

RICHARD MERELMAN

*Burr Fleeing Weehawken (July 11, 1804)*

Such a luminous dawn I've stained with pistol  
Smoke. But Hamilton reeks of peerless evil.  
Married Liza Schuyler for money, starts a  
Bank for the wealthy

(Ruining ordinary New Yorkers), growing  
Midas-rich. Adulterer, too. He lectured  
Me on morals. He called me a *perfect monster*,  
Namely the banker

Who, defiant, leant to the average worker  
Lest our Revolution become deception.  
Here's the truth: he favors the laws . . . which favor  
Powerful bankers.

Yes, I'm *pure ambition*. He veiled *his* scheming  
Under phrases ripped from a Constitution  
Masked in pretty words. And he slandered my name.  
Bank on his dying.

Now I'm hastening to a waiting wagon.  
Will our Country flourish without a leader  
Strong enough to neuter the lords of lucre,  
Temper the bankers?