

GENTLEMEN,
I send you the following POETRY, said to have been
written by Miss E. —, who lately died
at Danvers, no doubt but that if you think it
worthy, you will publish it.

DISAPPOINTMENT.

WITH fond impatience all the tedious day,

I sigh'd, and wish'd the lingering hours away;

For when bright Heav'n led the starry train,

My shepherd twirled to meet me on the plain;

With eager haste to find dear spot I flew,

And linger'd long, and then with tears withdrew:

Alone, abounding' to love's tendered woe,

Down the pale cheeks the tide of sorrow flows;

Dead to all joys that fortune can bestow,

In vain for me her future bonanzas flow;

Take back each envied gift ye powers divine,

And only let me call FIDELIO mine.

Ah wretched ! what anguish yet thy soul must prove,

Ere thus canst hope to lose thy care and love;

And when FIDELIO meets thy fearful eye,

Pale fear and cold despair his presence fly;

With pensive steps, I sought thy walks again,

And kiss'd thee, smiling, on the verdant plain;

With fondest hope, then many a blissful hour,

We gave the souls to fancy's pleasing pow' ;

Look'd on the magic of that sweet employ,

To build gay scenes, and fashion future joy,

We saw mid peace o'er fair canaan rise,

And show'd thy pleasure from benignant skies

O'er hills our happy mansion rofe,

Built but for joy, as room for future woes,

Round the calm solitude, with scenes of song,

Sleep of innocence, the day,

By transports measur'd lightly slipp'd away :

To love, to bliss, the union'd soul was given,

And ah ! too happy, ask'd no brighter heaven,

And must the hours in ceaseless anguish roll ?

Will no soft sunshine cheer my clouded soul ?

Can this dear earth no transient joy supply ?

It is thy doom to hope, despair and die !

Oh come, once more, with fond enchantment come,

Burst the cold prison of the sultry tomb :

Thro', fav'rite walks thy chosen Maid attend,

Where well known shades their pleasing branches bend,

Slid the soft poison from thy speaking eye,

And look those raptur'd lips words deny,

Still be the late reward when ne'er could tire,

But, sold each eve, fresh pleasures would inspire;

Still hope those scenes which love and fancy drew;

But drawn a thousand times, were ever new,

Can faint pain, can words expel ?

Can might on earth my woes relate ?

Even thy soft smiles ceaseth prove :

Thy truth thy tenderness and love :

Once thou could' every bliss infuse,

Transporting joy, and gay desire;

Now cold depair her han'nyean rear,

And pleasure fits when she appears ;

Fond Hope within my bosom dic,

And agony her place supposse :

Or else I for whose dear sake I bear

A doom so dreadful, so severe,

May happy fates thy footsteps guide,

And o'er thy peaceful home preside;

Nor let E — — 'tis early comb

Infect thee with its baleful gloom.

A LETTER TO CHARACTERS DECIPHERED.

MUST I die alone ? Shall I never see you more ? —

I know not what you will come, but you will come

too late : This is, I fear, my last ability. Tears fall so

I know not how to write. Why did you leave me in

so much distress, but I will not reproach you : All

that was dear I left for you ; but do not regret it.—May

God forgive in both what was amiss : When I go from

hence, I will leave you some way to find me : — If I

die, you will come and drop a tear over my grave ?

Boston, August, 1788.

Literary Proposal.

PROPOSAL,

ISAIAH THOMAS & COMPANY,

PUBLISHING BY SUBSCRIPTION,

NEW periodical work, to be entitled

Massachusetts Magazine :

MONTHLY MUSEUM

Knowledge and rational Entertainment.

One full volume, qui multum vult.

Lectures delectando, partituræ mundus.

HORACE.

TO THE PUBLIC.

MANY attempts have, heretofore 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 Publishers of the former Magazine 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 1779 : 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 reason of its discontinuance. The next we recollect, made its appearance about the year 1782, entitled, "The New-England Magazine" : this was published only three months. No other appeared until Jan. 1784—at that time one of the Publishers of this proposal brought forward "The Royal American Magazine" : Or, "Universal Repository of Instruction and Amusement" ; the encyclopedic subscribers, after the publication of the first number of this work, led the Editor to suppose that it met with a kind reception from an indulgent public :—the critical situation of Public affairs, soon obliged him to quit the undertaking. After the revolution, "The Boston Magazine," made its appearance, and sometime afterwards another, entitled "The Gentleman and Lady's Town and Country Magazine" : it might be, that a great plenty of circulating CASH about that time, was one cause of the discontinuance of both these publications, as foreign Magazines were then more sought after, and in short, every species of our own manufacture was at that period too much neglected.—The name of "The Magazine" may calm the turbulence of us to that fund of entertainment, which is ever grateful to our feelings, when not too strongly tickled with ill-natured sarcasm, and immodeal remarks : We would wish to gratify the taste of such as are fond of enlivening jest and a pleasing tale, but not to offend ear of charity or create mirth for one person which will give pain to another ; we shall therefore ever carefully not to trespass on domestic happiness, or recall recollects of scandal from the gardens of literary amusement we would strive to collect the choicer flowers, but would carefully avoid the thorns. In them, all classes of our citizens can contribute to make out Monthly Minuteman worthy of public notice, and should we ever begin our intended work, we shall feel ourselves indebted for valuable contributions, from

not only to the present but future generations.—Patriots, the guardians of the rights of the people, can teach how to form, support and regulate good government ; short sketches, tending to these valuable persons, will be thankfully received.—The ingenious Mechanick, ever useful to the community, can supply us with new inventions to facilitate our manufactures, which, with the labours of the Husbandman, will make us an independent people.—Poets, favoured with the gift divine, can furnish us from the Persianian camp to improve the mind and mend the heart.—The harmonious strains of the Musician may calm the turbulence of passion, and enliven our felicity.—The Writer can help us to that fund of entertainment, which is ever grateful to our feelings, when not too strongly tickled with ill-natured sarcasm, and immodeal remarks : We would wish to gratify the taste of such as are fond of enlivening jest and a pleasing tale, but not to offend ear of charity or create mirth for one person which will give pain to another ; we shall therefore ever carefully not to trespass on domestic happiness, or recall recollects of scandal from the gardens of literary amusement we would strive to collect the choicer flowers, but would carefully avoid the thorns. In them, all classes of our citizens can contribute to make out Monthly Minuteman worthy of public notice, and should we ever begin our intended work, we shall feel ourselves indebted for valuable contributions, from

whatever quarter they may flow.

The publishers of this proposal are fully sensible of the magnitude of the undertaking—the expense will be great—the task arduous—and they feel a diffidence of their abilities to perform that part of the work which will most immediately fail to their lot. They promise however, to exert themselves in an endeavour to execute the typography in a manner that will give satisfaction to their engravers and to themselves, and so as to induce Men of Genius to favor them with their productions. They acknowledge that on such men they must depend for the reputation and success of the intended MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE. They boast not of promises of assistance from learned men in different parts of the firm, or of being urged by them to undertake the publication ; but they beg the honour of becoming the Instruments to communicate their Essays to the public : this they hope will be granted them, so long as they shall pay attention to the business which the public will have a right to expect.

Having mentioned the fate of several Magazines which have heretofore been published, it may be expected that we should sign some of the reasons which have induced us to risk a Proposital 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 Learning and Ingenuity. 2. The many new Sciences 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 Magazine, as it is reasonably supposed that one such publication 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 reputation in way of proficiency. These considerations, principally, have inclined us to make a proposal, which we hope will be viewed with candour—should it be countenanced by a liberal Subscription, the Work will very shortly be put to Press—so far as that can be done by the public in the Magazine, for the information of Subscribers, and such a pleafe to honour the first number with original pieces.

We are, with the greatest respect, the public's obedient and very humble servants.

ISAIAH THOMAS & CO.

Conditions of Publication.

1. THE MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE, should

be published by

regularly

in the first week of every month.

2. Every number will contain sixty-four pages of Letter Press, in Demy O'Clock, neatly printed on good paper, and be covered as Magazine usually are.

3. In each number will be presented one Copperplate Engraving, together with some favorite Piece of Vocal or Instrumental Music printed typographically. Could we stay time enough giving a Copperplate, eight pages of Letter Press shall be added, in lieu of, or an additional Piece of Music ; and if it should be granted, then there shall be an addition of sixteen pages of Letter Press, for the Magazine of that month, where the failure happens.

4. At the expiration of every 12 months (or completion of every volume) an Index and Title Page will be presented gratis, together with a Copperplate Head-piece.

5. Each subscriber to be at liberty to discontinue taking the MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE at the end of a quarter.

6. The price to subscribers will be Fifteen Shillings per Annum, to be paid in Quarterly Payments : The first payment to be made on delivery of the first Number ; the second payment at the end of the second quarter ; and afterwards at the expiration of every three months. Those who prefer paying monthly will be served at the same rate, provided they subscribe for three months.

7. The first Number will be put into the Press as soon as 100 Copies are subscribed for, although that Number will be no ways sufficient to defray the expenses of executing the Work in the manner we propose.

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