

Literary Curiosity

Old Constitutional Gazette.
Nov 18th 1775

The Constitutional Gazette.

(To be continued every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY.)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 1775.

The following letter was written by the celebrated *Mons. De Voltaire*, to his friend at *Amsterdam*, after the defeat of the Spaniards before *Alger*.

EVER since the religious wars ceased, Christian Knights have been useless. The Knights of Malta, however, offered themselves some time ago to subdue the states of *Alger*, *Tunis*, *Tripoli*, and *Morocco*, at a very easy subsidy from the maritime states of Europe. But it was christian policy that these Barbarian neighbours do exist, grow powerful, that christian kings and mighty nations send money and warlike stores every year to their insignificant, savage, and Barbarian Deys and Beys. *Alger*, which has two men of war of fifty guns each, four of forty guns, and five frigates of thirty guns, is sole master of the Mediterranean, and prescribes laws to the Dutch, English, and Spanish nations, each of whose navy at least consists of two hundred large ships of war; and thus we submit to see our rich merchantmen taken by *Algerine* barges, our parents, friends, and best sailors taken prisoners, and sold for slaves. It is ridiculous, you will say, but no matter, they will answer you, it is political. I congratulated myself when I found Spain, (most catholic in cutting throats) hiring out a powerful fleet to destroy *Alger*, that nest of birds of prey; but to my great sorrow I soon again beheld ten or twelve thousand Spaniards slaughtered before the batteries of *Alger*, and the fleet sailing home as fast as possible. But will not France, Great-Britain, and Holland, immediately join Spain, and put a period to these little, but troublesome Barbarian states? No, by no means; their High Mightinesses the Dutch must remain neuter, in order to sell gunpowder and ball, as also their cattle, to both the belligerent states. Great-Britain is just engaged in a war of more consequence with her own colonies. Doubtless, you are desirous to know the cause of that civil war between

the mother and daughters, which in the very beginning has cost the lives of hundreds, and is likely to throw the whole empire into convulsions. It is in one word this: the daughter colonies say, *We will supply you with every thing in our power, cheerfully, free, and voluntarily*; but the mother country replies, *Because you will give every thing cheerfully and voluntarily, ye are rebels, and your throats must be cut*. Perhaps you will expect twelve thousand men of France, which she should give to Spain, according to the treaty called the Family Compact, whenever the latter is involved in a war; but in reply to this, I must inform you, that France must be excused on the present occasion, for a reason of still more consequence, and which is, if in case she should send any force against a Mahometan state, her Ambassador at Constantinople would lose the exclusive privilege of wearing a coat of green cloth. Sweden must take care of the Barbarians at Stockholm. Denmark has been very busy these four years, in order to destroy every wise regulation introduced during the administration of Count *Struensee*. My old friend, *Cohan*, at *Berlin*, is of opinion, that all this confusion denotes the coming of the *Messiah*; but this I do not believe, because *Aly Bey* was destroyed, and *Chiek Daher* does not succeed against the *Porte*.

L O N D O N

Sept. 7. An evening paper says, "It is currently reported, that letters from a certain popular Alderman to his friends in America, have been intercepted, and conveyed to the West end of the town; when it is said, an order was issued for the Alderman to appear before the Privy Council."

All the accounts of the late action at *Charlestown* are wanting in a very material circumstance relative to the method the riflemen made use of in firing, which is described by an officer who was in the

action, and is just come over. It is as follows, every rifleman was attended by two men, on each side of him, who loaded pieces for him, so that he had nothing to do but to fire as fast as a piece was put into his hand; and this is the real cause of so many of our brave officers falling, they being singled out by these people.

The Gloucester Journal of Monday, Sept. 11, has the following paragraph:

By a letter from London, we have authentic information, that the following is the form of an official letter that has just been dispatched to General Gage.

"His Majesty wishes to consult General Gage on the operations of a future campaign in America. The command of our troops devolves to Gen. Howe.

Anecdote of the loyal and generous town of Manchester. This town is famously remarkable for being the only one in England where the Pretender found any number of friends. He entered it on the 10th of November, 1745; after being proclaimed King, he beat up for volunteers, and so great was the zeal of the place, that he soon raised a regiment, the command of which he gave to a townsmen of the name of Townley, whose head was afterwards fixed upon Temple Bar, where the remains of it are still to be seen. One Cappuck, a clergyman in the town, also joined the Pretender, and was honoured with the title of Bishop of Carisle. On the ninth of December following, when the rebels again passed through the town, upon their retreat from Derby, the inhabitants spontaneously raised two thousand five hundred pounds for the assistance of the Chevalier and friends to the good old cause. And they now subscribe six hundred thousand pounds to enable government to harass the Americans, confident they have no chance in an open attempt to expel the present family, they have recourse to intrigue, in hopes of rendering it so odious as to prevent all future confidence and reconciliation. The following is the Address of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and Commons, &c. of the city of Dublin.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty:

"Gracious Sovereign,

"WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons, and Citizens of the city of Dublin, in Common Council assembled, conceive it would be highly improper in us, at this alarming crisis of affairs, to observe a criminal silence, and an unfeeling indifference.

"We see the horrors and calamities of civil war raging in America, the hands of fellow subjects imbrued in the blood of each other, and without search;

ing for, or investigating the cause, we cannot hesitate to pronounce its effects destructive to the British empire at large, and particularly and essentially ruinous to the limited commerce of this kingdom.

"At a period of time when every political eye is intent on the movement of the armament directed by the Court of Spain, our natural and hereditary enemy; when that powerful force has been frustrated in its first attempt, and when this country may with reason think, that such great preparations will not be suffered to become entirely abortive, we are naturally led to enquire into our means of defence against any sudden invasion, but have the mortification to find the military force drained from this kingdom, to enter into an unavailing conflict with more restless subjects of the same empire.

"Your Majesty will be pained to consider how much our trade, credit, and manufactures are connected with peace in America, that we cannot but feel the most lively distress and apprehensions at a continuance of a war which must necessarily involve in ruin our staple commodity, almost the only source of wealth to your faithful subjects of Ireland.

"It is not the intention or wish of your Majesty's dutiful subjects to pretend to determine from whence the evils complained of have originated, or what has introduced your Majesty and your subjects into a situation unprecedented, delicate, dangerous and distressing.

"Permit us to apply to your Majesty's wisdom and virtue, and to implore your paternal interposition in promoting such means as will at once quiet the tears of your subjects in America, and preserve the constitutional rights of your Majesty and the British Legislature.

"Then may we expect the return of that peace so long a wanderer, an unnatural separation of the colonies from the mother country prevented, the British constitution throughout your Majesty's wide and extended empire established on the firmest basis, and its necessary attendants, civil liberty, and political security.

"The sword of discord once sheathed, Great-Britain shall recover her wonted unanimity and importance; commerce shall again revive, and those torrents of your people's blood, now flowing in the cause of civil commotion, be reserved for the noble purpose of asserting the just prerogative of your Majesty's crown, and the liberty of your people, in support of which we are ever ready to sacrifice our lives and fortunes."

Sept. 10. Great pains have been taken with the common soldiers at Dublin, to give them just ideas

of the quarrel betwixt this country and America, particularly since the arrival of General Burgoyne amongst them, and they are now so thoroughly convinced that legislation implies taxation, and that America is virtually represented, that they are determined to engage, with the utmost military alacrity, on this principle, as the General has well observed in his letter to his brother Lee; of such singular use are the powers of eloquence and oratory, which can penetrate the grossest matter, and convey intelligence and sense to stupidity and ignorance.—*Credat qui vult, non ego.*

Another proclamation is shortly expected to make its appearance, in order to forbid the luxurious publications, with which the friends of administration lay the public prints daily abound,

Sept. 12. As many cautious people think that the late proclamation is answerable to the French king's edict. And that they cannot so much as whisper politics, for fear of a letter de cachet, a correspondent has sent us the following short definition of a proclamation, as it is established under the English constitution.—"In Henry the eighth's time (says he) and in some reigns before and after, proclamations frequently had the force of acts of parliament, but ever since the revolution they only pass for king's opinions."

A short sketch of the present state of Europe: America in open rebellion; Prussia and Denmark consulting how they may promote it; Holland upon the watch to side with England or America, as may be most likely to turn to its advantage; France and Spain preparing to give England a desperate wound the first opportunity, and, poor old England, running over head and ears in debt.

When the Herds and proper officers read the proclamation to suppress Rebellion and Sedition in Palace-yard Westminster, at Temple bar, and at the Royal Exchange. It has always been usual for the common-wealth of the city of London, to attend on horseback, with the civic mace; he attended this day on foot, and without the mace; which, it is said, was owing to the Lord Mayor's not choosing the city regalia should be used on the occasion.

Sept. 14. In some of the French ports in the channel, there are at this time several ships laden with arms, bound to America. The French are so little upon the reserve, that pointing to the vessels, they have laid very lately upon seeing an Englishman—*Bon Amie.*

The British troops have gallantly distinguished themselves in America; the Provincials have displayed an equal bravery. The world admires the courage of

both; and the generous part of mankind, therefore, lament that parents and child, who's united power could brave all Europe, should meet abstractly and uncharitably oppose, and in opposing weaken each other. A reconciliation would do honour to both; but a farther contest must be attended with destruction.

N E W - Y O R K, November 18.
We hear that twenty-five transports have lately arrived from England at Boston, with troops; and that the Regulars and Provincials have had a skirmish in which the former were worsted; the Regulars attempted to take off some cattle from one of the farms, upon which our people attacked them at their landing, killed seven of the cattle, and brought off one alive; several of the Regulars fell in this encounter, as a number of their bodies were seen floating in the river next morning.

*Extract of a letter from Annapolis, November 10.
"There has been another smart battle at Hampton in Virginia, the news came in last night; fifty of the enemy are killed and taken, an armed vessel sunk and destroyed. This engagement happened yesterday week. Several letters from Maryland confirm the above."*

We are informed by a gentleman from the Camp at Cambridge, who arrived yesterday, that last week a party of the Regulars landed under the cannon of a man of war, and floating batteries, on a point of land in order to entrench; and being observed by the Provincials, sent a number of men, who attacked, drove them off; and killed several, as the bodies of three men were seen floating at high water. On our side one rifleman killed, and one wounded; and that there was an express arrived at the Camp at Cambridge, that two men of war, and four other vessels came a-breast of the town of Falmouth, and lay there for three days; when three gentlemen went on board one of the men of war, to let what they meant to do, when they kept two of them, and sent the other on shore, making a demand of 200 sheep, and a number of fat cattle, or they would burn down the remainder of the town. What answer was given, when our informer came away, is not known. We also hear, that five vessels were taken by our privateers going into Boston; one it is laid belonged to Philadelphia, loaded with wine.

Anecdote of the Prince of Wales. In a discourse with Lord Holderness about the times, the Prince said, "It was very foolish ever to think of force against the people, since they will do every thing for the King if he tries to gain their affections." A very good reason for his father, at the present time, and well worthy of notice—perhaps he will for the time be well willed in had been of his son's opinion.

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The inhabitants of Britain, whose organs of sight are become so very dim, that their rulers daily deceive them, with the shadow, instead of the substance; are throughout the whole, held up as woful and convincing mementos: How, and by what means, the royal, ministerial, and parliamentary managers, cajole, tempt, and bribe the people to commit suicide on their own liberties, and afterwards hang them in chains of everlasting slavery, for the great crime of believing placemen and pensioners, ever intended, or were capable of intending any good to them, or their country. Americans, behold them! There they are! most effectually gibbeted; and there they are likely to remain, almost unpunished. Because dear bought experience, hath taught those whose faculties of feeling, as well as of seeing, are not entirely extinguished: that the immediate extirpation, and absolute annihilation of all exorbitant incomes, even of the King, as well as of those near him, is the only probable, or pos-

sible way, to keep men virtuous citizens, and to make the liberties of any country perpetual.

For no men should ever be admitted near the helm of government, except those honest and exalted beings, whose chief *affluence* of soul, *arise* from, and is continually pervaded with a love of honour, liberty, and their country. The selfish part of the world, along with all those who are conscious of possessing, either bad or narrow souls, will tell us, these are obsolete words, that have no meaning. We shall leave that to a future determination, after inferring and averring, they may and ought, in plain English, to mean a constant attention, and an invariable attachment to the good of the whole community.

The perusal of the work at this important period will be attended with the most salutary and certain advantages, if the inhabitants of America will be so rational, as to act wisely, in taking warning from the folly of others, by permitting no ministerial extravagancies to enter into their plan. They will then start fair, for laying a sure foundation, that freedom shall last for many generations; and the great expence of blood and treasure, which the present grand conflict must cost, will in some measure, be compensated for, by the goodness and permanency of the new *erection*, which must be construed, if the intaruated ministry of Britain, continue to persist, in the ignominious attempt of making, FREE-MEN--SLAVES.

¶ The American Physicians who wish to arrive at the top of their profession, are informed, that the great Professor Cullen's lectures on the Materia Medica; containing the very cream of Physic, are now selling by said BELL, of Philadelphia; also by said GREEN, of New-York. Price Five Dollars

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