

day. \* \* \* \* These young gentlemen were styled 'Burr's myrmidons' by General Hamilton."<sup>1</sup>

"On the eleventh of February [1789], a meeting of federalists was held in the city of New York, at which Robert Yates was nominated as the opposing candidate to Governor Clinton. At this meeting, Alexander Hamilton, Robert Troup, William Duer, Aaron Burr, and sundry other persons were appointed a committee of correspondence to promote the election of Judge Yates, and, on the seventeenth of February, General Schuyler and General Abraham Ten Broeck, in connection with several other citizens of Albany, together with Philip Livingston and Richard Harrison, of New York, addressed a letter to him, requesting him to allow his name to be used as a candidate for governor, with a view to 'heal the unhappy divisions in the country.' To this letter, Judge Yates replied on the twenty-fourth of February, and consented to stand as such candidate. \* \* \* \*

"The object which General Hamilton and the leading federalists had in view in selecting Mr. Yates as their candidate is very obvious. It was true he had been a zealous and efficient opponent to the adoption of the new constitution, both in the state and national conventions. He could not therefore have been their first choice. But the result of the preceding annual election had indicated that a majority of the electors were in favor of sustaining Governor Clinton and they hoped by having Judge Yates for their candidate to detach from Mr. Clinton so many of his political friends as combined with all the federalists would procure the election of Mr. Yates. \* \* \* \*

"It will be perceived that Colonel Burr was appointed a member of the committee of correspondence. \* \* \* \* He therefore, it seems, was one of the anti-federalists who joined in the opposition to Governor Clinton \* \* \* \* The assertion \* \* \* \* that he uniformly acted with the democratic party is contradicted by his course at this election. \* \* \* \* That Governor Clinton succeeded in this election [in April] is a high evidence of his personal popularity. His friends around him were slain, but he himself walked off the field of battle in triumph!"<sup>2</sup>

"This is the only instance in which Hamilton and Burr ever acted in politics together. There is a tendency in human nature to heap obloquy upon a public man who is irretrievably *down*; and accordingly [a number of] writers, who give accounts of this election, attribute political inconsistency and maneuvering to Burr. On the contrary it was Hamilton who was inconsistent and who

<sup>1</sup> The life and times of Aaron Burr. By James Parton. 1864, vol. i., pp. 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170.

<sup>2</sup> The history of political parties in the state of New York. By Jabez D. Hammond, vol. i., pp. 39, 40, 41, 42.