

Literary Proposal.

PROPOSAL, OF ISAIAH THOMAS & COMPANY,

PUBLISHED BY SUBSCRIPTION,

NEW PERIODICAL WORK, to be entitled

THE MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE:

OR MONTHLY MUSEUM

OF KNOWLEDGE AND RATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT.

Once called Spectator, and afterwards the Liberator.

Letter from the Editors, published in the

Magazine.

TO THE PUBLIC.

MAN Y attempts have hitherto been

made, to establish in this Commonwealth,

a work similar to the one intended by the Publishers

of this Proposal—but from some cause or other, the

Publications of the former Magazines in this Metropolis,

after making longer or a shorter trial, have failed of

success. The first publication of the kind was as early as about

the year 1749.—That work, entitled, *The American*

*Magazine*, was really a good one, and was continued

three years, but having few subscribers, and a want of

punctuality in some of them, were the reasons of its

discontinuance. The next that we recollect, made its

appearance about the year 1758, entitled, *The New-England*

*Magazine*—this was published only three

months. No other appeared until Jan. 1774—at that

time one of the Publishers of this proposal brought

forward *The Royal American Magazine*; or, *Universal*

*Repository of Light and Improvement*;—the entrance of

respectable subscribers, led the Editors to suppose that

the number of this work; led the Editors to suppose that

the critical situation of Public affairs, soon obliged us to

quit the undertaking. After the revolution, *The New*

*England Magazine*, made its appearance, and sometimes

afterwards another, entitled *The Gentleman and Lady's*

*Town and Country Magazine*—it might be, that a

great plenty of circulating CAPITAL about that time, was

one cause of the discontinuance of both these publica-

tions, as foreign Magazines were then more sought

after, and in short, every species of our own manufac-

ture at that period too much neglected—the scarcity of

CASH which frequently followed, and now continues, has

been the cause of our using much more economy, and

has taught us to fix a juster value on the productions of

our country. Another reason given by many for dis-

continuing the two last mentioned Magazines, was, that

two was one, too many—that possibly may not be the

case at this day.

The Publishers of this proposal are fully sensible of

the necessity of a new undertaking, and are desirous of

the great task, and are confident that they feel a difference

in their abilities to perform that part of the work which

will more immediately fall to their lot. They propose

however, to exert themselves in an endeavour to exe-

cute the typography in a manner that will give satisfac-

tion to the public, and to themselves, and to as

to induce Men of Genius to favour them with their

productions. They acknowledge that on such men

they must depend for the reputation and success of the

intended MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE. They

do not not profess of assistance from learned men

in different parts of the state, or of being urged by

them to undertake the publication; but they beg the

honour of becoming the Instruments to communicate

their Views to the public; in this they hope will be

granted them, so long as they shall pay that attention

to the business which the public will have a right

to expect.

Having mentioned the fate of several Magazines

which have hitherto been published, it may be ex-

pected, that we should assign some of the reasons which

have induced us to risk a Proposal for a similar Work

—they are as follows:—1. The complaint made for

the Want of a Monthly Magazine in this Commonwealth

as a repository for the original essays of Men of Learn-

ing and Ingenuity. 2. The many new Sources that are

now opened to cherish and support such a publication.

3. Being supplied with every material necessary to print

the work in a decent and respectable manner. 4. The

desire of a few friends that we would publish a Maga-

zine, as it is reasonably supposed that one such publi-

cation might now be supported with credit. 5. By this

means to aid ourselves in getting an honest livelihood,

with a hope of procuring, in proper time, some remunera-

tion in way of our profession. The considerations,

principally, have inclined us to issue a proposal, which

we have well viewed with candour—should it be

countenanced by a liberal Subscription, the Work will

very readily be put to Press—notice in this case will be

given in the public Newspapers, for the information of

Subscribers, and such as please to honour the first num-

ber with original pieces.

Should we be favoured with sufficient encouragement

to begin the MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE, we

hope gentlemen in the various branches of knowledge,

will permit us to request their assistance. The *Divine*

we supply us with religious and moral essays, which

tend to awaken and enliven our devotion to the Deity,

and to allure us to the exercise of benevolence and

Christianity to the world of our fellow beings. The

*Philosopher* can make us better acquainted with the

causes of events in mysterious nature, and lead us to

contemplate the great first cause of all. Among the

various branches of philosophy, essays on natural history,

and chemical and electrical experiments, will be

very acceptable. The *Astronomer* can acquaint us

with the movements of the heavenly bodies—and altho'

a *Herbist* may not be the production of the present

age in every climate, yet we believe the Astronomer of

our country can enrich our work with as great and

pleasing a variety as those of any other. *Mathematicians*

can supply us with treatises on the various branches

of the Mathematics, as well as Mathematical ques-

tions on useful subjects. The *Navigator* can communi-

cate his useful discoveries, for the benefit of his

featuring brethren, & the information & amusement of those

who please to read only in the page of description.—

The learned and friendly *Physician* can acquaint us with the

causes of disease to which the human body is subject,

and the best means of preserving health.—Remarkable

cases in *Surgery*, or any new medical discoveries, may

not only be the property of the day, but be a source of

pleasure, & a wiping the sweat of distress from the eye of

affliction.—The *Merchant* can furnish us with know-

ledge in the production of foreign climes, proper for

commercial purposes, to enrich our country.—*Household-*

*man*, the great supporters and pillars of our state, may

naturally assist each other by a communication of Agri-

cultural knowledge. The *Gardener and Beautifier* can

supply us with a beautiful and beneficial variety from

the unbounded field of nature. The *Geographer* can

communicate his discoveries, not only in foreign coun-

tries, but in those parts of America now in actual serv-

itude, and make us better acquainted with the land we live in.

The *Historian* can assist us to record memorable events

of our own and other ages, which may be beneficial

not only to the present but to future generations.—*Politicians*,

the guardians of the rights of the people, can

teach how to form, support and regulate good govern-

ments; short sketches, tending to these valuable pur-

poses, will be thankfully received.—The ingenious *Me-*

*chanician*, ever useful to the community, can supply us

with new inventions to facilitate our manufactures,

which, with the labours of the Husbandman, must make

us an independent people.—*Poets*, favoured with the

gift of divine, can furnish us from the Parnassian mount

with those beauties of sentiment which have a tendency

to improve the mind and mend the heart.—The harmon-

ious strains of the *Musician* may calm the turbulence of

passion, and enliven our felicity. The *Witty* can help

us to the source of entertainment, which is ever grate-

ful to our feelings, when not too strongly tainted

with ill-natured satires, and immodest flattery: We

would wish to gratify the taste of such as are fond of

an enlivening jest and a pleasing tale, but not to offend the

ear of chastity or create mischief, but not to offend the

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HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1788.

NORTHAMPTON, (MASSACHUSETTS) Published by WILLIAM BUTLER.

From a London Magazine of April last. THE OBSERVER.

THE various cruelties frequently exercised upon

brutes is a crime which, I believe, many commit,

without considering either the misery it produces,

or the guilt it incurs; and many more, who in its conse-

quences are obliged to disfigure themselves, or to

lose their eyes, or to be maimed, or to be otherwise

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the present posture of affairs at home, and in America.

THE SPEECH OF MISS CON SALEM, a Free-Negro, to

the abolition slaves in a considerable colony of the

West Indies.

Dear Fellow in Arms, and Brethren

in Slavery.

HAD your sufferings been less painful, I might

have enjoyed my own ease in an exemption from

danger; but in vain did my courage once exult

in defence of a matter, redeem me from the name of

a slave: I found no blessing in freedom, because no longer

a partaker of your misery.

While I was formerly one of your number, and

in search among wretches, I wanted sentiments to

reflect with justice on our wrongs; but I have since been

taught your wretchedness by six years of liberty

years not spent in ease and luxury, like the lives of our

oppressors, horridous diligence in pursuit of their

capacity and arts, to know and to make known, that

education and accident, not difference of genius, have

been the causes of this superiority, that bids a white man

despise and trample on a black one.

What confounds the advantage of these proud spoilers,

but superior happiness? They are no wiser by nature,

but more exercised in art than we are. Not braver,

but more crafty, and still the anger by discipline have

rules and modes in war, which educate the most nume-

rous armies of white people; while we sit idle, though

reclusively, yet notwithstanding, divide ourselves on our

necks, like a crowd of terrified, white slaves, within

its banks;—but breaking them down, and spreading its

streams is same, weak, and muddy.

As soon as I could read, I discovered that the holiest

of all books, the foundation of white men's religion, with

amazement and prophetic joy, that every man may from

whom they had the name given to me of Moses, had

been the happy deliverer of a nation from just such a

slavery as you have groined under; innumerable thou-

sands of his captive countrymen all unknowing their

rights and fortunes, like you, to labour for ungrateful

colour or country. We frequently discover them in

the deep recesses of Africa, and still oftener in the wilds

of America. If the Savage inhabitants (as they are

called) of forests, mountains, and mountainous

timber, make barbarous attacks on their neighbours, it is

not without some aggravation; but let us turn our

eyes for a moment only to those proud lords of the

universe, who boast of the refinement of the polite arts;

humanity and civilization who pride themselves in the

knowledge of divine revelation, and who shall find com-

mon among them crimes of the blackest hue, which

the most rigorous laws cannot restrain, and which owe

their source to pride, avarice, and ambition—crimes

unknown in AFRICA or nations, and (bring to think on)

practised only among the enlightened and polite.

From the New-York packet.

Messa. Loupou,

Please to insert the following observations of an experi-

enced gentleman Farmer