A Patriots Prayer

1. Parent of all, Omnipotent
   In heaven and earth below,
   Thro all creations bounds unspent,
   Whose Streams of goodness flow.

2. Teach me to know from whence I rose
   And unto what design'd;
   No private aims let me propose,
   Since links with humane kind.

3. Chiefly to hear my country's vow,
   May all my tho'ts incline;
   Tis reason's law, Tis virtues choice
   Tis natures call and thine

4. Me from fair Freedom's sacred cause
   Left nothing e'er divide;
   Grandeur, nor gold, nor vain applause,
   Nor friendships false misguide.

5. O may I never with factious bands
   Columba's fall pursue;
   Nor grasp the thunder of the state
   To wound a private foe.
6. If for the right to wish the wrong,
   My country should combine,
   Single, to stand the erroneous throng,
   Spite of themselves, be mine.

7. The mind resolve’d, the soul serene,
   May 'scpect it's final hour;
   And cheerful thro' each varying scene
   Defy the tyrant’s power.

8. While guilt in every horrid shape;
   The dastards guest appears;
   ‘Rankles thro’ ev’ry change of life,
   & ends in dire despair.

Josiah Atkins

*Festers, collecting ye doleful matter,
   to work on in ye great day, & in everlasting disappointment & misery.
My dear friends & fellow soldiers-

As we are engaged in a bloody war ye fate of which is uncertain; as we are drawing near ye enemy, I can expect nothing but fighting; as in every action some may fall & as my life is as uncertain as any other; so should it be my fate to drop & yours to survive & you may have to fight on this book & its contents, with ye other things I hap pen to have about me, which to probable will be a watch, a pair of silver shoe buckles, knee buckles, stock buckles, broach, stone sleeve buttons, & perhaps some more. These I will freely give you (to make good) yea I bid you welcome to them, on your gaging to grant me this request, to use ye best, your utmost endeavor, to send this book with its contents to my dear wife, whom I have left at home to morn myself. Shou'd this fall into your hands of our enemy I have no expectation of it ever reaching But shou'd any of you, my friend, & fellow soldiers, take this, I expect, I regret, yea I reason to exact it at your hand. You may think this of small importance: however, you must suppose, that it will be satisfactory to her / on whose account it was written to hear my fate
You many think ye matter difficult; but I assure you to note if you convey it to any of ye family belonging to Waterbury in Connecticut (My wife and friends living in that town) or to any who belong to Woodbury or Waterbury or any of the towns adjacent, It will hardly fail to reach my house, Josiah Atkins in Waterbury, or in ye society of Farmingbury. Give them some of your bounty to induce them to be faithful in discharging their trust in delivering this to my wife. This is a thing I so anxiously desire. Ye if you do not use your utmost endeavor for this purpose, I cannot forgive you, neither will God, (unless by bitter repentance) ye things you have taken will rise, yea & this book rise in judgement against you. Thus I entrust you by those powerful insure unto & I could use many more, but relying your goodness, generosity, & benevolence, I shall add no more; assuring you. I ever while in life, ye find & well – wither of ____ ye Soldier, Josiah Atkins

Should this fall into ye hands of any person than a soldier I shall & do expect request ye some kind treatment at their hands, & tho’ I nor mine shou’d not be able to reward you, your God will.
January 1781. I enlisted in ye Continental service, engaging for three years. And on ye 5th day of April following, march'd to join ye army at ye Highlands. Lodg'd ye first night at Southbury; ye 2d at Danbury; ye 3d in York State; & arrived at ye camp ye 8th of y'd month; where I was joined with Col. Sherman's regiment in Capt Benton's comp'y. Our business at present is learning ye military art. Provisions, good beef & bread.

April 20th Tainted meat which continued to ye 28th. In ye meantime our allowance is shorten'd at first to half-then to a quarter & some times we drew nothing thro' ye whole day.

May ye 5 Continental Fast. It was observ'd & I heard a sermon preach'd by Mr. Baldwin our chaplin, from 2 Chron 20th latter clause of ye 15th & 17th verses. It appear'd ye most excellent sermon I ever heard on that subject. Plenty of provision comes again from Waterbury, but does not continue long. From ye 15th to ye 10th, drew little bread & no meat. Rations yet unfit.

May ye 15th I set out (which was very unexpected) to join ye Infantry down at ye Southward.
May 16th. Reached New Windsor. This we left towards night & marched 6 miles, where we put up.

Ye 17th came to Warwick, where we drew provisions.

Ye 18th we reached Sussex Court-house, 50 miles from N. Windsor. We tarried at this place a day or two; & drew some cloaths & money.

Ye 23rd We came to Trenton, 50 miles from Sussex & this is a very fine place.

Ye 25th arrived at Philadelphia, ye most magnificent city I ever saw. Here we tarried several days, in which time I was spectator of a most sad, melancholy scene. On Saturday May 26th (If I mistake not ye day of ye month) & between ye hour of 12 & one o’clock, three criminals were executed for robbery - three more pardoned - & all (as I understood) for robbery. The three first were executed on Philadelphia common, & appeared to be somewhat penitent before their execution; but said nothing to ye spectators. They all pled guilty & some sign’d their own death warrant. One was aged 36 years another 30 & ye other 25.

O my God! Teach me that I am a dying man, pos’d continually to ye devouring dast of ye king Of terrors! If it be consistent with thy holy will, keep me from every evil, particularly From sudden death but above all things, grant That I may constantly have such trust & confidence in thee, as not to be surprised by death, let it come sooner, or not, sooner or later, but whenever it shall come, may I be landed, safe by in ye mansions of eternal rest & peace!

Sunday, May 27th We left Philadelphia & sail’d for ye head of Elk. On our passage, I saw Mud fort,
Red bank & all those memorable forts on ye Delaware. The river has a swift current at ebb & flow. The weather here begins to be hot, in ye daytime, but cool at night, which presages what we may find, when we shall come 3 or 400 miles further to ye south…

On ye 28th we passed Chester, & Wilmington, which lieth on Brandywine river, upwards of 20 miles below Philadelphia. There I saw ye field of Brandywine battle. ye next town was Newcastle, where we landed about 10 o’clock, in order to proceed by land on our route to ye southward. Rye is now in ye bloom in this country. The small-pox prevails much in this town. Two small children were inoculated at one & ye same time, died at ye same & were buried together, at ye time we landed, about ten rods from ye place we lay…

But thanks be to God, I have not, taken it as yet! & I pray him to keep me safely from it, till a convenient opportunity to have it to advantage! However may I have an humble confidence in Him at all times, & in all things!

At three o’clock we left N. Castle, travelled 5 miles & came to Christan that evening. This is a small town; but howsoever large sloops come up close to it (even tho a small creek) ye tide setting up a considerable way above. The next day we left this place & reach’d ye head of Elk, a place of note in our papers. Here too is a small town, lying at ye head of a navigable river, 12 miles from Christan. This place we left ye next day, & proceeded on our way. The first town of note we pass’d is Charlestown
in Maryland. Here is a small town lying on a river, navigable for small vessels & 10 miles from ye head of Elk. In this part of ye country, I found a variety of strange trees & plants. There is one called Jenkese, which grows about as large as our shrubs, ye bark, leaf & burrs, like our chestnut, but ye fruit is more like hazel nut. It blossoms about ye middle of April; & these are like chestnut both in appearance & smell. There are three kinds of trees remarkable—ye one resembles our black-oak, ye leaves more scaly—ye other ye body is like oak, but ye leaves like willow, & ye other resembles liver-wood with leaves like ye current bush: (this last is call’d a gum-tree, its leaves have a very fragrant smell.) Each of these bear a bur exactly alike, which are full of seeds by ye looks of ye hole where they come out, like sunflower seeds. But trees in these parts that appear ye same with us have different fruit from ours.

The next place of note is Susquehannah river, 7 miles from Charlestown; which took us all night to cross with our men & waggons, our party being only a guard to take on clothing, money & arms to ye infantry: (Susquehannah river is near 2 miles wide at ye ferry).

Early next morning, (after our fatiguing night) we set forward on our march. We put up at a small river call’d Gunpowder river, 20 miles from Susquehannah & navigable for small vessels. Sunday, 10 o’clock, June ye 3d. We have reach ed Baltimore, ye capital of Maryland, which
is a large & elegant town, lying on a fine navigable river 18 miles from Gunpowder. This is ye first time I have had ye satisfaction of seeing people regard ye Sabbath, since I began my march. How affecting ye consideration, that I am obliged to pass by, while others are worshipping in ye courts of my God! This brings fresh to my mind, my friends at home who are now worshipping ye Lord in his appointed way, & behold I am here! - O Lord my God, how lamentable my circumstances! Once I liv'd in peace at home, rejoicing in ye divine favor and smiles; but now I'm in ye field of war, surrounded with circumstances of affliction & heart-felt disappointment; Once I enjoy'd ye pleasant company of many friends, but now I am among strangers in a strange land! Once I could go with my friends in company to ye house of ye Lord; but now I spend ev'ry Sabbath hast' ning to ye field of blood and slaughter! Once I cou'd take delight in reading' hearing ye word of ye Lord preach'd, but now I can hear little or nothing besides ye profaning of God's holy name & Sabbath! How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord God of hosts! May I be sensible that a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere! O may I say in sincerity with David, That my soul longeth, yea even fainteth for ye Lord! When shall I a gain be suffered to stand in ye courts of my Lord, & my God!

ye inhabitants here chiefly unfriendly.
Tuesday, June 5th—we came to Bladensburg in Virginia. This is considerable of a little town & is thirty miles from Baltimore. We crossed Potomac ferry into Alexandria standing on Virginia side. This river is very large: will let up large ships & is ye boundary between ye states of Maryland & Virginia. Alexandria is not very extensive, but is pleasantly situated on ye river.

The 6th day we left this place. How vastly different is this part of ye world from ye ideas I used to have of it! Instead of a plain clear’d country (as I used think it) I find It covered with vast lonely woods Sometimes 'tis ten, 15 or 20 miles between houses, & they say we have a place to pass yt is thirty. This day we pass Gen. Washington's plantation which is of large extent. (Some men in these parts, they tell me, own 30,000 acres of land for their patrimony & many have two or 300 Ne groes to work on it as slaves. Alas! That persons who pretend to stand for ye rights of mankind for ye liberties of society, can delight in oppression & yt even of ye worst kind! These poor creatures are enslav'd: not only so, but likewise depriv' of yt which nature affords even to ye beasts. Many are almost without provision having very little for support of nature; & many are as naked as they came into ye world. What pray is this, but ye striking inconsistent character pointed out by ye apostle, While they promise them liberty, they themselves are ye servants of corruption? But when I speak of oppression, it readily
suggests to my mind my own troubles & afflictions. Am not I opprest as being oblig’d to leave my own state of peace & happiness friends & relations, wife & child, shop & tools, & customers, against my mind & expectation, & come these hundreds of miles distance in ye capacity of a soldier, carrying ye cruel & unwelcome instruments of war—Alas! my heart is full! but I forbid my pen. Oh! yt I were as great as my grief, or less than my name! Oh! might I forget what I have been, or not remember what I must now become! But my weeping eyes cannot ease my pain! We pass his Excellence’s house & ‘tis said we march 10 miles on his land—we also went into a beautiful Church & saw his pew. We came to Colchester & pass’d ye ferry, where ye river will let up a large ship. The name of ye river is Occoquan—ye town is small situated on ye bank of it—and is 18 miles from Alexandria.

The country here (& in Pennsylvania) abounded with cotton, growing on a small bush, planted every year in May & plow’d & hoed like corn. The 7th we press’d a Negro waggoner, belonging to a widow woman, who had 900 slaves. And what is remarkable, she, according to this Negro keeps them all victual’d & cloth’d. This I think, worthy to be noted, where almost all their slaves of both sexes go naked.

The 8th we continued our march in a great wilderness; & din’d on ye ground. Gen. Wane left in ye morning. We expect soon to join ye Marquess,
Marquess, who is pursuing ye enemy. (O Lord, be merciful to us in this land according to thy tender mercy.)

The 9th we log’d on ye ground ye Marquess marched from yesterday; & which Gen. Wane left to-day noon. We are all in pursuit after ye British enemy, which we expect, providence favoring soon to overtake,

The 10th we came up with ye baggage belonging to ye Marquess, who has a day’s march ye start of us. This is a long & tedious road; thro’ a wilderness, where no water is to allay our parching thirst: But there is a greater drought with respect to hearing ye word of ye Lord, ye everlasting gospel dispens’d. Is not this holy Sabbath. Yet where am I? what am I about? O Lord, forgive my sins. For though I am here, yet my heart at home with Thy worshipping people. We still direct our course thro’ this lonesome desert. We march’d not far from 40 miles without finding above one or 2 houses & as little water; finding none unless some swamps or mud holes. At night we past Gen. Wane & Join’d ye Infantry at 8 o’clock on ye morning of ye 11th, after a long & tedious march of more than 600 miles (perhaps 700) which cost us near a month’s time together with much fatigue & great hardships. We left three of our party sick on ye road. Gen. Wane join’d soon after, & ye militia are coming on. We have orders to march at 2 o’clock this day. We expect to come up with ye enemy in a day or two. (This encampment is upward of 100 miles from Alexandria. Our Infantry, this day (except those who came with me) had dealt out to them one Holland shirt, one lining one, one frock, and two pair of over-alls. At revelee-beating we march’d off ye ground & past
along a solitary desert, where we were in great strait for drink (which is but too common in these parts: houses being as seldom as colleges in Connecticut & wells as scarce as virtuous Fools). This day we had one month's pay in hard money. We are still in ye woods, 15 miles from our last camp.

The 13th we lay under marching orders: but did not move till ye 14th at ye rising of ye sun. We March'd 12 or 15 miles before we halted. And tho' ye last night was so severely cold yt we could not lie warm with all ye cloths we had; yet after ye sun rose ye heat increas'd to yt degree together with ye dust & want of water, as to render ye air almost suffocating. We found not a drop of water all ye way. We came near famishing all & some fainted, while others drop'd with weary legs by ye way. This was our fore-noon's march. What then may we expect (rather what may we not expect) in ye afternoon! & O Lord, what must be our fate thro' ye summer!

The 15th we lay, tis said within 4 miles of ye enemy. Tis said too, our men took a spy today, who had fol low'd us for several days. The enemy, we hear, re treated all ye night of ye 14th, & got some start of us. This morning, we began our route at break of day & continued it till ye middle of ye afternoon; we then encamp'd in ye woods, about 50 miles from Rich mond (Virginia). From what we can gather, ye enemy retreat with great precipitation, leaving be hind them horses, waggons and baggage… This evening we had our general's applause for our for titude to bear hardships with patience, especially ye want of provisions, meat being out & our bread but poor (Our bread was made chiefly of coarse Indian
meal, which we wet & bake on barks, on stones. This is what people live on chiefly in these parts & what they call Hoo-cakes.) However, we not being used to such bread nor such country; ye day being intensely hot, & ye night as cold, (we having no tents to cover us) our march long, water scarce & very unwholesome & rum not very plenty; & ye great & unexpected distance from home, all these together make my trials almost insupportable. They are too heavy, especially for one disappointed every way & unaccustomed to ye service. The 16th in ye morning we march’d five miles & encamped in order to clean our arms & lining. Among ye many insects yt troubles us, wood ticks are not ye least, they are exceeding many & exceeding troublesome… There is also a most venous spider but none have been as yet hurt by them. Beside; there is a small creature yt afflicts us far worse than wood ticks, yea, tho’ they are the smallest living things I ever saw. Indeed I think they would hardly be discerned were it not for their colour, which is scarlet red. They go thro’ one’s clothes, creep into ye pores of ye skin, where they cause it to swell to ye degree of a bee sting & are exceeding itching & smarting & sometimes dangerous. They have a shell like a tortoise, ye inhabitants call them Gigars & they comparatively are as thick as ye dust of ye earth. The 17th. This morning we march’d about daybreak towards Richmond, went about 15 or 20 miles & encamp’d in about five miles of where ye enemy had their headquarters a day or 2 before. They are now in Rich-mond. (O Lord God, our fatigue & trou bles are to great yt one can scarcely attend even
So much as to think on they holy day! Yea, we can scarce
ly attend to our necessary food. But may we
sooner forget what to eat, than ye Sabbath
of ye Lord. My desires are drawn forth towards
thy worshipping assembly, though I am far from any.
There was a duel fought this day between a mili
tia officer & Lieut. Wheaton (of ye Connecticut line)
in which encounter ye latter was kill’d, or at
least mortally wounded. He was brigade quar
termaster, or waggon master general. This
night we doubled our guards & pickets.

The 18th we lay still; sent out scouts; & took some
prisoners belonging to Tarlton's light horse
who came out within miles of our lines.
(When we marched after Tarleton's light horse
we went without our pieces being loaded & with
our flints taken out. This, all may see, was yt no
one might fire a gun. Gen. Wane, whom they
call mad Antony & sword in hand, intended to
have put them to ye bayonet)—About
dusk ye Marquess stole a march on ye enemy (which
is no new thing with him), but without success.
We had a fatiguing march all night & arrived
at their camp before sun-rise next morning; but
we found them just gone (perhaps well for them).

The 19th we retired 6 miles & encamp’d. The
next day we had orders to clean our arms & cloths,
to cook our provisions & be ready to parade at 5 o’clock.
The 21st we marched at 4 o’clock P.M. & reach’d 8
miles. The next morning we set out at one o’clock
A.M. march’d upwards of 20 miles & encamp’d. We
past Richmond 4 miles. (This is a considerable town
situated on each side James River). In Richmond
ye enemy had large stores of various kinds, of pri
vate property many thousand hogsheads of
tobacco, rope works & so on… Our marching is truly fatiguing! We halt scarcely time eno’ for cooking something to put in our mouths. We seldom can catch more than 2 hours sleep in 24.

June 23d We march’d at 2 o’clock A.M. in pursuit of ye enemy; who have gotten one day’s start of us. This day I was expos’d again to ye terrible distemper, ye small pox & if I have not taken it I can impute it to nothing but to ye kind hand of my watchful Guardian & Preserver but should I have catch’d it I have nothing to look to, unless ye same hand to raise me up again to health, or to receive my departing spirit to himself, O, Lord, may I be sincerely & truly resign’d to thy will! At 11 o’clock A.M. we halted for some refreshment. But I must shut my book for ye present, ye drum beats for parading; yt means, ye enemy are upon us. On this we form’d a solid column, in order to receive their horse which were approaching with their infantry, whom they preceded. They came in sight, but dost not give us battle. They wheeled precipitately, by which we soon understood, they were a rear-guard sent back to cause us to make a hault, that our foes might slip away with their main body and baggage… After this alarm, we march’d as far as Botoms bridge about 16 miles from Richmond, where we encamp’d…

The 24th Thanks be to thy name, O Lord, yt thou hast added another favor to ye many already received Thou hast brought me to yt return of another of Thy Sabbath! O may I never forget from whom all blessings flow! May I this day have some realizing sense of my obligation to be thine! I
may I devote some of these honors to thee this day tho’ encompass’d with so many toils & inconveniences. This day we had orders to clean our arms & lining & lay still thro’ this holy day— Here I must take notice of some vilany. Within these days past, I have marched by 18 or 20 Negroes yt lay dead by ye way-side, putrifying with ye smallpox. How such a thing came about appears to be this: The Negroes here being much disaffected (arising from their harsh treatment) flock’d in great numbers to Cornwallis, as soon he came into these parts. This artful general takes a number of them (several hundreds) inoculates them & just as they are growing sick, he sends them out into ye country, where our troops had to pass and repass. These poor creatures having no care taken of them, many crawl’d into ye bushes about & died where they lie infecting ye air around with intolerable stenches & great danger. This is a piece of Cornwallis’s cruelty. He is not backward to own yt he has inoculated 4 or 500 in order to spread ye small-pox thro’ ye country & sent them out for yt purpose: Which is another piece of his conduct yt wants a name. But there is a King superior to yt British King & a Lord far above their Lord Hé is Lord of all. May he prevent any sad fatal consequences from this conduct, take care of us (I have so that I have not taken ye infectious Were there no more than myself, it could not be much. May yt Lord take care of us, & may ye mischief turn upon yt authors own fate for Gods Sabbath. At even, there was a man executed for desertion. He belong’d to ye Pennsylvanian line; was taken
up near ye enemy’s lines. This is no less than ye seventh which has been shot since we left W-point. But ye first since I joined ye Infantry in this quarter. Deserters are continually coming in to us from ye enemy & now & then some of them are taken.

The 25th we again began our march at break of day when we had not proceeded above two miles before there was a small alarm, by means of several pieces being discharg’d in front, at I know not what. We march’d till night then encamp’d in about 25 miles of Williamsburg. This day we pass’d by Kent Court house; & truly it was an odd disagreeable spectacle. A court in a wilderness, where was no house, great or small within two miles of it! However, ye court-house was answerable to ye place.—Wheat harvest begins to come on in this state: & it is good. Indian corn too is very promising: but as their slaves are gone, they apprehend a famine, be cause they see not how to gather their harvest.

The 26th We began our march at sunrise in pursuit of our unnatural foes, who are not far distant. We expect an action, it will not be -amiss to take some notice how our forces on each side stand. Their army according to acounts, consists of about 5000. Ours, I suppose may amount to 2,500 regulars. 300 volunteer light-horse. 300 rifles on horse back, & 300 foot; besides from what I can gather 3 or 4000 militia. Doubtless there are 3,000 & these constantly reinforcing. Which will make our force about 6,400. This day a party of our horses & riflemen had a scuirmish with ye enemy, in which we lost several
in kill'd & wounded; & they, tis said, lost 200.
Our men oblig'd them to retreat to ye main body.

The 27th. Last evening, near midnight, we took an unexpected rout, retreating about 3 miles.
This was, perhaps, because our forces lay too much scatter'd to venture an action, or ye enemy's fall ing on us. Our Commanders are sensible, yt ye state & situation of our troops are not hidden from ye tories in ye least, & they constantly give information to Cornwallis, as well as all their assistance possible. But our army is a little bet ter collected this day & in better readiness to meet ye enemy, shou'd they not decline it.
This day is warm, & exceeding bad for marching.
At night we turn'd our route back & encamp'd.
Our army lies more together. Our pack of arti llery which was left behind, is come on. Our ar my is constantly reinforcing & becomes formidable.

The 28th. We lie still at present, but expect every moment to move, we know not where, ye enemy appearing on ye point of something new.

The 29th. We march'd again at 2 o'clock & went 14 miles, even within 6 miles of Williamsburg. There we lay all day & sent out scouting parties, but came across none of ye enemy, they retreating before us with precipitation. At even, we came back again 8 miles & encamped about 10 o'clock.
(Wheat harvest comes on apace: apples begin to be fit for eating (where there is any but little or no fruit in these parts this year.)

The 30th we lay still all day & rested . . .

July ye 1st. With ye lessening light of this day
I arose in healthful circumstances! Blessed be my
Kind Benefactor! O Lord, with ye morning light
Of this thy day, left on me ye light of thy glori-
ous noonday countenance I keep, do ye project
in God! Am brought to ye beginning of another
day of another week, & of another month! O
yt this day may be as yt beginning of days to my
soul! O Lord, grant, yt I this day may have
some unfeigned holy desires, some unfeigned
 tears of repentance; some unfeigned devotion; &
some unfeigned joy and rejoicing in ye Lord!

This morning we set out at 4 o'clock A.M.
& march'd 8 or 10 miles & encamp'd. This is ye plea-
santest march, I think yt I have had since I left
my dwelling, even thro' a wood: It is plea-
sant, because, as it had not been much frequen-
ted by ye enemy in their tours; as it is not trou-
bled with ye loathsome & dangerous stench of
dead putrifying Negroes . . . Our camp . lieth on ye
river Pamounky (or York-river). Williamsburg,
they say lieth about 20 miles below at ye meeting
of this & St. James river & little York 20 miles be-
low that on ye same stream. Here we had orders
to wash our clothes & bodies. A sad accident hap-
en'd while we were washing: one man was
drown'd; another taken up for dead, but recover'd.
At nine o'clock we mov'd & march'd all night to
ye enemy's lines, in ye morning, where we should
have taken 2 or 300 of them, had it not been
for ye discharge of a piece, which alarm'd them &
they made their escape. A few minutes more
wou'd have been sufficient, as we had almost sur
rounded them before they were alarmed.
We retreated 10 miles.

The 3d. We mov’d to a new encampment, 5 miles distant from ye last.

The 4th. Last night we had a very heavy & tremendous thunder storm, which lasted thro’ ye night. Truly it seemed as tho’ ye God of war & terror had taken arms & rises in his own defense. But surprisingly awful! to the helpless mortals stand & insult ye incensed Jehovah! Who has (at least to appearance) already desended to take vengeance on his adversaries. How he manifests his displeasure in fields of fire! How he manifests his indignation with tremendous peals of thunder, yt causes all virtue around to tremble! This terrible voice stokes awe of ye divine Majesty on every creature but man! Man, who has all reason to fear, can stand stupid & severe, & even mock ye desired voice! Have they not reason to expect, That he who is able to dash in pieces ten thousand words in a moment, will mock when their fear cometh. At 2 o’clock, we had a feu-de-joy on account of ye anniversary of American independence being ye entrance on ye 6th year… 3 o’clock

Ye thunder begins to roar & we may expect an other terrible night, to us, who have no tents to shelter us.

The 5th we marched ten miles towards Wmsburg & halted about sunset at a place call’d Birds homer; there we tho’t to encamp; but at dark we had orders to proceed towards Wmsburg. The 6th we continued our route till we (some
what unexpectedly) came upon a large body of ye enemy, all paraded in a line of battle ready to receive us. This was sudden business, because ye inhabitants had continually declared to us that there was no enemy within six miles of our troops. It appear’d unexpected to our general; he hardly dream’d of finding such a formidable body of enemy as near him. We, too, were hardly prepar’d for so severe an action, our men being very much scatter’d. However, our officers & soldiers, like brave heroes began ye attack, with (at first) but an handful of men: Ye other regiments came on with all possible speed. The attack began about 5, & lasted till dark: the rifle men, ‘tis said, some of them stay’d & scurried with ye enemy, in ye woods, all night & all day, yt they have not found time, nor opportunity to pick up their dead…

Our party consisted only of ye brigade of Infantry & one brigade of Pennsylvanians (& these not more than half of them engag’d), & a few rifle-men. The enemy were more than 6 times our number. This notwithstanding our troops behaved well, fighting with great spirit & bravery. The Infantry were oft broke; but as oft rallied & form’d at a word: While ye Pennsylvanians, when broken cou’d not be form’d again for action; by which they lost their field-piece & we ye ground. Our loss of men cannot yet be ascertained, tho’ I wou’d hope it is inconsiderable … The enemy gain’d ye ground, but have no cause to glory, their dead from all appearance, being many. Tho’ this was a severe action for us, yet ye loss of our regiment is trifling; Gen. Wane’s considerable.
We retir’d five miles yt night to rest & get some Refreshment, of which we stood in much need, having neither victuals, rum, nor water; & all we then had, was one gill of vinegar to 4 men. (How great was thy mercy O Lord, in our deliverance! Ye like was hardly ever heard of! Six hundred men have attack’d & stood, ye fire, sword & bayonet of ye force of an army of 5,000 yea, of ye whole army under Lord Cornwallis! When we were often broke, often form’d; several times almost surrounded; & yet all (as I may say in comparison of what might have been expected), came off again in heart; Wonderful Providence.

The 7th. Our missing are continually coming in. I had forgot. Our general ye Marquess, had 2 horses shot under him; yet he is not daunted: He is collecting his army, & designs to have another action immediately, if ye enemy will.

The 8th. O Lord, make one truly thankful & I am brot to ye returns of another of thy holy days Impress my heart with a grateful sense of thy goodness, is preserving one, my life & health, while to many of my acquaintance have since ye last sabbath, been numbered with yt vast congregations of he dead! O Lord my God, I acknowledge, ye tho’ thousands shou’d fall at my side, & tis thousands at my right hand, yet there canst protect me! May I never distrust thy willingness, nor ability, to save, even at deaths door, if ones trust be is thee; yea, ye might of ye arrows of death & I can't best think again on ye late kind intercession of providence in our favor. How
great & signal over deliverance, which ye Lord hath vouched to us! We may see it ye tho’ thousands & thousands combine against one handful of God’s people & scatter ye arrows of death like hail in ye tremendous storms of thunder; yet ye Lord can keep them from harm! Thou, Lord direcest every ball, yt none can wound unless by thy permission! I cannot forget this memorable action! At few as a 1000 men should attack ye whole British force & lose no more; even when we were several times cut off & scatter’d to & fro! But Oh! ye sufferings of ye day for want of drink, & being weary before ye attack began. The fatigues of yt day I cant describe!

Our missing did not all come till to day… Our general gave us great applause for our fortitude & good conduct in this action. He assured us, yt he himself was eye-witness to our 2 regiments at tacking ye whole British army with spirit. Immediately after this action Cornwallis crost ye river & embark’d on board his shipping with ye greatest precipitation: leaving a large number of beeves half dress’d.

The 9th we retir’d & encamp’d by ye upper mills. The 10th we march’d 20 miles up ye river to ye forge Mill, & there encamp’d. The next day we lay still. Here we drew a gill of rum a man. While we lay here, I saw a compleat gig-mill having 2 wheels, & 2 pair of stones. The wheels are 4, or 4 1/2 feet diameter, & one foot deep: the buckets 9 inches, or a foot long—dug or hewed out hollow & winding, like ye mould board to a plow, winding towards ye water & growing wider ye
same way: viz. towards ye outside of ye wheel, or 
ye extream part. The tube, which is not exceed ing 12 inches deep, is made of boards with 
three iron hoops round it.

The 12th we lay still & drew 3 days provision 
in order for marching. The next day we took ye 
river road toward Richmond, march'd 8 miles 
& then encamp'd… I am at present among 
ye invalids, & unfit for duty, but however, pro-
vidence has so order'd it as to make me instru-
mental of some good to my country, at least to my fel-
low soldiers; which is by letting blood & draw 
ing teeth. This last I practice very much, there 
not being another tooth-drawer in ye whole ar-
my: & ye other considerably, because few doctors 
have tools to let blood. Here I may take not 
ice of an accident yt happened 8 days since :
-A young man was lying on ye ground & a spi 
der bit him on ye shoulder. It caus'd him some 
immediate pain, & in about 10 minutes struck 
all over him: Which threw him into such an

Draught of ye above gigmill wheel.
an outside rim to 
keep ye water 
within bounds 
this outside rim 
fits directly 
above ye rim 
of ye waterwheel.
The 14th We march'd sun half an hour high. P.M. went 8 miles & encamp'd at ye old stage at Bottom bridge.

The 15th Glory to thy name, O Lord my God, for ye light of this holy Sabbath; & yt I enjoy such a measure of health! Keep me, O Lord, from sin this day! May I be enabled to set a double grace on thy day, over my heart & life-- & may I sincerely unite with thy worshipping assembled this day But, Lord, thou hast bro't me to ye close of it! Dear Lord, & most merciful God, pardon my sins, whatever
Thou hast seen any ye day past! Pardon my Neglect & forgetfulness of thee! O Lord, didn’t they as vainly forgot me as I thee, I shou’d never have seen ye light, or close of this thy day! May thee considerations properly affect my mind & conduct.

The 16th We march’d at 8 o’clock A.M. proceeded 15 miles to James river, & other side of which ye enemy are landing down below us. Our men begin to sicken already; what then alas! Shall we see when dog-days come on, especially before they are over? Next month is ye season for ye fever & ague.

The 17th we lay still, & clean’d our arms & clothes.

The 18th The news, yt four men, 3 Pennites & one of ye 18 month’s men, were drown’d in Jame’s river swimming.—The next day we had nothing worth remarking. I wrote a letter to my wife inclos’d in one to Joel Lane.

The 20th. We took new ground, clear’d our parade ground from filth, in order to regain ye health of our troops, for which purpose we are likely to lie still a few days. This encampment is pleasantly situated, on a hill call’d Marlborough hill, having a very fine prospect of Jame’s river, & of several large houses at a distance. Which is not common to see in Virginia state.

The 21st The night before last was an exceeding cold night, in which I fairly suffered with ye cold: yesterday day was warm; but today is chilly, owing to much thunder at a distance . . . This day we bury’d one of our soldiers, of Col. Vorce’s regiment. He got his bane at forge mill dam, a swimming. He must needs plunge into ye water from off ye mill dam,
where a root, or something took him on ye top of his head: It gave him no visible wound; yet it prov’d mortal. He lingered along in a stupid state for about five days & has just now expired ...

This day, at 10 o’clock we receiv’d intelligence of 4 gun-boats coming up ye river (supposed to be, in order to catch our gen ye Marquess, who quarter’d near ye river), on this, about 500 of us press’d forward, with 2 field pieces, to scare them back again. We march’d 8 miles, came upon them, & began a scurmish. Our engineer directed his shot so well as to strike thro’ ye hull, & cut away ye fore-mast of one of ye boats; ye 2d took ye rudder; & what our other 28 shots must have done, it appears must be considerable. They immediately towed down ye river. We follow’d them 4 miles; but cou’d get no more shot at them. However, this may teach them what pay to expect for pilfering. They discharged not a piece at us. We retir’d & came to camp yt evening, at 8 o’clock, having travelled 24 miles.

The 22nd May I this day ponder on ye death & sufferings of my Lord & Savior & as his glorious resurrection! on his wonderful ascension & prevalent intercession! May I this day visit, in heart, ye assembly of his people: but above all ye throne of his grace, pleading many!

This day, at court marshal, 2 corporals were try’d & broke; 5 men sentenced to receive 100 lashes apiece & one 70 for being absent at roll call. Three receiv’d their punishment; ye others are suspended till to morrow night, there not being time-- There have been six others punished within 5 days past.

The 23rd. Last night was so excessively cold, by reason of a N-East Storm, yt I think I scarcely suffer’d so much with it, in one night in my life; tho’ I hap pened to have a tent to lodge in, being not very well. This day I went to ye hospital to recover
my health. Here I hope to find some more con
venience than I have hitherto enjoy’d:

The 24th No remarks unless this, ye sick increases.

The 25th A man was executed this day, in our re
giment, for breaking up a house & robbing it. This
is a plain evidence of yt striking truth, The love
of money is ye root of all evil. It was this, yt pur
chased this miserable wretch a rope.

The 26th Thunder & rain for these many days.

The 27th Some are very sick in ye hospital. The
number increases both here, & in camp. If I am
preserv’d from this terrible distemper (ye dysentery),
which so greatly effects others, how much
I shall be indebted to my kind Benefactor!

The 28th It continues stormy… I hear yt one
Sergeant, one corporal, one drum, a fife, & several
soldiers & some Hessians have deserted & come to our
camp. They say ye enemy lies yet at Fredericksburg.

The 29th This is ye first day of ye week: But
 alas! where is ye Sabbath? Is there any in Virginia
Is there any in ye 13 States of America? True, in
N. England they pretend to keep it. But do even
they keep it as they ou’t? Do they call it a de-
light? Ye holy ye Lord, honorable? Truly, is
it not to be heard, ye for ye most part all this is a
by a sore pretense. ye fear of punishment is ye
motive. O Lord, give me more & more, a longing de-
sire to appear in thy sanctuary, & to stand among
ye assemblies of thy people! O___ When! ___

The 30th Nothing to remark but ye continuation
of my health.

The 31st One of our regim’ts has crost ye river, &
I think we shall go soon. But I would fain hear, that
we may not go far to ye southward. I am yet in ye
it is a little more retir’d, which is a privilege.

August ye 1st We march’d at 4 o’clock A.M. en
camp’d 2 miles out of Richmond. This, I hope, is
one step to ye Northward. Ye next day no remarks.

The 3d We march’d thro’ Richmond (where ye small
ox is very plenty,) & encamp’d 6 miles above. Here
we bury’d one of our number, who died this day on
ye road in ye hospital waggon. We bury’d him in a
wood. He was aged 23 years. His name Rufus Ro
bins, & unmarried, his parents live in Lyme in
Connecticut. He died of ye camp distemper. O
Lord, sanctify this to me!.. Wherefore am I spar’d I have
by this nothing in me. Wherefore death ye Lord take one.
& leave another Lastly it can be no merit in ye
survivor: It is of thy infinite mercy & grace!

The 4th We march’d at sun-rise, & encamp’d 8 miles
from North castle (in Virginia).

The 5th This morning sun has blest ye earth,
& hath unsealed my eyes:
This is ye day of joy & mirth
ye saw our Savior rise.
Is he risen? Yes indeed!
& hath ascended high!
And there he lives to intercede!
(Glory to God on High!)

* Cornwallis has missed his aim in a great mea-
sure. Tho’ he has spread ye small pox, yet it came
God hath taken ye affair in his own hands; & he hath
shown yt he who is King of Kings & Lord of Lords, is
above Britons king and Britons Lord. He hath proven
ye sad mentality which was above humans power to do, or
even to expect. Our militia camp is more favored still.
for tho they have been frequently exposed, yet very
few have taken it.
'This day we march'd to & encamp'd in N. Castle; A small town lying on Pamunky river, 88 miles above York. The sun's withdrawn, ye day is closed Now comes ye evening shade: An emblem of my dark repose, when in ye grave I'm lay'd What horror strikes my self, when I Thus view my dusty bed! Lifeless & long my corpse must lye, made free among ye dear! But will ye grave, last seal'd, last clos'd, confine us ever? Nay; If dead in Christ, thro' him willingness To new & brighter day!...

Gen. Wane is on his march to join ye Marquise, ye enemy, tis said, are block'd up in ye Bay, & cant get out, tho' they have made several attempts.

The 6th It is reported, yt ye enemy are landing down against York.

The 7th We lay still to rest, ye sick lay in a gar den, where I saw some rarities viz bean-trees, fig trees & ye like.

The 8th Our troops march'd down towards York, ye sick to Hanover & I among ye sick.

The 9th We lost one more of our number. His name was Edward Snow, of Cape Cod, about 18 years of age. He lay in a strange agonizing pos ture for five or six days before he died.

The 10th We have a convenient house for a hos pital. Ye most of us are getting better.-
The 11th Here we have a supply of some fruit, as green-corn, apples, pears, peaches & watermelons, by ye Negroes: but at a dear rate. Apples, pears, & peaches, cost one dollar apiece, (Continental Currency) & watermelons cost 30…

The 12th I would note this day for its first day of ye week. O yt it may be as ye beginning of days to my soul! I sincerely lament my so long absence from ye assemblies of ye saints & people of God! But since it is so, ye I cannot go to ye house of ye Lord, may I be more careful frequently & fervently to go to ye Lord of ye house…

The 13th This is a very rainy day.

The 14th This is a very cold day, yt a person may be comfortable with winter clothes.

The 15th This day is likewise very cool.

The 16th, 17th, & 18th The days continue cool for ye time of year: nights in particular are cold enough for ye latter end of September.
Gen Wane lieth at N. Castle, our troops at & ye enemy at York.

The 19th Last night I had a violent pain in my head; but am comfortable this morning. Thanks be to ye Lord my God, whose enemies are new every morning, I sensed every moment! O may I return him cordial thanks for his goodness vouchsafed to me, at all times, especially on this holy day! May I keep this day holy for those, who act of Lord of ye Sabbath, not holy, & hast a right to all I am & can be. This thou mayst challenge on ye severest penalties. I must sense ye Lord.
The 20th Our sick in ye hospital get better, but very slow.

The 21st We still may fear a very sickly time among our troops, before ye campaign be over: The sick are daily coming to ye hospital. Three wagon loads, I hear, are expected here this day from our brigade.

The 22nd Last night was very cold, but it wou'd be warm today were it not for ye breeze of air, which is very refreshing.

The 23rd This day I have been sent for two ways: A man sent & desired to hire me, in order to instruct him how to make files, gimlets, knives & forks, etc & ye doctor sent to me to come & live with him in order to assist him in his hurry of business dealing out medicines, dressing wounds, etc. I am at a loss which will be ye most profitable invitation to me. It must be ye former, I being best acquainted with yt work. But ye doctor is so im fortunate yt tho I am sure I shall make a poor doctor’s mate, yet I promis’d him to come tomorow, if I shou’d be no worse.

The 24th This day, I came to ye doctor’s assistance & as far as I know, gave him satisfaction.

The 25th I have such thirst for medical knowledge yt were I capable of ye business in which I am now engag’d yet I shou’d be content, even tho’ I have no prospect of any wages.

The 26th This is ye Sabbath. O Lord my God, & everlasting Father, who hast bro’t me satisfy
to ye beginning of this thy holy day, defend me in ye name by thy Almighty present & grant ye this day, fall into no kind of sin, nor temptation; but may all my thots, words & actions be order'd by they spirit, & I be kept from every thing yt is not acceptable in thy sight, thro Jesus Christ ye Mediator!...

(As ever) Enlighten my darkness, I beseech Thee, O Lord, & forgive ye sins of ye past day! & of thy great mercy defend me from all ye perils & dangers of this night, this week & thro' life, Thro Jesus Christ my Lord! Amen.

The 27th The number of our sick increases.

The 28th We have some of whose life we despair.

The 29th We are out of hospital stores suitable for ye sick, in particular, medicines.

The 30th We expect, & are continually wishing for ye medicines to come . . .

The 31st I was call'd up to see a man whose life, apparently, cannot continue long (his name is Henry Evans,) sick of ye intermitting fever. He fell a bleeding at ye nose: we stopp'd it several times; but cou'd not for good & all, till he as judg'd had lost a full quart of blood.

September 1st Last night one more poor man left ye hospital. He died a little before sun-set. His name was Pendleton of Pennsyvania. They buried him in a coffin which was pur chas' d with one of his shirts. The day be fore yesterday, we had an exceeding hard storm of thunder & lightening, (which fell close
to ye house I was in, & shock’d me & several others) and of hail & rain & today looks likely for a long storm coming; which is common in these parts in ye fall of ye year.

The 2d With ye morning light of ye sun, life as O Lord one ye light of thy glorious reconciled coun tenance & this shall put joy & gladness in my heart more that ye increase of wine & oil & this worlds goods! In particular, grant me thy special favor & blessing this day to ye end, & thro’ life, thro’ Jesus Christ my Lord!

The 3d This day one of ye 18 months men died out of ye hospital. Our sick is dai ly increasing; which renders my business truly fatiguing. My business is just this-In ye morning I rise at day-light, & go about one quarter of a mile to wash: then comb my hair; & then I recommend myself to God: After this I have nothing to do but sit down to dealing out & putting up medicines for all ye sick; where I continue till 8 o’clock: which is break-fast time: Which done, I visit ye hospitals with ye doctor, which takes us till 10 o’clock: From yt time till dinner I spend a mong ye medicines: Dinner over, I have to carry medicines to all ye men in each hospital. One hospital is half a mile distant, with 8 rooms in it. From this I come directly back & visit 7 or 8 houses more, some 5, some 7 rooms; where I deal to every man his particular portion.
Some will have 8, some 6, & generally they have 4 in a day. Which multipl’d by 300 (there being so many, or more sick) will a mount to a great many: Beside I have to give particular directions to every one (sometimes 2 or 3 times over, by reason of their stupidity) how & when to take them, lest they shou’d do wrong, & ye medicine loose its effect: All this, together with ye feelings nature has given me for ye sick & wounded, give me very great care, trouble, fatigue & anxiety of mind. With which I return home, ye day being spent, take a little supper, enter my chamber, close ye door, & after recom mending myself &them to God, & my friends & all to his care (my tho’ts being in great measure compos’d) I take my rest.

“Thus with my thot composed to peace
I give mine eyes to sleep
Thy hand in safety keeps my days
& will my slumbers keep.” DW.

The 4th Last Sabbath, news come yt ye French had landed a number of troops & this day we hear, our men are gone to join them... I hope we shall not loose all this fatiguing summer yet. But gracious God, have ye blood! He more wounds, nor sudden deaths, if it consist thy blessed will! But I can sing of mercies as well as judgements: yea ye Lord at m Long! Providence
has call’d one from home, from friends &
acquaintances, into this distant land & among
entire strangers, where is no man I ever
know, or ever saw, before (save one) yet
he hath given me friends. I am in with
forcing motive, while other recruits as good (per
haps much better) are created as strangers!
How comes this about? From whom comes
preserment? & whence ye favor I rose in
joy. Truly, these things are from ye Lord.
Did I ask it? No. Did I expect it? No. Did
it even enter my heart? By no means.
How surprisingly sweet are favors, which
Come from an uneventful quarter! Unex-
pected idea! Who wou’d have tho’t I, an
entire stranger to every body, shou’d be chosen
to yt business I am unacquainted with, &
to which I feel myself unequal! Where
others are neglected, who by long practice &
perceive have faced themselves skillful in
What great reason then have I to devote all
my spare moments to him who grant me so
many uneventful, un tho’t of favors!

My business is much fatiguing, but ye af-
fections, or sympathy, I have for ye sick & my
desire after medical knowledge, make it far
easier for me then ye disaffected camp & ye loath
some instruments of war. I have as good provi-
sion as I can wish, cook’d redy to my desire; I
have as beautiful chamber as any in Virginia
to myself & can retire when I please from ye notice of anyone but God; & add to this a good state of health; yt I am as happy as it is possible for Virginia to make me: yea since my coming here, I have almost forgot my native home. O Lord fill my heart with a sense of thy goodness, vouchsafed me, & with thy grace, yt I may thank & praise thy name every day; yea, 7 times a day make supplication before thee, for quarter mercies, even spiritual ones, which relate to my superior part, my immortal soul! I when I enter my room, whether joyful or pensive, may this strike a divine calm on my soul, yt I have no continuing city here, yt I am pilgrim & stranger on earth; I may this turn my tho’ts on seeking another & a better, even an heavenly one, whose builder & maker is God!

The 5th We have much news stirring & if all be true, we shall soon have a large ar
my in this quarter. His Excellency tis sd, is on his way to join us.

The 6th Henry Evans, (before mention’d), for 2 or 3 months past, has been in a de
clining state: since he came to this hospital. I told him I tho’t he wanted bleeding. He tho’t so too. ‘Twas propos’d to ye doctor (for safety) But he reply’d, By no means: He was in too weak & low state for yt. I tho’t, however I cou’d hold considerable of an argument with
him (tho' I was no physician) yt ye quantity of blood was not lessen'd by proper bleeding. However ye matter was defer'd, ye man grew sicker & weaker. I still held my opinion & so did he, & now & then wou' d mention it till at length he was taken down in a kind of slow stagnated fever; complaining frequen tly of pains, extreme pains, in his side, breast, bowels, etc. till he came to such degree as to lie at ye point of death. The doctor gave him over: & we all tho't death was inevitable. But (as I hinted above) he was, at length, taken with bleeding at ye nose. I sent & desired leave to open a vein. Ye doctor said No, if it was possible to stop ye bleeding without. Which, at last, was effected. Now it was concluded on all sides yt this was ye immediate forerunner of death. However, ye 2d day from this he was so much better as to be observ'd by ye most careless specta tor. He is now in a hopeful way. To day he walk' d abroad. The doctor continues to give him cream tart & cinnamon. I think it was yt which affected ye cure. But I leave it for ye present since I have written it down for some future considerations, & my own im provement.

The 7th Our sick continue to increase in num bers & some of them, I think, cannot recover. The ague-fever, slow fever, & intermitting fever, dysentery, rheumatism & ye venereal disease, are what trouble us chiefly. But I think we have upwards of 20 of ye latter class.
I would not forget ye wounded. Thanks to God, however their number as yet is but small.

The 8th This day I open’d 3 veins, 2 with ye doctor’s leave, & one without, which has had a very good effect.

The 9th This is ye holy Sabbath, & how shall I keep it? It must be by visiting ye sick: some of which, probably, will be in eternity before night. 9 o’clock, I have just left ye eyes of one more of my fellow mortals. O Lord, Teach me yt I must ere long close my eyes on all things. I behold under ye sun, I must open them on ye objects of eternity. His name was Thomas of Suiscoo.

The 10th John Welch has clos’d his eyes this day. O that I may profit by all these solemn events! May ye living lay heart! I have a double talk devot’d on me: Have ye care of ye hospital stores, to deal out to every mess, ye doctor being sick, yt he is scarcely able to help any in ye medical way. But I hope to lessen some of my business in a few days: or I fear I shall be obliged to leave ye whole of it. Ne vertheless, I must thank my kind Benefactor, yt my health continues, while all around are sick, filled with pain & tossings! I spare no medicine to preserve my health or to restore it when a little unwell. This may ausever a while, but not forever:
This body must be dispos'd, I find, & there
O for assurances for my soul. And is there
not balm in Gilead! Is there not a physician
there? Yes there is.

The 11th yesterday was very hot: but this day
is as cold as ye last of October among us.
These sudden changes are very hurtful; they
not only prey on our health: but likewise
on yt of ye inhabitants here at this season,
who are very sickly at this time of ye year.

The 12th This day Robert Powers died.

The 13th Last Saturday ye 2d division of ye
French troops join'd our army, with 5,000 men,
& his Excellency Gen Washington is to join
with a large body in a few days: & ye re
port is, yt 10,000 militia' are to be in. readi
ness to take ye field immediately. O Lord,
grant, yt ye gathering together of this army,
may be for ye better & not for ye worse!
Suffer us not to count in numbers; but if
Thou, Lord, art for us, who can be against us!

This day, at 4 o'clock, came up a storm of
thunder, which was severe, & continued till
dark. After which another arose from ye
same quarter, N. W. which has continued till
now (11 o'clock P.M.) filling ye minds of all
with almost insupportable horror. The airy
heavens rending o'er our heads with tremendous
awful claps of thunder, yt seem'd to echo from
dole to pole! & ye earth under our feet appear'd
all glowing with electrical flames!
It truly seems as thy ye divine Majesty of heaven & earth has risen in army to plead, his own cause, to defend his injured name! The houses, yea, all creatures around, man's heart excepted, tremble at God's reproofs. Remember, O Lord, yt we are but dust & after, & deal not with us in strict justice for we cannot stand before thee, when one thou art angry! The storm begins to abate; therefore I commit myself in ye hands of him who hath hitherto, preserved me, & lay me down to earth.

The 14th May we who are favor’d with ano ther day, improve it as tho’ it be ye last.

The 15th It continues cloudy, wet & foggy, which is very hurtful, on account of ye ague & fever, yt is continually taking hold of our men. But thanks be to God, yt I can yet boast of health, while all around are yet exercis’d with pain!

The 16th The return of every day, hour & mo ment, calls on me for a new return of thanks. How much more then doth ye return of every Lords day? What an unworthy creature am I to be so unthankful! O Lord, grant me grace to give thee all I am, have, if ever can be!

The 17th The other day I was boasting of my health amidst so much sickness. But my just Judge would not suffer all around to feel ye dire consequence of sin & I entirely to escape. The last night I awoke with a violent pain in my head- which I was in hopes to remove in ye morning with some light medicine: but
It prov’d abortive; ye pain still increases.

The 18th I resolv’d to take a puke; accord ingly I took 4 gr’s of tar-emet then 5 more; which made nigh 10 gr. 2 of which, our doctor says, is sufficient to operate on any man (How ever we generally give 3 or 4) but all this never made me sick. To help it forward, I drank a bason-ful of warm water: but still all avail’d nothing. A sad pickle I should have been in, had not nature given me a remedy! By ye help of my finger, I bro’t up all ye physic & made out considerable of a puke. However, all this answer’d but little purpose.

The 19th My head-ache increases & medicine cannot remove it till God put to his hand.

It continued till ye 27th all which time I got little nourishment, & no sleep, but what I obtain’d by ye help of anodyne pills.

The 28th My head & bones pain me less & continue to mitigate.

The 30th On ye night of ye Lord’s day he was pleased to visit me with sickness: & at night of ye Lord’s day (ye 30th) he was pleas’d to restore me to such measure of health, as to be enabled to sit up & to bless his gracious & holy name.

October ye 1st I yet continue better, tho’ full of pain.

The 2d This day I made application for a pass to return to ye Northward. But I find yt I cannot obtain it without going 120 miles right from home & then ‘tis uncertain whether I obtain one or not, which is enough to
discourage one, being sick & lame. But I leave ye affair with God my Disposer.

The 3d To day I concluded to journey to ye regmt.

The 4th This day I obtain'd my recommend from ye doctor, about 10 o'clock.* About 12 I set off feeble & faint hearted; but I hope God will go with me. Travel'd 10 miles.

The 5th Was overtaken by a waggoner from Southington (one Thorpe) & his wagon being chiefly empty; he was pleased to let me ride. We came as far as N. Kent court-house, where we put up. This is about 20 miles from N. Castle.

The 6th This is ye Lord's day. May I remem ber it as such. May I keep it holy! It is something stormy; but we expect to reach Williamsburg; which is 15 or 16 miles. I con cluded to tarry here over ye Sabbath, (tho we come about noon) in hopes there was some meeting house in this place. But I was disap pointed; & standing about in ye cold, (there being no fire for soldiers,) I took ye fever & ague to my great sorrow.-

*Hanover 4th October 1781.
Josiah Atkins, of Capt. Douglas's com pany in Col. Ginnat's regimt, laboring under a confirm'd Rheumatism, which will render him unfit for any further duty in ye field this campaign, is hereby recommended for leave to retire into ye country, for ye recovery of his health. Jno Simpson, Sergt.
The 8th I set out on foot for ye camp: I reach'd it about ye middle of ye afternoon. Had a bit of ague.

The 9th Completed my business by 10 o'clock, & set of for Williamsburg, where I arrived before night, 12 miles: Lodged in ye flying hospital.

The 10th I left Williamsburg, & continued my march till ye 12th at night, when I reach'd ye hospital very weak & low, having ye ague & fever every day.

The 13th Here I expect to tarry many days to recover health.

The 14th I thank thee, O Lord, for ye prospects & wilt thou hasten ye time when I shall again stand in ye assembly of thy people. 'Tho' thy Sabbaths are forgotten almost every where, yet I have reason to hope, yt tis not entirely neglected in my native state.

Oct. the 15th I recover but very slow my ague & fever is very severe on me at present.

Josiah Atkins being rendered unfit (by sickness) for service in ye light Infantry-Has permission to pass from this to ye Highlands in ye State of N. York to rejoin ye regt to which he belongs. J. Ginnat, Lt. Col. Command Camp before York 8th Oct. 1781.

Dear & beloved wife.

I desired, when I came from home, to keep a journal * of things & events worthy of notice, both for your perusal & satisfaction, & for my own, should I return in peace & safety. But dear comfort! My circumstances are such at present, that I have but little expectation. (Tho’ an ardent desire) of returning to you again. The prospect is gloomy! My heart forbodes ye dark side! I am engag’d against a potent foe, where I can expect nothing but fighting & dangers. Possibly I may escape ye fatal ball & divorcing sword: but ye small-pox this contagious dangerous distemper which our own merciless enemy has taken so much pain to spread a many us. I expect I have in my vital already; & if not, I am far from being safe from it, where I am daily exposed to it. Have I taken it, or shou’d hereafter in this season here, ye, together with ye unwholesome part of ye year. This country, our living & ye miserable care yt can be taken at ye sick among unfriendly people; these considerations

*I cannot say a perfect one, and some things were left out thro mistake, & many more on purpose, because I tho’t they wou’d afflict you more than comfort, they being afflicting to me.
Gave me little expectation of ever setting my
foot again in Farmingbury. But all things
are possible with God; in whose name may I
confide, & never trust in vain!
Having these things in view, & being satisfied
of your love & tender regard for me, I can-
not but think it must, at least, be of some sa-
tisfaction in your mind, to know something
in particular concerning my fate; & per-
ceiving no other way for it than this, I hope
& pray God to put this book, by some means
or other, into your hand. It is in
consideration of these things I have taken
here in hand to blacken this sheet.
After I left home, I found (as I expected) yt ye
leaving of you, my dear wife, & my darling babe
were exceedingly painful to me; indeed I hardly
know whether ye having tho’ts were ever entirely
out of my mind from ye rising sun to ye evening
shades; I was so intent on family & friends ye
my sleep went from me in great measure, espe-
cially when I met trouble & difficulties: The
want of provisions, fatigue, or any other hardships.
These naturally drove thy tho’ts from camp, & you
may easily imagine where they must naturally
flee. This, together with ye prospect of consi-
derable time being elapsed before I could get into
ye work, was almost too much for me. But
in ye midst of afflictive anxious tho’ts, ye
first duty they put me to, was to take six or
eight hundred miles march to join ye Infantry at ye southward with my instruments of war & death. I make no doubt, my dear, but one of your tenderness & affection will easily paint to your self my confusion at this unexpected maneuver. Being sent at south distance, it appear’d to cut me off entirely from ye satisfaction to writing to my friends, especially to you;* Which, together with my full disappointment of ye business, yt induce’d me to enlist in ye army, (Which also could give me content in ye service) & having nothing before me but to take my armor & hand the brunt of an unexperienced service in an un wholesome country, myself alone, (all being entire strangers to me) & in a strange, & unfriendly land, there to meet a formidable enemy; alas! All this to gether (& much alone) I acknowledge so damp’d my spirits yt I almost fainted at ye thought! & my perplex’d mind had such effect on my body as to consume ye flesh, away, ye it was not seen; & my bones yt were not seen stuck out! Oh yt there was an interpreter with me, one among a thousand to show me my sin, ye by any means I might be brought to repentance!

I then found those who had been my best & desireable friends, to have become more danger ous foes, in some sense, & to be avoided. I was

*To write to my friends afforded me very great leisure & satisfaction, tho’ I had not ye satisfaction of any return from them.
necessitated (cruel as it seemed!) to banish them my breast, like some venomous serpent, not allowing myself so much as to think of home, friends to relations! Nay, I found myself necesitated to tear from my bosom, tho’ts my bosom friend, & my little innocent, my heart’s delight! (Except when I return to ye throne of grace, where I let them come in mind with ye greatest freedom; which seldom fail’d to produce a flood of tears) This was indeed heart felt but I found it of ye greatest importance to my bodily health & vigor; which had become greatly emaciated. (My body lost 10 pounds of it’s weight in less than 2 weeks) My grief drank up my spirits, yt became, as they told me, like on in a study or amaze and rose along ye road. This was not good.

They had me to consider, yt God was in all this; yt nothing took place here but by his knowledge & dispose; & yt He punished me far less than I deserved (I might justly expect every calamity & disappoint ment here, & eternal confusion on hell; but am spar’d!) Which tho’ts gave me resolution to recom mend myself to him in prayer, & beg of him to give me patience under my sufferings, & carry me safely thro’ them; or otherwise, when he should call one home, to receive my departing spirit to ye arms of his mercy & love thro’ ye merit of Jesus Christ. Thus I conclude to drop my over anxious tho’ts, resulting yt I must have my
lot & portion as well others; & if ye was to die here I must; if not, God wou'd allow me to return. But still I cou'd hardly keep from complaining ye I should be so ungratefully sent dawn here, torn away from my friends, & from my un expectedness business, to encounter all ye haz ards & hardships imaginable. I tho't ye could not be so continued neither, to take my last little portion of land (tho' but my length & breadth) & leave my lifeless lump on this barren soil! However, when I relented, ye this barren soil of Virginia must be enriched with ye rich mea sure of Connecticut, ye my little lump was as dearer to me than another mans to him; ye our cause in just & must be supported; & ye God will raise ye dead here as well in Connecticut; These tho'ts put me to silence; & I become (I hope) in some mature resigned to God's will.

When I recollect ye many favors I have receive'd, ye many dangers I have escaped, Thro' ye king providence of God, I think I may with all encouragement, trust in him to keep me for time to come. But an examination, my sins appear too many, my vileness so great, ye I feel distrustful, not of God's ability, ( I am fully satisfied ye he is able & ready to have to ye ut most all who trust in his thro' ye mediator) but of my submission & confidence in him. Oh ye I had such a spirit thro Christ Lord
grant me ye Holy Spirit in his divine teachings & influence, particularly to witness with my spirit ye I am thy which & true Friend! This will give me exceeding joy & gratitude! This will yield me peace & serenity of mind, even amidst ye greatest darkness & trial! Tho’ he slay me, yet I can trust in his salvation! This will be peace of conscience! & I might regale myself on ye Lord, & joy in his protection! Happy state! Then I cou’d join with D W & sing

“Halt Thou not given thy word
To save my soul from Death!
And I can trust my Lord
To keep my mortal breath;
I’ll go & come, not fear to die,
Till from on high thro will me home.”

These words have been very ready to dart in my mind with delight & comfort in my heavy pensive hours; but, knowing my guilt & un worthiness, I done not apply them to myself, less I be deceived, & I believe in a lye.

My hard fate has put me much on consideration, & pondering o’er my part life of sin of dangers of deliverance, & of experiences; & alas! I find I was altogether born in sin! was conceived in sin, & bro’t forth in iniquity! The seeds of sin early took deep root in my heart, have shot forth & borne much fruit.
I have partook deeply of original pollution & ye hath grown into practical sins, & open arts of disobedience & rebellion against God, violating his laws & precepts, trampling on is sacred authority, & wasting his goodness. This effectively convinced my; ye I have no claim to make of any mercy of favor from him; & consequently no cause to murmur at ye appointment of his providence to me.

These words frequently pass’d in my mind, & seldom fail’d of silencing my complaining tho’ts; Shall a living man complain? A man for ye punishment of his sins? I have vows, ye a man who is yet alive can have no cause to complain against ye al mighty. I concluded also, ye sin in ye procuring cause of all ye evil, miseries, & alusions which befall ye children of men on this stage, & consequently of mine.

When I take all these things into view, I can plainly see, ye hand of God in them; & I think, I can say, I see ye justice of God causing evils & disappointments to come in once. He is just in bringing me down to his unhealthy soil: He is just, shou’d I ever return to New England to see my dear friends: He is just, shou’d he slay me.
Yea, he is just, shou’d he cast me into hell. Home may I be silent & resign’d! May I earnestly & cordially ask of him mercy! Seek his pardon, plead his promises, thro’ Jesus Christ, obey his commands, Trust his grace, - Pray my vows, - reform my life, -& learn to live every day as tho’ it were ye last, ye whenever death shall come it may not surprise me, but find me ready! Especially, may I have love to God, hungering& thirsting after righteousness & an ardent divine to be with Jesus!
Dear & beloved Comfort

Hoping that this book may come to your hand, tho' I may not live to bring it (Which I pray God grant for your sake) & having given you a short & imperfect account of my sufferings & trouble of mind in this my last & unhappy adventure; I have still a desire to say something further to you before I bid you farewell! But alas! I must praise! My heart is full! I know not what I write! Or how to begin!

Whenever I decease, sho'd you survive, no Doubt you may have a mind again to marry: to which I have no objection. Rather I would recommend it in ye strongest manner. Concerning this I have no injunction. But however let me offer my advice in a word, To marry in ye Lord. This is of all importance. When you are about to seek another comparas On, ask counsel, wisdom, & discretion of God: In much in prayer to him for his presence, & direc tion in so weighty an affair! Be not guided by whimsy, or sudden passion of mind! Ye ef fects of which are too evident before you seek one you can have a tender regard for one who will repay you in ye same, Whose mind may exactly meet you, agree & comprehend yours
with whom you can live in love & peace. Then joy & tranquility may be your lot, last, especially, ye your prayers be not hindered. Remember your former State & mine, ye love & joy we have had together! Yea, & ye we coupled ourselves for life!

Shou'd these prospects be shut off, seek other as agreeable & delightsome. You will surely find this a matter of importance in ye end. Here I mind remind you, that ye happenings of your family also depends on this care, ye, & your well-being here, and hereafter is greatly connected with it. But why so I there en large since I know you have a capacity of judging, & a right to determine for yourself!

What I now write you may receive as an injunction: should this be the case, (Which I pray God it may not till I once more return in peace, & we both rejoice together in love!). I say shou'd all this come to pass, I cannot make myself contented, unless something be regulated concerning Sally my babe, my darling! Who is ye delight of my eyes! * You

*The reason I always eye more tender & fond expressions for my child than towards my wife is because I would not give you offence, knowing you are not fond of such like language. But this I wou'd say, tho' you know it before, ye you both very dear! Very dear to me!
know my affections were much, ay! Perhaps too much set on my child! You will then, if you had any love to me, (which I have not ye least doubt of) deal more tenderly with her for my sake (tho' I dispute not your own affection for her neither) – It is pret ty certain, ye the will have but little fortune I wou'd have you give her good learning. To this end, I wou'd have you immediately at least before you pronounce her a father in law lay alike some of your little intent. Let it be some of your country which I was to have for engaging in ye service, or any other ye come ye most handy. Let it be put safely into Fa ther Rogers, or some other honest man's hand, at interest till she be of age for schooling. Then keep her at school till she have learned well to read & write; and of she learn some rules in Arithmetic, twill do her no harm. Then give her ye trade which taken with her genius, & which may be profitable to her.

Have I now done! Shall I stop here? No, I must go further. Shou'd your pregnancy, now, bringing forth a living child & it be a daughter, deal with her in ye same manner. But if I be a son, give him good schooling & likewise, give him ye trade he best likes. Put him out to a good master: & shou'd you re main a widow, put him out young, or keep
him not at home in idleness. Shou’d you marry, & it shou’d be your lot to find an husband, (as it too oft happens) not alto gether such an one as you cou’d with, tho’ you must not leave him yourself, yet help not my children at home to be ruined but seek them good places, & lend them away... Or should you be driven to want (which God for bid, tho’ I can hardly expect any other) then keep not your children at home to suffer hunger, or to want raiment, ye being very pernicious to them. But why do I multiply words?

Can a kind woman once forget,
The infant of her womb?
Among a thousand tender tho’ts
Her suckling have no room?

Above all, be careful to bring them up in ye nurture & admonition of ye Lord. Take care to learn them useful legions as they learn language: Be careful to instill ye prin ciples if virtue on their minds, before ye seeds of sin, which~ is sown in their nature, be grown into habits of wickedness: Begin early! Con tinue with unwavered, persevering diligence & prayer! & thro’ ye blessing in God you may obtain your desired end, even ye salvation of their unmortal souls. Be earnest at ye throne of grace, ye God wou’d wash their infants souls.
from ye stain of original pollution, which they drew from us their parents; & that he would give you grace to preform your duty towards them. I have given them to ye Lord. So do you. But first devout yourself to him, & your children in a humble manner, if you can be sensible of it really being your duty: When I think it is, without disgust. Strive to be determined about it- search carefully without prejudice, lying open your mind to conviction. Look seriously into these places of scripture which give encouragement, & on what grounds. (I would mention some, had I time) but you will readily turn to them where your bible is before you. I know some scriptures, at best, find to brighten ye weak mind, & cause it to shrink back: Such as Eating & Drinking so worthily; Eating and Drinking judgment to themselves. These things have been much on my mind of late, & ye more I think of it, ye more I am convinced, ye no one ever comes worthily in & of himself. If they are worthy, it must arise from another quarter, even from ye Lord Jesus Christ, who is altogether worthy. But ye reasonableness of ye thing will greatly tend to convince a confederate mind. Have we a God from whom we received all we enjoy & we (pretend at least) to own him in serious
in private; & shall we not own him in public, before ye world! He publicly bestowed on us innumerable mercies & blessings; & can we not own him as our Lord & benefactor! Again, among other mercies, we receive ye blessings of children: & shall we not give them leash in public? Can any refuse it? In a word, is there not ye greatest reason ye devote ourselves & all we have, and are to give to him in ye strongest & most solemn manner, considering, his we are, & his are all our ways? I could use more arguments: But ye wou'd be needless, seeing you must search for yourself for my part, I am so far convinced that should ye Lord vouch safe my return, I mean, with ye assistance of his grace, to devote myself, & mine, to him from whom I received them, & now a new addition of mercy.

But, perhaps, you will rely upon me, as I have often to others, & say; that when a person is convinced, or is assured, of his being born again & converted to God, then to plainly his duty to come to ye Lord's table & partake of his supper. Shou'd you thus reply, I will turn & against for one against my former opinion. Perhaps there are many (at least some) who labor under an uncertainly about ye state ye souls, & go on doubting all their days, tell they come to lie on their death bed.
Sometimes they think they are in a state of grace & sometimes not. They are full of doubts & fears, & grace so small, ye they have little or no comfort to ye last hour. Which will make those alarming places of scripture strike their weak minds with terrible fears. Here I will query, whether a person, who has a spark of grace, doth not commit a more sin in omitting this solemn ordinance, then another wou’d, shou’d he, destitute of grace, come to ye Lord’s table? To be a little plainer: Here give two persons under ye go spel, ye one has grace, ye other not; & both alike in suspense. He who has grace, seen ye most of his unworthy & dares not come; ye other see life of his dissidence & so ventures to come & partake of this healing ordinance. Now ye question is, which of ye two commits ye greatest sin? Had (Poter) judg’d himself unworthy to sit at ye table of his Lord, & so refus’d which Judas sat at & partook unworn thyly, on which wou’d have fallen ye severest reproof from their Lord? Think you, I only ask ye question, & leave it for every once, to determine for themselves; remembering ye only in commended, & ye other is caution’d against. Or you may say, both are forbidden. Search & see.

When I can read any title To mansions in the skies, I’ll bid farewell to every fear, & wipe my weeping eyes.
Shou’d earth against my soul engage,
& hellish darts be heard,
Then I can smile at Satan’s rage,
& face a frowning world.

There is one thing further I would recommend concerning ye well ordering of your family. It is this: Keep your little society from all profane loose persons & company, whose conscience are sear’d, & who sin without remorse: Such a commit ye sin of drunkenness, theft, lying, sabbath breaking, catling, but especially of profane swearing; these out to be spurned out from our house; their practice being of such infectious nature, ye it will soon spread there ye family, acquaintance, neighborhood, nation. It is like a pestilential disease, especially profane language, & most justly provoking to almighty God to pour out his vengeance on its horrid practitioners. So not even children catch ye foul seamsale. If ye be fore they can really speak plain? Are they no thus taught to blaspheme ye name of God, before they are learned to pray to him! Shocking indeed! When I consider ye common swearer, I am ready to charge him not only with his own sins, but likewise, with, corrupting thoughts, & with sending down his wickedness, however dangerous & horrid, to succeeding generations. Can such be desirable company! Can they be safe in a family, whose very breath corrupts all around! & ye length of which runs down ye lengths of time! The sins of a common swearer appeared to me dreadful for several reasons: (1) Because, while other sinners have their ceasing time, & wide gaps between ye repetition of them; ye common swearer is like a continual drop
ing in a rainy day (2) Because, I think this sin has had a great hand in calling down ye wrath of God, which has caused, & still causes, such desolate ons & distress to fall on our land. (3) Because this practice tends to drive away all remains of ye fear of God, & value of a savior; hardens ye conscience, causes ye spirit of God, to depart, puts one onto ye hands of Satan, & their own hearts lusts, issues in all man ners of villainies & debaucheries, & brings a curse on what they undertake. To this cause, doubtless it is, ye those who fight in fleet, & armies, oft loose their courage, & fle before their enemies. & (4) it prepares a greater damnation for them in ye world to come, continually ripening them for it. Dreadful wils indeed! But I will for bear; only will give one word more of series advice, & close.

From ye above observations, you may easily say my dear wife, of what force example is - & what heads of families have in their power to do by serious & proper examples. (I speak not because I support your ignorance of duty, or un willingness to do it, but because I am sensible, ye you do know, & will discharge it far as you are able: & because I have not answered so freely, with you on this head as my duty call'd: for which I regret it). – On ye other pour ye observations show, ye evil examples in are doubly capable, & doubly pernicious. Serious truth per sons are vile in themselves, & not only do no good, but much harm, to others by their wicked examples. Their condemnation then will be answerable. This may lead one to reflect, How aggravated
my condemnation ( & may you not say ye same, who have had such good evacuation under your good mother; whose memory I shall ever retain ) Shou'd I forget, with all these mercies head'd on me, what belongs to ye station, & relation I now sustain in ye character of a parent. O for an heart to wal in my house according to ye knowledge with which I am blas'd of God!

Time wou'd fail to point out to your every particular in which a parent ought to let good example shine before his children: Nor need any more be said than ye parents ought, at all times & places.

But ye duty of charity I wou'd recommend to you in a very particular manner to set before those under your card & ye both in word & example, you are to do almost secret: True from ye view & applause of ye word: But no from your children. Therefore, if you have but two, shillings to bestow on a poor object, divide one of them among the children for both) & let them see you bestow yours, ye they many not think unjust what you care not to practice yourself. Teach them ye duty: Show them ye joyful countenance of a partake of a relievd object, & if we'll them to partake of ye satisfaction of a reliable & cheerful giver.

Forgive me, friend & beloved wife, for give me judged my pain thus far & I’ll add no man. But may ye blessing of God reason you, my child, my family, & friends; & give it all grace & perseverance; ye shou’d we never meet again in this world, we may all be so happy, as to sweet whose no separation shall ever come!

This granted I can freely bid you all –

Farewell! Farewell! Farewell!
A descant on time-

1. God's vast existence ne'er delays
His age doth never grow;
Past, present, future, in his sight
Are one eternal Now.

2. Man measures out his fleeting state
By motions in the skies;
And like his own frail vesture wears
With ev'ry hour that flies.

3. ______ moments make our days
_______ days our year;
The moments past one more return,
Tho' seasons like appear.

4. Now a new season bless the earth;
See the new harvest rise
But the last year shall ne'er again
Revisit mortal eyes.

5. Old time with his keen pointed sythe
Consumes the life of man
Our periods fighting from the hour
Our beings first began.
6. Each year fulfils some new event,
   Heav’n long decree’d before;
   Removes unnumbered lives away,
   & gives unnumbered more.

7. Soon shall th’ appointed angel stand,
   O’er earth, and air and sea,
   And swear by him that ever lives,
   That time no more shall die.

8. Then shall the league of nature cease,
   The Sun forsake his way;
   And years and ages lose their names
   In one eternal day.
Thoughts on death & Frailty

1. Behold our years how swift they fly!
   Youth vanquish & beauty fades,
   Age drops her snow upon our heads,
   And draws sweat & slumber from our eyes!

2. Why do we toil, t’augment our store?
   The more we gain, still crave ye more;
   Alas! Are quite forgot ye man’s
   A mortal & his life a span!

3. Grim death has summon’d us to go,
   All pensive to ye shades below!
   Oh dismal regions! From whose urn,
   Alas! No travelers return.

4. What eye can steadfastly survey
   Death & its dark tremendous way!
   Far soon as fate hath clos’d our eyes,
   Man dies! Forever, ever dies!
America's joy and mourning

1. America sat by ye brow of yt hill,
   Where Mystic doth silently glide;
   Lamented ye ravage of weds spreading war,
   And moved her soft griefs with ye tide.

2. How long, said the sighting; shall heaven decree
   Permit ye rude Britons to waste;
   The land, where of all, she established my sons,
   And rid them of liberty laste!

3. How long shall ye light of ye burning ascend
   From rural abode, & from towns!
   While vanquish'd by toil, & fatigue, or by arms,
   Dead bodies are strew'd o'er ye downs.

4. An angel descended in dazzling robes,
   And tore ye thick film from her eyes;
   She saw, out of those which in ruins did lie,
   New town & new dwellings arise.

5. She saw her fair form like ye light from ye storm
   Bid plenty & pleasure to mile;
   The Britons expect'd from her soil by her sons,
   Lash'd home by ye gaule to his ile.

6. And now my dear sons, said she smiling, be happy!
   Bid trouble & weeping advieu!
   The sorrow & moaning may spring for a moment,
   Yet joy shall be endless with you.
Advice to the Ladies-

Hard is ye frontline ye you sex attends.
Women, like painses, find few real friends:
All who approach them, their own ends pursue
Lovers & ministry are seldom true.
Hence off’ from reason heed life beauty strays,
And ye most trusted guide ye most betrays.
Hence by fond dreams of family’s power amus’d.
When most you tyrannies, you’re most abus’d.

What is your sexes earliest latest case?
your hearts supreme ambitious to be fair.
For this ye tailes every tho't employs;
Hence all ye tails of dress, & all ye joys.
For this hands, life & eyes are just to school,
And each instructed feature has to rale.
Do you, my fairs, endeavor to possess.
And elegance of mind as well as dress:
Be if your ornament & know to please
By grateful natures unaffected ease:
Nor make to dangerous wit a vain pretense,
But wisely, rest content with modest sense.
For wit, like wine intoxicate ye brain,
too strong for fraile women to sustain.
Of those who claim, it more than have had,
And half of those who have it are undone.
Be still superior to your sexes art.
Nor think dishonestly a proof of parts:
For you ye plainer is ye wiser rule;
A cunning woman is a knowable fool.
Be good yourself, northern anther shame.
Can raise your mount, or adorn you fame.
Virtue is amicable! Mild, serene,
Without, all beauty, & all peace within.
The honors of a prude are sags & storms,
Tis ugliness on its sort frightful forms!
Seek to be good, but aim not to be great.
A woman's noblest station is retreat.
Her purest virtues fly from public sights,
Sometime worth is shuns too strong a light.
Blest is ye maid, & worth to be blest!
Whose soul entire by him she loves prospered;
Feels wry vanity in kindness last
And after no power, but ye of pleasing most.
Here is ye bliss in just return to prove
The honest warmth of unassembled love.
For her, inconstant man may cease to range,
And gratitude forced desire to change.
But lest harth cares ye loves peace defray,
And roughly delight ye tender buds of joy;
Let reason teach what passions fain wou'd hide,
That Hymen's bands with prudence must be ty'd.
Venus in vain ye wedded pair would crown,
If angry fortune on their union frowned.
Soon will ye flattering dream of bliss be o'er,
And lay'd imagination cheat no more.
E'en in ye happi'est chase, where savoring heaven
Has equal love, & easy fortune giv'n;
Think not, ye husband gain'd, ye all is done;
The prize of happiness must still be won.
And oft ye careless find it to their cost
The lover in ye husband may be lost.
The graces might alone his heart allure;
They & ye virtues meeting must secure.
Let o'er your prudence wear ye pleasing deeds,
If care for him & anxious tenderness.
From kind concern about his weal or wae,
Let each domestic duty seem to flow.
The household seethe if he bid you bear,
Make it your pride his servant to appear;
Endearing thus ye common acts of life,
The mistress still shall charm him in ye wife:
And wrinkles age shall unsoldered come on,
Before his eyes presence are beauty gone.