

American Spectator. Perhaps one of the terms of partnership was that the letters of General Charles Lee were to be printed, with Goddard furnishing the manuscripts and Langworthy writing the memoir and editing the mass of material. On June 10, 1785 the prospectus for the edition in three volumes was issued with such a detailed analysis of the contents that it is apparent that the work was practically ready for press. Just before the prospectus was issued Goddard wrote to Washington advising him that a publication of the letters of Lee was under consideration and asking him if he had any request to make regarding its contents. Washington wrote the following reply:

"On the 8th instant I received the favor of your letter of the 30th of May. In answer to it I can only say, that your own good judgment must direct you in the publication of the manuscript papers of General Lee. I can have no request to make concerning the work.

I never had a difference with that gentleman but on public ground, and my conduct towards him upon this occasion was such only, as I conceived myself indispensably bound to adopt in discharge of the public trust reposed in me. If this produced in him unfavorable sentiments of me, I yet can never consider the conduct I pursued, with respect to him, either wrong or improper, however I may regret that it may have been differently viewed by him, and that it excited his censure and animadversions. Should there appear in General Lee's writings any thing injurious or unfriendly to me, the impartial and dispassionate world must decide how far I deserved it from the general tenor of my conduct.

I am gliding down the stream of life, and wish, as is natural, that my remaining days may be undisturbed and tranquil; and, conscious of my integrity, I would willingly hope, that nothing would occur tending to give me anxiety; but should anything present itself in this or any other publication, I shall never undertake the painful task of recrimination, nor do I know that I should even enter upon my justification. I consider the communication you have made as a mark of great attention, and the whole of your letter as a proof of your esteem."⁶

The publication did not appear, probably because there were not enough subscribers at one guinea each for the three expensively planned volumes. But in 1792 J. S. Jordan of London published in one volume the *Memoirs of The Late Charles Lee, Esq. . . . To Which Are Added His Political and Military Essays Also, Letters To, And From Many Distinguished Characters, Both In Europe And America*. The seventy page Memoir was written and signed by "Edward Langworthy, Baltimore, March 10th, 1787." The preface states that:

"The following Memoirs and Letters of the Late Major General Lee have been in the possession of the Editor since the year 1786.⁷ They were transmitted from America to England by the gentleman whose name is subscribed to the Memoirs, and who was a member of Congress for the state of Georgia, for the purpose of publication. In their manuscript state they have been seen by

⁶ W. C. Ford ed, *The Writings of George Washington*, X, pp. 459-460.

⁷ Note the discrepancy in date with that of the *Memoir*.