny this statement in direct terms. This much I have been induced to say from a respect for the cause of truth and justice, and to me it is a matter of indifference whether Mr. Johnson does or does not believe it, as I like despise his friendship and his enmity—it is not to such men that I address this certificate, but to those and those only who wish to think and act correctly.

N. E. WESTFALL.

To G. W. JOHNSTON, Esq.

SIR,  
HAVING seen a piece in the Western Sun addressed to me, with your signature thereunto affixed. The moderate style in which the piece is wrote has induced me to drop you an answer, out of a view to put you right; you say I had passed judgment that you by accepting the appointment of a Justice of the Peace, for this county, had thrown yourself out of court, that is to

say, you could not, nor should not be suffered to appear as an attorney at the bar of the court of which I am presiding Judge. This I deny—either you or your informant is under a mistake. The words made use of by me if I recollect right in conversation with Mr. Bond, I observed that I had been informed that G. W. Johnston had accepted of the office of Justice of the Peace.—he, Bond, said he understood he had—I then observed Mr. Johnston must not have adverted to the law, otherwise he would not have accepted of the appointment, or perhaps he intended giving up the practice of the bar, for the law was against his acting in both capacities—perhaps I might have gone further, and repeated the law regulating the admission and practice of attorneys and counsellors at law, as inserted in the 6th section of said law; more than this relative to the subject was not made use of by me.—There is no man living more cautious than I am of prejudging a case that probably might come before me; with due difference to your superior knowledge, it is the first time I ever heard that a man’s mouth must be locked in a case that does not come within his province to decide as a judge; I cannot conceive what reflection you intended to throw out against the revisers of the laws of the Territory or the copyists as you style them; you seem to insinuate that the part of the law which makes against you must have been brot, in thro’ some sinister view—permit me to apprise you, that the whole of the law regulating the admission and practice of attorneys was passed into a law under your own eye, as speaker pro tempore of the house of representatives, and that the 6th section of the law, which applies to your case, could not have crept into the bill without your knowledge; let me ask you as a member of the legislature who passed this law what is the meaning or intent of the words “nor shall any person who holds a commission as a Justice of the Peace, Coroner or Sheriff, or who acts as deputy Sheriff, Jailer or Constable within this territory be permitted to practice as an attorney or counsellor at law.” This is the law which, according to your definition no penalty is affixed. But, sir, recollect the penalty is very adequate, and rightly adopted to the case, to wit: prohibition from the practice of the bar; you will remember the only way to contrive law is, when the words made use of will bear no other meaning than the express words themselves, and stands unrepealed, as this law does, must be the rule of decision.

Your obedient

Humble servt.

JAS. JOHNSON.

P. S. It is not my intention to enter into a newspaper dispute with you.

J. J.

#### FEMALE PATRIOTISM.

Mr. Editor, I don’t allow myself to talk politics on common occasions; but I think, in the present state of our country, the Women have as important a part to act as the Men. With all due respect to what you call the Resolves of Congress, I think the Resolves of our Sex of full as much consequence to the Nation; and that a hundred thousand Spinning-wheels, put in motion by female hands, will do as much towards redressing our wrongs, and establishing our Independence, as a hundred thousand of the best Militiamen in America.

I am not alone in this opinion.—*Squire Homespun* [a true American, *inside and out*] lays the noise of Spinning-wheels and Looms is more alarming to *John Bull* (as he calls King George) and his folks, than Mr. Macon’s bill, and all the other bills that Congress are making for his annoyance; and the *Squire* says further, that his Cotton Spinning-factory will be as great an eye-sore to old England, as a man of war with as many great-guns as his factory has Spindles. Now, I know of no better rule of warfare, than to find out what the enemy wishes us not to do, and to go about it in earnest.—My Neighbors agree with me, young and old, and are determined to attack this same *John Bull* with

a hundred effective Spinning wheels.

DOROTHY DISTAFF.

(*Boston Patriot*)

#### LITERARY

Knickerbocker’s History of Newyork. Having accidentally looked into a Work just published, by Inskeep and Bradford, with this unpromising Title, instead of finding it a grave matter-of-fact story of our Ancestors, what could exceed my astonishment and pleasure on discovering it to abound with the same original and spirited vein of humour, which so eminently distinguished that favorite of the public, ‘Salmagundi,’

It is not intended, within the limits of this brief notice, to give a regular plan and analysis of the Work.

The author has chosen the events that compose the history of the 3 Dutch Governors of Newyork, merely as a vehicle to convey a world of satire, whim and ludicrous description; and, as this period is very remote and obscure, he has freely exercised his imagination in forming a kind of dramatis persone and historical romance; giving a delightful picture of the manners and customs that anciently prevailed, and archly intermingling sly hints at the absurdities of the present day.

The first is a good-humored satire on those minute and dull Philosophers, whose crude visions are embodied into vulgar systems, and palmed upon the gaping world with the imposing formality of profound discoveries.

The 2d part is levelled at the follies of Governors and Governments of all ages; but particularly of the present age and Country.

The 3d and last division of the Work comprises the mock-hercic chivalric reign of Peter Stuyvesant, who appears to be the Author’s favorite Hero.

The whole is interperfed with moral and satirical remarks on the local customs and manners of the old Dutch times, as well as the present day; together with a description of the city of Newyork and its vicinity; and a faithful and whimsical picture of the people called Yankees their origin and history.

The characters of the 3 Dutch Governors are drawn with admirable discrimination and supported throughout with the finest strokes of humor. In short the Work presents to the mind a most

animated and original portrait of times past, present, and to come, free from malevolence or ill humor.

We select, as a specimen of the Author’s happy manner, a description of the person of Wilhelmus Knift (commonly called William the Testy) the 2d Dutch Governor

‘He was a brisk, waspish little old Gentleman, who had dried and wilted away, partly through the natural process of years, and partly from being parched and burnt up by his fiery soul; which blazed like a vehement rush-light in his bosom constantly inciting him to most valorous broils, altercations, and misadventures. I have heard it observed, by a profound and philosophical judge of human nature, that if a Women waxes fat, as she grows old, the nature of her life is very precarious; but, if happily she wilts, she lives forever. Such likewise was the case with William the Testy, who grew tougher in proportion as he dried.

‘He was some such a little Dutchman, as we may now and then see, stumping briskly about the streets of our city, in a broad-skirted coat, with buttons nearly as large as the shield of Ajax, which makes such a figure in Don Homer an old fashioned cocked hat, stuck on the back of his head, and a cane as high as his chin. His visage was broad, but his features sharp, his nose turned up with a most petulant curl; his cheeks, like the region of Terra del Fuego were scorched into a dusky red doubtless in consequence of the neighbourhood of two fierce little gray eyes, thro’ which his torrid soul beamed as fervently as a tropical sun blazing through a pair of burning glasses. The corners of his mouth were curiously modelled into a kind of fret work, not a little resembling the wrinkled proboscis of an irritable pug dog. In a word, he was one of the most positive, ugly little men that ever put himself in a passion about nothing.’

We might well this communication to an immoderate length were we to indulge ourselves in extracting from this inimitable Work. Suffice it to say that it abounds with whimsicalities, ludicrous descriptions of characters, and mellow pictures of Nature, in all the majesty of uncultured wildness calculated to delight & instruct every class of Readers.

The writer of this article cannot conclude, without observing that this Work itself is a proud refutation of the hackneyed charge against our Country, of the want of talents. And as the public can only be the patrons of genius, he confidently hopes that the most liberal generosity will be extended in order to encourage the Author to further and successful efforts of his ability.

#### LITERATUS.

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