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B O S T O N : P R I N T E D B Y J O H N G I L L ; I N C O U R T - S T R E E T .

☞ THE ENTIRE FACILITY OF EVERY STATE DEPENDS UPON THE DISCIPLINE OF ITS ARMS. The KING OF PRUSSIA.

Extracts from a letter written to the President of Congress, by the Hon. ARTHUR LEE, Esq; in answer to an Address published in the Pennsylvania Packet, of the 5th of December, 1778. By SILAS DEANE, Esq; (Continued from our last.)

DOCTOR Berkenhout, says Mr. Deane, hath since said, that he had letters to the Hon. Richard H. Lee, Esq; from the Hon. Arthur Lee, Esq; joint commissioner of the United States at the Court of Versailles, and sole commissioner of those States at the Court of Madrid. Before whom did Dr. Berkenhout say this? Was it to General Maxwell, or to the Council which examined and released him? Did providence reveal this also to Mr. Deane? I was revealed before or after the Doctor's departure? Wherefore was it that Mr. Deane, who knew of his being in Philadelphia, who had, as he pretends, suspicion of my correspondence with him, and of my designs against the independency of my country in favour of the English, did not give information against the Doctor when in custody, and have him examined as to this particular and important point? What was it that his lips still opening when he had, and had infinite reason to fear Particulars are not for Mr. Deane's purpose? They would endanger his *fishers and undivided salt*. General Raudet, yegne and dark accusations, are at once his dart and his defence. His malice gives a certain force to his accusations, and people are apt to mistake at first, the venom of the shaft for the vigour of the bow.

When slander is his object, no name escapes him. When evidence is required, his delicacy about names is invincible. I not only never wrote a line by Dr. Berkenhout to my brother, or any other person in America, but neither he nor Mr. Temple, ever apprised me of their intention of going: I was informed of it by others just about the time of their sailing, and had some correspondence on the subject of which I send copies. As to my being at once "joint commissioner at the Court of Versailles, and sole commissioner at the Court of Madrid," it is a willful and shameless perversion of truth for a shameful purpose—that of deceiving the public and calumniating their absent servant: I have seen Mr. Deane read my commission more than once. He knew that when I became commissioner at the Court of Madrid, I ceased to be such at the Court of Versailles: Nay, that the moment I quitted Paris to enter upon the commission at Madrid, my powers as commissioner here ceased and were no more. The words are "Provided always that the said Arthur Lee shall continue to be possessor of all the powers heretofore given him as a commissioner at the court of France from these States, so long as he shall remain in and be present at the said Court." Thus, the existence of the one, was incompatible with that of the other commission, and they could not possibly take place in me at the same time. Thus, too, Congress had a person ready to embrace the first favourable moment of negotiating with Spain, without any additional expense; which must necessarily have been double, had they appointed another person. Yet this wise and economical measure of Congress, excited justly in Mr. Deane's spleen; because either in his misconception or misrepresentation, it showed an extraordinary confidence in the man he hated, and whose ruin he meditated.—*Hinc sperare solet.*

But admitting two commissions had been actually confided in me at once, how came this to give such an alarm to Mr. Deane's virtue; when it was not shewed in the least at having an hundred committed to the three, which according to their plan were soon appropriated to my two colleagues, and were likely to vest in Mr. Deane alone. I was dispatched to Madrid, Dr. Franklin or Mr. Deane was to go to Holland. Suppose it had been the former, then Mr. Deane, whose acquaintance with Europe, its language, courts, and politics, was of two whole months standing, to Paris, might have had at once the negotiation to manage with the Court of Versailles, Vienna, Prussia, Portugal, Sardinia, Naples, Tuscany, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, the Swiss Cantons, all the Electors and Sovereign Princes of the empire, those of Italy, the Grand Seignior, the Emperor of Morocco, and the Barbary States. Yet I do not remember, that the modest and diffident Mr. Deane expressed the least apprehension at the probability of so much power devolving upon him alone: His mind seems to have been entirely employed in providing against the possibility of so unequal a weight falling upon my shoulders. We are not to search too deep for the motive of so obliging an act. Mr. Deane's piece was published on the 5th of December. On the 24th of September, preceding, Dr. Franklin was chosen Minister Plenipotentiary, here, and consequently I was no more a Commissioner at the Court of Versailles. If it were possible to conceive that Mr. Deane, though residing in Philadelphia, and attentive to the proceedings of Congress, could be ignorant of this, his own advice to France announcing it, would prove that when he published to the people on the 5th of December, that I was joint commissioner at the Court of Versailles, and sole commissioner at the Court of Madrid, he asserted that which he knew to be untrue.

Add this with the weight and bias of all purposes—the imposing upon the public, to induce them to censure Congress and assist unjustly. Mr. Deane informs the people that "unfortunately, for them, I gave universal disgust to the nation whose assistance we solicited." He had taken so entirely the business of the commission into his own hands, that not a millionth part of the nation knew that I was a commissioner, or even that I existed. Of all the letters addressed from different parts of the kingdom, there was not one in a hundred which bore my name. The following passage in a letter from the Mess. Delessis of Bourdeaux will then shew the fact and the reason of it.

"WE wrote several letters addressed to your direction, to which we received answers, only from Mess. Franklin and Deane, which gave us room to imagine you were absent, in consequence of which we replied only to them gentlemen." Neither these letters nor answers in general were communicated to me. Possibly Mr. Deane may have piteously put his friend Mr. Beaumarchais for the French nation, and I have certainly given him disgust by opposing a demand for 200,000 sterling against my country, the justice of which I have very good reason to doubt.

There could not be a thing more notorious than that I associated with, and cultivated the French people ten times more than Mr. Deane. It is true I did not attempt to have my name celebrated, as all powerful, and all benevolent, in every coffee-house in Paris, by arrogating sovereign power, giving commissions and recommen-

datory letters to all persons who would attend at my levees; and flatter my greatness. I considered such conduct as criminal and never concurred in it. In my judgment it was an usurpation of the sovereign power, which I saw, and exercised without the least distinction or discrimination. It is vain to say, the court was desirous those officers might be sent, and that recommendations were not concluded upon Congress; I have had it from the Minister himself, that he disapproved of it. Those who gave the recommendations, considered them as commissions; and when they were disappointed, they steamed and complained of it as an act of the highest injustice.

Congress know how much money and dispute their ill judged and presumptuous proceedings have cost them and the public. As soon as Mr. Deane informed me of his arrival and business, I came to Paris at the hazard of my life, to consult with him, and communicate to him whatever was in my power, for his information. Without derogating from the transcendent abilities of which this gentleman thinks himself possessor, it might have been supposed that one who had been so long in Europe, engaged & active from the beginning in this question, repeatedly employed and actually in equal-trust with himself, might have given some useful advice. But Mr. Deane neither ever communicated or consulted with me; and when I offered my opinions, he received it with such capitious judgments and indecency; as soon intimated me of the absurdity of again repeating it. I hope I shall be pardoned for begging the attention of Congress, while I also answer the accusation of Mr. Deane against my brother, who being absent in Germany, cannot defend himself by this opportunity. I have in my possession, proofs of the untruth of every charge which he has made. Mr. Deane says, that after informing Mr. William Lee of his appointment as commercial agent, "he brooded upon him till the month of June, when he arrived in Paris." My brother wrote to me immediately, that he would come over as soon as he could settle his affairs; of which I informed both my colleagues. He came when I was in Germany, and remained here by the express advice of Dr. Franklin and Mr. Deane, he having no commission to act, and they refusing to give him any countenance, till Mr. Kofi wrote in the following words from Nantes; "To testify that he was authorized, and to press his coming down."

Nantes, July 23, 1777.
 Permit me how to inform you, that Mr. Morris is possessed of the intensions to be Mr. Lee from Committee of Congress, on his being appointed commercial agent here; since your last letter came to my hand I suspected this to be the case, from some circumstances, and by accident last evening learned it to be so. These instructions are contained in a letter addressed to Mr. Lee and Mr. Morris, as joint agents, which is similar and of equal force, with the separate powers on which Mr. Morris has acted hitherto, I take therefore the liberty to recommend Mr. Lee's repairing hither immediately, to assume the management."

(Signed) *John Ross.*
 This letter was addressed to Mr. Deane. Their consent could now no longer with decency be withheld, and my brother set out for Nantes, with a letter from his recommending harmony between the commercial agents in conducting the public business. Unfortunately for my
 (See fourth page)

Lucy non scribitur, et quere consilia arena.

Mr. PRINTER;

As the darkness which happened on the last Friday was unusual, and to many people surprising, it will no doubt gratify the public, to have the observations which have been made in various parts communicated. In this way we may learn the extent, and perhaps ascertain the cause of so remarkable a phenomenon: With these views I send you the enclosed.

TH E observations from the first coming on of the darkness, to four o'clock, P. M. were made by several gentlemen of liberal education at the house of the

Rev. Mr. CUTLER, of Ipswich-Hamlet.—There are some things worth noticing before, and after this time.—The Hemisphere for several days had been greatly obscured, with smokes and vapour, so that the Sun and Moon appeared unusually red.—On Thursday afternoon and in the evening, a thick cloud lay along at the south and south-west, the wind small. Friday morning early the Sun appeared red, as it had done for several days before, the wind about south-west, a light breeze, and the clouds from the south-west came over between eight and nine o'clock, the Sun was quite shut in, and it began to shower, the clouds continuing to rise from the south-west, and thicken from the thickness of the clouds; and the confusion which attended their motions, we expected a violent gust of wind and rain, the wind however, near the earth, continued small, and it rained but little.—About eleven o'clock the darkness was such as to demand our attention, and put us upon making observations.—At half past eleven, in a room with three windows, 24 panes each, all open towards the south-east and south, large print could not be read, by persons of good eyes.—About twelve o'clock the windows being still open, a candle cast a shade, so well defined on the wall, as that profiles were taken with as much ease as they could have been in the night.—About one o'clock a glin of light which had continued till this time in the east, shut in, and the darkness was greater than it had been for any time before.—Between one and two o'clock, the wind from the west freshened a little, and a glin appeared in that quarter.—We dined about two the windows all open, and two candles burning on the table.—In the time of the greatest darkness some of the dunghill fowls went to their roost: Cocks crowed in answer to one another as they commonly do in the night: Woodcocks which are night birds, whistled as they do only in the dark: Frogs peeped.—In short, there was the appearance of midnight at noon-day.—About three o'clock the light in the west increased, the motion of the clouds more quick, their colour higher and more brassy than at any time before: There appeared to be quick flashes or coruscations, not unlike the Aurora-Borealis.—Between three or four o'clock we were out and perceived a strong foety-smell, some of the company were confident a chimney in the neighbourhood must be burning, others conjectured the smell was more like that of burnt leaves.—About half past four, our company which had past an unexpected night very cheerfully together broke up.—I will now give you what I noticed afterwards.—I found the people at the tavern near by much agitated, among other things which gave them surprise, they mentioned the strange appearance and smell of the rain-water, which they had saved in tubs; upon examining the water I found a light scum over it, which rubbing between my thumb and finger, I found to be nothing but the black ashes of burnt leaves, the water gave the same strong foety smell which we had observed in the air; and confirmed me in my opinion, that the smell mentioned above

was occasioned by the smook, or very small particles of burnt leaves, which had obscured the Hemisphere for several days past, and were now brought down by the fall: The appearance last mentioned served to corroborate the Hypothesis on which we had endeavoured to account for the unusual darkness. The vast body of smook from the woods which had been burning for many days, mixing with the common exhalations from the earth and water, and condensed by the action of winds from opposite points, may perhaps be sufficient causes to produce the surprising darkness.

The wind in the evening passed round further north where a black cloud lay, and gave us reason to expect a sudden gust from that quarter: The wind brought that body of smook and vapor over us in the evening (at Salem) and perhaps it never was darker since the children of Israel left the house of bondage.—This gross darkness held till about one o'clock, before the moon had full'd but the day before.

Between one and two the wind freshened up at north-east, and drove the smook and clouds away which had given distress to thousands, and alarmed the brute creation.

V I A T O R I.

WILLIAM GORDON, May 15, 1790. WHEN men, who by long and industrious labours in the service of their country, have gained the full confidence of the people, find it necessary to route their fellow-citizens to a feast of impending danger, they usually subject their names to such addresses as they make through the channel of the public press.—Their characters being known, their merits acknowledged, and their integrity unimpaired, their names attract the public eye, and add weight to their sentiments: And those men of this class may justly wish, to give their opinions of public measures in *anonymous publications*, yet the small champions of the scribbling tribe, with a modesty to which you appear a stranger, always insert themselves under some fictitious signature, and leave their thoughts to operate by their own intrinsic force.—But for a man who is a stranger in the country, whose character is at least problematical, and whose sentiments and language strike the patience of the few who read him, to affix his name to all his dull performances, requires an effrontery almost peculiar to yourself.

I am led to these observations by your rude and groundless attack upon the compilers of the address of Convention to the people of this State, in GILL'S and WELLS'S papers of the 4th instant.

In the illiberal performance above referred to, you endeavor (in a mode strongly characteristic, by relating matters that have no existence but in your own imagination, and by drawing consequences that otherwise could never follow), to prove that the Convention ought to have provided absolutely for a revision of the form of government at the end of fifteen years, whether the people would then revise it or not; and you go on to observe that YOU are "the persons" (that there was a design in some to provide for the "prevention of" a revision, "nor if that jealousy lessened upon reading in the address, "that on the expiration of fifteen years a new Convention may be held" You add, "I do not know who were the compilers of the address, but were they full in the idea that a Convention was to take place in 1795, I suppose that the words would have been, a new Convention it to be held."

You say you do not know who the compilers were.—I am very sure the way of information was open and easy to you, and I am obliged to believe your ignorance (in this case at least) assumed, as you would have been afraid to make an avowed attack upon men who have been long honored with the confidence of their country. It matters little, however, whether you know individually the compilers of the address, you must most certainly know they were some of those who were intrusted by the people in the important work of making a form of government; and that alone would have provoked any one, who deserves the character you ought to sustain, from impeaching their conduct, and exhibiting a charge of dark design, and wretched prevarications against them, without a shadow of evidence.

I will now consider whether you have the least foundation for this very illiberal and unmanly procedure.

Since you seem by your productions to be totally unacquainted with the proceedings of public assemblies, I will begin by giving you a flavor of the one; you have rashly attempted to censor, and will make it appear that your virulent attack upon the compilers of the address can be ascribed only to the ignorance and stupidity of your own mind.

When the Convention had finished the performance sent to their constituents for examination, it was thought necessary to provide for a revision to cure the defects, experience might point out, and fifteen years was judged a proper period to take the minds of the people upon the subject, and determine whether the Constitution or Form of Government should be or not be revised. Convention did not suppose that they had power to compel the people to revise or alter the form at that time; nor to prevent their doing it before, and therefore laid it down as a first principle in the declaration of rights, that the people have at all times this power in themselves.

The last business was the compiling an address to explain the several parts of the form, then ready to be offered to the people, and the compilers of it chose the terms "that a convention may be held," because the form had left it optional with the people, whether it should or should not be revised. It is no part of my design at present to determine who bear the Convention ought to have provided absolutely for a future Convention; but surely as they did not make such unconditional provision, the compilers of the address would have been guilty of great chicanery and deception, if they had said a Convention is to be held! And it is because they are not thus guilty, that they have the misfortune (if it can be called such) of being sprinkled with the venom of your busy pen? You do not stop even here, but give the character of the whole Convention, en masse as being men of deep design and intrigue, and the other as too great blockheads to find it out! In conclusion you say, "as if you were apprehensive you had gone too far." This have I acquitted my own conscience; How very spiritless and unacquainted with *conscience*, should I were in such gross abuse, as to give a confidence to meet with in their times! One would think gentlemen of first worth and ability, and *placid confidence in every*, another refuses to pay to the support of piety, religion and morality, *because it is against his conscience*, and both perhaps have the arrogance to think they have "a good conscience." You add, "I have not meant any reflection upon the honorable Convention." You have not! How surprising that your immoderate intentions should produce such atrocious ads. But in the like extravagant manner did you treat the Council and Assembly about two years ago! Why are you so prone to suspect every man of wickedness and design? Is it because you view them in the dark mirror of your own mind? and having your eyes and heart full of dislike, you suppose every object you meet to be in the same situation.

All seems infected, that th'infected spy, "As all looks yellow to the jaundiced eye." Upon the whole, I must allow you have an admirable capacity—to low distrust, distrust and enmity; and that you would before now, by raising groundless jealousies, have divided this government into cabals and parties, had it not been happily prevented by your adding your name to your productions.

By the by, I cannot but laugh at your proposal of "conciliating the religious disputants upon the third article." You are well fitted to reconcile opposites, and the candour you exhibit in your multifarious performances proves you to be a peace maker indeed. Philanthropos must look upon your pieces with the greatest contempt; and you bear the same proportion to Treason, as the small dust of the balance to the Pyrenean mountains.

To be sold by PUBLIC AUCTION, ON THURSDAY the 8th day of JUNE next, AT TWELVE O'CLOCK, At the Wharf of LAMBERT WILLIAMS, Esq; At FAIRHAVEN in DARTMOUTH, The Brigantine HOUND, as the vessel's name was found with, together with all her appurtenances and fixtures, and a few barrels of powder and four pound CANNON.—This vessel was almost new, uncommonly well built, of the best construction, and a remarkably fine hull, she was about six tons burthen; as there is a probability that she may be easily got and repaired, it is well worth the attention of those who are in a way of business.—An inventory of her stores may be seen at the Warehouse of THOMAS RUSSELL, Esq; in Boston, or LEMUEL WILLIAMSBY, Esq; at Fairhaven. Boston May 17, 1792.

