

From the MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE.
To the Editors of the MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

From a full conviction that the inclosed Letter from the late General VARNUM to his most amiable Lady, (written a few days before his departure from this dis-tempered state of being) will give pleasure to every feeling heart, I have obtained leave to present it to your numerous readers. I am with respectful esteem, Yours, &c. J. M.

My dearest and most amiable Friend.

NOW write to you from my sick chamber, and perhaps it shall be the last letter you will ever receive from me. My lungs are so far affected that it is impossible for me to recover, but by a change of air, and warmer climate. I expect to leave this place on Sunday next, for the falls of the Ohio. If I feel myself strong by the time, I shall go no further, but if not, and my fitting's shall continue, I expect to proceed on to New Orleans, and from thence by the West Indies to Rhode Island. My physician, most of them, think the chance of recovery in my favor. However, I am neither elevated or depressed by the force of opinion, but shall meet my fate with humility and fortitude.

I cannot, however, but indulge the hope, that I shall again embrace my lovely friend in this world; and that we may glide smoothly down the tide of time for a few years, and enjoy together the more substantial happiness and satisfaction, as we have already the desirable pleasure of life.

It is now almost nineteen years since heaven condescended as by the tenderest and most sacred ties, and it is the same length of time, that our friendship hath been increased, by every rational, and every endearing motive; it is now stronger than death; and I am firmly persuaded will follow us into an existence of never ceasing felicity. But, my lovely friend, the gloomy moment will arrive, when we must part; and should it arrive during our present separation, my last and my only relishing thoughts will be employed about my dear Patty.

Life, my dearest friend, is but a bubble; it soon bursts, and is remitted to eternity. When we look back to the earliest recollection of our youthful hours, it seems but the last period of our rite, and we appear to emerge from a night of gloom to look forward to real existence. When we look forward, time appears as indeterminate as eternity, and we have no idea of its termination, but by the period of our dissolution.

What particular connection it bears to a future state our general notions of religion cannot point. We feel something constantly active within us, that is evidently beyond the reach of mortality; but whether it be a part of ourselves, or an emanation from the pure Source of Existence; or reabsorbed when Death shall have finished his work, human wisdom cannot determine. Whether the demolition of the body introduces only a change in the manner of our being, and leaves us to progress, infinitely, alternately; elevated, or depressed, according to the propriety of our conduct, or whether only we return into the common mass of whatsoever matter, philosophy, hesitates to decide.

I know, therefore, but one source from whence we derive complete consolation in a dying hour; and that is, the divine system contained in the gospel of Jesus Christ. There life & immortality are brought to light; there we are taught that our excellencies to be eternal; and, secure of an interest in the atoning merits of a bleeding Saviour, that we shall be inconveniently happy. A firm, unshaken faith in this doctrine, most raises us above the doubts and fears that hang upon every other system, and engage us to view, with calm serenity, the approach of the King of Terrors; and to behold him as a kind indulgent friend, spreading his shafts only to carry us to our everlasting home.

But should there still be a more exalted religion beyond the veil, and without the reach of mortal observation, the Christian religion is by no means fallen thereby; as it is not opposed to any principle, that admits the perfect benevolence of the Deity.

My only doubt is, whether the punishments threatened in the New-Testament, are annexed to a state of unbelief, which may be removed hereafter, and so a retribution take place; or whether the state of the mind at death irrevocably fixes its doom forever. I hope and pray that the divine spirit will give me such assurances of an acceptance with God, through the death and sufferings of his son, as to brighten the way to immediate happiness.

Dry up your tears, my charming mourner; nor suffer this letter to give you too much inquietude. Consider the facts present as in theory, but the sentiments such as will apply whenever the great change shall come.

I know that humanity must and will be indulged in its keenest griefs; but there are no advantages in too deeply anticipating our inevitable sorrows.

If I did not persuade myself that you would conduct with becoming prudence and fortitude upon this occasion, my own unhappiness would be greatly increased, and perhaps my disorders too; but I have so much confidence in your discretion, as to unbosom my inward foul.

You must not expect to hear from me again until the coming spring, as the river will soon be shut up; and there will be no communication from below; and if in a situation for the purpose, will return as soon as practicable.

Give my sincerest love to all those you hold dear; I hope to see them again, and love them more than ever. Adieu, my dearest, dear friend! and while I fervently devote, in one undivided prayer, our immortal souls, to the care, forgiveness, mercy, and all prevailing grace of heaven, in time and through eternity. Most bid you a long, long, long farewell.

JAMES M. VARNUM.

PARTICULARS relative to Gen. HARMAR's Expedition against the Hostile Indians.

From the PENNSYLVANIA PACKET.

LAST night Lieut. DENNY arrived from Fort Washington, the head-quarters of the troops on the Ohio, and brought the following important letters, by which it will appear, that the main objects of the late expedition have been accomplished, notwithstanding the reports of the contrary. The loss of Major Wyllys, Major Fontaine, and the other brave officers and men who gallantly fell in the service of their country, is to be sincerely regretted.

General HARMAR's Letter to the Secretary at War, Fort Washington, Nov. 9, 1790.

"Sir,

"On the 29th of last month, I had the honor to inform you generally of the success that had attended General Harmar—I could not then give you the particulars, as the General's letters had not reached me (the officer however who had them in charge got it a few days afterwards). It is not now necessary, because he writes himself. One thing, however, is certain, that the savages have got a more mortal stroke, of which nothing can be a greater proof, than that they have not attempted to intercept the army on its return.—They arrived at this place on the 3d inst. in good health and spirits. They are not yet very account from Major Hamtramck. I trust he also has been successful, but I have no certain, that so great misfortune can have happened to him, in that case we should certainly have heard of it.

"Mr. Deny, the gentleman who takes General Harmar's Dispatches, I beg leave to mention to you in a particular manner, and if you will be pleased to do so to the President in his favor, you may be assured it will not disappoint any expectations that may be formed. He has every quality that I could wish a young man to possess, that means to make the army his profession. There are however some traits in his character as a man, that are not generally known, that would endanger him—One of the little pittance he receives, he has maintained two aged parents for a long time."

Head-quarters, Fort Washington, November 4, 1790.

Sir,

"I have the honor to inform you, that on the 30th September, I marched with 320 federal troops, and 1133 militia; total 1433. After encountering a few difficulties, we gained the Miami village. It was abandoned before we entered it, which I was very sorry for. The villainous traders would have been a principal object of attention. I beg leave to refer you to my orders which are inclosed. The substance of the work is this, our loss was heavy, but the head-quarters of inquiry were broken up. At a moderate computation, not less than 100 or 120 warriors were slain, and 300 log-houses and wigwams burned. Our loss about 120. The remainder of the Indians will be still off for sustenance. Twenty thousand barrels of Indian corn in the cask were destroyed by the army, with regiments in abundance. The loss of Major Wyllys, and Lieutenant Frothingham, of the federal troops, and a number of valuable militia officers, I sincerely lament.

The bearer, Lieut. Deny, is my Adjutant. It will afford me great satisfaction to know that some man of honor will be shown to him. His long and faithful services merit it. There is a vast deal of business in this western world. If there is no impropriety in giving me an Aid-de-camp, I will him to be the person.

My very dear friends I shall enter into the minutiae of every other system, and engage you to view, with calm serenity, the approach of the King of Terrors; and to behold him as a kind indulgent friend, spreading his shafts only to carry us to our everlasting home.

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With perfect esteem,

Your most humble and obedient servant,
(Signed) JOS. HARMAR, Lt. Col. Com.

1st United States Regiment.

N. B. My Adjutant is really and truly an officer.

To the Hon. Maj. Gen. Knox, Secretary of War.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-quarters, Fort Washington, Nov. 4, 1790.

THE Kentucky and Pennsylvania militia are to be mustered this afternoon at 2 o'clock, by Capt. Zeigler. The order and regularity which the militia observed on their return to the Ohio river, was highly commendable. Upon the whole the General is exceedingly pleased with their conduct during the expedition. Notwithstanding our loss was great, yet, when they reflect that the army, in five weeks, not only effected the capital objects of destroying the Miami village and the Manassas towns, as they are generally called, with the vast quantity of corn and vegetables thereof, but also killed upwards of 100 of their warriors, it must afford every man the greatest satisfaction.

The militia from Kentucky are to receive pay until the 10th inst. provisions are to be drawn for them until that time, and to-morrow morning they are to march to their respective houses.

The General returns his thanks to every officer and private for their good conduct, and hereby discharges them with honour and reputation. The wounded men are to be left under the care of Dr. Aliffon and his mates, who will take all possible care of them.

JOS. HARMAR, Brig. Gen.

Return of the killed and wounded upon the expedition against the Miami towns, under the command of Brigadier General Harmar.

Head-quarters, Fort Washington, Nov. 4, 1790.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Killed of the Federal Troops.

1 Major, 1 Lieutenant, 73 rank and file, total 75.

Wounded 3 rank and file.

Killed of the Militia.

1 Major, 3 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 93

rank and file, total 108.

Wounded 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 25 rank and file, total 38.

Total killed 153. Wounded 131.

Killed of the Federal Troops.

Majors Wyllys, and Lieutenant Frothingham.

Killed of the Militia.

Major Fontaine—Captains, Thorp, Scott, and M. Sweet, Bridges, Higgins, Threlkeld.

Wounded Lieutenants, Sanders, and Worthy. Ensign Arnold.

(Signed) JOS. HARMAR, Brig. Gen.

Extract of a letter from the Secretary of War, dated October 21, 1790.

President of the United States.

LIEUTENANT DENNY, Fort Washington.

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