Dialogue

Spoken by the scholars of the 1st Class.

June 5th 1822.

Composed by Sam[l] R. Hübner.

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1st Class

Reverend Sir

T. Cooper

Having been called upon by my fellow scholars, to open on the part your pupils, the exercises of this solemn & interesting day, — I step forward with a great deal of diffidence, being fully aware of the responsibility of my situation, & at the same time, of my entire incompetency to acquit myself in any way worthy of the task imposed upon me —

Nothing, indeed, but an intimate acquaintance with your long tried, unfaltering kindness & forbearance, as well as a firm reliance upon the generous indulgence of these our honoured friends, could have emboldened me to risk the hazardous attempt —

Throwing myself confidently, behind these safeguards, I feel courage to proceed, & under this view of my present situation, permit me to say, I consider myself not a little honoured & flattered, by the commission having devolved upon my poor self, to address you in this significant manner —

It is impossible, Sir, to refrain the mind on such an occasion, from casting a retrospective glance upon the time that's past. Another year has elapsed — another considerable portion of that precious season of our lives, which, like the spring of the year, is to be devoted to cheerful & unremitted exertions, in order to insure thereby a golden harvest in the summer & fall of our days, — is gone never more to return. A whole twelvemonth has slipped away & still how fresh yet in my recollection, since we last met in this place for the same solemn purpose as to day.

Time, precious gift of God! how quick thy flight! Second drives Second with untired speed! Seconds accumulate to minutes, — hours, — to days, — to Months, — to Years! — how soon, what seem'd an age, Has slily slipt away! — & undone stands Whose every moment was not well applied!

In thus reflecting on the fleetness of time, how serious are the impressions that crowd upon the mind! How much ought to have been done by us in this year! — how much might have been done accomplished! — & how little, comparatively speaking, has been effected!

Have we all listened, with eager attention to the advice abundantly imparted by God, & godly men, for promoting our eternal, as well as our temporal interests? Have we, at all times, obeyed & improved it for our increase in every thing that is pleasing to God, & accepted with men?

Have we not to upbraid ourselves with many an instance of neglectfulness, dereliction of our plainest duties, contempt of our foremost interests?

Towards you honoured Sir, your esteemed Lady, & our worthy Teachers, certainly both myself & my companions will always feel the most devout gratitude, in the same proportion as our minds shall be alive to any pious & laudable

sensations, for the uniform kindness with which we have been treated. Pardon us if we may not on every occasion have appeared to appreciate as it deserved those steps which you found it proper & necessary to employ for obtaining your important objects with us. We feel, however, perfectly confident in assuring you, that, no doubt with us every one of us the time will arrive, when he will, endowed with a matured mind, & taught by further experience, & taught thankfully trace to your kind & unwearied exertions & in forming our minds, characters, & manners, & in cultivating our faculties, a very great proportion of those acquirements which, if used well hereafter will render us respectable amongst our fellowmen & an honour & comfort to our parents & friends. — Have the goodness, therefore, Revd Sir, & honoured gentlemen, not to dwell on this joyful day, on any less pleasing reflections; than that how the exhibitions of your pupils in these solemn hours can satisfy your minds, that certainly your faithful exertions for their improvement have not been altogether lost on them, & pleased to consider whatever improvement may be discernable in any of us, as a powerful encouragement for your further endeavours to benefit us; yea, may it appear to you as a pledge of ulterior progress on our part in every commendable acquirement even when we shall have left this friendly asylum of our youthful days, & entered upon the stage of busy life. For the true reward of your labour & toil you never can expect to see in what mien your eyes in the present stage of your lives. Our future course must bear testimony to the correctness of the principles planted by you in our tender minds; — & eternity must be the scene where you can appreciate, in full, the influence which your patience, solicitude, & unremitting endeavours for our welfare, have exercised upon our happiness. —

Typon.

May it please you Rev.d Sir —
Ladies & Gentlemen!

On an occasion like the present, it is, of course, both the duty & the pride of every one of us, that enjoys the privilege of exhibiting specimens of his improvement in the various departments of his education, to exert in his power — to strain every nerve — in order to merit the approbation of our honoured friends, that have assembled in this place for the very purpose of being witnesses of our performances, on this festival day, & to derive a rich share of satisfaction & pleasure from our transactions. And here, indeed, our courage might fail — our hearts might faint — our spirits droop, on considering the momentous task thus presented to our view; if we could for a single moment harbour the idea, that this respectable company had assembled here in order to scrutinize with a critical eye, — to mark blemishes & imperfections, — to pronounce sentence with unrelenting rigour.

No, honoured friends! we do not suppose, — hope, — flatter ourselves — we know, Ladies & Gentlemen, that you have come here with a widely different purpose.

You have come with a most decided partiality in our favour, you are determined beforehand, to be pleased, in spite of whatever incompetency on our part may be discovered; — in spite of many evident imperfections, you come prepared to overlook them all, & to observe nothing but what may gain your applause. Criticism, Rigour, Severity you have left behind, & taken your places here with no other companions but Indulgence, Forbearance, Kindness.

Thus being disposed to be pleased — I venture to hope you will receive on this day, some little pleasure. You shall, at least perceive our ardent exertions to give you satisfaction, & this will be with you equivalent to our having done so indeed. —

If you see us dejected — encourage us by a friendly smile; — if you perceive quivering lips, — a countenance pallid with anxiety, — a heart throbbing higher from inward tremor permit us to anticipate with so much surer confidence your generous approbation; as it is only your presence that fills us with an anxious desire to please you, & as it is nothing but your applause we struggle to merit on this occasion.

Give me leave, now — Rev.d Sir, — to invite the friendly attention of yourself, & of this much respected company, to a Dialogue which my companions of the first class of your pupils have charged me to announce as being in readiness to be produced for the entertainment of this honoured audience. We have been led, Sir, to select, as the topic of our conversation, at this time; a general survey of the various branches of Knowledge, which we are taught here at this Seminary.

May our imperfect remarks meet with a gracious acceptance

After the introductory address and the Inspector's reply the dialogue begins as follows:

F Baron. Well then my companions let us begin with our conversation without further delay; our time is short, & besides it is impolite needlessly to detain our respected audience, especially as we intend to speak about all the branches of education which are taught at this school. I am afraid it will take us more time to compass the whole than we can reasonably expect to have granted us, for on other days of simular exebitions we have spoken only of one private branch of science, & have had enough to do to get through with it in an hour's time. Now, this year we intend to speak about every thing in which we are instructed; I therefore fear that unless we economize our time we may occupy the whole day with nothing but our dialogue — for there we have reading, writing arithmetic; —

J Schneider. Stop there! I begin to suspect that you intend to engage for yourself alone the attention of our respected audience by enumerating & I presume enlarging upon every science without letting any one else have any share in the business; besides you begin with those sciences which I wish we might skip, as being dry & uninteresting. Let us begin with the more interesting higher branches such as Mathematics, history, &c

I am of your opinion likewise. J Stringham

I am I Several

Well I believe it is the general opinion of us all to begin with those studies which strain us hardest & if we have got through with those the rest will be easy. I give my vote that every one of us state & demonstrate a mathematical proposition. I Yysen.

No by no means for that alone would take us three hours time. J Rusch.

I am inclined to ascribe your opposition to a different reason. J Cooper

Ain't you afraid that you might be ~~afraid~~ unable to explain the theorem allotted to you? J Rusch.

I presume you have reason to be afraid, as for me, perhaps any problem theorem that you can think of & I'm sure I can go through it to your & every ones's satisfaction.

Well said, but to try you. How do you find the center of a circle? J Cooper

Oh that easy thing, for that I have several ways. J Rusch

Only let us hear one of them. J Cooper

Why draw a chord, bisect that chord raise a perpendicular line on it at the bisecting point & that perpendicular will be the diameter of the circle, bisect the diameter & you will have the center. J Rusch

Well it seems you are a better mathematician than I J Cooper

suspected. But d you know how to find the contents of a circle?

D Riesch Nothing easier — Multiply the periphery by half the radius.

J Cooper How do you find the periphery of a circle?

D Riesch Dont you know that?

J Cooper Yes I do, but I apprehend you do not.

D Riesch A good way to get round about a thing you do not know. Well then, the diameter of a circle is to the periphery, as 113 is to 355; if therefore you but measure the diameter you can find the length of the periphery likewise. Are you satisfied now?

J Cooper No not yet for I do not believe you are quite so proficient as you pretended to be.

J Baron Come, come my lady, don't take all the conversation to yourselves! Who can measure the height of a tree.

J Schmaltz Bring me the proper instruments, and I'll measure the height of Baron Munchausen's beanpole which grew up to the moon five minutes after being planted.

J Baron. We won't go above our own atmosphere, but humbly measure objects around us. How will you measure one of those poplar trees in the square?

J Smeaton Nothing easier if the sun shines — take a pole of any length put it in a perpendicular position, measure

the length of the shadow of the pole and of the tree. Then as the length of the shadow of the pole, is to the length of the pole itself, so is the length of the shadow of the tree, to the height of the tree — single rule of three.

J Baron Very well, but how will you effect it if the sun shines not.

J Schmeale Take any point at any distance from the tree, place your quadrant there, measure the distance from the tree to the quadrant, lay off the distance in small measure on paper and erect a perpendicular line on one end of it. Then take the angle with your quadrant, which a line from the top of your the tree to your position makes with the measured line; make that angle on your paper at the point of the line opposite to the perpendicular line, where the produced line cuts the perpendicular, that will give you the height of the tree on your assumed standard small measure.

W Lucas Well I think you have been talking enough of planimetry & measuring heights, let us now take a view of stereometry.

J Sinsemar Since you are talking so freely of Planimetry & Stereometry I suppose you must be able to define each very cleverly.

W Lucas That I can & will too, by planimetry we understand the art of measuring superficies, & by stereometry is understood the art of measuring solids.

J Sinsem Then I suppose we may by stereometry learn to find

the contents of any vessel.

M^r Lucas. Certainly we may — who knows how to find the contents of a barrel?

J Lyons. Sir — find the contents of the circle at the bases & those of the circle at the bung hole, add the contents together, divide them by two, & that quotient multiply by the height of the barrel, which will produce the contents.

J Richards. Oh! how I should like to get a hold of the great tun at Strasburg — I should like to have a chance at measuring that.

J Bryan. I see that you may perhaps be a greater Mathematician than Geographer for that great tun, as you call it, is for one not at Strasburg, but at Heidelberg.

J Richards. Ah yes Heidelberg it is, I fell into a very natural mistake because there are in Germany as many "bergs & burgs" as there are "towns & villes" in the U. States.

But do you know where that monstrous bell is?

J. Bryan. Yes Sir; it is at Muscow.

M Burnan. Oh! that is clever! I have long been considering how to turn our discourse to Geography; & now it is done without my assistance; I am always partial to Geography in that science we can wander so charmingly from

pole to pole from east to west & get acquainted as it were with every spot of the earth, without ever moving from our chair & desk.

Oh what a dreary & inhospitable country that Russia must be — so cold & in winter the days short that they last in some parts only from 9 o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon. R Reardon

I should not like to be there in these long & dark nights I wonder how the inhabitants pass these heavy nights evenings; it seems that one must almost kill themselves with sleeping. J Richards

Oh by no means, the inhabitants know well how to short their time in sleigh-riding & other sports besids their nights are by no means so dreary as you perhaps expect for they have very bright moonshine & besides this they have the aurora borealis very frequently Bryan.

The Russian empress once had the whimsical idea of building a palace of ice — this accordingly reared, one of very large dimensions, built of hugh pieces of ice cemented together by water poured over them. It was laid out regularly into chambers & parlours, it was lit up with lamps & thus illuminated made a very brilliant appearance. J Baron

R Reardon. Oh that must have been beautiful but the poor Blacks, how it must have dwindled into water where the sun displayed his beams over it.— I think we spoken enough of Europe

C. Tyson Let us rather speak a few words of our native country for that is, or ought to be our most interesting conversations.

W. Lucas. It may be far more interesting to every American to speak of his native country and endeavour to get acquainted with it in the most intimate manner. Jamestown in Virginia is the most ancient town in the U. States.—

J Lyons But Jamestown is now dwindled into nothing & Richmond is the seat of government in Virginia.

J Stringham How exquisite must have been the feelings of those poor people who first began to settle the New England states, when in their own country they were persecuted for the sake of their religion, had to seek an asylum here, and found one on the shores of our dear country, then a dreary wilderness, but to them a hospitable shore, where they might at least worship their God according to the manner they thought most proper & felt themselves sheltered from the rage of their fellow-men more cruel alas! than the tiger & the wolf.

M. Brenan. The largest & most remarkable cities in the U. States are Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Charleston, New Orleans, & Boston. All these were laid out lately, compared with London, Paris, Rome & other famous cities of Europe; and—

Senseman Stop there, let us take state after states not count the largest cities in the union, without order— Let us begin with Maine & end in Florida & while we travel on, take a short review of every State.

J Stringham We have no time for that, & besides I believe our dialogue will prove tedious & dry, if we stop too long at Geography— I therefore propose to mention only the largest lakes & rivers which are in our country.

S. Senseman Well! agreed? & particularly let me mention those harmonious Indian names — as for example lakes, Winnipeg lake Winbagog, lake Squam &c &c

J Stringham Oh. I must really suppose you have taken a singular fancy in these horrid names — or else I can no reason, why you should but mention those small & insignificant lakes in the state of Maine.

H Senseman. Verily indeed, I can assure you my taste is formed for better harmony but as I thought it might be your place to begin our exercises, I ran upon it the rest of the American geography by with these names, for as I suspected you not to be well enough versed in that branch in that branch, I kindly presume to take that business from off your hand.

H Stringham. I thank you for thy officious step, & I hope one time or other to do you the same good turn.

H. Senseman. You are welcome — But let us go on with our Geography I think it is a very useful science & I wish I knew every town and every place in the whole world for it often happens yet to my chagreen, that I read the name of a town or creek or mountain even in the United States of which I know nothing.

W. Lucas. You only know I suppose the uncouth names of those lakes which you mentioned before.

C Tyson. Come let us go on with our Geography & don't you bother so long about knowing or not knowing a thing. Tell me what states are watered by the Delaware River.

H Senseman. That I can. Delaware river springs in the state of New York in the lake Ustayantho, makes the boundary first between New York & Pennsylvania then between Pennsylvania & New Jersey & finally between New Jersey & Delaware States after which it [illegible] & finally empties itself through Delaware Bay into the Atlantic ocean.

C Tyson. Well if you don't intend to go through all the states of the union singly as I insisted before, let us, at least,

have the geography of one state & that one I propose shall be Pennsylvania.

R Evans. But why are you so strangely partial to Pennsylvania why don't you propose Maryland your native state.

C Tyson. The reasons why I proposed Pennsylvania are: 1st because it the state in which we all reside, and 2dly if I had proposed Maryland my native state to be sure, all the scholars that don't call it by that affectionate name would have opposed me, & then we would have had another tedious dispute. But with my present proposal I hope all will be pleased — I believe none have any objections, therefore let us begin. The states which make the boundaries of Pennsylvania are New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland & Virginia & Ohio, and lake Erie forms the Northwestern boundary of this state.

H Tyson. You have mentioned the boundaries, I'll name some cities. The seat of government is Harrisburg — Philadelphia is the largest city in this state, and one of the most flourishing & handsome in the world. Lancaster, Pittsburg, York, Carlisle, Gettysburg, Easton, Reading, are also thriving towns.

C Tyson. You forgot to mention one remarkable town in Pennsylvania, & that is Nazareth. —

H. Lyons. Nazareth? Remarkable? & what in the world does render it remarkable? It is only a very small town & nothing of note has happened here as far as I am acquainted with its history & geography.

C. Tyson. Well it seems you are better acquainted with the history of other things than of your own. For my part - Nazareth will always be very remarkable to me as long as I live, for I am sure I shall never forget how I tugged & sweated at my lessons - broke my head at cyphering & geometry scolded at my Latin & French tasks. How I romped played & enjoyed myself in our beautiful gardens & woods; — how I with delight perceived the first gentle unfolding of my mind & heart - felt the first vigorous efforts of my spirit & body, & a thousand other circumstances within which I could fill whole sheets of the history of my life at Nazareth to myself infinitely more remarkable than any things historians relate, & poets have sung.

H. Lyons. That is certain. Nazareth will in this respect always be a very memorable place to us. But speaking in general of the cities of Pennsylvania Nazareth can be ranked only among the inferior towns. —

We have stopped long enough at the towns of Pennsylvania — C. Tyson
let us now proceed to the rivers.

Oh let me mention those — There is Chester Creek, Delaware, R. Richards
Schuylkill, Lehigh, Susquehanna, Alleghany, Monongahela

I wonder why you did not mention first of all the Bush- R. Strongman
kill, for that is no doubt much larger than Chester creek.

Oh. The Bushkill is not near as large as the Chester, besides R. Richards
the Chester creek is near the place where I live and I
am sure that creek will always be my favourite if I
should come to live in Europe or any other so distant country.

But of all the streams of Pennsylvania I shall always remem- R. Sherrerd
ber the Bushkill best as the banks of that creek are frequent-
ly the scenes of our youthful sports & whose limpid floods afford
in summer the choicest of all luxuries — Bathing. And then
the Bushkill has such fine handsome, wild banks, that
if I were better skilled in the Art of taking landscapes
I would have taken many a sketch of its romantic
scenery certainly not inferior to any far famed view
either in Italy or in Switzerland

What a beautiful, useful & charming art Drawing is — R. Russel
it pleases both sight & imagination — it engrosses the
mind & fascinates the heart — I know of nothing more
attracting than to see a well finished picture — I should
like above all things to become an eminent painter —
If we were for example to see a collection of portraits of

great men, we recall to memory all the great actions which they performed; & I can scarcely cease admiring them. I have frequently been in Peale's museum at Philadelphia & looked at the portraits there for hours together with renewed pleasure.

S. Lyons. The museum at Philadelphia certainly contributes in a very great [illegible] towards rendering that city highly interesting, — but besides this there are many other remarkable buildings & institutions there, — such as the Water works, the United States Bank, the Pennsylvania Bank, the Hospital, the University, the Academy of fine arts, the City Library & this

S. Baron. the Philadelphia! you Philadelphians know how to sing nothing but the praises of your Philadelphia! I am sure Baltimore has as much of every thing that renders a city eminent as Philadelphia — there we have a Museum, a Hospitable, Banks, Waterworks, & handsome buildings of every description, & other things as well as you have in Philadelphia — how in comparison with both places, where will you find in Philadelphia the natural beauties of the situation of Baltimore? Where a building like our Catholic Cathedral, or Exchange! Or what renders Baltimore particularly interesting is that near that city we had a battle in the late war, in which its citizens by their devoted patriotism gained imperishable glory — Among the public works of ant in

Baltimore, the most affecting is the monument erected in commemoration of that battle.

I think your eulogium on Baltimore has been long enough, — you know that we had agreed upon speaking of nothing else in the geography of the United States but of Pennsylvania. Will let us go on — I think Lancaster must be a fine city — it is at least laid out handsomely enough. If the houses make as elegant an appearance as in Philadelphia; the plan of the city seems to promise that the whole of the place must be very fine indeed.

S. Lyons.

M. Brazier

I have never been at Lancaster but I have heard & read that many of the houses are very poorly built.

R. Reardon.

I think we have been chattering long enough about geography, let us now proceed; & I would propose to take up grammar.

S. Lyons.

Oh by no means! Grammar is too dry a study; I am sure our friends won't thank us if we give them definitions of articles, substantives, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, & all that trash which occurs in the study of grammar — I am tempted when reminded of grammar to think of nothing but Interjections, as Ah! Oh! — Alas! Begone! &c.

M. Brennan

But grammar is a very useful study; & I think the plan of our Colloque was, to speak of all the sciences & arts which are taught we study.

R. Reardon

M. Burnam. I do not deny that grammar is very useful; but its being useful does not necessarily imply that it must also be a subject on which an amusing conversation can be held; — And you must confess yourself, that you have been hard at work to learn all those dry & abstruse rules, & now you propose to entertain the company with things which you yourself don't like, — besides, I think you would come off but very poorly, should you be examined. —

R. Reason. I must suppose that you know very little of the rules & definitions, which we have been learning.

M. Burnam. As for that, I believe I am as proficient as you are, — I have given my reasons why I wish to skip Grammar. However, I am ready to answer any question, which you, or any one of the Scholars, can put to me.

R. Reason. I must confess, that I am not at all in favour of Grammar, & I hope, you will excuse this short trial. We have other very useful branches of Education to go through; we therefore can skip several of those, which are useful indeed, but of which not much can be spoken in a dialogue, — for example, Orthography, Arithmetic, Reading, Book-keeping, which are all very useful & agreeable to study, but I think

our Audience would be but badly pleased, if we were, instead of attending to our Dialogue, to begin to spell hard words, or to multiply or divide, or to explain the rules for what is debtor, or creditor.

I think so too, — Let us therefore go on to the very interesting study of History. M. Burnam.

No Let us stop a while yet at Geography, for that is by far more interesting to me, than any other; besides we have given that highly amusing study science but a very slight mention, & what has been said of it was by no means the most interesting. — We have spoken of the bell-tun at Heidelberg, of the great bell of Moscow, a little of Pennsylvania, but nothing at all of the other parts of the world — We have not said a single syllable of the wonderous things which are to be found in our own, as well as in the other hemisphere. For what are the works of frail human art, compared to those of mighty nature & its Almighty Maker! What is the largest city to the stupendous ridge of mountains in America called the Cordilleras. — What is the sound of a great bell, compared to the magnificient noise of the Niagara waterfalls? — I believe, I would just as willing go out S. Schmidt

to our neighbouring friendly shipowners, to see the small yacht, that was hung in staple yet, as travel to Moscow, if it were for no other purpose, than to see that monster, which is of no use.

G. Bryan. You are right indeed! We have hitherto been searching for the puny great works of proud man, in our conversation on geography, instead of the glorious works of ~~proud~~ Nature; — We have not indeed viewed the most gigantic mountains, the most majestic rivers, but have, to be sure, mentioned some insignificant lakes, on account of their names, instead of remembering with one word those immense inland seas, which constitute the part of the boundaries of the U. States. We have, forsooth, viewed the great wine-casks, instead of the countries beset with luxuriant vineyards, which produce that charming liquor. But we have for all that & spent a great deal of our time at this talk about geography — therefore it is, in my opinion, high time to begin with history. — I propose to speak about the history of the Persians.

Swas. No, don't let us be such antiquarians! But rather turn your thoughts on more modern times.

Bryan. Is there not in our times a ~~a~~ named Persia, & are not its inhabitants called Persians?

Swas. Most true enough! you wish, I suppose, to speak of the

present war between the Greeks, the Persians, Turks & Russians?

Bryan Yes that I do, & I think we can converse in a very pleasing manner about those things.

Barron That we can indeed — but far more interesting would be the scenes of the history of our own country & therefore I would prefer speaking about our revolutionary war.

Richards I would indeed be very interesting, to recal the actions of the heroes of the revolution. & I am very much in favour of it.

Reese I am for talking about the French & Latin languages first & then conclude with History.

F. Schmidt Not French but rather German

J. Sensenman Ja, ja, wir wollen anfangen Deutsch zu reden.

F. Schmidt Du denkst wol weil du gut Deutsch sprichst kommen wir die nicht nahe kommen — die moechten nur gerne glauben unsers die Ehre rauben, aber warte nur — ich kann auch Deutsch reden.

Bryan What are they talking German for? — I cannot understand that language & besides it is very disagreeable to be in company with those who speak a language

which you do not understand – & I hope they do not
intend to entertain our friends with their broken
German – for I cannot conceive that speak that
language good at present.)

Smart (I'm sure they pretend to be a judge of the german lan-
guage, as you yourself confess that you do not under-
stand it at all). Nun Sylvester! lass uns weiter
machen! Warum gehen die nicht in die andre
Stube? wenn sie hinein gingen so würden sie
bald so gut deutsch sprechen wie ich. Denn
als ich vor 5 jahren in diese Schule kam, konn-
te ich auch kein Deutsch verstehen noch sprech-
en – Da ich nichts lernte, kam auch im Examen
nichts! komm nur! mach fort! die sollen uns
wol unges choren lassen. Ich merke nichts gut,
dass unsre Zuhörer sich freuen, dass wir einmal
Deutsch reden.

S Sensermann Ja freilich! ich bin auch ganz deiner Meinung –
und wir wollen, Vota ihnen fortmachen

D Rifle No my good friends you must not take them
fortmachen, for we want to have a share in the
conversation as well as you & if for all you can
[illegible] to talk german in spite of us) Sunder-
stand

25 a little german too) Here in spite of yourselves
we shall let you talk alone.

Several Yes, Yes – so we will!

S. Sensermann Well John what do you say to this? John it
seems we must give up, if we wish to preserve
peace (in an under voice to Schmirle) fällt dir
nichts gelbes Tanzbar ein? Fort reisen alle, fort
mit dir – du Narr! willst klüger sey n als wir
Lord) well then, never mind! Let us go on to
the American revolution

Barron I know a very fine anecdote of a little Irishman
in the American service, who made prisoners
of six Hessians at once. Six Hessians on a
certain occasion, me thinks – they place
their guns on the outside of the fence, – the
little Irishman happened to come that way,
& seeing their weapons standing at the fence,
took possession of them & threatened to kill
dead the first one that attempt'd to make his
escape. The poor Hessians had, (nolens volens)
to deliver themselves up as prisoners of war & were

escorted by victorious Paddy, triumphantly from the field of turnips to headquaters — When our little Irishman arrived in camps, after his easy gained victory, with his prisoners, he was interrogated by Gen. Washington, how he had single handed taken so many prisoners? —

"With your excellency" quoth Paddy, "I completely surrounded them.

W. Lucas That fellow must have had arms, like the yard arms of a man of war, to surround six lusty Hessians at a time!

S. Lyons. I suppose the whole is a story, invented by the narrator himself.

J. Baron That is paying a fine compliment to my inventive powers — But it is no just compliment, for I can assure you, that I cannot claim the honour of inventing it — but that I have heard it from one person that heard it from another & so on to the original author & I wish to propogate it further & therefore I have related it here. —

J. Richards I dare say, had Washington had but 5,000 of such fellows, he would have captured

Cornwallis's army without sticking a blow, or firing a gun. But since this was the only man in his whole army, that could surround half a dozen enemies at a time, he had considerable trouble & bloodshed to encounter, before he was able to achieve the independence of these states.

D. Rush The revolutionary war is the most interesting of wars in which I delight, because so much depended on it & so much would have been lost if it has miscarried — What must have been the feelings of those who were witnesses to the scenes of that long & doubtful war, when observing the first time of the newly declared republic — with what trembling anxiety must they have waited the issue of every important undertaking — how dejected they must have been, when they beheld the immortal Washington retreating through New Jersey, into Pennsylvania — & how elated with joy, when they beheld him again returning into the lately left state, & there, with his few, dejected, & almost naked soldiers advance to the camps

of the enemy, strike a blow at him & come off victorious laden with the spoil of a basely & unjust foe — Such thoughts raise a reverential & admiring feeling towards all those who so nobly undertook & who so perseveringly effected the liberation of themselves & their posterity from the galling yoke of foreign oppression.

G B gun

These are exactly the feelings which I had wished to express — but which you have described in a better style than I would have been able to do — But I can relate an anecdote of Gen. Washington, which will shew his great character, & unassuming conduct — He has had occasion to travel, — he sent some of his attendants before him to a certain tavern, in order to mention his approach, & order a dinner for himself & his suit — all instantly was bustle & confusion — the kettle was hung up over the hearth — instantaneously a crackling fire blazes in the chimney; the oven was heated & in short every thing was in an uproar, all went topsy turvy, as is always the case & sought to be on the approach of an unwonted & esteemed visitor. In the midst of this hurry a man entered —

the landlady taking him to be one of her guests forerunners instantly pressed him in the service of the kitchen, purging for excuse the honorable guest who was approaching, & for whose sake all her house was in an uproar. His supposed attendant of Washington instantly took off his hat & coat & made himself ready to serve under the command of the highly important kitchen servant general. The new recruit went thro' the manual & pedal exercises pretty well — he executed the words of command such as "take down the kettle" — hand me the ladle!" & such like kitchen exercise to the full satisfaction of his glowing faced commander — when on a sudden an alarm was spread "General Washington is coming" every thing that had legs & feet to run except the busy kitchen servant ran to the doors & windows to see the novelty. Deep reverences naturally were made to the foremost of the gang who was thought to be Gen. Washington — Whispers ran round the group of his fine shape — tall stature — martial appearance &c. But to the terror & utter dismay of the spoon & ladle the objects of their admiring statures of low household alighted, went up to the newly engaged kitchen servant made a low bow towards him & greeted him as general Washington!

Well done! this anecdote displays exceedingly well a prominent trait in the character of our great chief. I question whether any one of his attendants would have done the same. —

W. Lucas.

J Cooper. Certainly we have great reason to glory in such a person & country-man & with perfect justice he is called by the endearing name of Father of his Country — With unqualled perseverance & valour he conducted the war — with superior wisdom & prudence he afterwards was active in framing our excellent constitutions, and with the fatherly tenderness & authority & he governed the newly created & dependant republic, which by his correct & energetic policy began to rise to a respectable rank among the nations of the world. — But eulogiums of more eloquent men, than we are, have been delivered times without number in honor of Washington. We may forbear to say any thing more in his praise; but we can adore the benevolent father of the Universe in whose hand our Washington was the instrument to secure our independence. To him we owe thanks & praise for every benefit already bestowed on us, & which we will never cease to shower ~~upon us~~ down on this our beloved country from the fullness of his mercy. ——

I think we have spoken enough of this foremost of all characters of our Revolution. Let us then proceed with our conversation & history.

C. Tyson. I am not particularly fond of recapitulating those events in history which properly constitute the main subject of that science but such a selection of historical facts as we have made in this dialogue is much more suiting my taste.

M. Brenan. Well, but we ought at least to mention the names of the Presidents who have hitherto filled the supreme executive chair in the government of these United States & they are, Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe. ——

In Mr Jefferson's personal conduct & manners I always & C Tyson admire his uniform partiality for republican simplicity & his ~~uniform~~ aversion to idle ceremonies & silly formality. At his entering upon the presidency he found himself grievously troubled with the childish etiquette which the foreign ambassadors, & more especially their Ladies, endeavoured to introduce into his own drawing room; & apprehending that the wives & daughters of his nearest official connections might catch the contagion, he let no opportunity escape of giving it his marked discountenance. He wisely judged, that example in this matter, as in most others, example was better than precept, & accordingly set about new modelling the manners of the city. When he paid his morning visits, he did not, as the European great ones ride with a numerous train at his heels but simply mounted his horse, without the assistance of a servant rode quite alone to the house of the person he intended to see, there jumped down from his horse, tied him to a post, & entered plainly & simply as Thomas Jefferson. Should the different legations come to dine with him, he received them with indiscriminating politeness & with that simple dignity, by which he is so eminently characterized, welcoming all, & conversing with every

one, without the least formal distinction, & left the company to arrange themselves at their own choice directed at his table, of which he so did the honours, as to spread ease & cheerfulness around it, & to make his guests in good humour with themselves & each other.

J. Stringham. I know that story, anecdote too, & as it may tire you too much, pray let me continue.

Cy. Lyson. Well, you are welcome.

J. Stringham. The lady of the Spanish minister, however, upon returning home from one of these entertainments, began to ponder upon the events of the evening; it struck her, that she had been seated below the wife of an ambassador whose diplomatic rank she considered inferior to that of her husband. Instantly a council of Dons was summoned — the noble ambassadress pleads the cause of her master in a most pathetic manner. She proved the following accepted satisfaction to the satisfaction of the whole assembly: to wit: "Her most Catholic Majesty had been most grossly insulted in her person." For, An insult offered to the wife is the same as if it were offered to the husband, (as the wife & her husband make one person) consequently her husband had been offended. Quod erat primum. Again — An insult offered to his Most Catholic Majesty's Ambassador is the same as an insult offered to his Sacred Majesty himself; (for the

Ambassador always represents his master) consequently his Majesty himself had received the insult. Quod erat secundum. Ergo: His Most Catholic Majesty had been on that day most grossly insulted in her Ladyship's person at the President's table. Q. E. D. In consequence of this accusation, so convincingly demonstrated, & eloquently enforced, the Don was deputed next morning to remonstrate with the president & to demand ample satisfaction. However, the President had his Attic in the divan, & had been informed of the momentous transactions of the evening before. The Lord of the (salted) incensed Lady of the insulted Representative of his insulted most Catholic Majesty made his appearance.

C. Let me have a share in that story too. Accordingly Mr. Lucas.

[illegible] the next morning, the representative of Spain arrived in due style at the house of the President. Mr. Jefferson happened to be in his library, when he was informed of the noble Spaniard's arrival, who had been shown into an adjoining apartment. He instantly called for his boots, & putting on one & holding the other in his hands proceeded to the room. Having half opened the door, he issued orders to one of his servants, relating to his horse, & then advancing, while at the same time drawing on the remaining boot, welcomed his visitant with his usual

serenity. "Pray, Sir, be seated, be seated, no ceremony here, my good Sir— I'm very glad to see you;" & then, without inquiring the disconcerted air of the astonished representative of His Majesty of Spain & the Indies, entered with wonted ease into general conversation, opposing the gentleman to the minister, & the unassuming dignity of the philosopher & Republican to the frozen haughtiness of the diplomatic & conceited Grandee. The combat was soon decided. The Spaniard departed, & reported to his lady & other diplomatic friends, that when they went to the house of the American president, they must leave the dignity of their masters at home.

J. Richards. Well, & I dare say they did leave the boasted dignity of their lords at home ever after— at least, if I were an Ambassador of any of their European Majesties, I should never again be to have risked such Majesty to be saluted by the American President's lost

J. Schmierle. But, my dear companions, I think we have drawn out this our conversation to a good length— we have spoken of many things, & yet very little of any use, have been skipping about from one branch of science to another, & therefore could rest on none. I fear we have seemed to impose too much on the indulgence & patience of our honored audience by our chit chat. Besides we have must remember that we have yet a great deal of business on hand for to-day. Let us therefore draw to a close. May that Power who rules over all, give the president now in office, and

(Standing)

all those who shall hereafter be elevated to that elevated & responsible station with wisdom to govern these states in a manner pleasing to God, & beneficial to their fellow citizens, & may he enable to keep alive in their minds that impression that they do not hold their exalted office for their own aggrandizement, but merely for the promotion of the welfare of those whom they are called to govern. To that power we like wise owe our existence & preservation in our health & strength, our opportunities for improvement, & all our innumerable comforts. What we have so always truly thankfully to Him for his boundless favours towards us. Our hearts & lips should never cease to sing the praises of Him who holds the reins of the whole creation, & who at the same time kindly ~~accepts~~ directs the wants of every individual that will be guided by Him. Let us therefore conclude with an anthem of praise to the Most High. If the sensations of our hearts are in unison with the accents of our lips the Almighty will be pleased with our humble strain. In my opinion we could not find a more suitable one than the following:

1. Great Lord of Lords, Almighty King
   Of all thy vast creation,
   To thee our raptured strains we sing,
   Accept our adoration.
2. Thou art the source of every good,
   Of every bliss the fountain
   Thine is the Earth, the Ocean flood,
   Thine valley, plain and mountain.

3. Thy breath inspires with life & power
With rapture every creature
Thine is the sweet kind dew & showr
Thine — universal nature

4. Thy children we your counting's thine
Who can thy blessings number?
Than makst thy face on us to shine
Both when we wake & slumber.

5th Be this our theme for heart & tongue
In this world's transitory
Until we join the ceaseless song
Of all the saints in glory.

A848s