

NEW SCENE

INTERESTING TO THE CITIZENS OF THE

United States of America,

ADDITIONAL TO THE HISTORICAL

PLAY OF COLUMBUS,

said to be written

~~By a SENATOR of the United States.~~

*By Alexander Martin Esq. D.
Chancellor of the State of North Carolina
and Member of the United States.*

Magnus ab integro seculorum nascitur ordo.---VIR.

LATELY PERFORMED WITH APPLAUSE AT THE NEW THEATRE,
IN PHILADELPHIA.



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M,DCCXCVIII.

To,

W. Samuel H. Smith ⁸⁷⁹₁₁₈₉

Respectfully mounted
by
The Author,

W. H. Martin

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77¹²

A S C E N E, &c.

S C E N E T H E L A S T.

THE GENIUS of America descends in a Purple Robe, on his head a Roman Cap, encircled with a Crimson Tiara, adorned with Sixteen Stars, and crested with the American Eagle; holding in his Right Hand a Spear.

G E N I U S.

ALL hail Columbus ! Thus hath Heav'n ordain'd
Thy noble triumph o'er the indignant waves,
And men, more cruel, and more fierce than they ;—
Thy honours tho' another shall usurp,
And to thy great atchievement give his name ;
Th' immortal founder thou shalt be rever'd
Of this new world, that long in Time's dark womb
Lay undiscover'd to Europa's Sons,
Where fierce ambition from th' old conquer'd earth
Ne'er rais'd her standard ;—where the daring Mede,
The Macedonian Phalanx never trod,
Nor Rome's imperial Eagles ever flew.—

'Twas I the Guardian of this Heav'n form'd land,
Inspir'd thy zeal to stem conflicting seas,
Rend her dark veil and bring her into light ;
First in thy mind I rous'd the lab'ring thought,
That unknown regions near the setting day
(Long slumb'ring on old Ocean's broad expanse)

Of solid earth, must poize the balanc'd globe,
 I cherish'd in thy breast the bold design,
 T' explore the secrets of th' Atlantic deep ;
 Thro' trackless seas I led th' adventurous way,
 And taught thee where thy dauntless bark to steer.
 In virgin modesty, lo far retir'd,
 From the Old World disjoin'd, this new-found earth
 In vernal charms met thy exulting view,
 Spread like a mantle o'er the western main.

High favour'd Chieftain ! First of mortals known,
 Who fought these distant shores with daring fail ;
 Hence shall thy name the trump of glory swell,
 Enroll'd above her brightest naval sons,
 In ancient, or in modern story told ;
 More fam'd than the bold Argonaut, who first
 Launch'd the black Euxine, plough'd his stormy waves,
 In quest of great adventure ; and who from
 The watchful Dragon bore the golden prize.
 Or the brave[†] Briton by thy spirit fir'd,
 Who hence in search of eastern climes shall chase
 The western Sun, with steady keel explore
 New seas,—new skies,—new lands, and first traverse
 The watry round of this terraqueous ball.

C O L U M B U S.

WHOM do I see ?—What Heav'nly Stranger this !
 In human shape that deigns to greet me thus ?
 Sure 'tis no dream, no airy vision this,
 Or splendid phantom, artful conjur'd up
 To blind the erring senses, or mislead
 The superstitious mind !—Portentous sure

* Jason. † Sir Francis Drake,

This visit comes. [*Aside*].—How shall I mortal, pay
Due homage for this gracious honour done!

G E N I U S.

To soothe thy anxious breast, and steel thy nerves
Against black treason, and ambitious crimes,
And more, the base ingratitude of Kings,
Which thou wilt guiltless feel with heavy hand;
I come permitted from above, Columbus,
To unfold to thee the future page of fate,
Which blazons forth a train of great events,
That wait successive on thy vast emprise.

C O L U M B U S.

Must then Columbus be again the sport
Of Malice, and ambition! gracious Heav'n
Ah, why this awful Messenger of woe!
Too soon we learn misfortunes when we feel!
But when the mind anticipates the blow,
'Tis the fore-knowledge gives the double pang. [*Aside*.]
Of Man, Columbus ne'er shall be afraid,
'Tis Heav'n he fears,—and knows no other fear,
Deign then great pow'r, to speak the will of fate!—

G E N I U S.

Know then, that far beyond the flaming line,
In southern seas, lash'd with eternal storms,
This new found earth shoots her tremendous cape,
And to the north extends abroad her arms,
And props the polar skies.—Huge mountains heave
Their wavy, massy ridges to the clouds,

Far above *Alps*, or *Appennine* ;—and thro'
 This mighty bound stretch their enormous spine ;
 The fertile plains below, vast Indian tribes
 Of red'ning hue contain, like those who first
 On thy arrival bade thee welcome here ;
 Who thro' sequester'd vallies, sportive roam
 In eager chase to take the fleeting Deer ;
 Or pluck in peaceful groves, Hesperian fruits,
 That grow spontaneous from th' uncultur'd glebe.
 (Whether from eastern origin deriv'd,
 Or here coeval with the soil, they rose
 By pow'r divine, as children of the sun,
 Their radiant God, is yet to be reveal'd.)
 Here mighty empires spread from sea to sea,
 An ampler bound than Europe's wide domains.
 Here glows the gem,—and shines the flaming ore
 In mountain masses, fatal riches, far
 More than e'er curs'd mankind in orient climes !
 The source of mischiefs to this happy land !
 To grasp this precious ill ;—yet harmless here,
 Intrepid chiefs, who bade will thee succeed,
 By dire ambition, by fell avarice led,
 Will probe the bowels of the groaning earth,
 Ranfack the sacred temples to the ground ;
 Torture the writhing native to disclose
 The glitt'ring treasure :—feeble war ensues,
 From murd'rous engines awful thunders roar,
 And thousands prostrate with unusual deaths ;
 Th' affrighted nations, these fierce foes adore
 As demigods :—Defence is impious, vain,
 To them they yield their country,---lives and all,
 And half the new world owns Iberia's Kings.—

C O L U M B U S,

I bow submissive to the sov'reign doom,
 But Heav'n forgive my ever anxious mind!--
 Ah! better had this new ill-omen'd earth
 Been hid in chaos, sunk in endless night,
 Than be the cause, and source of ills to man.
 Was it for these that all my cares and toils
 First bridg'd new seas, and join'd the sever'd world?---
 These sink my soul, and banish ev'ry joy,
 When too, Spain's king and queen ungrateful prove.

G E N I U S.

Cease to repine Columbus; Heaven's decrees
 Are just, tho' dark and intricate to mortal's ken,
 Attend to those behests not yet declos'd,
 And know thou 'rt still the fav'rite of the skies,
 Fam'd Albion in her sea-girt Isle is rous'd,---
 To hear that Thulé in the western surge,
 Is not the most remote;---that farther west,
 Regions by thee have been explor'd for Spain;
 Her naval sons ply thy adventurous track;
 And from the whirling gulph north-east unveils
 This spacious coast, to where with mighty mounds
 It bars the fury of the Arctic main.
 The goodly soil her hardy sons possess,
 And into fertile fields, wild forests change:
 Where the majestic oak, now braves the skies,
 New cities shall erect their pointed spires,
 While new form'd wealths their spacious bounds extend---
 Another SOLON, friend of man shall there
 Sacred to peace and friendship, laws ordain;

William Penn

On this broad base his SILVAN RULE shall rise,
 With his fair city of FRATERNAL LOVE.—
 There busy commerce soon shall swell her sail,
 And waft new blessings round the gladden'd world.—
 These youthful wealths, shall hold their gentle sway
 A round of happy years from Britain's kings,
 'Til jealous of their growing vig'rous pow'r,
 By me rais'd up to Fame, despotic Rule
 They stern impose, and to reluctant arms,
 Defensive drive the young CONFED'RATE STATES;
 Their mighty wrongs in solemn council first,
 Sagely discuss'd;—they greatly dare be free.
 Unequal conflict with a parent foe,
 Awful, alas! compell'd to wage,—but firm,
 With Galia's timely aid, at length they gain
 Of Freedom the illustrious sov'reign prize.—

C O L U M B U S.

Oh! could my life to those bright days extend,
 To know their heroes—see their mighty deeds
 'T would all my dangers and my wrongs repay.

G E N I U S,

In this great contest shall my WASHINGTON
 In peerless glory, first of warriors shine;—
 Who first shall grace the laurel'd chair of state;
 Among their chosen bands, my GREENE, my WAYNE
 In warlike deeds shall gain immortal fame;

* On the ensanguin'd field my dauntless chiefs
~~Warren~~ MONTGOMERY, MERCER, ~~Washington~~, NASH shall fall,
 Cover'd with wounds, the warrior's glorious meed!
 + ~~To die resolved, — or set their country free.~~
 Their councils shall my RANKLIN guide, great sage,

Warren,

+ To free their Country, — or to die run

Who first dare check the lightning of the skies ;
 My ADAMS and my JEFFERSON with him ;
 By these great aids shall wrest the sceptre from
 A tyrant hand ; the joys of peace diffuse,
 And by their choice a willing people sway
 With equal law.—Triumphant Freedom there
 Thus bounded, long shall fix her happy seat,
 Giving assylum to th' oppressed world.—

To nurture Genius, aid the human mind,
 To know the useful and the chiefest good,
 Science to these fair plains shall waft her way,
 And on th' untutor'd Savage pour her light.
 Cherish'd by me for her new mansions rise,
 Whence she abroad will shed her brightest beams;
 And teach unfetter'd nations how to rule.—

The muse shall there in mimic scene display
 Thy chequer'd fate, and to applauding throngs
 Pourtray thy virtues, now by foes deny'd.
 Thy worth a grateful nation there shall own,
 In fair Columbia's plain thy name revive,
 Long dormant ;—where another Rome shall rise
 With her broad Capitol near Tyber's stream.

C O L U M B U S.

I thank thee Heav'n ! for thy guardian care,
 I feel immortal at these quickening sounds !

G E N I U S.

Another Eagle there shall be display'd,
 Emblem of pow'r,---to Freedom's cause a friend
 And honest woe,--not tyrant of mankind.

Thomas Jefferson Vice President of the U. States, Member Congress in 1776, who drew up the Declaration of Independence, the Resolutions on Lord North's unconstitutional Tax Bill.

** John Adams (President of the United States) Benjamin Franklin and John Jay American Commissioners plenipotentiary who negotiated the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain in 1783.*

From the illustrious group of these fair States,
 A constellation of new stars shall grace
 Their youthful ensigns waving round the world,
 And add new lustre to the northern skies.
 The distant nations cherish'd by the light,
 Shall learn with wonder how those pow'rs rose,
 Bow their experienc'd age to draw from them
 Examples bright of morals,---laws,---and arts.

Though Freedom there shall hold her golden reign,
Let her beware of faction's Hydra train,
A monster fell ! that darts its poisons round,
And gives Fair Freedom oft a deadly wound:
Divided councils rend her rising state,
But firm united raise sublimely great,
Her growing pillars to Herculean height,
That bid defiance to a world of might.

[Genius ascends, followed by a blaze of light.]

C O L U M B U S.

Celestial Visitant ! thy glad'ning voice,
 My drooping spirit cheers, a while depress'd
 At thy first tale of woe, and prospects bright
 My soul enrapture with unusual joys,
 That a great gen'rous nation yet unborn
 Shall people my new earth, new empires raise
 On Freedom founded, teaching laws and arts,
 And shielding nations from tyrannic sway.---
 Whatever fate adverse shall me attend,
 From pride, ambition, and ungrateful Kings,
 All gracious Heav'n to thee I'll be resign'd !---
 Envy and malice, I defy your pow'r !
 To meet your vengeance full prepar'd I stand,

With a strong buckler arm'd,---a conscience pure,
And more, the plaudit of all righteous Heav'n.---

To after ages I resign my fame,
Content my Heav'nly guide, they will be just,
When Spain and all the world shall grateful own
Thro' dangers,---toils,---and deaths, full into day
Columbus rais'd from out the western deep,
Long fabulous this quarter of the earth,
And long eclips'd, full orb'd the finish'd world.

S O N G.

SET TO MUSIC BY MR. REINAGLE.

WHEN first Columbus fought this strand,
On ocean's bosom brooding long,
Attendant Genii hail'd the land,
And thus exulting rais'd their song ;

CHORUS.

" Hail Columbia, great and free !

" The world shall learn to rule from thee.

" What though in Savage dress array'd,
" And dark appears the new found earth,
" See orient beams dispel the shade ;
" New nature rip'ning into birth.
" Hail Columbia, &c.

" Lo! where from o'er th' Atlantic-deep,
" Europa's Sons adventrous come ;
" From new till'd earths new harvests reap,
" Their wants here find a generous home.

" Hail Columbia, &c.

" New cities near the ebbing tide,
 " Shall soon erect their tow'ring head;
 " From east to west thy navies ride,
 " And commerce thy rich treasures spread.

" Hail Columbia, &c.

" New wealths here under foreign skies,
 " The people's choice, mild rule assume,
 " On Freedom's base triumphant rise,
 " In glory rival Greece and Rome.

" Hail Columbia, &c.

" Nations oppress'd, here seek thy shield,
 " No more shall clank their tyrant chain;
 " Thy foes shall to thy pow'r yield,
 " And own their hostile malice vain.

" Hail Columbia, &c.

" Science shall westward bend her wing,
 " Here plant her Academic grove;
 " Here the Pærean choir shall sing,
 " And the attendant graces move.

" Hail Columbia, &c.

" Here, arts and arms well temper'd join,
 " Thy sons by worth to honours raise;
 " Thy daughters shall transcendent shine
 " With Virtue, and with Beauty's rays.

" Hail Columbia, great and free!

" The world shall learn to rule from thee."

THE END.