

T H E

Freeman's Journal:

O R,
North-American



T H E
Intelligencer.

OPEN TO ALL PARTIES, BUT INFLUENCED BY NONE.

PHILADELPHIA, Printed by FRANCIS BAILEY, in Market-Street, between Third and Fourth-Streets.

BE IT REMEMBERED!

THAT on the 17th Day of October, 1781, Lieut. Gen. Charles Earl CORNWALLIS, with above 5000 British troops, surrendered themselves prisoners of war to his Excellency Gen. GEORGE WASHINGTON, commander in chief of the allied forces of France and America.

LAUS DEO!

A number of Whigs,
To the Printer of the FREEMAN'S JOURNAL.
SIR,

WE observed in the 22d. number of your journal a request, that the public might be certified, as to the reality of the instrument called Hadley's quadrant being an American invention. It appears from hence, that you had not seen the American magazine for July and August 1758, printed at Philadelphia, in that year by Mr. Bradford. In that miscellany the curious may satisfy themselves in a point, which in our opinion is proved beyond a doubt to be in favour of America. The English, naturally jealous and envious have laboured hard to make out the invention to be their own: this exactly agrees with the rest of their conduct, in endeavouring to persuade the world, that neither courage nor merit of any sort can exist out of their own island. With regard to the point in question, their labours have not been ineffectual, as the name of Hadley their countryman is almost universally tacked to this instrument:—Even by foreigners, it is called the English quadrant.—Those who desire to be acquainted with the description, and mathematical principles upon which Mr. Godfrey first planned his invention are referred to the above mentioned miscellany, as we shall only send you an extract or two, chiefly for the consideration of those who cannot easily procure the original.

1st. "Mr. Godfrey sent the instrument to be tried at sea by an acquaintance of his, an ingenious navigator, in a voyage to Jamaica, who shewed it to a captain of a ship there just going for England, by which means it came to the knowledge of Mr. Hadley, tho' perhaps without his being told the name of the real inventor. This fact is sufficiently known to many seamen and others yet alive in this city, and established beyond a doubt by the following letters written about that time. It is therefore submitted to the world, whether after perusing the letters they ought not in justice to call that instrument for the future, Godfrey's, and not Hadley's quadrant."—

[American magazine, vol. 1. page, 476.]
2d. Dr. Logan of Philadelphia, patron to Mr. Godfrey, writes thus to Dr. Edmund Halley [in a letter dated May 25, 1732]

"A young man born in this country *Thomas Godfrey* by name, by trade a glazier, who had no other education, than to learn to read and write, with a little common arithmetick, having in his apprenticeship, with a very poor man of that trade, accidentally met with a mathematical book, took such a fancy to the study, that by the natural strength of his genius, without any instructor, he soon made himself master of that, and of every other of the kind, he could borrow or procure in *England*; and finding, there was more to be had in *Latin* books, under all imaginable discouragements, applied himself to the study of that language, till he could pretty well understand an author on these subjects, after which, the first time I ever saw or heard of him, to my knowledge, he came to borrow fir *Isaac Newton's* principles of me. Inquiring of him hereupon who he was, I was indeed astonished at his request, but after a little

discourse, he soon became welcome to that or any other book I had. This young man about 18 month's since, told me had for some time been thinking of an instrument for taking the distances of stars by reflecting speculums, which he believed might be of service at sea, and not long after, he shewed me a common sea quadrant, to which he had fitted two pieces of looking glass, in such a manner as brought two stars at almost any distance, to coincide, the one by a direct, the other by a reflected ray, so that the eye could take them both together, as joined in one, while a moving label or index on the graduated arch, marked exactly half their distance. For I need not say, that the variations of the angles of reflection, from two speculums are double to the angle of the inclination of their plains, and therefore gives but half the angle or arch of the distance, which is the only inconveniency that appears to me to attend this. But as it may be made so simple, easy and light, as not to be much more unwieldy or unmanageable, tho' of a considerable length, than a single telescope of the same, that inconveniency will be abundantly compensated."

The above is alone a sufficient proof, that Mr. Thomas Godfrey, of Philadelphia was the real, original inventor of this famous and useful instrument. He seems to have hit upon the lucky thought sometime in the year 1730, and had he not been too communicative of his discoveries to Dr. Logan, who transmitted the same to Dr. Halley; and to his friend the Jamaica captain, the invention might never have been disputed with him—But a certain fatality seems to attend every thing that regards America: its first discovery, says the sentimental Abbe Raynal, was marked by a piece of injustice in not acquiring the name of its discoverer; a fatal preface of all the long catalogue of injuries, of which this unfortunate country was doomed to become the theatre!

W E,
Therefore, who have been, and will be,
Among the
Warmest supporters of the common rights of mankind,
D O
Ordain, appoint, direct, and command,
That all
MAKERS of this INSTRUMENT on the continent,
Do inlay
A piece of ivory,
With the
True inventor's name engraved thereon:
And it is expected,
That all captains of vessels, and others,
Belonging to these united states,
Do,
Hence forward and for ever,
Call this instrument,
As of right it should be called,
GODFREY'S QUADRANT.

N. B. The several printers on the continent are desired to insert the foregoing for public information.

Mr. P R I N T E R.

AS I was returning home the other night, I accidentally came across the following piece; which from a note on the back of it, appears to have been designed for publication, the day before the militia were order'd to march. And tho' danger appears more remote, than at that time, yet, as the enemy may still have the same object in view that gave the alarm, it may not be improper, to give it a place in your paper.

The Friend No. 1.

Nil desperandum, Teucro duce, et auspice Teucro.
HORACE.
Nothing is to be despair'd of, R—d being your commander, and R—d your leader.

Methinks at last my friends, the hour is come, to try your virtue, and evince the friendship of Britain towards you. They now threaten desolation to this fam'd city, dishonour to your wives and daughters, and ravage to your property, the toils of years gain'd by the sweat of industrious brows:—but such intended cruelties, are the sure forebodings of an unhappy, and desponding enemy. Will you therefore tamely look on, and in the cool unmeaning language of security say, George is still your friend! that his troops will not injure you? that you are friends in peace, and not enemies in war? I say, will you my friends tamely look on, and console yourselves with this ridiculous hope, this ideal friendship, till the destroyer comes; when repentance will be too late? No, you are men, and as such you ought to act. Let the clay, which originated from the hand of the same great maker, be animated by the bright principal, that excites other men to action! Let not religious prejudices in the hour of danger, damp your ardour, or prevent your stretching out your arm, to save this devoted city. Dangers unknown before, are now impending. The enemy are not advancing now with the olive branch of peace, and friendship; which they sarcastically smiling, held up to you, upon their last visit; but instead thereof, the fiery brand, and flaming carcass, to destroy every thing before them. Behold their ravages, and recollect their cruelties, in a recent instance upon New-London!—Behold these, and while you tremble with a generous sympathy, for the misfortunes of your fellow men, let the recollection of their undeserv'd distress, rouse you to action! Do not slumber, lest these very evils happen to you; and you fall unpitied, for your pusillanimity. Don't say you are friends and cannot turn out, that your hands have been unused to fight, and your fingers untaught to draw the trigger, or the bow. This would be unmanly indeed. Why shou'd other men of more courage, and perhaps less strength, fight to secure your property, and acquire additional liberty, not only for you, but for your children's children? They have no right to do it, while you are folded in the arms of your wives, and retire from the noise of war, and the dangers of the field. Let us suppose, that this flourish [Turn to the 4th page.]