

**July 6, 1797**

**Letter from Abigail Adams to her sister<sup>1</sup>**

You will see an intimation in his paper of some malpractices by a Senator. I inclose to you the Letter this day made publick. When shall we cease to have Judases? Here is a diabolical plot disclosed. When the Message was sent to the Senate with the original Letter Mr. Malcomb the Presidents Secretary met Mr. Blount coming out, who stopd and askd him what message he had got, upon which Mr. Malcomb replied it was a Secret and confidential one. Mr. Blount did not return untill after the Letter was read which threw the whole Senate into a consternation. Upon his coming in, the Letter was again read. He turnd very pale, said he did write a Letter at that time to a Mr. Cary, but desired a copy of it, and untill the next day to make his defence. It was granted, but Mr. Blount has not since been seen. Search was made after him yesterday and a vessel found which he had Chartered to go off in. Poor Pensilvanna keeps no Gallows, as Porcupine says.<sup>2</sup> The Senate will expell him, & it belongs to the House of Reps. to impeach, but they have not yet reported. It does not appear that his offerd Service was accepted by the British, tho it is a glorious kettle for the Jacobines to swim in. How they rejoice. Corruption is corruption from whatever source it originates. This same Tenesse Senator was arrested for debt four different times on his return home last fall, and but for his Priviledge as Senator which screens him 20 days, he would have been lodged in Jail, which he no doubt richly deserves.... This Business tho communicated last tuesday to both Houes, is but just transpiring. The House have ordered all the papers to be published. I will send them as soon as they are publick.

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<sup>1</sup>Stewart Mitchell, ed., *New Letters of Abigail Adams, 1788-1801* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1947), p. 100.

<sup>2</sup>Refers to *Porcupine's Gazette*, a Federalist newspaper published in Philadelphia.