

# MINERVA; or, ANTI-JACOBIN.

TWO & A HALF DOLLS PER ANNU. Payable half Yearly.

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY WILLIAM BOYLAN.

TWO DOLLARS PER ANNU. Paid in Advance.

Vol. 8.]

RALEIGH, (N. C.) MONDAY, JULY 4, 1803.

[No. 378.]

## ON DUELLING.

FROM SAY'S SUNDAY REPORTER.

LONDON, April 10.

Having recorded the death of Col. Montgomery in a duel, on a dispute which arose merely from a trivial quarrel between two dogs, it may not be unuseful to insert the following Letter, which was written by the then Bishop of C—to the Earl of Bellmont after his duel with Lord Townshend in 1775.

My Lord,

Though I presume to address myself to your Lordship on a subject in which you are unfortunately but too much interested, it is not my intention by any means to wound the sensibility of your temper, or to question the benevolence of your heart. I am sure you are a brave man, and I hear you are as good a man as any to be found among the youth of condition in this kingdom; yet pardon me, my Lord, if I say that our youth of condition do not want advice upon any point so much as upon the point of honour, with which they fancy themselves so intimately acquainted; and let me inform you, a father of the church now begs your most serious attention; thro' your Lordship, he may communicate a few observations to the world no less necessary to maintain the laws of this country than to enforce the commandments of his God.

Be not, however terrified my Lord, though an old man, and that man of some ecclesiastical consequence too, breaks thus abruptly on your retirement: He will talk to you as fashionable as if he did not think religiously, and make (the better to answer his purpose) a serious question in morals, an object of polite investigation.—To drop the third person, my Lord, I know experimentally what the passions are at your time of life; young men prefer any criminality with which means is not connected, to the slightest idea of dishonour; they do not fear to commit a flagitious action so much as to be concerned in a foolish one; and there are particular crimes, such as duelling, for instance, in which custom has made it glory not only to sacrifice every dictate of our reason, but every impulse of our humanity.

I have said, my Lord, that I know experimentally with what a vehemence the passions, especially where the point of honour is concerned rage in the bosom of a young man. In the early part of life, I received an insult which I thought myself indispensably bound to resent; and of course either a submission or a meeting in the field, became the only alternative I could propose to the party by whom I considered myself injured. He chose the latter; and your Lordship can easily conceive my affliction. My own personal safety was no more than an atom in the scale of consideration; but I agonized at the supposition of the ruin which I was probably going to pull down upon my own family, as well as upon the family of my antagonist.—I was an only son, the sole heir of an ancient house and in a fortnight to marry a woman on whom I doated to distraction. The man whom I challenged, besides, was circumstanced almost similarly, and had lived with me in an uninterrupted course of friendship for years. These reflections occurred to me incessantly; yet my pride (your Lordship will excuse me) steered me against the salutary counsel they suggested. Reason, no less than Religion, pointed out the various horrors of my situation, in the most forcible light; my pride, however, taught me to oppose the influence of both; and I determined to act like a man of spirit, let the consequences be ever so fatal either to my temporal peace, or to my eternal felicity.

Nor to trespass unnecessarily on your good lordship's patience, I repaired with a heavy heart to the place of appointment, and waited scarce a second for the appearance of my enemy. His looks sufficiently bespoke the anguish of his mind; but he was equally biggotted with myself to the heresy of that Moloch, modern honour, and equally resolved to worship him with blood. We could both of us, I am confident, have embraced with the utmost cordiality; yet to behave spiritedly, it was indispensably necessary to attack each other's lives: Our courage

might have been suspected if we hesitated, even a moment, at a fashionable murder, and we therefore fired to purchase the good opinion of the world, though at the absolute expence of our own. My ball, thanks to the mercy of God, did no mischief, my antagonist's was more effectual; I received so violent a wound in the breast as to be in a state of the greatest danger for three months; and in less than twelve, saw the father whom I revered, and the woman whom I adored, carried to the grave, in consequence of what they suffered during the afflicting interval of my cure. O my Lord, the scorn of a thousand worlds would have been elysium to what I felt on that dreadful occasion! How often did I wish, that Nature had formed me with a disposition the most dauntless that ever fell to the lot of her meanest sons! If I flew to reason for comfort, she told me that I despised her best advice; if I turned to religion, she bid me remember how I had trampled on her gravest admonitions. Pride only appeared with a gleam of seeming consolation; she told me that I had acted as become a man of honour, and had spiritedly demanded satisfaction for an unpardonable affront. It was true, I had demanded satisfaction; yet what satisfaction had I received? If I was grossly insulted at first, I was now irreparably injured, and clearly felt that, though I might have behaved very gallantly, the behaviour was nevertheless mad, which could think lasting misery an effectual remedy for imaginary disgrace.

In the superstitious ages of the world, my Lord, when men absurdly believed that providence interposed immediately in favour of the injured, a decision of the dispute by personal combat was not altogether ridiculous; but in these more enlightened times, when the sun of science has happily dispelled the clouds of enthusiasm, a continuation of so Gothic a custom is a scandal upon the human understanding. No preternatural interposition is now expected to give a certain triumph to the person wronged; no, my Lord, the aggressor and the aggrieved are upon equal terms; and, as in your own case, no less than in mine, the latter has often the most melancholy cause to be dissatisfied, where he is even indulged with the most honourable satisfaction. It is justly observed by a celebrated writer, that though men may live fools, they cannot die fools: your Lordship and I have been both upon the verge of eternity, and therefore, with respect to the point of honour at least, we may be supposed to possess a little share of understanding. Give me leave, therefore, to ask you seriously, whether any thing can be so absurd as the fashionable practice of duelling? We receive an affront, and we endanger our lives; we expose the long list of our friends to distress; we hazard all the glowing expectations of our tenderest social ties, all our dearest prospects in the world, and all our greatness in the next, to—do what?—blush, my Lord, at my own question—to punish some act of incivility that should excite our contempt, or some disrespect which is wholly below our indignation.—The man who is not ready to apologize for any offence he offers another, does not deserve to be considered a gentleman; yet, supposing the case otherwise, the offence ought indeed to be deadly, which induces us to take away a life. If it is of such magnitude as to require a bloody expiation, it should be left to the laws; and if it is not, we surely rebel against the majesty of our own hearts where we endeavour to wipe it away with blood.

In whatever light we look upon duelling, my Lord, I am persuaded you will concur with me in thinking that it is founded no less in folly than in barbarity. Where we are even the victors, what is our triumph? A triumph over humanity, a triumph over justice, a triumph over our families, our country, and our God. If our reason, therefore, is not alarmed at the various dangers attending this horrible custom, our pride should be roused to the charge of weakness, to which it exposes our characters. Few who go into the field have any wish to destroy the life of an adversary; yet all must unavoidably expose their own: Our universal study is to set a just value upon this blessing; yet our universal practice

is to treat it as an object of the slightest consideration. A four look, a haughty accent, or an abrupt reply, are with us motives enough to lose or take a life at any time; in fact, the life of an English gentleman is the only thing in which he seems to have the least property: make an attempt on his estate, and he seeks a judicial remedy; set fire to his house, and he seeks a judicial remedy also; but if you tread upon his toe, or doubt his veracity, no law can give him redress; his life must be instantly hazarded to procure satisfaction, and the moment another becomes rude, he is obliged to become desperate: thus situated he meets his adversary (as every feeling man must meet an adversary) with an infinitely greater share of apprehension for consequences, than of a passion for revenge: though he wants fortitude to do what he wishes, yet he musters up courage to do what he abhors, and is brave enough to kill perhaps his dearest friend, because his cowardice is too excessive to oppose the ridiculous tyrant of a despicable custom.

Seriously, my Lord, is the good opinion of the world worth enjoying upon conditions like these? In my opinion, it is not; and if honour is something that must be gratified at the expence either of justice or humanity, I am convinced that it is not very honourable.—We all acknowledge the propriety of this reasoning, yet we all continue the abject slaves to a custom we detest. What a glory would it, therefore, be to your Lordship, whose character for personal bravery is so thoroughly established, if you associate with a few sensible young men of quality, to rescue us from a tyranny so barbarous! You owe your country much for risking so valuable a life as your own, and this would be an exalted method of discharging the obligation.

I know, my lord, that many elegant writers are apprehensive, that if duelling was once abolished, a custom additionally dangerous would be immediately adopted in its room. The judicious author, particularly, who has obliged the world with the principles of penal law, asks, in his chapter upon duelling.—“Whether it is not to be feared, that the propensity to revenge would substitute the more fatal, & the more odious practice of assassination? For my part, I think not; and for the very reason which he himself assigns to shew the inefficacy of declaiming against duelling. “Of little avail, (says he) is it to the object, that true honour depends not on the prejudices of the people, but hath its source in the heart; that it is more courageous to resist the absurd tyranny of custom, than to submit to it; that the defence of honour is not placed in occasional appeals to the sword and pistol, but in a life of integrity and virtue; that when a fencing school is made the court of justice, there is no law, no argument but murder.—All these assertions (concludes our author) may be true; but the most solid reasoning is received as mere declamation, when opposed to the impetuosity of passion, or the fear of shame.”

When shame (says he, in another place) is the consequence of obedience to law, the sword of justice looses its terrors.—Hence, the duellist kills his friend whom he loves, and the judge condemns the duellist while he scarcely knows how in his heart to disapprove his behaviour.” Surely, my Lord, if shame is so very irresistible as to force us into duelling, it would be equally powerful to keep us from assassination; if shame is necessary to make us seek for honourable reparation, it would certainly be sufficient to save us from the infamy of dastardly revenge.—It would unquestionably be as efficacious on the side of law, prudence & humanity, as upon the side of injustice, absurdity, and blood; nothing therefore, my Lord, is wanting but a generous association among a few young men of rank, to root out the custom of duelling. If such an association was once established, and if the members only made it publicly known that they would never admit any man into their company, who either refused to apologize for an offence he had given, or required the life of a fellow-creature, as an atonement for an affront, the most salutary consequences would result to society.—Associations are

formed to improve the opera, to encourage race-horses, & to preserve the game.—For the love of Heaven, my Lord, let there be one association to preserve the human species; to save the hoary father from falling a victim, to the phrenzy of his slaughtered son, to prevent the doating mother's agonizing shrieks, to snatch the tender wife from unutterable despair, and to continue a parent to a helpless brood of innocents. I cannot proceed, my Lord, on this affecting subject: my heart is too full: and I have already trespass'd sufficiently on your patience; I shall therefore only observe, that as the other associations just now mentioned, have either been distinguished by royal or parliamentary protection, the one I recommended could not fail of being warmly encouraged by both, as an institution no less honourable to the kingdom than delightful to God.

May that God take your Lordship into his particular care, and lead you seriously to weigh this admonition from your Lordship's true well-wisher.

## \*\*\*\*\* Scheme of a Lottery.

- 1 Prize to consist of 630 Acres of good Land in Johnston County, on which is a rich bed of Iron Ore, a Grist Mill, and one half of the celebrated Marlborough Iron Works, well supplied with an excellent Stream of Water, all the Tools and Implements necessary for carrying on the business, and the half of a blacksmith's Shop & Tools, Dols. 3,000 is 3,000
  - 1 Prize 640 Acres of Land in Johnston County, on the main Road leading from Smithfield to Raleigh, 600 600
  - 1 Prize a valuable Negro Man Slave 400 400
  - 1 Prize a Horse, 87 1-2 87 1-2
  - 1 Do. do. 85 85
  - 1 Do. a Silver Watch, 17 1-2 17 1-2
  - 1 Do. do. 15 15
  - 2 Cash Prizes, 50 100
  - 2 Do. 20 40
  - 300 Do. 10 3000
- 1469 Tickets at 5 dolls each, is 7,345

This Lottery will commence Drawing at Smithfield by the Managers, on the 1st day in February next, and continue until finished. A list of the fortunate Numbers will be published in the Newspapers.

All prizes will be paid on demand. To accommodate those who may find it more convenient to apply at Raleigh some person there will be employed to pay the prizes on such tickets as may be presented. Those not demanded within 12 months after the drawing is finished will be considered as relinquished to the proprietor of the Lottery.

This Lottery is for the benefit of Mr. Jonas Frost, to enable him to dispose of his Property. The Property is estimated at a fair Valuation, and Mr. Frost has entered into Bonds in the sum of 10,000 Dollars, with sufficient Sureties, that all the Prizes shall be duly paid, and good & sufficient Titles given to the Lands, Iron Works, &c. These bonds are in possession of the managers.

A great advantage which this Lottery possesses over any that have lately been proposed to the Public is, that there is no drawback upon the Prizes. The Prizes amount to the full Sum that is paid for the Tickets, without any deduction whatever. The number of Tickets is also small, which increases the chance of obtaining the high Prize.

The Managers pledge themselves to see that the Drawing is duly and fairly conducted; and as the Object of the Lottery is to assist a good Citizen to the Sale of his Property, and as it offers great Advantages to Adventurers, they trust the Tickets will meet with a ready Sale.

Tickets at 5 Dollars each to be had of Mr. Frost, of the Managers, of Mr. C. Parish, Raleigh; Mr. P. Henderson Chapel Hill, Mr. J. Turrentine Hillsborough, Mr. J. Hunt Franklin, Mr. S. Lanier, Rockingham, Mr. G. Hooper, Stokes, Mr. G. Banks, Averborough, Mr. H. Williams, near Fayetteville, and of several other gentlemen in different parts of the State.

M. HANDY,  
ROB. GULLEY, jun. }  
W. WATSON, } Managers  
CALVIN JONES, }  
HARDY BRYAN, }

Johnston County, May 18, 1803.

Mr. Frost is willing that Persons holding his Tickets for Sale, should dispose of any part of what remain in hand, to safe Persons taking at least five, on Notes payable at Christmas next.

A few copies of Buchan's Domestic Medicine, may be had at the Printing Office.