

From the EUROPEAN MAGAZINE,
for April, 1788.

Account of a dreadful Inundation of the
Sea, on the Coast of Coromandel, in
the East Indies.

In a Letter from Mr. William Parson to
Alexander Dalrymple, Esq.

Ingenham June 7, 1788.

My dear Friend

YOU will have a just & circumstan-
tial account of the late calamity we
have sustained. It is no wonder the accounts
you have seen should be incoherent and
imperfect; for while the misfortune was
recent, our minds were distracted with a
thousand fears and apprehensions for the
consequences; indeed people less alarmed
and less gloomy than ourselves might
have admitted the apprehensions of pesti-
lence and famine; the former from the
air being tainted from some thousands of
putrid carcasses both of men and cattle;
and the latter, from the country around
us being destroyed, as well as our stock of
provisions and the fruit of the earth.

From the 17th of May, I blew hard from
the east, but as bad weather is unusual
in this season we did not apprehend
it would become more serious; but
on the 18th it increased to a hard
gale; and on the 20th in the morning it
blew a perfect hurricane, inasmuch that
our houses presently untiled, our doors
and windows best in, and the railing and part
of the wall of our isle clove blown down.
A little before eleven it came with vio-
lence from the sea, and I presently perceiv-
ed a multitude of the inhabitants crowd-
ing towards my house, crying out that
the sea was coming in upon us. I call
my eyes in that direction, and saw it ap-
proaching with great rapidity bearing
much the same appearance as the bar in
Bengal river.

At my house was situated very low,
I did not hesitate to abandon it, direct-
ing my steps towards the old factory, in
order to avail myself of the Terrace. For
in that dreadful moment I could not lo-
se reflect upon causes or effects as to ac-
count for the phenomenon or to set bounds
to its increase. I had indeed heard of a
tradition among the natives, that about a
century ago the sea ran as high as the tall-
est Palmira trees, which I have ever disre-
garded as fabulous, till the present unusu-
al appearance called it more forcible to my
mind. In my way to the old factory,
I passed the door of Mr. Bourne's house,
to apprise the rest of the gentlemen
of their danger, and the measures I had con-
sidered for safety: they accordingly joined
me; but before we attained the place of
our destination we were nearly intercepted
by the torrent of water. As the house is
built on a high spot, and pretty well
elevated from the ground, the water never
ran above a foot on the first floor, so we
had an occasion to have recourse to the
Terrace. Between one and two o'clock
the water began to subside a little, and
continued gradually decreasing till the
body of it had retired; leaving all the low
places, tanks and wells full of salt water.
I think the sea must have risen fifteen feet
above its natural level.

About the time of the water subsiding,
the wind favoured it by coming round to
the Southward, from which point it blew
the hardest. As the factory house was
in a very ruinous state, and shook ex-
ceedingly at every gust, we were very an-
xious to get back to Mr. Bourne's house.
I attempted it twice but found I had nei-
ther power nor strength to combat the force
of the wind, getting back with the great-
est difficulty to my former station. About
five o'clock, during a short lull, we hap-

pily effected a remove. It blew very
hard the greatest part of the night; at
midnight it veered to the Westward, and
was so cold, that I thought we should
have perished as we reclined in our chairs.
I shall not attempt to describe to you the
scene that presented itself to our view
when day light appeared: it was dreary
and horrid beyond description. The trees
were all blighted by the salt water, and
the face of the country covered with
salt mud; yet it had more the appearance
of having suffered by a blast of hot wind,
or by the eruption of volcanoes, than by
inundation of water, such an effect had it
in destroying herbage and foliage of every
description. Our houses were found full
of the inhabitants who had taken refuge
therein, stripped of doors and windows
and quite open to the weather at the top;
the windows mostly carried away, and
several substantial tiled houses comple-
tely leveled, as scarcely to afford a mark
of their ever existing; but our sufferings
were light when compared with those of
Coringia, and the rest of the villages near
the sea. At Coringia, out of four thou-
sand inhabitants, it is said not more than
twenty were saved, and those mostly on
Mr. Corfair's Terrace, and on the beams
of Capt. Webster's house. Mr. Gideon
Firth, Mr. George Day, and the Portu-
guese Padre were I believe, the only Euro-
peans that were drowned. At this the
sea recede gradually and as it came in with
the tide the people were not much alarmed; but
when they found it still increase so as to
render their situation dangerous, they
mounted on the top of their Casjan houses,
till the sea, impelled by strong easterly
wind, ruffled upon them most furiously,
when all the houses at the same awful mo-
ment gave way and nearly four thousand
souls were launched into eternity. This
terrible scene was visible from Mrs.
Corfair's Terrace over which the sea some-
times broke, and they were in frequent
danger from drifting of vessels and other
heavy bodies which must inevitably have
brought down the house, had they come
in contact. At the Dutch village of Jag-
gernaick poran, I hear the distress was
very great, and that about a thousand
lives were lost; many of the villages in
the low country between Coringia and
Jaggernaick poran were totally destroyed
and the inundation penetrated inland a-
bout ten cofs from the sea in a direct line;
but did little more damage to the west-
ward of us than destroying the vegetation.
It would be very difficult to ascertain with
any precision, the number of lives lost
in this dreadful visitation; the most intel-
ligent people I have conferred with on the
subject, state the loss at from ten to twen-
ty thousands souls. This is rather an in-
definite computation; but I think if the
medium be taken, it will then rather ex-
ceed than fall short of the real loss. They
compute that a lack of cattle were drown-
ed, and from vast numbers I saw dead at
Neillapilla, I can easily credit their asser-
tion. For two or three days after the ca-
lamity such was the languor of the inhabi-
tants, that not a Cooley or workman was
to be procured at any price; it required
our utmost exertion to get the dead bodies
and the dead cattle buried with all possi-
ble speed, to prevent the air being impreg-
nated with putrid effluvia. This to be
sure, was a task we could not fully execute,
except just in the village. However no
bad effects have ensued, which I impute
to the continual land winds that have
blown strongly for some time past. These
have the property of drying up the juices
of the dead bodies and preventing putre-
faction, which must necessarily have been

the consequence in a damp air. It is ex-
traordinary, that the vast tract of low
ground on the south side Guadavery from
Gentendy to Bundermalank, suffered very
little from the inundation, and scarcely a
person perished. This country lies so ex-
ceedingly low, as to be flowed by com-
mon spring tides, and a great deal of it
was in consequence covered with salt
jungle. It is probable they owe their safety
to those small islands at the mouth of the
Guadavery, as well as Point Guadavery
itself, which must have both contribut-
ed to break the force of the sea.

When we had recovered from our con-
sternation on the 21st, we began to con-
sider how we should be able to exist, in
such a field of desolation, as our wells
were filled with salt water, our provisions
destroyed, and we found by digging in
different places, that no sweet water was
to be procured; when it was discovered
that Providence had so far interfered in
our favour, as to bring these freshets at a
very early and unusual season. From
what account we could hastily gather, we
were apprehensive that the stores of rice
were much damaged or totally destroyed,
as the rice godowns and gomarks are gen-
erally secured against an accident less far-
midable than this. However, the event
has happily falsified our surmises, and pre-
ved our information falacious, for rice had
hitherto been plentiful and not dear.
The generous supplies that have been
sent us from the presidency will I trust,
secure us from serious want. Our mar-
kets have not yet been attended by a per-
son with an article for sale; but this is not
to be wondered at, as our supplies have
been generally furnished by the villages at
no great distance inland; and these coun-
tries have been drenched sufficiently in
salt water to destroy their provisions. The
fishermen, a most useful body of people,
inhabiting chiefly by the sea side, have
been almost totally extirpated; and we
are thereby deprived of a very material
part of our subsistence. Time alone can
restore to us the comforts we have lost,
and we have reason to be thankful, that
things have not turned out so bad as we
apprehend. I have tired myself in attempt-
ing this narration, and I fear I have almost
tired you in the perusal of it. A great
deal more might be said upon the subject
in a flowery garb: if it yield a moment's
amusement to my friend, my end is fully
answered. The greatest part of this in-
telligence you have already had in detail,
but it is your desire I should bring it into
one point of view. It is hastily written,
and inaccurate; but you will remember
I was in a good deal of pain at the time
of writing it, from an inflammation in my
legs, so had not sufficient ease or leisure
to correct or transcribe it.

Yours affectionately,
(Signed)

WILLIAM PARSON.

G I N S E N G.

WANTED a quantity of good and well-
dried GINSENG—Also a quantity of
Red and White CLOVER SEED—for which
articles a generous price will be given in any
kind of Goods, by

WILLIAM MOORE.

N. B. The best method of curing this Root,
will be to string and hang it in an upper room,
or a little out of the sun, where it may have a
free air. This may serve as a caution against cut-
ting of the root by the heat of the fire, as it will
absolutely ruin it for any market in America.
Greenfield, August 11, 1788.

Just published, and now selling by the Printer
at half price.

AN ESSAY ON CHRISTIAN BAP-
TISM, which solves all the com-
mon doubts on that subject and in which
it is said are some new sentiments.

Cost Judd

[Vol. III.]

T H E

[NUMB. 105.]

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

W E D N E S D A Y, SEPTEMBER 3, 1788.

NORTHAMPTON, (MASSACHUSETTS) Published by WILLIAM BUTLER.

Federal Procession at New-York.

(Continued from our last.)

CUTLERS.

TWO master cutlers, wearing breast plates and
drill bows in their hands, and green silk aprons,
embellished with the company's arms, richly painted,
bowed with red ribbon.

Four journey-men with green blize aprons bound
with red ribbon and the company's arms.

Four apprentices, with green blize aprons bound
with red ribbon.

CONFECTIONERS.

Rebecca's cob made of sugar, richly ornamented, four
feet six inches in circumference; round the goblet's
edge, the inscription "the Federal Constitution."

The letters of different colours; sugar plumbs in the
cup; the federal cake ornamented with preserved fruit,
made and carried by Mr. Prier.

STONE MASONS.

Flag: On the front an elegant plan of the President
(of Congress's) house, at a distance was displayed a re-
mote view of the temple of Fame, supported with 13
pillars, ten finished and three unfinished; over the tem-
ple the words "In God is all our trust."

The foundation is firm, the materials are good,
Each Pillar cemented with patriotic blood.

Over the centre of the flag, a spread eagle; below
the temple a gentleman, and a stone mason showing him
a draeger of the temple; between the President's house
and the temple, a grove of trees and an elegant walk.

On the terrace, an elegant figure of the matter Mason;
over his head was displayed the American flag, with the
word "EUREKA;" at a distance two men cutting
stone; near the bottom of the flag, a man sawing mar-
ble, with a number of blocks and tools of all kinds lay-
ing around.

The order, consisting of 32, headed by Mr. George
Washington and William M. Waver.

BLACK LAYERS.

Preceded by John M. Combs, 120 in number support-
ing a flag, representing under colour of the United
States, a medallion of his excellency Gen. Washington,
encircled with laurel. In the centre, the brick layers
arms; motto, "In God is all our trust." Over the
arch a ribbon, written, "the amicable society of
brick-layers," all in gold letters. On the lower part
of the flag, a building with scaffolding and men at work
attended with labourers. The whole painted on white
filk.

PAINTERS AND GLAZIERS FLAG.

A view of a street with a number of buildings, one
heavily painted, and a man in the attitude of painting
on a ladder, the front of a house, a ship, and a man
painting the firm, a pillar with ten stripes, circular, a
sloped pillar the union flag, standing on a platform,
supported by ten pillars, three pillars lying down in-
directly—in the two upper corners, two men in each
at different work, painting and glazing—in the centre
of the two, the arms of the painters and glaziers. Arms
of three shielded goals, on the first a hammer, proper—in
the second a diamond—in the third a lodestone—in the
two upper shields a scale, in the centre of the field a
paint pot and brush—crest, a glass cap—supporters, on
the dexter side a man holding a pillar and pencil—on
the sinister, a man holding a fall hammer. Motto, "may
we succeed." Over the two poles that supported the
hammer a scroll, inscribed with a flag, this motto,
"May trade flourish and industry be rewarded."

CHARITABLE MAKERS.

Headed by Messrs. Carter, Rucker and Anderson.
Robert Carter bearing the arms of the profession, fol-
lowed by 30 apprentices, four a breast; 20 journey-men
in the same order.

Stage drawn by horses, on which, during the march,
a cradle and table were completed; on the stage, col-
ours fixed, representing a furniture ware house, where
the different species of their craft were displayed.
Motto, "Unity with fortitude." Sixteen master work-
men, four and four closed the order.

WINDSOR AND RUSH CHAIR-MAKERS.

Headed by Messrs. Thomas and William Alb, of the
windor chair manufactory; Messrs. Jacob Smith and Jo-
seph Dow, of the rush ditto, followed by sixty men
with green and red coats in their hats, emblematical
of their business: The standard borne by two men, re-
presenting a large manufactory shop, with a number of
workmen at work; in front of the shop, a view of the
river, several vessels bound to different parts, taking in
chaire, boys carrying them down to the wharves in a
corner, the American union, in the other, the chair
makers arms, a turning lathe and two windor chairs
properly emblazoned. Motto, "Free trade."

The federal states union bound.
On all the world our chairs are found.
Irony, TOBACCO and MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Headed by Mr. Abiathus Lusk and other masters of
the above handicrafts and trades. They bore a most
beautiful standard, in the upper part was the figure of
Apollo, (the God of music) sitting in the clouds, playing
on a lyre: round his head were brilliant rays of
gold. In a scabbard from Apollo's the corners, and
down the sides, hung the different instruments in the
manner of trophies. Underneath Apollo was America,
standing hand in hand with Europe, Asia, and Africa,
emblematical of love and friendship with all the
world.

Divine Apollo strikes his lyre.
Our breast he fills with true federal fire;
All nature smiles on this auspicious day;
When love and friendship joins the art,
Motto, "Federal Musical instrument makers."

DRUM-MAKERS.

A flag; drum-makers arms; 20 drums in the two
corners; a sheet of fax in the centre; top; a lamb on
dexter; on the left of the arms an oak tree; on the
right a man leaning on the arm, representing the drum-
maker, motto, "Federal drum-makers."

Tho' peacefully inclined, we are,
Let us prepare, lest there be war,
Our enemies may overcome,
Should we neglect the Federal drum."

Accompanying the Federal chair of state, a most
elegant exhibition. Each carrying a hammer ornamented
with fringe, painted to represent the different articles
of their business. Ten of these were topped with bril-
liant stars; and three with stars obscured in different
degrees. The Federal shaft was carried upon a hand-
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degrees. The Federal shaft was carried upon a hand-
saw frame, covered with the richest carpets—over it
was a banner, inscribed with the motto, "Federal drum-
makers."

Accompanying the Federal chair of state, a most
elegant exhibition. Each carrying a hammer ornamented
with fringe, painted to represent the different articles
of their business. Ten of these were topped with bril-
liant stars; and three with stars obscured in different
degrees. The Federal shaft was carried upon a hand-
saw frame, covered with the richest carpets—over it
was a banner, inscribed with the motto, "Federal drum-
makers."

By hammer in hand
All arts do stand.
The number, 120 in order, headed by Mr. John M.
Bain.

During the march, the blacksmiths exerted them-
selves in the federal cause. They began and almost
completed an anchor upon the flag—besides making
a number of other articles, as hooks and thumbles, horse
shoes, nails, &c.

SHIP BUILDERS.

A flag with their arms; in the field various in-
struments of the craft displayed, erected within ship, and
ornamented. Motto,

"Our merchants may venture to ship without fear,
"For villos of kill shall the Hamilton steer."
"This federal ship will our commerce revive,
"And merchants and shipwrights and joiners shall
thrive.

"On the ocean time flies about to set sail,
"Fair freedom her compass and concord the gale."

BOAT BUILDERS.

Headed by two masters. Barge rowed by proper
barge-men in proper dress; flag, held thirteen stars and
stripes, a print of his excellency Gen. Washington, and
under him a boat, a building, and a man, a cross and
drawing knife and plane. Motto,

"Accept great chief that share of honour's praise,
"A grateful people to your merit pay,
"Verse to thee mean your virtues to display,
"And words too meek our meaning to convey.

BLOCK AND PUMP MAKERS.

Finished a pump, raised three dozen shovels and
pits, made thirteen blocks, shaved and pinned com-
plete, on the flag during the procession.

A flag with thirteen different kinds of blocks painted
in an oval form, a pump boring in the centre. Motto,

"May our industry ever recommend us to employ-
ment under the federal government." A ship off the
flags, with only her fore-castle. Motto,

"Block me well, my spars here next,
"And join me to the federal fleet."

SAIL-MAKERS.

A flag drawn by four horses, on which was dis-
played their flag, representing the flag of the United
States; directly below, the ship New Constitution, un-
der full sail, in the centre of the flag, Col. Hamilton,
the new constitution in his right hand, and the confed-
eration in his left—Fame with a trumpet and laurels to
crown him: under this motto

"Let Reason's orb thine path pursue,
"Let Justice be our guide."
"The federal ship we keep in view,
"We fall if we divide."

Below this on the left, the inside of a gal loaf—the
miller workmen cutting out sails, with meat work—
On the right of this, a view of a river; a ship anchor,
representing commerce—a boat taking in sails to carry
on board—the out side of a gal loaf, at which men are
recting sails. During the procession, was finished on the
stage, a ship's fore top mull stay fall, a steering fall cut
out, on which was sewed about 50 yards, which was
performed by four men in white shirts and trousers,
their sleeves tied up with blue ribbon. The remain-
der of the bunch (37 in number) followed the