

AMERICA, COMMERCE, AND FREEDOM.
Worded by Mrs. Rowson; Music by Mr. Reinagle.

HOW blest the life a sailor leads,
From clime to clime still ranging.
For as the calm the storm succeeds,
The scene delights by chusing.
Tho' tempest howl along the main,
Some object will reman us,
And cheer, with hopes to meet again,
The friends we left behind us.

CHORUS.

For under snug sail, we laugh at the gale;
And tho' landmen look pale, never heed 'em;
But toss off the glass, to a favourite lass,
To America, Commerce, and Freedom.

And when arriv'd in sight of land,
Or safe in port rejoicing,
Our ship we moor, the sails we hand,
Whilst out the boat is hoisting.
With cheerful hearts the shore we reach:

Our friends, delighted, greet us;
And tripping lightly o'er the beach,
The pretty lasses meet us.

CHORUS.

When the full flowing bowl enlivens the soul,
To foot it we merrily lead 'em;
And each boany lass will drink off her glass,
To America, Commerce, and Freedom.

Our prizes sold, the chink we share,
And gladly we receive it;
And when we meet a brother tar
That wants, we freely give it:
No freeborn sailor yet had more,
But cheerfully would lend it;
And when 'tis gone, to sea for more;
We earn it but to spend it.

CHORUS.

Then drink round my boys; 'tis the first of our joys
To relieve the distrest'd, cloath and feed 'em;
'Tis a duty we share, with the brave and the fair,
In this land of commerce and freedom.

[From the New-York Herald.]

THOMAS PAINE has written a letter to the President of the United States, dated Paris, July 30, 1796, which his correspondent Benjamin Franklin Bache, has published and secured the copy right according to law. It might admit of some doubt, whether the entry of this letter according to law would secure the exclusive right of publication, either to the writer or printer—one would think the President at least might dispute the point, though it is certain that the great man will care as little about the copy right of the calumny, as about the calumny itself.

This letter however is the most extraordinary composition of abuse, petulance, falsehood and boyish vanity, that ever came from Grub-street, a prison or a garret. A few extracts from it will be sufficient for a sample—those who want more will read the whole pamphlet which contains 75 pages and is sold at twenty-five cents.

Speaking of the corruption which mixed with the prosperity of the United States, soon after their union, he says to George Washington, "monopolies & every kind marked your administration, almost in the moment of its commencement. The lands obtained by the revolution were lavished upon partisans—the interests of the disbanded soldier was sold to the speculator—unjustice was acted under the pretence of faith—and the chief of the army became the patron of the fraud." Page 7.

Not one syllable of these charges is well founded. The sale of certificates belonging to soldiers, was mostly effected before the administration of the President: and while he was a private citizen at Mount Vernon, George Washington had as little concern in the business as Tom Paine. We know of no lands lavished upon partisans, except under the administration of some "patriotic," "republican" governors of certain states. The executive of the United States had nothing to do with the "fraud."

Page 10. "Had it not been for the aid of France, in men, money and ships, your cold unmilitary conduct would in all probability have lost America; at least she would not have been the independent nation she now is."

"Elevated to the chair of Presidency, you assumed the merit of every thing to yourself, and the natural ingratitude of your constitution began to appear. You commenced your Presidential career by encouraging and swallowing the grossest adulmentation—and travelled America from one end to another to put yourself in the way of receiving it."

Page 11 and 12. Speaking of John Adams and John Jay, he says, "These are the disguised traitors who call themselves federalists. John Adams is one of those who never contemplated the origin of government or comprehended any thing of first principles."

Page 15. "Mr. Washington is known to have no friendships and to be incapable of rising any—he can serve or desert a cause or a man with constitutional indifference."

Page 25. Speaking of his imprisonment after Mr. Monroe's arrival in Paris, from August to November, he says, "all that period of my imprison-

ment, at least, I owe not to Robespierre, but to his colleague in projects, George Washington."

Page 32. "I do not hesitate to say, that you have not served America with more disinterestedness nor greater zeal nor more fidelity than myself, and I know not if with better effect."

Page 39. Errors or caprices of the temper can be pardoned and forgotten; but a cold deliberate crime of the heart, such as Mr. Washington is capable of acting, is not to be washed away."

Page 63. "And as to you, sir, treacherous in private friendship (for so you have been to me and that in the day of danger) and a hypocrite in public life, the world will be puzzled to decide whether you are an apostate or an imposter; whether you have abandoned good principles or whether you ever had any."

Enough of such blasphemy against public and private virtue! Shame and infamy be on the man that is capable of such turpitude—such base and dispicable calumny. America will decide between the respectable fellow-citizen, George Washington, and that degenerate moral and political monster, Thomas Paine.

But the reader will be anxious to know the private reasons of Tom Paine, for all this invective, and these reasons will exhibit the blackness of the creature's heart.

Tom Paine was a victim of the Jacobin rage in France; the victim of his own efforts to spread the principles of revolt and insurrection. He was arrested by Robespierre and thrown into prison. Terribly frightened and expecting every day to fall under the axe of the law, his only hope of relief was from the intercession of his American friends. He cast his eye on the President of the United States. But the President did not make application for his release—he gave Mr. Monroe no instructions even to enquire if Mr. Paine was dead or alive, in prison or out, or to see if any assistance could be given him." See page 23. Mr. Paine says he can ascribe Mr. Washington's silence to no better motive than "a wish to have out of the way, a man who had credit enough to be heard and believed in the United States," intimating that the "Washington faction," were afraid of his return to this country, and his exposing the mischiefs of their administration.

Such a mixture of meanness, ignorance and vanity, is a rare thing even in the history of "Republican ingratitude." The forgoing extract will be submitted, without further comment.

As to the comparison betwixn the President's services and his own, we shall make but a single remark. When Mr. Paine was secretary to the committee of foreign affairs, he was guilty of a breach of truth of divulging secrets which his oath and duty required him to keep secret. For this breach of truth, he was arraigned before congress and examined, and confessing himself the author of the publication, congress resolved "that the committee should take from him all the public papers intrusted to him as secretary." See Journals of congress—Jan. 16, 1779, of such fidelity in the service of America, the Americans are the best judges, and his writings will have full justice done them in public opinion.

SALEM, December 20.

"A few days since, Mr. James Burnes, a native and inhabitant of this town, returned home from the West-Indies, having fortunately escaped from the English. He was pressed by the Majestic English fleet of war, from on board the ship Astrea; of which he was 2d mate, and was dragged from island to island in the English service for more than 7 months. He was forced by the point of the sword into several bloody battles, and made to fight against the French, and because of his unwillingness to act in the English service, he suffered from them the most shocking cruelties—at one time he lay 19 days in irons, and would have starved to death, had it not been for the assistance of a woman that was on board the ship. Once before he attempted to escape in company with another American, and swam to vessel belonging to the United States; but the master would not let them come on board; and returning, his companion was lost, supposed by a shark. He brings melancholy and most painful accounts of the sufferings of the Americans, pressed into the English service; and of their perishing by the cruelties exercised upon them, by the sick and in battles, and by attempting to escape from a bondage and slavery more dreadful than the iron furnace of Egypt. Mr. Burnes has a family in this town, and has returned with the loss of all his little property, and from his appearance, with the loss of a good constitution, and of good health for ever.

NEW-YORK, December 30.

We learn, that the vessels which have arrived these few days past give accounts that many vessels are on the coast, endeavouring to make ports, but driven off by contrary winds, some of them in real distress for want of provisions or water, and the people's limbs frozen. Is it not possible for the citizens to send out vessels for the relief of such as are near this port? —Minerva.

To masters of vessels, mates, and seamen in general.—The underwriters of the city of New-York, having received credible information, that a great number of vessels are in great distress on the coast,

have provided the brig Dean, Joshua Sanford, master, to give immediate assistance to the sufferers; and do hereby invite the masters, mates, and seamen to embark in so laudable an enterprise. Those who are disposed to undertake the cause of humanity, will please to give in their names at the compting room of Ebenezer Stevens, who is authorized to make arrangements for their compensation.

Extract of a letter from Boston, dated Dec. 22, 1796.

"Within a day or two past, it has been discovered, that there are a great many forged 50 and 5 dollar bills of the United States bank, in circulation. They are exceedingly well executed. This is written to caution you against remitting me any of either of those denominations, as you cannot pass them here at any rate."

A gentleman of this city writes from the Isle of France, dated August 15. That capt. William Mariner, of the ship Eliza of Bolton, was at that port in the laid ship, in good health; that capt. Mad gone through much trouble, having been first taken by the British, on account of Luton property on board, and then retaken by the French and carried in there, where it was thought he would lose the cargo, but not the ship and freight. That the French had lately carried into that place 4 or 5 prizes, one of which a Portuguese, estimated at upwards of two millions of dollars; she has, besides an immensely rich cargo, bars of gold, and gold dust. That 7 frigates had failed to take some unknown place—a secret expedition.

At the close of every war, the prices of property, of all kinds, never fail to fall. This circumstance alone would always produce much embarrassment to men in commerce, manufactures and agriculture. But the speculations in land, in the United States, are among the most fruitful sources of embarrassment. They have given rise to a system of credit, which involves inextricable difficulties and misfortunes. The multitude of banks in this country, destined originally to aid the merchants solely, have contributed much to augment the present calamities of business—they have been too much used to support speculating projects, by granting enormous credits.

To these sources of embarrassment, must be added the enormous defalcations from the capital of our merchants, by the seizure and detention of their property, by the English and French. An exact estimate of the amount of American property thus seized or detained unpaid for, cannot be known, but the following will be found not higher than the truth.

BRITISH.

Capture of American vessels under the British orders of November 6, 1793.	
300 vessels estimated on an average at 10,000 dollars each,	3,000,000
Subsequent captures and detentions of provision vessels, the payment for which is promised by the British government,	1,500,000

4,500,000

FRENCH.	4,500,000
American property sold to the French government from '92 to '96, not yet paid for, by an official return, Sept. '96, near 35,000,000 livres.	7,000,000
Vessels seized and cargoes detained or sold in the West-Indies, about 100	1,000,000

8,000,000

It is probable that this amount of twelve millions and a half of American capital is now in the hands of the British and French. The seizures under the orders of Nov. 6, have been declared by the British admiralty mostly illegal, and restitution awarded. But the money is not paid. The French government have also promised to fulfil their contracts, but imperious necessity has yet prevented.

Such defalcations from the capital of our merchants, must severely affect the course of business.

JAN. 2. We are informed by capt. Cutler, of the brig Almy, that off the east end of Jamaica, he was taken by two French privateers, the one of which was the Flying Fish, built at Baltimore, and owned by a John Love, who afterwards sold her to her present owner, at the Cape, and then went captain of her. He fired upwards of 30 shot at the Almy, without hailing her, although laying too for 20 minutes before, American colours flying; he then hailed, and ordered the boat on board; which being done, he detained the mate, two seamen, the ship's register, and other papers, and sent a prize-mate and 3 others, all armed, on board. They then hoisted in the boat, and stood for Gonaves. Next day were taken by a British sloop of war, the Jamaica, captain Brooking, who took the Frenchmen out, and treated capt. Cutler very handsomely, but carried him to Port-Royal, on account of having no register, where he was detained only three days, and then suffered to proceed.—The privateers proceeded on their course. Capt. Cutler had great reason to think, that the Frenchmen put on board him intended much worse usage, had he not fallen in with capt. Brooking. The passengers will all vouch for the truth of the above.

Yesterday the brig Poll Cary, captain Prince, got under way from this port of St. Croix; when being in the bay, she went down so suddenly, that the people had hardly time to save their lives—her masts are just discoverable.