

ment's pause, said he could form no idea : it might have been an hour and it might have been but a moment ; when he came to his senses, he seemed to have awakened as from a kind of trance. As soon as the Senate could compose themselves sufficiently to appoint a President *pro tem.*, they came to the following resolution.

Resolved, unanimously, That the thanks of the Senate be presented to Aaron Burr, in testimony of the impartiality, dignity, and ability with which he has presided over their deliberations, and of their entire approbation of his conduct in the discharge of the arduous and important duties assigned him as President of the Senate.

Thus passed this "well graced actor" from the political scene. He was a free man once more. What will he do next? What new project will his busy brain and hand carve out? were questions which every tongue in the country was now anxiously asking.

But before passing to the later events of his career, we must pause to notice an event which had occurred a few months before, and which exerted a powerful influence on his subsequent fortunes. This event was the duel with Hamilton.

Public opinion, the judgment of *apparent* facts, is sometimes correct, often unjust, but none the less necessary. Whether or not the public opinion which held Burr so strictly accountable for the death of Hamilton was just or unjust, a careful consideration of the facts anterior to, as well as those connected with the duel, in the calm unbiased spirit that time has made possible, will do much to determine.

It would not be strange if we should find, that, in his case, the popular judgment was both harsh and unjust, that he was as averse to the duel as Hamilton himself, that he used every (except dishonorable) means to avoid it, and that he only fought when absolutely forced to it, by the course of his rival and the cruel dictum of society ; and we may further agree and conclude, that he was the real victim of that tragedy, and not the brilliant genius who fell beneath his fire.

But for the facts. And first as to the provocation. Without pausing to notice the unsoldierly conduct of Hamilton toward Burr, while both were in the army, we will pass at once to the period when they came prominently into view as candidates for the highest honors of the State.

In the presidential canvass of 1792, Hamilton's almost insane