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Part 21, by J. Jay Smith**

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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND LITERARY
CURIOSITIES, PART 21 ***

**AMERICAN HISTORICAL
AND
LITERARY CURIOSITIES**

By John Jay Smith

Part 21.

Second Series

1860

AMERICAN
Historical and Literary Curiosities;

CONSISTING OF

Fac-Similes of some Plates, &c. Relating to

COLUMBUS,

AND

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS of the REVOLUTION,

&c. &c.

WITH A VARIETY OF RELIQUES, ANTIQUITIES, AND AUTOGRAPHS.

EDITED AND ARRANGED,

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SEVERAL AUTOGRAPH COLLECTORS,

BY

JOHN JAY SMITH,

MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, ETC.

SECOND SERIES—COMPLETE IN ITSELF.

NEW YORK:

CHARLES B. RICHARDSON.

1860.

P R E F A C E.

THE First Series of "American Historical and Literary Curiosities," by John F. Watson, Esq. and myself, was commenced privately as a means of preserving many documents in the possession of our friends and ourselves; but they soon increased to such importance by contributions, that it was determined to publish them. Five editions were demanded by the public at home and abroad, and the work is now scarce and high-priced. The plates being worn out, no other edition of it is likely soon, if ever, to be issued.

This Second Series, complete in itself, owes its origin to the Commercial Panic, when it was desirable to employ several artists in want of work. It has been carried through by the assistance and contributions of various friends. I am particularly indebted to Ferdinand J. Dreer, Esq., Peter Force, Esq., Lewis J. Cist, Esq., Frank M. Etting, Esq., J. Wingate Thornton, Esq., Hon. George Folsom, Herman and Caleb Cope, Esqs., J. Francis Fisher, Esq., John Macalester, Esq., Charles J. Wister, Esq., Winthrop Sargent, Esq., Bushrod W. Adams, Esq. and others, and to the Philadelphia Library for the rare Broad-sides of the Revolution, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, whose valuable collections have been opened to my use in the handsomest and most liberal manner.

It may be proper to copy here a portion of the Preface to the fifth edition of the First Series, explanatory of the object of the work:—

"The past has a charm for Americans, as well as for the inhabitants of countries whose history extends far into the shadowy and unknown. *Our* early and romantic past has the merit of being known and truly related. Every thing which adds to these truths is sought for with avidity by the curious and intelligent inquirer. We have now many autograph-collectors, who may be viewed in the light of preservers of documents which would otherwise perish or be dispersed. To few, comparatively, are their treasures revealed. It was suggested, therefore, that some of the most rare 'Historical and Literary Curiosities' in the possession of individuals, should be grouped for the amusement and instruction of the present and of future generations, who may well know from printed accounts *what* things were done, but who can also thus learn *how* they were done."

As in the First Series, nearly all the articles in the present collection have been taken by competent artists from the originals of which they purport to be fac-similes. Considerable labor and trouble have been expended in collecting together and adapting the varied materials here presented, but I have been rewarded by the pleasure of the pursuit.

JOHN JAY SMITH.

* * Fully to understand the work, it is necessary, in turning over the pages, to have constant reference to the Tables of Contents, where will be found many explanations for which there was not space on the plates.

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William Cobbett.

Good Master Young,

I cannot send the whole amount
With Christian pat'once watch and wait;
Take fifty dollars on account,
And give the bearer a receipt.

Wm Cobbett.

P.S. Though I know it is very difficult to rhyme
a presbyterian out of his money, yet when, in the
measure of Watts's psalms, rhyme ought to have
some weight. — I will discharge the rest of your
bill as soon as possible which, I hope, will be before
Saturday night.

Monday, 5. Feb. 1798



C.C. Hughes, Photographic Artist, Nashville Tenn.

Swords in the Collection of the Tennessee Historical Society, Nashville, Tenn.

No. 1. Sword of Col. David C. Newman. No. 2. of Gen. Jeffero Sumner. No. 3. Taken from British officer at Battle of A Orleans. No. 4. of Col. John Sevier. No. 5. of Col. Du Puyster a British officer at the Battle of Kings Mountain 1780. No. 6. of Samuel Price of War of 1812. a Tennessean. No. 7. Spectacles of Gen. Nath. Greene, of Revolutionary Memoiry.

Enlarge

IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY,

PHILADELPHIA, December 8, 1776.

Illumination.

S I R,

THERE is certain intelligence of General Howe's army being yesterday on its march from Brunfwick to Princetown, which puts it beyond a doubt that he intends for this city.—This glorious opportunity of signalizing himself in defence of our country, and securing the Rights of America forever, will be seized by every man who has a spark of patriotic fire in his bosom. We entreat you to march the Militia under your command with all possible expedition to this city, and bring with you as many waggons as you can possibly procure, which you are hereby authorized to impress, if they cannot be had otherwise—Delay not a moment, it may be fatal and subject you and all you hold most dear to the ruffian hands of the enemy, whose cruelties are without distinction and unequalled.

By Order of the Council,

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, Vice-President.

To the COLONELS or COMMANDING OFFICERS of the respective Battalions of this STATE.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

THE Enemy are at Trenton, and all the City Militia are marched to meet them.

COLONEL TILGHMAN, Aid de Camp to his Excellency General WASHINGTON, having brought official accounts of the SURRENDER of Lord Cornwallis, and the Garrisons of York and Gloucester, those Citizens who chuse to ILLUMINATE on the GLORIOUS OCCASION, will do it this evening at Six, and extinguish their lights at Nine o'clock.

Decorum and harmony are earnestly recommended to every Citizen, and a general discountenance to the least appearance of riot.

October 24, 1781.

PLIX

Enlarge

HIGHLY INTERESTING LETTER

(JULY 4, 1776)

FROM ABRAHAM CLARK, ONE OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, July 4, 1776.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

Our seeming bad success in Canada, I dare say, gave you great uneasiness. In times of danger, and under misfortunes, true courage and magnanimity can only be ascertained. In the course of such a war we must expect some losses. We are told a panick seized the army. *If so, it hath not reached the Senate.* At the time our forces in Canada were retreating before a victorious army,—while Gen^l Howe, with a large armament, is advancing towards N. York,—our Congress resolved to declare the United Colonies *Free and Independent States.* A declaration for this purpose, I expect, will this day pass Congress. It is nearly gone through, after which it will be proclaimed with all the State and Solemnity circumstances will admit. It is gone so far, that we must now be a free independent State, or a conquered country.

I can readily guess at your feelings upon hearing that Gen^l Howe with 130 transports are between New York and the Hook. This was our last acct. No express hath come in this morning. All seems uncertainty where they will land. I assure you I don't feel quite reconciled at being here, and the enemy by my door at home.

All reports agree that New Jersey is all in motion to meet the enemy in case they pay our Province a visit, or to assist N. York, as occasion may require. Had Gen^l Howe landed his forces as soon as he arrived, he might have carried all before him. Possibly, while I am writing this, he may be reaping the fruits of a victory. This seems now to be a trying season; but that indulgent Father who hath hitherto preserved us, will, I trust, appear for our help and prevent our being crushed. If otherwise, his will be done.

I have no particular news more to communicate. No news from your family to send. I wrote you the day before I left home. I am among a consistory of things, as our enemy says. I assure you, sir, our Congress is an august assembly, and, can they support the Declaration now on the anvil, will be the greatest assembly on earth.

As I am not able to communicate to you any thing but what the public papers will announce, you will readily perceive I mean to let you know you are not forgot by me. Tho' I address myself to you, sir, yet I mean to include my much esteemed friend Mr. Caldwell in it.

We are now, sir, embarked upon a most tempestuous sea,—life very uncertain,—seeming dangers scattered thick around us,—plots against the military, and, it is whispered, against the Senate. Let us prepare for the worst. We can die here but once. May all our business, all our purposes, tend to fit us for that important event!

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours and Mr. Caldwell's most obedient, humble servant,
ABRA. CLARK.

TO COL. ELIAS DAYTON, N. J.

My Dear Friend,

Phil^a July 4th 1776.

Our seeming bad success in Canada, I dare say gives you great uneasiness. In Times of danger, and under misfortune true Courage and Magnanimity can only be expected. In the Course of such a War we must expect some Losses. We are told a Packet Seized the Army. It is said it hath not reached the Senate. At the Time our Forces in Canada were retreating before a victorious Army, while Gen^l Howe with a large Armament is Advancing towards N York, Our Congress Resolved to Declare the United Colonies Free and independent States. a Declaration for this Purpose, I expect, will this Day pass Congress, it is nearly gone through, after which it will be Proclaimed with all the State Solemnity Circumstances will admit. It is gone so far that we must now be a Free independent State, or a Conquered Country.

I can readily guess at your Feelings upon hearing that Gen^l Howe with 130 Transports are between N York & the Hook, this was our last Acc^t. no express hath yet come in this morning. All being uncertain where they will Land, I assure you I dont feel quite reconciled at being here and the Enemy by my Door at home.

* * * * *

We are now so embarked on a most Tempestuous Sea Life very uncertain, seeming danger scattered thick around us. Plots against the Military, and it is whispered against the Senate, let us prepare for the worst. We can die here but our money & our Business, all our purposes & pursuits tend to Feb us for that important event. — I am Dear

Yours & Mr Caldwell's most Obedient S^{rv}

Thom^s ^{son} ^{of} ^{Mr} ^{Caldwell} ^{is} ^{of} ^{the} ^{City} ^{of} ^{Phila}
 Abram^s Clark

Philadelphia May 24. 1791

inclosed my Dear son is a Post Note for
600 dollars which I pray you to receive
and send to your Mother. I am &c

J. Adams Esqr

John Adams

Rev E Lockwood Esqr. Corresponding Secretary of the
Mercantile Library Association. New York

Quincy 29 Oct. 1861

Sir

On the day of my departure from Washington
for a short visit to my home, I caused to be inserted in the
National Intelligencer a notification of my inability to comply
with the numerous invitations which I had received, to
deliver Lectures or addresses before Literary or political
Associations among which was that received a very few
days before in your respected Letter of 6 September, and to
which an early answer was requested.

At the first moment of leisure that I have
been able to command, I feel it to be a duty, specially to express
to the Mercantile Library Association of New York, my regret
with which I am deprived of the pleasure which I should have
enjoyed in addressing them.

I am, very respectfully Sir your humble
and obed^t Serv^t

J. Adams.

FRANKFORT, July 31st, 1813.

DEAR SIR,

THE following address to the militia of Kentucky will inform you of the call that has been made upon the governor of Kentucky for a reinforcement to the North Western Army: and of my views as to the mode of complying with it. I forward one to you particularly, sir, under the hope that you will exert your influence to bring into the field all the men in your power. Be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of this letter, and apprise me of the calculations which I may make of the number of men that can be raised in your county—and whether it will suit your convenience to go with us. I shall at all times take a pleasure in acknowledging the public spirit by which you will be actuated—and the obligations you will lay me under.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obt. serv't.

Colo. Robt Page.

Isaac Shelby

TO THE
MILITIA OF KENTUCKY.

FELLOW-SOLDIERS,

YOUR government has taken measures to act effectually against the enemy in Upper Canada. Gen. Harrison, under the authority of the President of the United States, has called upon me for a strong body of troops to assist in effecting the grand objects of the campaign. The enemy in hopes to find us unprepared, has again invested Fort Meigs; but he will again be mistaken; and before you can take the field he will be driven from that post.

To comply with the requisition of Gen. Harrison, a draft might be enforced; but believing as I do, that the ardor and patriotism of my countrymen has not abated, and that they have waited with impatience a fair opportunity of avenging the blood of their butchered friends, I have appointed the 31st day of August next, at Newport, for a general rendezvous of KENTUCKY VOLUNTEERS. I will meet you there in person. I will lead you to the field of battle, and share with you the dangers and honors of the campaign. Our services will not be required more than sixty days after we reach head quarters.

I invite all officers, and others possessing influence, to come forward with what mounted men they can raise: each shall command the men he may bring into the field. The superior officers will be appointed by myself at the place of general rendezvous, or on our arrival at head quarters: and I shall take pleasure in acknowledging to my country the merits and public spirit of those who may be useful in collecting a force for the present emergency.

Those who have good rifles, and know how to use them will bring them along. Those who have not, will be furnished with muskets at Newport.

Fellow Citizens! Now is the time to act; and by one decisive blow, put an end to the contest in that quarter.

Frankfort, July 31st, 1813.

ISAAC SHELBY.

†

[Enlarge](#)

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CURIOSITIES, PART 21 ***

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