

# THE MINERVA.

Sherman H.

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From the Charleston Courier.

On the first of November, 1803, the American frigate PHILADELPHIA was taken by the Tripolitans, and three hundred of her crew loaded with chains, in unwholesome dungeons. The feeling of Americans for that horrible event may have evaporated, and left the heart chilled into icy neglect; but the recollection of it cannot well have been banished. The sensations which it excited at the time, were very different from those which seem now to pervade our people. They then felt it as they should do—felt it as men, confessing the rights of humanity—as Americans boastful of their freedom, and glorying in that of their fellow creatures, of every country where freedom could be found. As fellow-citizens, horror-struck at the barbarities exercised upon their fellows, and indignant of the monsters who exercised them;—and, in a word, as fathers, sons, brothers, and friends, sympathizing for all who stood in those relations to the unhappy captives. The proof they gave of this was signal. The feeling ran, like electric fluid, from city to town, from town to village, from village to hamlet, and from those back again to the city. Even Avarice found herself hurried by the subduing hand of pity from her silt-erected throne in the heart, and robbed for a time of her dominion. In every part of the Union the hand of Bounty was opened, and an immense subscription promised to relieve our unhappy fellow-citizens from their anguish, and speedily to restore them to liberty, (the life blood of their souls) to air, to comfort, to joy—to America—to the embraces of their fond, mourning connections. But policy chilled the genial current, ere it trickled from the fountain.—Government, more wise, forelawful arising from it. The ardent, generous anxiety of the people of America to have their fellow-citizens restored to them (twas suggested) would raise the demand of the ruffian robbers of Barbary, and immoderately inflate their terms of ransom. The noble design was stifled in the birth, and positive promises were made, that proper measures would be taken by the Executive to obtain the liberation of those miserable men.

The circumstances of captivity in Tripoli, or any of those African States, can scarcely be conceived by the people of this country. There was a time when captivity, in the ordinary mode of usage among polished nations, would of itself raise the pity and indignation of a true American, to an exquisite pitch of suffering. Yet such captivity, when compared with that our countrymen have endured, would be paradisaical enjoyment. Dungeons damp and dark, scanty food of bread and water, chains eating into their bones, stripes and labour of the hardest kind, dragging logs of wood and other things like the meanest beasts of burthen, with the bow-string ready to punish any fault which tyranny, ever jealous and cunning, can contrive into restiveness; all these are the sufferings of our countrymen. For a day of such sufferings, nay, for an hour, a British jury would award a common individual damages to support him comfortably for life: for to a tender feeling person and high mind, the wrongs of one day of such indignity and hardship would be irreparable; a week intolerable; & who that has a heart fit to be felt for, can bear with any patience the reflection of even one innocent fellow creature enduring such sufferings though but for a week: sufferings beneath which the most sturdy bodily strength must bow, the most vigorous sink to the earth, the flame of life itself expire; and worse than all, the mind be broken down from the high towering pride of that laudable self-esteem which generates the living principles of freedom & independence in man, and has often bid the most humble rife from the dust of oppression to trample upon the neck of tyranny. One fellow creature to suffering even for a week!—horrible!—Do you not feel thus fellow citizens? If you do not, resign your pretensions to manhood. If you do, let loose your heart to every pang which pity can inflict; give the whole length of the reigns to your imagination; and if you can form a conception adequate to such a picture, feel, while in imaginati-

on you survey THREE HUNDRED of your countrymen, of your fellow-creatures, bending beneath the weight of SIXTY-ONE WEEKS of such misery; poverty, emaciation, and disease pictured in their persons; the channels fretted by sorrow in their cheeks, clogged with the salt of their tears; their once brawny limbs tottering under the little weight of their worn carcases; and through the rags which etch the outline of the piece, the Barbarians' stripes upon their half-naked sides, visible, and calling out for vengeance.

Yes, Americans! for SIXTY-ONE WEEKS, have your brave and worthy fellow-citizens, your friends, your brothers, your sons, been languishing in this condition, while your country unfeelingly sits down to the cat-and-pap game of penurious, disgraceful economy, and between it, and hitherto abortive military bluster, leaves them to sink, to rot, to perish; to curse the day that brought them forth to life, and did not bring them forth under some more safe, some more propitious sun, than that of America—a sun indeed once blazing bright—when in the meridian of Federal fervour it glowed, calling a lustre upon this land, and filling it with comfort; but now, in a too early winter northpole evening, sinking out of sight amidst clouds, and sleet, and snow, and all the elemental frowns of a dark, chilling, lifeless democratic northpole sky.

We are told by government that Commodore PEEBLE, having bombarded Tripoli, the barbarian Basha has offered to release our countrymen for 500,000 dollars. To this proposal there was but the alternative of two answers to be given. Comply with it—or refuse to give anything. Humanity might prompt the former: found policy, justice, and (what now never occurs to our wise politicians) national honour, sternly demanded the latter. Our government did neither.—They offered 150,000 dollars. But, to leave our countrymen in such a condition, to await the issue of "a base bargain," & huckster about a few dollars, inglorious, nay, ignominious to a nation, is a proceeding for language to describe our sense of which, we should in vain ransack the stores of ancient & modern eloquence, or even look for with hope to find it in the fanciful and teryid regions of poetry. If three hundred Americans are to be left to perish in the dungeons of Barbarians, let it be not for the vile peculium of so many dollars, as on calculation would be exactly seven cents a head to the population of the Union; but let it be for the glory of their country. "If to they die, they die well; then let our ships lay Tripoli in a heap of ruin and conbustion—a monument glorious to them and to their country, and for ever admonitory to barbarian oppressors and robbers.

For our parts, we do not hesitate to lay that the latter is the measure which we should think advisable. Britons have been known to blow up their ships and themselves with them, rather than be taken; and have frequently, when prisoners on board an enemy's ship engaged by the English, been known to pray that she might go to the bottom & they along with her, for the honour of Old England. It is the feed of those Britons who now drag chains in Tripoli—the same spirit boils in their veins, and we dare to say that they feel as we feel, and that if they were asked, mark this, the alternative, "shall your country huckster dishonourably, or shall our ships lay Tripoli in ashes, which do you chose?" they would without hesitation say, "level, level the vile city with the earth, and let us lie gloriously beneath its ruins."

All this time, one thing appears, and indeed with no very promising aspect.—In the smoke of the ministerial false fire, by which the people are so blinded, the state of the captives seems to be lost to the public sight. Time, which destroys all things, seems to have either dissipated, or entirely extinguished those feelings which, at the time of the proposed subscription, did them so much honour: Perhaps, as they grow reconciled to the loss and captivity of their countrymen, they think their captive countrymen have become co-ordinately reconciled to their sufferings; or, knowing the effect of custom in familiarising men to

any thing, however painful, may say to themselves, "Poor fellows! they are now so long accustomed to it, that they must be quite familiar and easy under it." As the Cockney said to an Irishman who was on the point of setting out with him from the New Drop at the Old Bailey, to the other world, and who, angered at his pusillanimous whining, bid him "die like a man." "Ah! curse you—it is nothing to you to be hanged, you Irish thief—you are used to it!" So, perhaps this country may say to the crew of the Philadelphia, "Stay where you are, and be strapped, you Yankee Dogs—you are now used to it!"

From the Frederick-Town Herald.

MANASSAS, Dec. 28, 1804.

Mr. T.

The bill, "to regulate the clearance of armed merchant vessels," sometime since reported to the house by a select committee, and committed to a committee of the whole house; discussed, amended, reported again to the house recommitted, again reported, again discussed, again amended, re recommitted, again reported, again discussed and again amended, has at length passed the house.

The accuracy of this bill, the soundness of its principles, and the justness of its penal sanctions, can best be vindicated by practical application and experience.

Suppose then a prosecution for an offence of the highest grade contemplated by the second section of the bill, and an arraignment in form at the bar of a proper tribunal for trial.

The ship Peace and Plenty of New-York, is the offender.

The Clerk of the court addressing himself to the prisoner says—Ship Peace and Plenty!—hold up your right hand.

Hearken to an indictment found against you by the grand inquest. Then reads:

The jurors of the United States from the body of the district of Virginia on their oaths and affirmations present, that ship Peace and Plenty, of the city and state of New-York, being an armed merchant vessel, on the fourth day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and five, at a place called the High Seas, in the district aforesaid, nor having the fear of Emperors before her eyes: but being moved by the justifications of FREE TRADE, did make and commit depredation, and other unlawful use of arms, against a certain Corlican lugger, called the Pacificator, then and there being in amity with the United States; against the peace and dignity of the said United States, and the law in such case made and provided.

A true bill. J. W. E. Foreman.

The clerk then addressing himself to the prisoner says—Ship Peace & Plenty, what say you to this indictment; are you guilty or not guilty?

To which question the prisoner maketh no answer, although the same question is, at three several times, propounded to her.

Whereupon, and because the said ship Peace and Plenty standeth mute, the court, of counsel for the prisoner, desirous that its judgment should not be founded solely on her implied confession, proceed to examine the officers and men, who were on board the said ship at the time the said depredation and other unlawful use of arms were committed by her, touching the same. And the said officers and men having testified, that the said ship, being attacked by certain freebooters on board a vessel bearing the French flag, but having no authority under the French government, they the said officers and men for the defence of their lives and property, did, by force, resist the said freebooters, and drive them away.

It is therefore considered by the court, that the said ship Peace and Plenty is guilty of murder.

And now the attorney general moveth to the court, that sentence of death be passed on the prisoner according to law.

The court address the prisoner and say—"Have you any thing to say, why sentence of death should not be passed upon you?" The ship Peace and Plenty making no reply. The court thus proceed. "You ship Peace & Plenty, now

stand convicted, on the testimony of witnesses, as well as by your own confession, of the heinous crime of murder, committed on the high seas, against the law of the land; and the sentence consequent on such conviction awaits you. We cannot but observe by way of caution, that this restless, enterprising spirit for carrying on free trade, so hostile to the peace and welfare of our country, so hazardous to its revenue, and so ruinous to individual wealth, ought not in the least to be indulged by any vessel of the United States, of any size, from Moles Boat to Merchant Ship of greatest burthen. Sorry are we to say, that this spirit already, too strongly marks the character of American vessels.

You will now hearken to the solemn sentence which the court doth award against you—Having considered of your offence, the court order, that you ship Peace and Plenty be taken from hence to the place whence you came, and from thence, on the first day of April next, between the hours of twelve and three, to the "Dry Dock" the place of execution, and there be hanged by the neck until you are dead—dead—dead."



SULTAN,

Rising six Years old.

WILL stand the coming Season, at my plantation on Dry Creek, in Chatham county, and will cover Mares at the low price of four dollars the Season; two dollars the single leap, and eight dollars to insure; for the Season and for insurance, the money to be paid on or before the first day of January, for which notes will be taken; from those not living in the neighbourhood, security will be required; by the leap, the money to be paid at the stable door.

This Horse, by some of the best judges is esteemed correctly made: he is upwards of 5 feet high, remarkably strong and active; a dark chestnut colour, well marked.

SULTAN was got by Dolon, whose pedigree it is unnecessary to recapitulate, as he is well known to be of the first blood in this country, and has got some of the fastest horses in it. Sultan's dam is high blooded; she was imported into Wilmington from Boston by a gentleman of the turf, but broke down on her first trial; she is large and well made, and is to be seen with the Horse, as the subscriber keeps her for breeding.

Should the price for the Season and Insurance be paid by the first of November, it may be discharged in Corn at market price.

The subscriber will not hold himself liable for any accidents whatever, but he will have all possible care taken of the Mares. Good pasturage well fenced, gratis, and the Mares fed with grain if required, at the usual rates.

CHARLES LUTTERLOH.

Dry Creek, Chatham County, }  
January 1805.

## NOTICE.

ALL persons indebted to the late firm of BUCHANAN, DUNLOP, & Co. of Petersburg—ROBERT POLLOD, & Co. of Richmond, and DUNLOP, POLLOD, & Co. of Manchester, are hereby notified, that JAMES DUNLOP, late a partner in the above concerns, has become purchaser of all the outstanding debts; they will therefore be pleased to make payment to Mr. JAMES DUNLOP, residing in Richmond, or the subscriber, residing in Petersburg; who alone are authorized to make collections and grant discharges. Suits will be indiscriminately commenced against all who do not make payment before the first day of February next.

JOHN DUNLOP, Attorney

for James Dunlop,  
Petersburg, Nov. 15: (459 218)

## HODGE & BOYLAN'S ALMANACK.

Is just Published,  
And for Sale by the Thousand, Groce,  
Dozen or Single.

At their Printing-Offices in Raleigh and Halifax, and at the Stores of Danielson, MacMillan & Co. David Anderson, Hogg & Mear, Joseph Smith, Duncan M'Leary, D. M'Kee, Fayetteville, Mr. G. Banks, Averborough; Messrs. Gautier & Richardson, Elizabeth; Messrs. Anderson & Jones, Wilmington; Messrs. Adie & Hogg, Chapel-Hill; Messrs. Cal & Kay, & William Kirkland, Hillsborough; G. Smith, Salem, Me.; Watson, New-ganton.