
A reply to the letter of J. Fenimore Cooper

Cushing Caleb

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REPLY

TO THE LETTER

OF

J. FENIMORE COOPER,

BY

ONE OF HIS COUNTRYMEN.

Caleb Cushing

BOSTON.

PUBLISHED BY J. T. BUCKINGHAM,

1834.

AOZ P.V. 1/6 Cooper

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TO J. FENIMORE COOPER.

I EXERCISE a common right, as one of your countrymen, in replying to some passages of the Letter, which you have recently addressed to the whole people of the United States. In doing this, it is no part of my design to comment particularly on those topics of alleged personal grievance, which occupy the chief part of your communication. We, of the general mass of your fellow-citizens, who were accustomed to read your works with delight,—who admired your genius,—who knew you only as an eminently popular novelist,—who prized your literary reputation as parcel of our own great national heritage,—we, the indiscriminate people of the United States, regard your Letter, so far as it relates to yourself individually, with unmingled emotions of mortification and sorrow. There is no party-feeling in this, either American or European. If not a solitary word of American politics had appeared in your Letter, our sentiments on this point would have been precisely the same ; for, whatever be our party-banner, we universally honor and esteem the nationality of spirit, which is alike predominant in the Pioneers or the Prairie, and in the more didactic page of the Notions of the Americans. Neither are we *doctrinaires*, *Orléanistes*, foreign diplomatic agents, or aught else, which there may be, of transatlantic name, to rack your imagination with terrors of persecution abroad, and slander at home. None of these considerations affect our judge-