

Royall Tyler
The Contrast

English 206/2

Abigail Adams to her husband, John, in Paris on December 23, 1793:

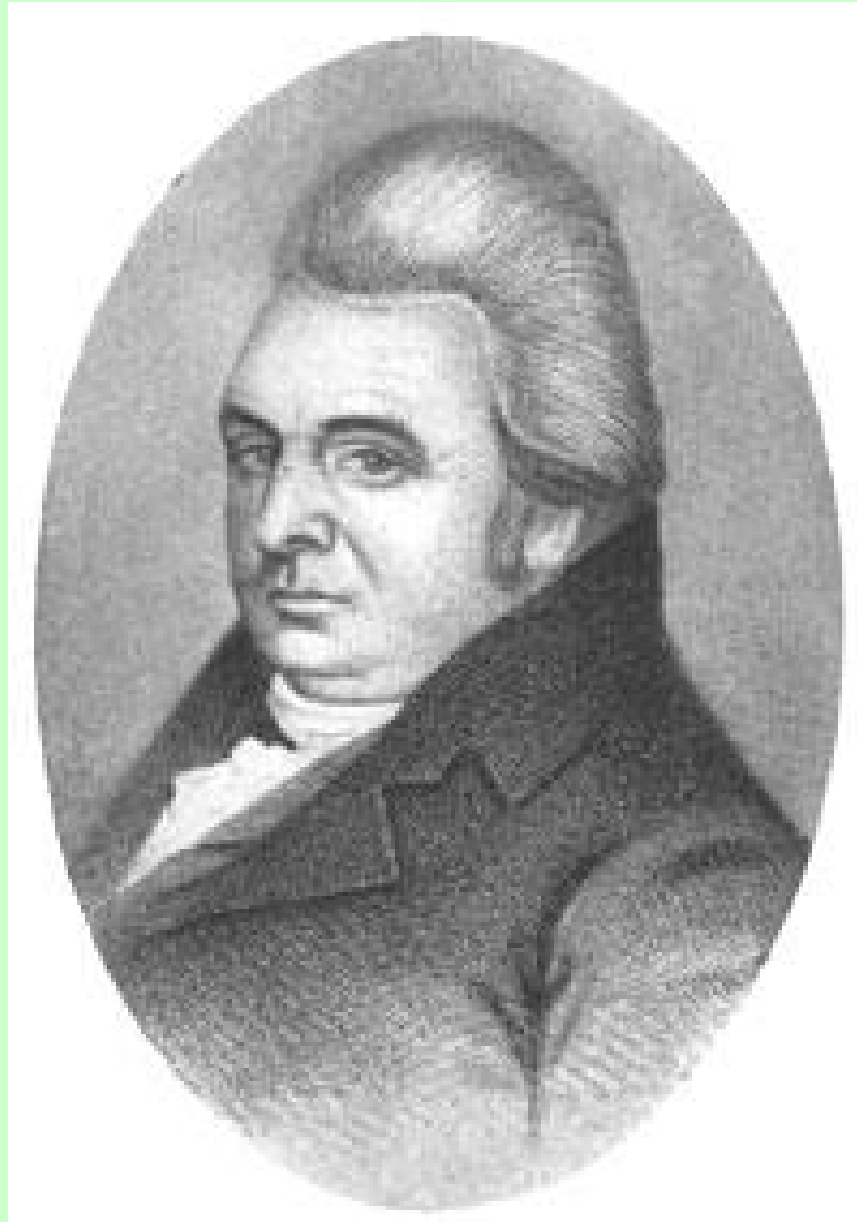
Loosing [sic] his Father young and having a very pretty patrimony left him, possessing a sprightly fancy, a warm imagination and an agreeable person, he was rat her negligent in persueing [sic] his business in the way of his profession; and dissipated two or 3 years of his Life and too much of his fortune for to reflect upon with pleasure; all of which he now laments but cannot recall....His mamma is in possession of a large Estate and he is a very favorite child. When he proposed comeing [sic] to settle here he met with but little encouragement, but he was determined upon the trial. He has succeeded beyond expectation, he has popular talants, and his behavior has been unexceptionable since his residence in Town; in consequence of which his Business daily increases. He cannot fail making a distinguished figure in his profession if he steadily persues [sic] it. I am not acquainted with any young Gentleman whose attainments in literature are equal to his, who judges with greater accuracy or discovers a more delicate and refined taste....

What ought I to say? I feel too powerful a pleader within my own heart and too well recollect the Love I bore to the object of my early affections to forbid him to hope. I feel a regard for him upon an account you will smile at, I fancy I see in him Sentiments, opinions and actions which endeared to me the best of Friends.

John Adams to his wife, Abigail, from Paris on December 23, 1793:

I confess I dont [sic] like the Subject at all. My Child is too young for such Thoughts, and I dont [sic] like your Word "Dissipation" at all. I dont know what it means—it may mean every Thing. There is not Modesty and Diffidence enough in the Traits you Send me. My Child is a Mode, as you represent her and as I knew her, and is not be the Prize, I hope of any, even reformed Rake....A youth who has been giddy enough to spend half his Fortune in Gaeties is not the Youth for me, Let his Person, Family, Connections and Taste for Poetry be what they will. I am not looking out for a Poet, nor a Professor of belle Letters....

This is too serious a subject to equivocate about. I dont like this Method of Courting Mothers. There is something too fantastical and affected in all this business for me.



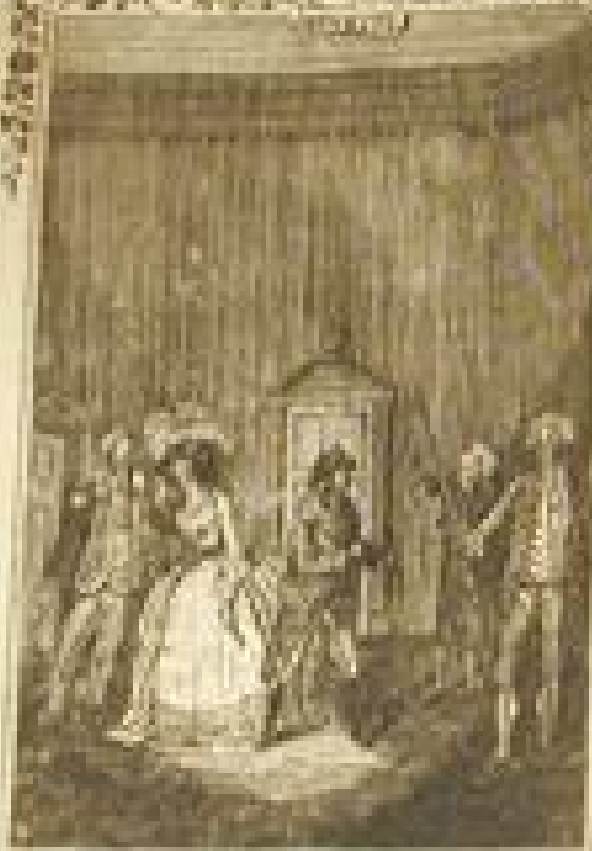


HELP!

His year of age

68

His son [?]



*See the great scene in Little Richard's
and the great scene in the great scene*

CONTRAST

OR
COMEDY

IN THREE ACTS

WRITTEN BY
FREDERICK M. HARRIS

Produced and Adapted to the Theatre of New York
by FREDERICK M. HARRIS

AND PUBLISHED BY
THOMAS WENDELL

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of the city of Philadelphia.



NYC performance,
2006

THEATRE,

Frederick-Town.

By Mr. M^CGRATH's COMPANY of COMEDIANS,

Mr. FITZ-GERALD and Miss KITELY's NIGHT.

On THURSDAY EVENING, March the 10th, will be presented,

The Celebrated COMEDY of—

THE CONTRAST.

(Written by a CITIZEN of the UNITED STATES)
Performed with Universal Applause at the Theatres, Philadelphia, New-York,
Baltimore, Alexandria, & George-Town.

"EXULT each Patriot heart! this night is shown
"A Piece, which we may, fairly, call our own.

The Original PROLOGUE to be spoken by Mr. M^CGRATH.

Colonel Mauly,	Mr. M ^C GRATH.
Van-Rough,	Mr. BALENTINE.
Jeffamy,	Mr. SMITH.
Dumphy,	by an Assistant.
And Jonathan, (with the comic song of "Yankey Doodle")	Mr. FITZ-GERALD.
Maria, & Letitia,	Miss KITELY.
Jenny,	Mrs. PARSONS.
And Charlotte,	Mr. M ^C GRATH.

Between the Play and Farce, "Belles have at ye-All," by Mrs. M^CGrath.

To which will be added, a Farce, (written by the Author of the Poor Soldier)
Called—The

AGREEABLE SURPRISE.

Sir Felix Friendly,	Mr. SMITH.
Egmont,	Mr. FITZ-GERALD.
Cassanova,	Mr. BALENTINE.
Chloris,	Mr. FITZ-GERALD.
John,	by an Assistant.
And Lingo,	Mr. M ^C GRATH.
Mr. Castlere,	Mrs. PARSONS.
Garra,	Miss KITELY.
And Conolly,	Mr. M ^C GRATH.

The whole to conclude with A MORAL DEFENCE OF THE STAGE, by Mr. FITZ-GERALD.

Mr. Fitz-Gerald, & Miss Kately, at the same time that they solicit the Patronage of the Ladies and Gentlemen of Frederick-Town, and its Vicinage, on this interesting Night, most respectfully assure them, that the Entertainments shall be as faithfully performed On the Stage, as temptingly held out In the Bill.

✧ The Curtain to rise precisely at the appointed time, (Twenty Minutes past SIX o'Clock.)

*1s Tickets of Admission, at Half a Dollar each, to be had at Mrs. Kimball's Tavern, and of Mr. Fitz-Gerald, and Miss Kately, at the Theatre.

Mr. and Mrs. M^CGRATH return their best acknowledgements to their Friends, and the Public, who Honoured their proposed Benefit with their preference—respectfully announce, that in consequence of the Weather, and other circumstances militating against their Interest, they have thrown up the Receipts of that Night's Exhibition among the Company, on the hope of being advantaged by a real Benefit at a future evening, for which occasion, a well selected Play and Farce will be prepared, and duly Notified. (Floreat Republica!)

FREDERICK-TOWN.

Printed by JOHN WINNELL, at the Printing-Office in Patrick-Street.

FITZGERALD

FITZGERALD

FITZGERALD

1791 broadside
advertising a
performance in
Fredericktown,
Maryland

THE
C O N T R A S T,

A
C O M E D Y;

IN FIVE ACTS:

WRITTEN BY
CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES;

Performed with Applause at the Theatres in NEW-YORK,
PHILADELPHIA, and MARYLAND;

AND PUBLISHED (under an Assignment of the Copy-Right) BY

THOMAS WIGNELL

[Goyall Tyler]

Primus ego in patriam
Aonio ~~deduxi~~ vertice Musas.

VIRGIL.

(Imitated.)

First on our shores I try THALIA's powers,
And bid the *laughing, useful* Maid be ours.

PHILADELPHIA:

FROM THE PRESS OF PRICHARD & HALL, IN MARKET STREET,
BETWEEN SECOND AND FRONT STREETS,

M. DCC. XC.

1790



*And in your quest to hold the Cabinet
A foot above full of fight.*

AS A JUST ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LIBERAL EXERTIONS
BY WHICH THE *STAGE* HAS BEEN RESCUED FROM
AN IGNOMINIOUS PROSCRIPTION,

THE CONTRAST,

(BEING THE FIRST ESSAY OF *AMERICAN* GENIUS IN THE
DRAMATIC ART)

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

TO

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE

Dramatic Association,

BY

THEIR MOST OBLIGED

AND

MOST GRATEFUL SERVANT,

THOMAS WIGNELL.

PHILADELPHIA, }
1 January, 1790. }

Advertisement.

THE Subscribers (to whom the Editor thankfully professes his obligations) may reasonably expect an apology for the delay, which has attended the appearance of **THE CONTRAST** ; but, as the true cause cannot be declared without leading to a discussion, which the Editor wishes to avoid, he hopes, that the care and expence, which have been bestowed upon this work, will be accepted, without further scrutiny, as an atonement for his seeming negligence.

In justice to the Author, however, it may be proper to observe, that this Comedy has many claims to the public indulgence, independent of its intrinsic merits : It is the first essay of American genius in a difficult species of composition ; it was written by one, who never critically

tically studied the rules of the drama, and, indeed, had seen but few of the exhibitions of the stage ; it was undertaken and finished in the course of three weeks ; and the profits of one night's performance were appropriated to the benefit of the sufferers by the fire at *Boston*.

These considerations will therefore it is hoped, supply in the closet the advantages, that are derived from representation, and dispose the reader to join in the applause, which has been bestowed on this Comedy by numerous and judicious audiences in the Theatres of *Philadelphia*, *New-York*, and *Maryland*.

L I S T
OF
S U B S C R I B E R S.

T H E President of the United States.

A

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	New-York.	Maryland.
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DIMPLE,	Mr <i>Hallam.</i>	Mr <i>Harper.</i>
VANROUGH,	Mr <i>Morris.</i>	Mr <i>Morris.</i>
JESSAMY,	Mr <i>Harper.</i>	Mr <i>Biddle.</i>
JONATHAN,	Mr <i>Wignell.</i>	Mr <i>Wignell.</i>
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MARIA,	Mrs <i>Harper.</i>	Mrs <i>Harper.</i>
LETITIA,	Mrs <i>Kenna.</i>	Mrs <i>Williamson.</i>
JENNY,	Mifs <i>Tuke.</i>	Mifs <i>W. Tuke.</i>

SERVANTS.

SCENE, NEW-YORK.



N. B. The lines marked with inverted commas, "thus" are omitted in the representation.