A REPRESENTATION of the FIGURES exhibited and paraded through the Streets of PHILADELPHIA, on Saturday, the 30th of September, 1780.

DESCRIPTION of the FIGURES.

A STAGE raised on the body of a car, on which was an effigy of General ARNOLD sitting; this was derived from a mangnificent, had two faces, emblematical of his extreme conduct, a mask in his left hand, and a letter in his right from Belford, telling him that he had done all the mischief he could do, and now he must hang himself.

At the back of the General was a figure of the Devil, derived in black robes, holding a purse of money at the general’s left ear, and in his right hand a piece of bread, ready to drive him into hell as the reward due for the many crimes which the third of gold had made him commit.

In the front of the stage and before General Arnold, was placed a large lantern of transparent paper, with the confessions of his crimes thus delineated, i.e. on one part, General Arnold on his knees before the Devil, who is pulling him into the flame—a label from the General’s mouth with these words, “My dear Sir, I have served you faithfully,” to which the Devil replies, “And I’ll reward you.” On another side, two figures from a gallows, intitled, “The Traitor rewarded.” And on the front of the lantern was wrote the following:

“MAJOR GENERAL BENJIDCT ARNOLD, late COMMANDER of the FORT WEST-POINT. THE CRIME OF THIS MAN IS HIGH TREASON. He has defiled the important post WEST-POINT, on Hud-son’s River, committed to his charge by His Excellency the Commander in Chief, and is gone off to the enemy at New-York.

“His design to have given up this fortress to our enemies, has been disco- vered by the principal of the Omiddont Centre, who has not only revealed his carrying it into execution, but has shown two of our hands, ANDRE, the Adjutant General of their army, who was deposited in the chamber of a spy.

“The treachery of this ungrateful General is held up to public view, for the expiation of immorality, and to prevent with joyful acclamation, another instance of the interception of legitimate Precedence.

“The effigy of this inrast is therefore hanged (for want of his body) as a Traitor to his native country, and a Betrayer of the lives of honour.

The procession began about four o’clock, in the following order:

Several Gentlemen mounted on inseg-bach.
A line of Continental Officers.
Sunday Gentlemen in a line.
A guard of the City Infantry.
Just before the car, heavy and fine playing the Regue March.

The procession was attended with a numerous concourse of people, who after exgaling their adoration of the Traitor and the Trotary, committed him to the flame, and left both the effigy and the original to sink into ashes and oblivion.

I WAS Arnold’s nurse for Harry Souchis, Arnold never enter’d in his thought, How ends the bargain? let us see, The fort is fall, a fate can lie, His favourite per force must die, His view’s laid bare to every eye; His money’s gone—and let him gain One foundred! more for all his pain, Asses was gen’rous, true, and brave, And in his room, he buys a knave, ‘Tis far ordain’d, that Arnold cheats All those, of course, with whom he treats, Now let the Devil keep his bite Or Arnold cheats him of his right. Mobs shall fill their children, and say—Arnold! Arnold shall be the bug-bear of their years, Arnold!—wise, resolute, and hang’d with salt.
In September 1780 Benedict Arnold, the commander of early American victories in the Revolution, barely escaped arrest for treason against the United States. For a year he had been delivering military secrets to the British, and soon began plotting—with the British spy chief John André—to turn over the fort of West Point to the enemy (for a price). When Arnold learned that André had been arrested with proof of the plot, he fled to a nearby British ship. Washington offered to exchange André for Arnold, but the British refused and André was soon hanged. Arnold became a general in the British army (part of his price for betraying West Point) and after the war settled in London. The extensive newspaper coverage included this cartoon published as a broadside in Philadelphia, its text reprinted in numerous newspapers throughout the states. Arnold was a despised man and a symbol of deep treachery.

A STAGE raised on the body of a cart, on which was an effigy of General ARNOLD sitting; this was dressed in regimentals, had two faces, emblematical of his traitorous conduct, a mask in his left hand, and a letter in his right from Belzebub, telling him that he had done all the mischief he could do, and now he must hang himself.

At the back of the General was a figure of the Devil, dressed in black robes, shaking a purse of money at the general’s left ear, and in his right hand a pitch-fork, ready to drive him into hell, as the reward due for the many crimes which the thief of gold [see note, right] had made him commit.

In the front of the stage and before General Arnold was placed a large lanthorn of transparent paper, with the consequences of his crimes thus delineated, i.e. on one part, General Arnold on his knees before the Devil, who is pulling him into the flames—a label from the General’s mouth with these words, “My dear Sir, I have served you faithfully;” to which the Devil replies, “and I’ll reward you.” On another side, two ropes from a gallows, inscribed, “The Traitors reward.” And on the front of the lanthorn was written the following:

“MAJOR GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD, late COMMANDER OF THE FORT WEST-POINT. THE CRIME OF THIS MAN IS HIGH TREASON. He has deserted the important post WEST-POINT, on Hudson’s River, committed to his charge by His Excellency the Commander in Chief, and is gone off to the enemy at New-York.

His design to have given up this fortress to our enemies has been discovered by the goodness of the Omniscient Creator, who has not only prevented his carrying it into execution, but has thrown into our hands ANDRE, the Adjutant-General of their army, who was detected in the infamous character of a spy.

The treachery of this ungrateful General is held up to public view for the exposition of infamy; and to proclaim with joyful acclamation another instance of the interposition of bounteous Providence.

The effigy of this ingrate is therefore hanged (for want [lack] of his body) as a Traitor to his native country, and a Betrayer of the laws of honour.”

The procession began about four o’clock, in the following order:


The procession was attended with a numerous concourse of people, who, after expressing their abhorrence of the Treason and the Traitor, committed him to the flames, and left both the effigy and the original to sink into ashes and oblivion.

TW A S Arnold’s POST, sir Harry sought, Arnold ne’er enter’d in his thought, How ends the bargain? let us see, The fort is safe, as safe can be, His favourite per force must die His view’s laid bare to ev’ry eye; His money’s gone—and lo! he gains One scoundrel more for all his pains. ANDRE was gen’rous, true, and brave, And in his room, he buys a knave. ’Tis sure ordain’d, that Arnold cheats All those, of course, with whom he treats. Now let the Devil suspect a bite Or Arnold cheats him of his right.

Mothers shall still their children, and say—Arnold!—Arnold shall be the bug-bear of their years. Arnold!—wile! treacherous, and leagued with Satan.

GLOSSARY

effigy: representation of a disliked person, often to be hanged or burned in a public ritual.
regimentals: military uniform and insignia of a regiment.
Belzebub: Satan, the devil (Beelzebub).
lanthorn: lantern.
thief of gold: “thirst of gold” in transcription printed in the Pennsylvania Packet, 3 October 1780.
late commander: recent, previous.
design: plan.
Andre: British general John André, Arnold’s co-conspirator; hanged as a spy 2 Oct. 1780.
sundry: various, assorted, a collection of.
“Rogue’s March”: tune played when a military man or disliked person is publicly paraded as a “rogue”
sir Harry: Sir Henry Clinton, commander of British forces in North America, whose “favorite,” André, had per force (by necessity) to be hanged.
bug-bear: similar to bogeyman.