

Chapter 3: The Collegiate

- This is definitely the most detailed chapter so far. Lots of information, but arguably most importantly... we meet Hercules Mulligan right away. Or as Chernow calls him, "a fashionable tailor with a splendid name."
- Mulligan was an Irish sweet talker who liked to take credit for things. Like introducing Hamilton to New York Society and making really important introductions - but Chernow says that was all pretty unlikely.
- Chernow gets into how Hamilton wanted to go to Princeton and I thought we'd finally get the full story behind Ham punching the bursar. But...it never happened.
- Burr and Madison both did the accelerated studies program. Burr first applied at 11, which was young even back then - because people applied to college at like 14 or 15 years old. Madison was 18 but basically had a nervous breakdown because of all of the pressure of the program.
- So even though Hamilton was clearly a genius, the people at Princeton didn't think it was a good idea to risk another Madison debacle.
- Princeton denied Ham's application and he ended up at King's College, which was right in the middle of a red light district. They called it "Holy Ground" to make fun of the fact that the land was owned by St. Paul's Chapel. 500 prostitutes worked there which was equal to 2% of the area's population.
- Okay, "The Farmer Refuted" is a real pamphlet that Hamilton wrote. It's 80 pages and it completely mocked Samuel Seabury. Hamilton was really vocal about boycotting all things British after the Boston Tea Party. Farmers weren't psyched on that - which does make sense. They felt really threatened by it. So Seabury wrote "The Westchester Farmer" talking shit about the Continental Association, which was what was enforcing the trade embargo. He said they were a "venomous brood of scorpions who would sting us to death" and they should be "greeted with hickory sticks." Okay then.
- Ham was like, "Awesome, this is perfect. Let's go." LEZGO. So he wrote "A Full Vindication of the Measures of the Congress" because even his titles are wordy. It was 35 pages of insults. Chernow describes it as "verbose and repetitive" and basically a hint of things to come in his other writings.

- Seabury shot back with “A View of the Controversy” - which must’ve been pretty weak because Chernow didn’t even say the name, I had to Google it. But it was pretty significant, because it led to “The Farmer Refuted.” Chernow says it was “a bravura performance, flashing with prophetic insights.” It made people fear Hamilton - like Lafayette saying, “as long as he can hold a pen, he’s a threat.” This beef with Sam Seabury was what made everyone realize who and what they were dealing with.