

was in landed property, he was nevertheless, at that time, as hundreds of other wealthy men were, greatly embarrassed for ready money. Confident in his personal ability to secure a loan on some part of his vast real estate, either on that in the city of New York, or on his tracts of land in New Jersey, Texas, and Illinois, which comprised more than one hundred and forty thousand acres, he did not hesitate to speak of this intention as governing him to a great extent in making the visit. Had he had any enlightening suspicion that this declaration would thereafter be quoted as evidence to establish his insolvency and as proof that his need of money, not only at that time but during his collectorship, had led him to peculate moneys belonging to the United States, he certainly would never have jeopardized his reputation and possessions by divulging his immediate purpose of going to England.

He was, however, fortunate at that time in having withheld from the knowledge of the public that he had applied \$40,000 received by him as collector in the last quarter of his term in 1838 to purchase land for the Maryland and New York Iron and Coal Company, which money was included in the sum of \$201,096.40 retained by him at the end of his services as collector to meet the liabilities for which he was individually responsible. It may also be mentioned here, that at his request, when he first learned the character of the allegations defaming him, the president of the Maryland and New York Iron and Coal Company had transferred to Levi Woodbury, secretary of the treasury, one thousand shares of the stock of the company, each share being valued at one hundred dollars, aggregating the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, in trust, for the payment of his indebtedness to the United States.

But, as already remarked, what was his dismay when he amazedly saw the great strait in which he was suddenly placed by being unexpectedly deprived of his immense property by the rashness of Henry Ogden in assigning it to the United States. Shackled and impoverished as the ex-collector was by this calamitous disposition of his wealth, his perplexity and distress surpassed all knowledge. Write thereafter what he might, and explain thereafter what he did, there was no circumstance, no plea, no promise available to him by which he could then exonerate himself from the infamous accusations made by Henry Ogden and Joshua Phillips. Poor, mentally distressed, and threatened with imprisonment should he return to the United States, there was seemingly nothing for him to do other than to stay abroad until circumstances might favor a change of his dreary and distressful sojourn in distant countries, and afford him an opportunity in the land of his nativity to refute the charges of the two villainous traducers.

Finding at the end of three long and gloomy years that his absence from home was in every way perilous to his health, livelihood, and reputation, he