

1789, seems disclosed in a deposition, made on the twenty-fifth of February, 1811, by Matthew Lyon, "a noted ultra-democrat of that day."

"Some time in the winter of 1805, coming one morning from Alexandria, by way of the navy-yard, and passing by the house where the general lived, he called to me to come in; after congratulating him on his appointment as governor [of Louisiana], and some other conversation, Colonel Burr's name was mentioned. Colonel Burr had no claim to friendly attentions from me. I had no acquaintance with him before the contest concerning the presidential election. I had resisted the solicitations of my friends, who wished to introduce me to him in March, 1801, on account of his misconduct in that affair; yet when I saw him persecuted for what I considered no more than fair play among duellists, I advocated him: this brought about an acquaintance, by no means intimate.

"In the course of the conversation of the general and myself, we regretted the loss of so much talent as Colonel Burr possessed; we viewed him on the brink of a precipice, from which, in a few days, he must fall; from the second station in the nation, he must fall to that of a private citizen. The general entered warmly into his praise, and talked of a foreign embassy for him. This I assured him could not be obtained. The general then asked me if I could not think of something which would do for the little counsellor. I replied that he might very readily become a member of congress, which would meet the coming winter, and in the present state of parties, considering the *éclat* with which he was likely to leave the senate, he might probably be speaker. The general was eager to know how he could be elected to congress. I explained; let Colonel Burr mount his horse the fourth of March, and ride through Virginia to Tennessee, giving out that he intends settling at Nashville, in the practice of the law. Let him commence the practice, and fix himself a home there; his rencounter with General Hamilton will not injure him. Let him attend the courts of that district. Let him, in July next, intimate to some of the numerous friends (his pre-eminent talents and suavity of manners will have made for him), that he would willingly serve the district in congress; they will set the thing on foot, and he is sure to be elected; there is no constitutional bar in the way.

"As I finished this explanation, the general rose, and, in a seeming ecstasy, clapped his hands on my shoulders, exclaiming with an oath: 'This will do, it is a heavenly thought, worthy of him who thought it.' He rang the bell, ordered his boots, and said he would go instantly to inform the little counsellor, and would call on me in the house in the course of two or three hours. He did so, and informed me he had, at Colonel Burr's request, made an appointment for me to call on him.

"I was punctual. Colonel Burr lived at Mr. Wheaton's, near the north side