

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 cart, on which was an effigy of General ARNOLD fitting; 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 pitchfork, ready to drive him into hell as the reward due for the many crimes which the thief 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 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 lantern 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 Omnipotent 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 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 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:

Several Gentlemen mounted on horse-back.

A line of Continental Officers.

Sundry Gentlemen in a line.

A guard of the City Infantry.

Just before the cart, drums and fifes playing the Rogues March.

Guards on each side.

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.

'T WAS Arnold's post fir 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 fill their children, and say—Arnold!—
Arnold shall be the bug-bear of their years,
Arnold!—wile, treacherous, and plagued with Satan.*

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,

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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 wrote the following:

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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.