

From the Supplement to the NEW YORK GAZETTE, Number 228.

Mr. Printer,

IT may entertain the curious and learned Part of your Subscribers, if you give them the following genuine Speech and Address; which, for the Importance of the Subject, Grandeur of Sentiment, and Elegance of Expression, perhaps exceed Any they have hitherto seen. For the Benefit of more common Readers, I have turn'd them, with some Paraphrase, into plain English Verse. I am told by Friends, that my Performance is excellent; But I claim no other Praise than what regards my Rhyme, and my Perspicuity. All the other Beauties I acknowledge, are, owing to the Original, whose true Sense I have every where followed with a scrupulous Exactness. If envious Critics should observe, that some of my Lines are too short in their Number of Feet, I own it; but then, to make ample Amends, I have given very good Measure in most of the others.

I am, Sir, Your constant Reader, NED. TYPE.

[Note, The Reader has already had the Speech and Address in a former GAZETTE, [N^o. 103] for which Reason, only Mr. Type's VERSION is here inserted.]

The SPEECH Versified.

L—D have Mercy on us!—the CAPITOL! the CAPITOL! is burnt down!

O astonishing Fate!—which occasions this Meeting in Town:

And this Fate proves a Loss; to be deplored the more,

The said Fate being th' Effect of Malice and Design, to be sure.

And yet 'tis hard to comprehend how a Crime of so flagitious a Nature,

Should be committed, or even imagined, by any but an irrational Creature.

But when you consider, that the first Emission of Smoke was not from below,

And that Fires kindled by Accident airways turn slow,

And not with half the Fury as when they burn on purpose, you know,

You'll be forced to ascribe it (with Hearts full of Sadness)

To the horrid Machinations of desperate Villains, instigated by infernal Madness.

God forbid I should accuse or excuse any without just Foundation;

Yet I may venture to assert,——for our own Reputation,

That such superlative Wickedness never entered the Hearts of Virginians, who are the CREAM of the British Nation.

THE Clerks have been examin'd, and clear'd by the May'r;

Yet are willing to be examin'd again by you, and that's fair;

And will prove in the Face of the Country, if requir'd,

That it was not by their Conduct our Capitol was fir'd,

I must add, to do them Justice, that the Comfort we have,

In enjoying our authentic Registers, which those Clerks did save,

Is owing to their Activity, Resolution, and Diligence,

Together with Divine Providence;

All which would have been in vain, I protest,

If the Wind, at the bursting out of the Flames, had not changed from East to North-West.

OUR Treasury being low, and my Infirmities great,

I would have kept you prorogu'd 'til the Revival of the Laws was compleat;

But this Misfortune befalling the Capitol of the Capital of our Nation,

Requires your immediate Care and Assistance for it's Inauguration.

To press you in a Point of such Usefulness manifest,

Would shew a Diffidence of your sincere Zeal for the public Interest,

For which you and I always make such a laudable Pother,

And for which we've so often applauded one another.

THE same public Spirit, which within those Walls us'd to direct you all,

Will determine you (as Fathers of your Country) to apply Means effectual

For restoring the ROYAL FABRIC to it's former Beauty

And Magnificence, according to your Duty;

With the like Apartments, elegant and spacious

For all the weighty Purposes of Government, so capacious.

MEAN Time, the College and Court of Hustings our Weight may sustain;

But pray let us speedily have our CAPITOL, our important CAPITOL again.

The COUNCIL's Answer.

WE the King's best Subjects, the Council of this Dominion,

Are deeply affected (as is every true Virginian)

With the unhappy Occasion of our present Meeting:

—In Troth we have but a sorry Greeting.

We are also not a little touch'd (in the Head) with the same Weakness as your Honour's,

And therefore think this raging Fire, which consum'd our Capitol, should incite us to reform our Manners;

The best Expedient at present to avert the Indignation Divine,

And nobly to express our Gratitude for the Justice, which (temper'd with Mercy) doth shine,

In preserving our Records, tho' red-hot,

And like Brands pluck'd out of the Flames, in which they were going to pot:

Without this Expedient we shall be ruin'd quite.

Besides, this FIRE puts us in Mind of NEW-LIGHT;

And we think it Heav'n's Judgment on us for tolerating the Presbyterians,

Whose Forefathers drubb'd ours, about a hundred Year-hence.

We therefore resolve to abate a little of our Drinking, Gaming, Cursing, and Swearing,

And make up for the rest, by persequing some itinerant Presbyterian.

AN active Discharge of our important Trusts, according to your Honour's Desire,

Is the wisest Project of Insurance that can be, of the public Safety, from the Attempts of such as would set it on fire.

