

other states. Oswald was a leader of the Republican party which favored the two house system. Carey, on the other hand, joined a society of foreigners which supported the *status quo*. The bitter attack of Oswald against the "Society of the Lately Adopted Sons of Pennsylvania" in which he denounced its members as "baboons of ingratitude and objects of Pennsylvania detestation" was answered by Carey. The response of Oswald to Carey's article included the statement that:

"Your being a cripple is your main protection against personal insults, which your oblique insinuations would otherwise challenge."

Carey immediately composed and published *The Plagi-Scurriliad: A Hudibrastic Poem*, which he dedicated to Oswald.⁴¹ The charges of plagiarism are supported by the comparison of some of Oswald's editorials with the Junius Papers and the scurrilous nature of his attacks is emphasized. Carey's Irish temper was up and he had no fear of the consequences of this publication. He boldly satirized Oswald's prowess as a duelist:

"'Ods pistols and swords,' as the man says in the *play-book*, he is a mere Hercules—a duel is only a diversion to him—He has fought so many of them, that 'there is a *mine of lead in his belly*.' He never thinks it worth while to cross the Delaware for one or two—he waits until ten or a dozen are to be challenged at once, when he appoints an early hour, attacks them fresh and fasting, settles the business in proper style, and returns to breakfast, quite composed, with a *brace or two of bullets* in his body, or perhaps pinked in two or three places—'tis all one to him—he disregards such trifles."⁴²

He concluded the poem with the statement "that though I am a cripple, there is a *certain mode* in which I would be on an equality with him," referring to a duel with pistols. The morning after the poem appeared, Oswald sent his challenge which Carey accepted. The duel was held, Carey was shot in the thigh and did not recover until eighteen months later.⁴³ A few days after the encounter took place Carey issued a statement in which he said that Oswald "... behaved himself as a gentleman—a man of honour—I with pleasure embrace the opportunity of retracting what I have asserted derogatory to his character."⁴⁴

⁴¹ *The Plagi-Scurriliad: A Hudibrastic Poem. Dedicated to Colonel Eleazer Oswald. . . . By Mathew Carey.* Philadelphia: Printed And Sold By The Author. January 16, M. DCC. LXXXVI. Pages: (i)—iv, (i)—xi, (12)—27, (28)—(30). A second edition appeared with an engraved picture of Carey and containing fifty pages. The letters exchanged by Oswald and Carey as well as letters from Washington and Lafayette were added to the second edition.

⁴² *The Plagi-Scurriliad*, first edition, pp. vii-viii.

⁴³ For Carey's account of the duel and the causes of it, written almost fifty years later, see *The New-England Magazine*, Vol. V (1833) pp. 491-496.

⁴⁴ *The Plagi-Scurriliad*, second edition, p. 49.