



THE  
**A M E R I C A N M U S E U M,**  
 Or, UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE,  
 For APRIL, 1790.

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**C O N T E N T S.**  
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**O R I G I N A L A R T I C L E S.**

P R O S E.

1. Meteorological observations made in Philadelphia, March 1790,	174
2. Observations on the weather in February 1790,	175
3. Observations on the weather in March 1790,	<i>ibid.</i>
4. Short account of St. Patrick,	176
5. History of Amelia Stanford,	173
6. Observations on the religion of the Chinese: by an American traveller,	181
7. Observations on the increasing power of the English in the East Indies,	182
8. Remarks on longevity and fruitfulness,	183
9. Some account of the Creek Indians,	184
10. Remarks on the instalment law of South Carolina,	185
11. Alphabetical list of exports from Philadelphia, in 1788,	187
12. A valedictory oration delivered at Princeton, in 1784,	191
13. Oration on capital punishments,	193

P O E T R Y.

14. Delia to Emma,	[APP. I. 32
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**S E L E C T E D A R T I C L E S.**

P R O S E.

15. Essay on the varieties of complexion and figure in the human species,	195
16. Short coats versus long coats,	203
17. Account of men raised for the British navy, from 1774 to 1780,	204
18. Account of the men who died in the British navy from 1776 to 1780,	<i>ibid.</i>
19. Account of an extraordinary halo,	<i>ibid.</i>
20. State of the public revenue of Europe,	205
21. State of Holland in 1787,	<i>ibid.</i>
22. Number of inhabitants in some of the principal cities of Europe,	206
23. Instances of longevity in America,	<i>ibid.</i>
24. List of bankrupts in England from 1740 to 1787,	<i>ibid.</i>
25. Exports from Canada and Nova Scotia to Jamaica,	<i>ibid.</i>
26. Mode of manufacturing glue,	207
27. Extraordinary instance of female heroism,	<i>ibid.</i>
28. A hint,	208
29. Law case,	<i>ibid.</i>
30. Edwin's urn—a fragment,	209
31. A sentimental fragment,	<i>ibid.</i>
32. Sketch of the life of General Greene,	210
33. Sketch of the character of the late general Nelson,	212

34. Short account of the life and character of Thomas Hutchins, 212  
 35. Masonic toasts—London 1785, 213  
 36. Anecdote of an American officer, *ibid.*  
 37. Anecdote of a Corsican, 214  
 38. Anecdote of a private soldier's mistress, *ibid.*  
 39. Anecdote of dr. Thomas, *ibid.*  
 40. Anecdote of a poor Greek poet, *ibid.*  
 41. Character of the Virginians, 215  
 42. The maid of Switzerland, 216  
 43. The American Spectator, 221  
 44. Curious circumstance, 222  
 45. Address of the quakers to congress, respecting the slave trade, APP. II. [26  
 46. Address of the Roman catholics to the president of the united states, [27  
 47. Answer to the above address, [28  
 48. Report of a committee of both houses of the legislature of Massachusetts. [29
- POETRY.
49. Time's address to the ladies, APP. I. [30  
 50. The preference : addressed to Maria, [31

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*Meteorological observations made in Philadelphia, March 1790.*

Days	Thermom.		Barometer		Wind	Weather.
	7AM	3PM	7AM	3PM		
1	30	40	30.3	30.2	NE.	clear and cool, snow, heavy rain,
2	40	37	29.7	29.7	SW.	cloudy, pleasant, clear.
3	40	35	29.5	29.7	NW.	clear, fresh gale, cold, high wind.
4	16	27	30.4	30.4	NW.	hard frost, clear, cold, high wind.
5	25	41	30.4	30.3	W.	clear, cold, pleasant.
6	38	37	30.1	30.1	W.	rain. [rain,
7	38	40	29.7	30.2	S.NW.	fresh gale, overcast, high wind,
8	24	30	30.	30.	NW.NE.	clear and cold—stormy.
9	4	6	30.6	30.5	NW.	clear and very cold. [snow.
10	18	28	30.5	30.5	W.	fresh gale, clear and cold, deep
11	32	33	30.	29.9	NE.NW.	overcast, clear and moderate.
12	27	25	30.3	30.3	NW.W.	clear and moderate.
13	33	40	30.2	30.2	SW.	cloudy—clear.
14	39	40	30.1	30.2	SW.NE.	cloudy—rain.
15	33	46	30.4	30.4	W.NW.	clear and moderate.
16	37	43	30.5	30.4	E.NE.	cloudy—cold—heavy rain.
17	40	54	30.6	29.7	NE.SW.	overcast—cold—heavy rain.
18	45	43	29.8	29.9	NW.	cloudy—fresh gale.
19	40	43	30.4	30.4	NW.	clear and moderate.
20	33	49	30.6	30.4	SE.S.	clear—cold—moderate.
21	33	50	30.3	30.1	S.	clear and pleasant.
22	50	60	30.	29.8	NW.S.	clear—very pleasant—rain.
23	45	50	30.	30.	NW.E.	cloudy—rain in the night.
24	42	44	29.9	29.8	NW.W.	cloudy—small rain—cloudy.
25	46	55	29.9	30.	NW.NE	clear and pleasant.
26	44	48	30.	30.	S.	rain.
27	45	55	29.7	29.6	NE.	cloudy.
28	46	55	30.1	30.1	NW.	cloudy.
29	43	47	30.2	30.2	NE.	overcast.
30	48	46	30.3	30.2	NE.W.	clear and moderate.
31	33	45	30.5	30.4	NE.E.	clear and moderate.

Thermometer highest 60. lowest 4. Barometer highest 30.6 : lowest 29.6

	Eur. & East Indies.	Unit. St.	W. Ind.	B. & Sp.	Amer <sup>e</sup>
<b>Tobacco</b> —tierces,		16			
barrels,		52	27		
hohheads,	2,910	76	115		
boxes,		7	6		
<b>Tea</b> —chests,		706	10		9
1-2 ditto,		126			
1-4 ditto,		272			
1-8 ditto,		40			
boxes,		185			
<b>Wheat, &amp;c.</b> —bushels	154,768	6,731			
hogheads		81	25		
barrels		72	40		
<b>Wagons, carts &amp; drays,</b>		62	30		
<b>Wine</b> —pipes,	780	616	30		
half do.		169	7		3
hogheads,	116				
quarter casks,	439	909	70		23
casks,	583	457			45
tierces,		25			
kegs,		17			
boxes,			22		
<b>Whalebone</b> —packs,	11				
<b>Wheelbarrows, &amp;c.</b>		118	18		
<b>Wind</b> for chairs,	132	3,804			



*A valedictory oration, delivered at  
Princeton college, in 1784.*

**T**O a mind, that is tenderly susceptible, and strongly retentive of early impressions, few things are more painful than to be parted from an object with which it has long been familiar. Man is a creature of habit; what he has long been acquainted with, he becomes attached to, from this single cause. "I would not," says an eminent French philosopher, "have an old post pulled up, or an aged tree cut down, which I have long been used to behold and visit." But when the object has insinuated itself into our hearts, by its conformity to the principles of taste, or its congeniality with our affectionate feelings, we lament the separation with tenfold affliction—we pause on those circumstances or scenes, which were most pleasing—and by a comparison, with such as future life may present, augment the distress of parting.

With such sentiments it is, that on

the present occasion, we address you, reverend and worthy gentlemen. When we call to mind that the institution, at which we have received the rudiments of our education, the seminary where we have been instructed in the sublime art of promoting our own best happiness, by reverence to our Maker, and usefulness to man, is patronized and superintended by your goodness, and fidelity—when we remember, that under your guardian care, it has flourished, and we have been highly benefited, our hearts glow with gratitude, to the mediate instruments of our privileges and our happiness. Often, in the course of our future days, as we sensibly feel the advantages that result from a liberal and religious education—often, as we find the cup of life sweetened by the ingredients of knowledge and virtue—we will remember the fount at which it was filled, and as we quaff it off, pay you, reverend and worthy gentlemen, a tribute of thanks, and from hearts fraught with gratitude and affection, breathe a

prayer to heaven, for the health and happiness of the honourable board of trustees of Nassau hall.

*The president.*

To you, reverend and dear sir, we cannot turn at this time without emotion of a grateful and pensive kind. For when, through the avenue of the last years of our life, we trace the many sweet scenes that break on the mental sight—when we recall the instructions, we have received from your lips, and recollect how well they are calculated to plant peace in our own bosoms, and to enable us to communicate it to others; the levity of youth gives way to the deep gratitude of riper years, and the reverence of the pupil is lost in the affection of a child. May the sentiments, inspired by your enlightning lessons, never be erased! May they answer the good purposes, for which they were delivered! and to periods yet far remote, bear an honourable testimony of your capacity and fidelity, in training the youth, entrusted to your care, to habits of industry, temperance and piety! And that yourself, reverend and dear sir, whose high attainments in political and literary knowledge, have not been able to stop the foot of Time—that yourself, while drawing near to the close of your pilgrimage, may, yet in health and peace, live to see these plants of your care, blossom and produce much fruit—is the sincere wish of your affectionate pupils.

*Vicepresident.*

But to the more immediate director of our youthful pursuits—to our guide—teacher—and friend—what shall the debtors of his goodness—the last born of his care and instruction, say? Shall they approach him, with reverence of his talents—with gratitude for his attention—or with wishes for his happiness? Alas—reverence before him looks up and is silent—gratitude exceeds the power of language—and wishes for his happiness, impatiently wait the occasion of evincing their sincerity. Yet duty, and the occasion, prompt our parting tribute. And what, beloved sir, can we, whom your lips and conduct have

equally instructed, offer with hopes of acceptance, better than the warm emotions of grateful minds? We would also pray for your health, for that health which the sons of science—which the lovers of mankind—and the parents of promising sons, have such reason to pray may be preserved perfect.

May you be long continued a blessing to this institution—to your country—to religion—and the world: and while you continue to form the minds of the American youth—the rude Indian and degraded African shall unite in praise of that advocate, who could so ably maintain the cause of human nature, and prove their affinity to their haughty oppressors. In admiration of the same character, we also could long dwell with pleasure—but the occasion enjoins brevity. We would, therefore, conclude this our salutation, by wishing you encreased health, and happiness equal to your merit—happiness such as the world can neither give nor take away.

The gentlemen of the faculty will permit us to address them also with lips of sincerity, and hearts of affection. The many scenes, in which they have jointly contributed their exertions towards the improvement of our minds, must not pass unnoticed. The information daily communicated, in the chamber of recitation—the principles instilled at our morning and evening meetings, in the hall of devotion, rise on our memory like the lights of evening, to guide and to refresh us. They shall not be forgotten: they shall live, while the taper of life continues to burn—and as often as they recur to memory, prompt us to thank those, whom we now with unfeigned sincerity wish all health, peace, and prosperity.

My beloved friends and classmates, when Affection turns her eye towards you, every feeling of the heart melts; every tender image is awakened in the bosom—the recollection of the most pleasing scenes, that have gladdened life—a survey of blended enjoyments in which the heart, the fancy, and the understanding have united, rush on the soul, and absorb all her powers. These

once have charmed : but alas, under the impression, that they shall charm no more, how shall I effect my salutation to you ? vain would I at this solemn crisis, in the concluding act of the drama, collect in a groupe the most interesting scenes, in which we have been mutually engaged, the most happy moments we have passed together, and placing them before you, as the best prayer I could offer—as the last request I could make—pray you, by these, always to bear in memory the pious and wise precepts, you have received at yonder institution—to resist the syren voice of temptation, that would seduce you from the path of innocence and peace—and to persevere in devotion to heaven, and charity to man.

This I offer as my last—my parting wish—on such an occasion I can never offer it again. But, rest assured, it shall long live in my bosom—a bosom which my dear classmates may confidently believe, will uniformly beat with a sincere wish that they may ever enjoy the blessings of health and content—and that they may find every desire gratified, that is consistent with innocence, or approved by reason.

*Students of Nassau hall.*

And let my much esteemed friends, the students of Nassau hall also be admonish'd of the importance of duly improving those talents, which are now put in their hands. It is but a short time, since we were situated as you. In a short time to come, you will take our place. The lapse of time is rapid, and unceasing. Soon shall we all launch together into the ocean of life. Whirlpools and quicksands will there await us. Let us prepare for them betimes ; prudence and virtue will there be our best defence ; and prudence and virtue should be early, to be successfully cultivated. The present moment is all that heaven allows us to call our own. Improve that well, my dear fellow students, that when you come to leave these peaceful seats, of science and of virtue, you may possess yourself of that blessing which Golconda's or Chili's mines cannot purchase—of happiness, the fruit of wisdom and of

virtue, the enjoyment of which, your late fellow students as sincerely wish you, as you can wish yourselves.

*To the audience.*

Yet while thus engaged in offering wishes for health and happiness, to those we have long been connected with, by the ties of friendship or authority, we should not forget the attentions due to so polite an assembly. Obligated by their kindness, we would fain offer them our sincerest thanks, and animated by their smiles on our earliest performances, we would wish to point their attention, to future days, when the blossom shall have ripened into fruit, and when the intellects which are now imbibing the rays of knowledge, shall in their turn widely diffuse over others the effulgence of truth.



FOR THE AMERICAN MUSEUM.

*An oration intended to have been spoken at a late commencement, on the unlawfulness and impolicy of capital punishments, and the proper means of reforming criminals. By a citizen of Maryland.—P. 98.*

**T**O propose an hospital, for the reformation of criminals, is a new attempt, and may perhaps tend more to excite the ridicule, than the candid attention of those who estimate opinions by their antiquity. Let it be remembered, however, that the short sightedness of the human mind, often makes it necessary to wade through the sea of conjecture to the shore of truth. And if projectors in this way miss the destined place, it by no means proves that such a place does not exist : and when they return, they may, at least, claim the praise of laudable ambition. I shall therefore beg permission to propose a few hints, which may both evince the practicability of reforming criminals, and furnish the outlines of a proper plan.

1. Religious exercises might be applied with good effect. The power of sacred oratory is irresistible. There have been instances of the most hardened criminals relenting and melting into tears, upon a lively representation of