

**REPLY OF COLONEL ORNE TO
THE ATTACKS OF MR. NATHANIEL
GREENE, AND DAVID HENSHAW,
AND OTHERS, IN THE BOSTON
STATESMAN**

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HENRY ORNE

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REPLY

OF

COLONEL ORNE

TO THE ATTACKS OF

**MR. NATHANIEL GREENE, AND DAVID
HENSHAW, AND OTHERS,**

IN THE

BOSTON STATESMAN.



BOSTON :
PUBLISHED BY PUTNAM & HUNT.

.....
1839.

REPLY.

The Statesman party of Boston, as it is generally termed, is composed of a small body of low, unprincipled intriguers, who, by some means or other, with the aid of Duff Green, have contrived to obtain from the president appointments to office of the first importance, much to the astonishment of themselves, from their unsuitableness to fill them, to the deep chagrin and disgust of the community, at the degradation of public trusts, and to the great and almost irreparable injury of the national administration.

This intriguing body, having so far deceived the government as to obtain important and lucrative trusts, at their hands, have found it necessary to support one imposition, by the practice of another; and after causing the government to neglect their true friends, they attempted to vilify and slander them. The first attacks were made by Duff Green, which was overlooked for many months—the Boston Statesman followed up the game by the vilest insinuations; and, finally, the whole Duff Green presses opened upon them with the more polished but envenomed shafts of "Anti-Janus." This drew forth the letters of "Columbus," about which so much has been said, and to which the Statesman party have attempted a reply, under the name of Nath'l Green, the Boston printer post master. This reply, however, consists, not in defence of themselves; for that seems even in their own opinion, a hopeless project; but in an attack on Col. Orne. This appeared in September in the Boston Statesman; was afterwards republished in the Washington Telegraph, and has more recently been printed in a pamphlet form, and been silently transmitted to Washington, to endeavor to keep up the deception among the members of Congress.

This attack, *eo nomine* of Mr. Nath'l. Greene, was for a long time treated with silent contempt by Col. Orne, until the prostituted Duff Green presses, with a very few others more respectable, but deceived, trumpeted forth in triumph the slanders as a complete vindication of the Statesman party. The opinions of these prostituted or deceived presses, are now added to the original Statesman publication, and circulated as evidence of the public sentiment.

After waiting a long time, Col. Orne, at the solicitation of many of his friends, undertook the exposure of their slanders, by a series of

numbers published in the *Boston Bulletin*; and in them developed a system of fraud, detraction, and falsehood, which have probably been unparalleled in this country. The letters of Col. Orne, on this subject, it is universally conceded by friends and foes, have shown the whole *Statesman* publication to be a tissue of falsehoods, and has irretrievably fastened falsehood on the character of nearly every man who has signed a certificate in Mr. Green's publication. We have been strongly urged to republish these numbers. Their length has been the only objection on our part; but we have finally concluded to publish such parts of them as have the strongest bearing on the subject; and as will probably be deemed sufficient by every one to expose the true character of the *Statesman* party. The extracts are sometimes preceded by explanatory remarks necessary to preserve a connexion in the subject.

The first number, from the *Bulletin* of October 21st,* we publish entire.

To the Editors of the Bulletin:

GENTLEMEN—On the 26th of Sept. 1829, Mr. Nathaniel Greene published in the *Boston Statesman* nearly seven columns of charges against me, purporting to be in vindication of himself. These were afterwards, I am told, published in the form of a handbill, to the number of two thousand copies, and distributed in every part of the United States. The same article, *in extenso*, has been since republished in that dignified and national paper, the *Washington Telegraph*, and circulated abundantly in every region of the republic. To this article, I, on the day of its first publication, by a card, in the *Bulletin*, promised, when my convenience would permit it, a reply. I shall now proceed to make it. I am well aware that reply will reach the eyes of but few of those whom Mr. Greene's charges must have reached. The poison will circulate more actively than the antidote. The falsehood has been carried where truth cannot hope to follow it. There is no Jackson paper in Washington to bear to every section of the republic the refutation as well as the slander. Engaged in a common cause,—the misrepresentation of the honorable friends of Gen. Jackson,—the two Greens, "*par nobile fratrum*," labor zealously in their vocation, and play most conveniently into each other's hands. Whatever we may think of Duff Green's attachment to the Jackson party, no one will suspect his devotion to his own: and he who exerts himself to overthrow the Duff Green domination, would be unreasonable to expect the plainest act of justice from the *Telegraph*.

It has been, however, most beautifully observed, that though falsehood move on the wings of the wind, and truth is slow to be roused in her pursuit, yet, be the advantage of the start what it may, falsehood will ultimately be overtaken. Let the two Greens scatter their falsehoods where they please, it will give me no anxiety, so long as the smallest branch of the press is open to my vindication. Truth, like the dew which the purity of heaven distils on the mountain side, falls

in modest and unobtrusive drops into the obscure rivulet, and winds its slow unnoticed course through successive streams, until it emerges at length into the broad and deep ocean of public opinion.

The charges of Mr. Nathaniel Greene reach through a long series of years, and embrace a great variety of circumstances. To go fully into the investigation of them all, would be again to give a history of the Jackson party in this place, and to support it by testimony. This is a labor I shall not assume, nor can it be one which any thing Mr. Nathaniel Greene may assert, with all the aid of the Statesman party, can render necessary. A true and faithful party history of the times, has been given by Columbus: and the most important of the facts which he asserts, being in their own nature, to a certain extent, notorious, and capable of being corroborated by numerous respectable witnesses, I must refer to his writings, in general, for the proof of much that may be deemed relevant to this issue. The facts which Mr. Greene, however, has endeavored to establish by *certificates*, I have asserted to be *false*, and pledged myself to furnish the requisite proof to the public,—and this pledge I shall redeem.

I have been uncertain whether or not I should say any thing more of my pecuniary connexions with Mr. Nathaniel Greene. The subject itself is so disgusting that I must do great violence to my feelings to allude to it at all. To engage in a controversy with a man of the standing and character of Mr. Nathaniel Greene, is still more revolting to my nature; and on my own account, I should be better pleased to remain silent, and suffer his slanders to do me any injury which those proceeding from such a source are able to inflict. Some of my friends, however, consider the character of the Jackson republican party to be involved, in some degree, in the controversy; and as a more honorable party, or one having better claims to the public confidence and respect, never existed in this community, I do not feel at liberty, for any private considerations, to withhold my efforts in its vindication.

My reluctance, however, to allude further to these pecuniary matters, proceeds from another source. I cannot persuade myself that it is necessary. There is nothing in the *facts* adduced by Mr. Greene in relation to my statement, which requires an answer. They comport, in every essential point, with my own assertions in regard to them. They are the very facts on which I rely in my answer to Duff Green. The documents, in relation to this subject, which he adduces, are such as I should myself have given with my statement to the community. It is true, Mr. Greene has woven in, with the facts, many unfounded imputations, and much irrelevant matter, equally susceptible of being exposed, but which, resting in general on no authority but himself, cannot require an answer. For me, therefore, to allude further to this subject at all, is rather a compliance with the wishes of respected friends, who fear that many may receive unjust impressions, than proceeding from any solicitude of my own. What fortifies me strongly in my impression is the answer I have uniformly received,

when I have asked what it is, in Mr. Greene's statement, which it is expedient for me to answer. What fact does he adduce which wars with my statement? I have asked this question of every one, repeatedly, who has spoken to me on the subject, and the effect has been, in the first place, an appearance of surprise, in the second, a reference to the charges in the Statesman, and in the third, an acknowledgment that, there was nothing important which intelligent men would not readily perceive was in support of my assertions. I speak now in regard to the pecuniary matters. To render this point, however, satisfactory to those who do not examine with sufficient care the different sides of the controversy, I will allude once more to the revolting subject, and conclusively show, that so far from Mr. Nathaniel Greene having made his case to stand better than it did, on the ground on which I placed it in my first letter to Gen. Green, it actually stands worse, by the addition of new and irrelevant falsehoods, showing the baseness of his ingratitude to be of a still darker hue.

To understand the merits of a controversy, it is necessary distinctly to keep in mind the point in question. What then are the respective sides of the dispute about my pecuniary connexion with Mr. Nathaniel Greene?

When the Jackson republicans divided from the Statesman party, the most severe denunciations were uttered in regard to me. It was said that I had *oppressed* Nathaniel Greene, in my pecuniary dealings with him—I had *injured* him. For my writings in his paper, it was said I had most *unjustly*, and to his *astonishment*, *demand*ed to be paid: and when he was unable to pay me, and had given me his note, I had compelled him to pay it suddenly, in a time of great difficulty and distress, *contrary to my word, with a view to break down his press*—that I had used my relation to him as a creditor, as an *engine of oppression*. Such were the rumors floating for months all over the city. They produced an excitement against me, indignant, violent, and almost outrageous. Curses were bestowed on my name (not in my hearing) in unmeasured terms. I was appealed to, very often, by my friends for an explanation. I bore all these ridiculous charges with great composure, and made no effort to refute them. Open discussion would have been *war*, and the harmony of the party,—the interest of the Jackson cause,—told me it was my duty to suffer, rather than quarrel. These charges, to my knowledge, came substantially, from Nath'l. Greene. The character of them, simply as a specimen, I shall show in the course of my answer.

But the charge which led immediately to the controversy in question, is that made in the U. S. Telegraph, as follows:

"It is urged against those who have been appointed to office at Boston, that they have written articles for the Boston Statesman!! And this objection is made a virtue in Col. Orne, who not content with having received payment in cash, from the real editor and proprietor of the paper, set up his services as a partizan writer in that print, thus demanding to be twice paid for the same services."

What is the direct and obvious meaning of this language? It is explicit enough in itself, although, if it were not so, the context and character of the whole article, from which it was extracted, would render it so.

"I had been to Washington, among the most importunate to solicit an appointment from the president. I urged my claim as a partizan writer, in the Boston Statesman, in his favor. But I had been paid for those writings, by Mr. Greene, the real editor and proprietor of that paper. I therefore demanded to be twice paid for the same services."

It was my writings in the Jackson contest, for which I, with so much importunity, demanded an office from the president. Not for editing the Statesman one year, at a period three years before the Jackson contest commenced. This would be absurd. Not for writing in the paper, during a former contest, when Mr. Crawford was my candidate. These writings could afford no claim on Gen. Jackson, for they were not services to him, but *against* him—to his competitor. To have demanded payment of him, for advocating his opponent, would have been worse than absurd—would have been *impudent*.

This charge of Duff Green, then, I denied. I said I had not been paid, by the editor and proprietor of the Statesman, or any one else, for advocating the election of Gen. Jackson. I said more. I had never received, or been promised, demanded, or expected to be paid, by any body, one cent, for writing in the Statesman, not only during the Jackson contest, but during the whole presidential contest which preceded it, when Mr. Crawford was my candidate.

Which statement then was true, Duff Green's charge, or my denial? I said Duff Green told a falsehood. Is this true, or is it not? If Gen. Jackson had appointed me to an office, should I have been *twice* paid for the same services? What *other* payment than the office should I have received? Who paid me before, or besides? Does Mr. Nathaniel Greene utter such a pretence? Does he support Duff Green, or does he support me?—Was the assertion of the Telegraph a falsehood, or not? Does Nathaniel Greene dare to back the falsehood of Duff Green?

I had stated in my denial, that all the services as editor of the Statesman, for which I ever received, demanded, or expected payment, were rendered before February, 1822. Was this true or false? Has Mr. Nath'l. Greene dared to contradict it? So far from claiming payment for the aid I still continued to render the Statesman, long after 1822, I put a *bar* to such claim, however equitable, as I shall hereafter show, it might otherwise have been. Mr. Nathaniel Greene himself furnishes the proof.

"Boston, March 1st, 1822. The compensation fixed by the within instrument, at the rate of \$350 per annum, is understood to have ceased at the end of the year therein specified, and is not to continue for services hereinafter to be rendered, without a new arrangement to that, or some other effect.

HENRY ORNE."

This document implies that my services might still be continued, but they must be *without pay*. Here then was a *bar* to compensation,

endorsed on the very articles of agreement themselves, by which I was constituted the editor of the paper. Is this the way Nathaniel Greene supports his honorable coadjutor?—What do you say, Gen. Duff Green; call you this backing your friends?

As this charge, upon which was the real issue in question, was shown to be false, not only by me but by my adversary, the controversy might here, with propriety, have ended. But the charge of *oppressing* Mr. Nathaniel Greene, which I had suffered to be circulated a long time without deigning to answer it, from a regard to the harmony of the party, was one which my friends were anxious should be met. I thought the occasion of exposing the falsehood of Duff Green, a proper one for exposing the malice of Nathaniel Greene, and gave, therefore, a faithful narrative of my connection with the Statesman. In this I was obliged to rely, in a great measure, on my memory, as nearly all the documents were in possession of True & Greene, who would publish such, or such parts of them only, as might suit their purpose. That my recollection was substantially and sufficiently accurate, appears by those parts of the documents which Mr. Nathaniel Greene has communicated to the public. The variations are slight, and such as do not affect the merits of the dispute. I shall therefore consider in the first place, how far my statement is confirmed by that which Mr. Nathaniel Greene chooses to make, and in the second, shall expose the gross mistakes in his statement.

Having established the point that I was never paid, promised, or expected to be paid, for writing during the two last presidential contests, I further stated,

“The amount due me from the publishers of the Statesman, was continued, for years, with those publishers as a loan. No part of it was paid, principal or interest, until within, if I remember correctly, one or two years. And after it was paid, I continued to endorse True & Greene's notes at a bank, for at least eight or nine hundred dollars at a time. Nay, more—up to the very moment of the establishment of the Jackson Republican, I was an endorser for True & Greene, on a note to the North Bank, for four (misprinted for five) hundred dollars, until I withdrew all connexion with the Statesman, and placed an equal amount in the new paper.”

I shall compare the several clauses of this statement, with Mr. Greene's publication in regard to them, and see whether they are denied or confirmed. The first clause is, “the amount due me from the publishers of the Statesman was continued, for years, with those publishers as a loan.”

All the amount the publishers of the Statesman owed me, with the unimportant exception I shall notice in a minute, was due February 1st, 1822. Was this, or not, continued with them for years, as a loan? By Mr. Greene's statement it appears that no part was paid me, principal or interest, until July 21st, 1826, *four* years and nearly six months afterwards. It was then settled by a note for \$794 41 and interest, at six months, discounted at the North Bank, as appears by the statement of the Cashier. The amount then was *continued for years*, in the hands of the publishers of the Statesman, as I asserted. Mr. Greene publishes the account between them and me, by which it ap-