

STANZAS.

From the Portuguese of Camoens.

I SAW the virtuous man contend  
With life's unnumber'd woes:  
And he was poor—without a friend—  
Press'd by a thousand foes.

I saw the passions' pliant slave  
In gallant trim and gay;  
His course was pleasure's placid wave,  
His life a summer's day.

And I was caught in folly's snare,  
And join'd her giddy train;  
But found her soon the nurse of care,  
And punishment and pain.

There surely is some guiding pow'r  
Which rightly suffers wrong;  
Gives vice to bloom its little hour,  
But virtue late and long.

(Continued from the second page.)

The paper above alluded to is as follows:  
No. 11.

Remarks on the Letter of June 27, 1804.  
Whether the observations on this letter are designed merely to justify the result which is indicated in the close of the letter, or may be intended to give an opening for rendering any thing explicit which may have been deemed vague heretofore, can only be judged of by the sequel. At any rate it appears to me necessary not to be misunderstood. Mr. Pendleton is therefore authorized to say that in the course of the present discussion, written or verbal, there has been no intention to evade, defy or insult, but a sincere disposition to avoid extremities if it could be done with propriety. With this view Gen. H. had been ready to enter into a frank and free explanation on any and every subject of a specific nature; but not to answer a general and abstract enquiry, embracing a period too long for any accurate recollection, and exposing him to unpleasant criticisms from or unpleasant discussions with any and every person, who may have understood him in an unfavorable sense.— This (admitting that he could answer in a manner the most satisfactory to Col. Burr) he should deem inadmissible, in principle and precedent, and humiliating in practice. To this therefore he can never submit. Frequent allusions has been made to slanders said to be in circulation. Whether they are openly or in whispers they have a form and a shape, and might be specified.

If the alternative alluded to in the close of the letter is definitively tendered, it must be accepted; the time, place and manner to be afterwards regulated. I should not think it right in the midst of a Circuit Court to withdraw my services from those who may have confided important interests to me, and expose them to the embarrassment of seeking other counsel, who may not have time to be sufficiently instructed in their cause. I shall also want a little time to make some arrangement respecting my own affairs.

The following paper, in the hand-writing of General Hamilton, was inclosed with his will and some other papers in a packet addressed to one of his executors which was of course not to have been delivered but in case of the melancholy event that has happened. As it contains his motives and reflections on the causes that have led to this fatal catastrophe it is deemed proper to communicate it to the public.

No. 12.

On my expected interview with Col. Burr, I think it proper to make some remarks explanatory of my conduct, motives and views. I was certainly desirous of avoiding this interview, for the most cogent reasons.

1. My religious and moral principles are strongly opposed to the practice of duelling, and it would ever give me pain to be obliged to shed the blood of a fellow creature in a private combat forbidden by the laws.

2. My wife and children are extremely dear to me, and my life is of the utmost importance to them, in various views.

3. I feel a sense of obligation towards my creditors; who in case of accident to me, by the forced sale of my property, may be in some degree sufferers. I did not think myself at liberty as a man of probity, lightly to expose them to this hazard.

4. I am conscious of no ill will to Colonel Burr, distinct from political opposition, which as I trust, has proceeded from pure and upright motives.

Lastly, I shall hazard much, and can possibly gain nothing by the issue of the interview.

But it was, as I conceive, impossible for me to avoid it.

There were intrinsic difficulties in the beginning, and artificial embarrassments, from the manner of proceeding on the part of Col. Burr.

Intrinsic, because it is not to be denied, that my animadversions on the political principles, character and views of Col. Burr, have been extremely severe; and on different occasions, I, in common with many others, have made very unfavorable criticisms on particular instances of the private conduct of this Gentleman.

In proportion as these impressions are entertained with sincerity and uttered with motives and for purposes, which might appear to me commendable, would be the difficulty (until they could be removed by evidence of their being erroneous) of explanation or apology. The disavowal required of me by Col. Burr, in a general and indefinite form, was

out of my power, if it had really been proper for me to submit to be so questioned; but I was sincerely of opinion this could not be, and in this opinion I was confirmed by that of a very moderate and judicious friend whom I consulted. Besides that Col. Burr appeared to assume, in the first instance, a tone unnecessarily peremptory and menacing, and in the second, positively offensive. Yet I wished, as far as might be practicable, to leave a door open to accommodation. This, I think, will be inferred from the written communications made by me and my direction, and would be confirmed by the conversations between Mr. Van Ness and myself, which arose out of the subject.

I am not sure whether, under all the circumstances, I did not go farther in the attempt to accommodate than a punctilious delicacy will justify. If so, I hope the motives I have stated will excuse me.

It is not my design, by what I have said, to affix any odium on the conduct of Colonel Burr, in this case—He doubtless has heard of animadversions of mine which bore very hard upon him; and it is probable, that, as usual, they were accompanied with some falsehood. He may have supposed himself under a necessity of acting as he has done. I hope the grounds of his proceeding have been such as to satisfy his own conscience.

I trust, at the same time, that the world will do me the justice to believe, that I have not censured him on light grounds, nor from unworthy inducements. I certainly have had strong reasons for what I may have said, though it is possible that in some particulars, I may have been influenced by misconception or misinformation. It is also my ardent wish that I may have been more mistaken than I think I have been, and that he, by the same future conduct, may shew himself worthy of all confidence and esteem, and prove an ornament and blessing to the country.

As well because it is possible that I may have injured Col. Burr, however convinced myself that my opinions and declarations have been well founded, as from my general principles and temper in relation to similar affairs—I have resolved, if our interview is conducted in the usual manner, and it pleases God to give me the opportunity, to reserve and throw away my first fire, and I have thoughts even of reserving my second fire—and thus giving a double opportunity for Col. Burr to pause and to reflect.

It is not, however, my intention to enter into any explanations on the ground—Apology, from principle, I hope, rather than pride, is out of the question.

To those, who, with me, abhorring the practice of duelling may think that I ought on no account to have added to the number of bad examples, I answer that my relative situation, as well in public as private, enforcing all the considerations which constitute what men of the world denominate honour, imposed on me (as I thought) a peculiar necessity to decline the call. The ability to be in future useful, whether in resisting mischief or effecting good in those crises of our public affairs, which seem likely to happen would probably be inseparably from a conformity with public prejudice in this particular.

A. H.

On the foregoing letters and papers, the Editor will make no comment—He submits them to the heart and understanding of every reader.

GEN. HAMILTON'S WILL.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I, ALEXANDER HAMILTON, of the city of New-York, Counsellor at Law, do make this my Last Will and Testament, as follows—

First. I appoint John B. Church, Nicholas Fish, and Nathaniel Pendleton, of the city aforesaid, Esquires, to be Executors and Trustees of this my Will, and I devise to them, their heirs and assigns, as joint tenants and not as tenants in common, all my estate real and personal whatsoever, and wheresoever, upon trust at their discretion, to sell and dispose of the same, at such time and times, in such manner, and upon such terms as they the survivors and survivor shall think fit, and out of the proceeds to pay all the debts which I shall owe at the time of my decease; in whole, if the fund be sufficient, proportionally, if it shall be insufficient, and the residue, if any there shall be, to pay and deliver to my excellent and dear wife Elizabeth Hamilton.

Though if it should please God to spare my life, I may look for a considerable surplus out of my present property; yet if he should speedily call me to the eternal world, a forced sale, as is usual may possibly render it insufficient to pay my debt. I pray God that something may remain for the maintenance and education of my dear wife and children. But should it on the contrary happen, that there is not enough for the payment of my debts, I entreat my dear children, if they, or any of them, should ever be able, to make up the deficiency. I without hesitation commit to their delicacy a wish which is dictated by my own. Though conscious that I have too far sacrificed the interests of my family to public avocations, and on this account have the less claim to burthen my children, yet I trust in their magnanimity to appreciate as they ought, this my request. In so unfavorable an event of things, the support of their dear mother, with the most respectful and tender attention, is a duty, all the sacredness of which they will feel.—Probably her own patrimonial resources will preserve her from indigence. But in all situations they are charged to bear in mind that she has been to them the most devoted and the best of mothers.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my hand, the ninth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and four.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

Signed, sealed, published and declared as and for his last will and testament, in our presence who have subscribed the same in his presence, the words John B. Church being above interlined.

DOMINICK F. BLAKE.

GRAHAM BURRELL.

THEO: B. VALLEAU.

New-York, Surrigate's Office, 16th July, 1804.

I do hereby certify the preceding to be a true copy of the original Will of Alexander Hamilton, deceased, now on file in my office.

SILVANUS MILLER, Surrigate.

FROM THE AMERICAN CITIZEN.

GENERAL HAMILTON'S FUNERAL.

On Saturday last the remains of this gentleman were interred, accompanied with military honours, in the family vault, Trinity church yard. Although the period which elapsed between his death and his funeral was but short, yet the lively recollection of his revolutionary services—his acknowledged superior genius—his transcendent talents—his private worth—his sterling integrity, and the amiable frankness of his heart, excited in our citizens an uncommon cordiality and vigour to testify their high sense of these virtues by every demonstration of respect.— There was a very general suspension of business, and the streets were uncommonly crowded with spectators.

In conformity to previous arrangements, the procession was formed in Robinson-street where the deceased General lay, about 12 o'clock. The following was the order.

The artillery.  
The 6th regiment of militia.  
Flank companies.  
Cincinnati society.

A numerous train of clergy of all denominations.

The CORPSE, with pall bearers.  
The general's horse, appropriately dressed.  
His children and relatives.

Physicians.  
Governour Morris, the funeral orator, in his carriage.

The gentlemen of the bar.  
The lieutenant-governor of the state, in his carriage.

Corporation of the city of New-York.  
Resident agents of foreign powers.  
Officers of our army and navy.

Military & naval officers of foreign powers.  
Militia officers of the state.

The various officers of the respective banks.  
Chamber of commerce and merchants.

Wardens of the port, and masters of vessels in the harbour.  
The president, professors and students of Columbia college.

Tammany society.  
Mechanic society.  
Marine society.  
Citizens in general.

The military marched with arms reversed and exhibited a very splendid spectacle.—

Thus formed, the procession, which was numerous, extensive, and respectable, moved with solemn step, accompanied with the awful tolling of the bells, and the firing of minute guns from the battery, through Beekman, Pearl and Whitehall streets, and up Broadway to Trinity church, where the military halted, opened to the right and left and came to order with reversed arms. The rear of the procession marched through the avenue, thus formed, to the front of Trinity church, where Mr. Morris was to deliver the funeral oration to the immense concourse of assembled and anxious spectators.

Within the elegant portico of this venerable temple, was erected a stage covered with a carpet, and furnished with two chairs; one for the orator who sat in the middle; the other for Mr. John B. Church, a relative and executor of the deceased. Around the stage, upon the ground, stood the afflicted relatives and associates of the general; the members of the Cincinnati; the clergy; and all who with decency could approach it.— The scene was impressive; and what added unspeakably to its solemnity, was the mournful groupe of tender boys, the sons, the once hopes and joys of the deceased, who, with tears gushing from their eyes, sat upon the stage, at the feet of the orator, bewailing the loss of their parent! It was too much; the sternest powers, the bloodiest villain, could not resist the melting scene. I wish I could go on and describe the sensations I felt, and those which were manifest on every countenance.

When all things were arranged, and the din of arms and the bustle of the crowd had subsided the orator rose and approached the front of the stage, under which the CORPSE of GENERAL HAMILTON was placed. Mr. Morris thus addressed his audience.

—You are not to expect in me the public orator; you will find nothing but the lamentations of a bewailing friend.

His life, (pointing at the corpse) was one of honour and glory. When our revolution began, his fame was heard of before his person was seen.

\* Although I stood near the stage, yet, from the very low tone of voice in which the orator began, I was unable to hear his full words. These, however, were not more than five or six. What follows in the text is in conformity to his arrangement, and cordially expresses his ideas; and, indeed, I may say, with no conscious variation, his very words. This, however, who heard him, will, of this, judge for themselves. I write from memory only. No comment on the oration is intended. It is given as it was delivered.

Washington, that excellent judge of human nature, perceived his virtues; appreciated his talents; entrusted him with his confidence, and made him his bosom friend.

At the battle of York he displayed alike his valour and his humanity. The excesses of the gallant army opposed to us, had excited emotions of resentment in the American soldiery, which required his superior mind to repress. At the head of a forlorn hope he attacked the redoubt of the enemy and was victorious. That occurrence gave us peace.

His studiousness; his comprehensive mind; his wisdom; his eloquence, called him to the convention which originated your constitution and presented you with a national code. Here, I saw him labour indefatigably for his country's good.—His soul was absorbed in considering what would best establish and preserve well regulated liberty. When the labours of the convention were closed, he frankly expressed a doubt of the fitness of the constitution to maintain, by necessary energy, public freedom. He fired, however, my countrymen, on your side; your virtue; but more on the ruling power before whom we are so assembled.

Washington, with whom he had travelled every stage of our revolutionary career, Washington, who saw his manly struggle in the convention, and best knew how to promote his country's welfare, called him, under the new constitution, to preside over an important department of government. Here, he displayed all the talents of a great financier. He organized the government, and imparted to it a tone according with correct notions of its stability, and the permanent interest and happiness of the country. At this period we had no credit, but we had resources. He revived our credit; he fixed it upon a sure and permanent basis, and called our resources into profitable and glorious activity. But he met with opposition and retired from public life to the suit of his profession, in which he became the ornament of the bar, and a paragon of integrity to his clients. The welfare of a numerous family called for an exertion of his great professional talents.

Mehaced with dangers from without, Washington was called from his beloved retirement to the field. This great man had not forgotten the young hero who, early in the revolution, had attracted his notice. I beseech you, my countrymen, to mark another instance of his discernment, affection and esteem. He viewed the deceased as worthy of the second in command. He was appointed major general of our army. Washington deemed him, in case of accident; perhaps the only man in whose hands, which now lie cold in his coffin, the sword and purse of America could be safely entrusted.

He toiled incessantly with manly firmness against popular zeal, and snatched you, in spite of yourselves, from impending ruin.—His solicitude was for you; for himself he feared not.

He had been charged with ambition.— When he retired from the army, of which he was major general, he declared he would never accept of an office unless his country was endangered by actual foreign invasion. Firm to his purpose, faithful to himself, his determinations were irreversible.—No power could divert him from them. He was rigid and inflexible.

But he was not AMBITIOUS. I declare in the presence of that Great Being, before whom we are now specially assembled, that in all his conversations, in all his meditations, he was solicitous only for the welfare of his country. He was sincere and affectionate. His heart, faithful to itself, never knew how to conceal what it felt. He placed it in his hand; exhibited it to the people, and challenged rigid inspection. He knew no guilt; he knew not how to dissemble.

But although retired from office, he never for a moment in his private capacity, suffered his attention to be diverted, from public business. He was a zealous friend of liberty. He was attentive, watchful, and active to preserve it. He feared lest popular zeal would place the precious deposit in its sincere and unsound hands. He drew factions, and was apprehensive that their collisions would injure it. For my Friend, my Countrymen, I beseech you not to trust to profession. Look into; examine acts, and by these judge of public measures.

Your sensibility is awakened. I cannot enter into a consideration of the causes that have produced the melancholy event which has brought us together. I will not—I ought not to endeavour to excite that indignation which you will feel. I pray you to repress that temper which might lead to acts offensive to the majesty of laws. For my deceased and illustrious friend I beseech you to be calm and tranquil.

Respective colleagues (addressing them) in your academical pursuits remember that HAMILTON was your patron. Imitate his virtues; revere his talents; respect his greatness.

And you, gentlemen of the bar, which he illumined with his genius, study the example he has left of his exemplary integrity to his client. He was the ornament of your profession.

And you, brothers of the Society of the Cincinnati, you who knew him in the day of affliction, remember his wisdom and eloquence in the cabinet, his activity and valour in the field.

And you, reverend clergy, accompany the body of the deceased to the place of its interment, and perform your holy functions the last sad office.

† York Town, Virginia, where Cornwallis surrendered.