ton, until at length the politics of the United States was resolved into a contest between these two individuals. * * * *

"During this contest between young democracy and old custom a very marked change took place in the costume, the manners, and the minor morals of the people. The feeling of equality expressed itself in dress. John Jay, among others, alludes in one of his letters to the effect of the French revolution in banishing silk stockings and high breeding from the land. Pantaloons became the outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible republicanism. Hair-powder, pig-tails, and shoe buckles began to disappear, and the polite observances that had grown out of the old-world distinctions of rank were discontinued by the more ardent republicans. The recently-published 'Recollections of Peter Parley' contain much precious and pleasantly-given information respecting the gradual change that came over the spirit of the country in the time of Jefferson. The excellent Parley is a sad federalist it is true, and his sympathies are much more with the good old time than with the better new time, but he is a faithful and agreeable narrator. Before the Jeffersonian era, he tells us, travelers who met on the highways saluted one another with formal and dignified courtesies, and children stopped as they passed grown persons and made the bows they had been practiced in at school for such occasions. But as democracy spread, these grand salutations 'first subsided into vulgar nods, half ashamed and half impudent, and then, like the pendulum of a dying clock, totally ceased.'

"Another little fact, mentioned by Mr. Goodrich, is significant. 'Pounds, shillings, and pence,' says he, 'were classical, and dollars and cents vulgar for several succeeding generations.' 'I would not give a penny for it,' was genteel; 'I would not give a cent for it,' was plebeian. * * * *

"The state of public feeling in 1797 and 1798 may be inferred from these sentences from the letters of Thomas Jefferson: 'The passions are too high at present to be cooled in our day. You and I have formerly seen warm debates, and high political passions. But gentlemen of different politics would then speak to one another, and separate the business of the senate from that of society. It is not so now. Men who have been intimate all their lives cross the street to avoid meeting and turn their heads another way lest they should be obliged to touch their hats.' To another friend he writes: 'At this moment all the passions are boiling over, and one who keeps himself cool and clear of the contagion is so far below the point of ordinary conversation that he finds himself insulated in every society.'"[1]

On the twenty-fourth of January, 1797, General Philip Schuyler was elected

[1] The life and times of Aaron Burr. By James Parton, vol. i., pp. 173, 174, 176, 179, 222, 227, 228.