

THE
LETTER OF APPOMATOX
TO THE
PEOPLE OF VIRGINIA:
EXHIBITING A CONNECTED VIEW
OF THE
Recent proceedings in the House of Delegates,
ON THE SUBJECT OF
THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY;
AND
A SUCCINCT ACCOUNT
OF THE
DOCTRINES BROACHED BY THE FRIENDS OF ABOLITION,
IN DEBATE:
AND THE
MISCHIEVOUS TENDENCY
OF THOSE
Proceedings and Doctrines.

RICHMOND:

Thomas W. White, *Printer.*

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anticipated the charge of presumption it would bring against me; and, as I did not fear it in prospect, so neither am I appalled by it now that it is made. Mr. Jefferson's character must, ere long, be universally regarded as belonging to impartial history—I so regard it now. Considering how much he had been engaged in real and important business, and his undoubted capacity, he was singularly addicted to speculations merely philosophical, and entertained some odd opinions. For instance: he has somewhere, gravely maintained the opinion, that no country ought to be long without a rebellion. It was more remarkable of him than, perhaps, of any other man known to history, that his opinions once formed, were adhered to, under all circumstances, without the least change or modification. I can call to mind only a single instance of any such change, in the course of his long life, spent in full view of the public; and that was his change of opinion upon the question of the constitutionality of incorporating Louisiana into the union. I believe he never, to the last, perceived the impolicy and inefficiency of his Embargo and Restrictive System—though it entirely failed to accomplish the purpose for which it was designed—though it was the principal and obvious cause of all the embarrassments that perplexed the government, and distressed the nation, during the war which followed it—and though it affected injuriously every part of the union, more or less, and, especially, was the prime cause and origin of that *decline* (as it is called) of the southern Atlantic States, and particularly Virginia, which our orators seem to take a sort of melancholy pleasure in discoursing of and exaggerating. I well remember, how foreign trade and capital took wing from our shores, upon the first blight of the embargo, as the Sorees disappear upon the first hard frost—a long, severe, and (to us) still continuing winter followed—but, whenever we shall again experience our natural climate, the birds will be sure to return, unless, pursuing Mr. Jefferson's advice for *abolition and deportation*, we shall, with our own hands, wilfully destroy the food they feed on. I thought, till very lately, that it was known to every body, that during the revolution and for many years after, the abolition of slavery was a favorite topic with many of our ablest men, who entertained with respect, all the schemes which wisdom or ingenuity could suggest for accomplishing the object. Mr. Jefferson's plan was generally known, but never regarded as practicable: Mr. Wythe, to the day of his death, was for *simple abolition*, considering the objection to color as founded in prejudice: by degrees, all projects of the kind were abandoned as hopeless, by almost every body but Mr. Jefferson; he retained his opinion, and now we have these projects revived. And it is