

MAJOR ANDRÉ'S STORY OF THE "MISCHIANZA."

FROM THE UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT.



FROM A PAINTING BY R. E. PINE.

MRS. JOHN EAGER HOWARD.—(PEGGY CHEW.)

PREFACE.

MOST of us know by heart the story of Major André,—his brilliant life, his tragic death,—which has been told and told again; and for most of us, I think, there lingers always a sort of romance, a halo of pity and pathos, about the young heroic figure doomed to so sad a fate. And so it seems to me that perhaps this little pamphlet, written by his hand more than one hundred years ago, and presented by him to my great-grandmother, Margaret Oswald Chew, or "Peggy" Chew, as she was called in the fashion of the day, whose knight he was in the "Mischianza," may have a wider interest than that of mere family record.

It is an account of the "Mischianza," of which we have heard much of late—the famous farewell banquet given in Philadelphia, May 18, 1778, in honor of Sir William Howe, who was then commander-in-chief of the British armies in America.

Mr. Fiske tells us in his "History of the American Revolution":

It was a strange medley, combining the modern parade with the medieval tournament, and was interesting on account of the prominent parts

having been taken by the ill-starred Major André, and the beautiful Margaret Shippen, who so soon afterward became the wife of Benedict Arnold.

Strangely enough, Mr. Fiske was unaware of the fact that for some reason Chief Justice Shippen had forbidden his daughters to appear, and that, although their dresses were prepared, they were not allowed to be present.

Faded and yellow with age, the little parchment vividly calls up before us the gallant young English officer, eager and full of keen interest, throwing himself with youthful ardor, with light-hearted seriousness, into this bit of superb frivolity. On the cover he has outlined a wreath of leaves around the initials "P. C.," and he has made a water-color sketch to show the design and colors of his costume as a knight of the "Blended Rose," and that of his brother, Lieutenant William Lewis André, who acted as his esquire and bore his shield, with its quaint motto, "No rival." The device, "Two game cocks fighting," must have proved too difficult to draw, for he uses in his picture that of Captain Watson—a heart and a wreath of laurel, "Love and Glory."

In this description André is careful to omit the names of the Shippen girls, leaving a blank before the name of Mr. Sloper, who was to ride for Margaret Shippen, and Mr. Winiard, who should have been the knight of her sister. This confirms the story, which Mrs. Wharton tells us has come from the Shippen family, that although in "a dancing fury," they were not in the "Mischianza." As André includes them in his only other description until now printed, which appeared in the "Gentleman's Magazine," August, 1778, we must accept Mrs. Wharton's suggestion "that, like the modern reporter, André sent off his copy before the ball had taken place." It is amusing to note his reference to the banquet-room as being large enough to seat the now classic "four hundred," and to see the Latin inscriptions, all in such a heroic tone that the men of our

troops, insisting that he was familiar with every part of the house, he mistook for English intrenchments an addition which had been put up since his last visit, and ordered his men to fire into the house, shattering the windows and doors. These old doors are still preserved, the ones replacing them being the only change made in Cliveden since those days. It is very interesting to see how faithfully this beautiful home has been kept in order, and without any modern contrivances to mar the effect, which is architecturally still entirely in keeping with the time in which it was built (1761). The front door is still closed by an enormous iron bar, which impressed me greatly when I visited this house of my great-grandmother, four years ago, for the first time.

I was welcomed by Miss Chew, a niece of Peggy Chew, who was then the owner of Clive-



MAJOR JOHN ANDRÉ. PEN PORTRAIT DRAWN BY HIMSELF THE MORNING OF THE DAY BEFORE HIS EXECUTION.
(IN POSSESSION OF VALE UNIVERSITY.)

matter-of-fact day may smile; but what woman will not wish that she had lived when men spoke and wrote with such earnestness these charming trifles?

In the days of the "Mischianza," Peggy Chew's father, Chief Justice Benjamin Chew, welcomed to "Cliveden" the most cultivated among the English officers, and his clever and charming daughters naturally drew about them the prominent men of our country. General Washington was an intimate friend of the family, and at the battle of Germantown, when Cliveden was occupied by a detachment of British

den. Although over eighty years old, Miss Chew made a perfect picture of colonial times, with her stately bearing and gracious manners; and I felt as though I were reading a chapter out of an old book, when she spoke of her father's portrait, and said, "He had the finest legs of any man of his day," and told me with enthusiasm of Major André's admiration for my great-grandmother, and how, nine years after the "Mischianza," when she had married Colonel John Eager Howard, the hero of Cowpens, she still loved to dwell upon Major André's charms, which frequently irritated her

patriotic husband. Once, sitting at the head of her table at Belvidere, her home in Baltimore, entertaining some distinguished foreigners, she said, "Major André was a most witty and cultivated gentleman"; whereupon Colonel Howard interrupted sternly, "He was a — spy, sir; nothing but a — spy!"

We find still at Cliveden many remembrances

And these playful verses telling of social gaieties, "written to Miss Peggy Chew, when returning a bow of ribbon belonging to her, and found after a dance":

As some rude tower, with moss or ivy crown
Seems as if pining o'er its past renown,
O'er days when to the skies its turrets rose,
And seemed to scorn all elemental foes;



DRAWN BY HARRY FENN, AFTER A PHOTOGRAPH BY GUTEKUNST.

CLIVEDEN.

ENGRAVED BY C. SCHWARZBURGER.

of André and his merry moods and light badinage, including "An Epigram," written by him when he had seen "Peggy" Chew in the garden of Cliveden, among the branches of a tree:

The Hebrews write and those who can
Believe an apple tempted man
To touch the tree exempt;
Tho' tasted at a vast expense,
'T was too delicious to the sense,
Not mortally to tempt.

But had the tree of knowledge bloomed,
Its branches by much fruit perfumed,
As here enchants my view —
What mortal Adam's taste could blame,
Who would not die to eat the same,
When gods might wish a *Chew*?

Or as in Westminster of ancient fame,
The marble monuments around proclaim
The passing glories of successive reigns,
Whose only remnants now its earth contains:
So this sad vestige, only emblem left
To soothe the mind of latest joy bereft,
Serves but to show how pleasures pass away
Like morning dew, before Apollo's ray.
If I mistake not, 't is the accomplished *Chew*,
To whom this ornamental bow is due;
It's taste like hers, so neat, so void of art,
Just as her mind, and gentle as her heart;
I haste to send it, to resume its place,
For beauty should sorrow o'er a bow's disgrace.

Youth and good spirits were taking their natural course regardless of the serious historic events which were impending — events which doomed André, a character so full of charm and grace, so fitted for social and family life, to the

most terrible of human tragedies. In 1779, when bidding farewell to Cliveden, he writes these lines to "Peggy" Chew :

If at the close of war and strife
 My destiny once more
 Should in the varied paths of life
 Conduct me to this shore ;
 Should British banners guard the land,
 And factions be restrained ;
 And Cliveden's mansion peaceful stand,
 No more with blood be stained—
 Say ! Wilt thou then receive again,
 And welcome to thy sight,
 The youth who bids with stifled pain
 His sad farewell to-night ?

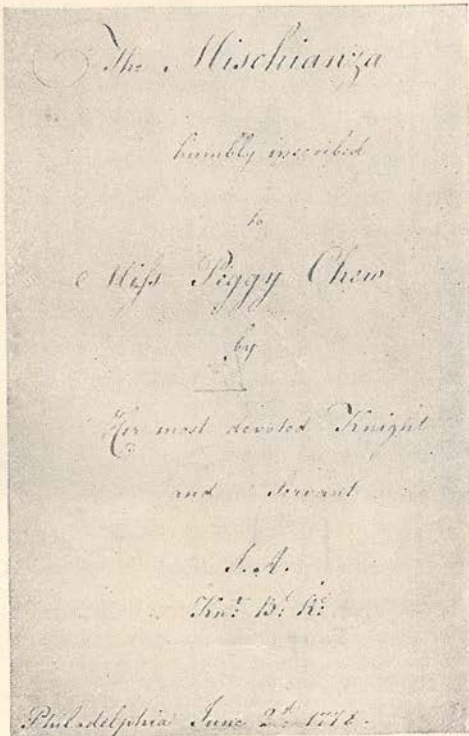
How great must have been the sufferings of this young girl through the deep gloom

which from that time followed Major André ! and how precious, almost sacred to her, must have been this small pamphlet ! It was treasured by her until her death, when she left it to her daughter.¹ Even at this distance of time our sympathies are deeply stirred for the unfortunate young man.

André was only twenty-nine years old when he was hanged, October 1, 1780. He was "serene and brave to the end." His last words were, "All I request of you, gentlemen, is to bear witness to the world that I died like a brave man." Englishmen have honored him by placing him in Westminster Abbey, with all their greatest heroes ; may we not, as true and loyal Americans, while recognizing the justice of his sentence, feel the deepest sympathy and pity for his tragic death ?

Sophie Howard Ward.

MAJOR ANDRÉ'S ACCOUNT.²



FACSIMILE OF FIRST PAGE OF ANDRÉ'S NARRATIVE.

THE Festival given in honour of Sr Wm Howe on the 18th of May and stiled the Misquianza began by a Regatta upon the Delaware ; Four hundred persons were invited, for all of whom the most convenient Accommodations were provided in Galleys

and Flat Boats : These were on the Occasion lined with Cloth, covered with Awnings, and dressed out with Colours and Streamers in full naval pomp.

The Embarkation took place at Knight's wharf at the upper end of the City at 4 oClock in the afternoon and the Weather was as favourable as the preparations were magnificent.

The *Ferret* Galley in which were several General Officers and Ladies led the Way. Three flat boats with Musick followed, The *Hussar* allotted to Sir William Howe rowed next and the *Cornwallis* with Gen: Knyphausen closed the rear. The Boats in three Divisions, one attached to each Galley swarmed around them.

The Gaudy Fleet, freighted with all that was distinguished by Rank Beauty and Gallantry was conveyed down the River, along the whole length of the City, whilst every Ship at the wharfs or in the Stream was decked in all her maritime Ornaments and covered with Spectators. Opposite to the *Fanny* (an Armed Ship of the Frigate Build) the whole lay on their Oars ; The *Fanny* was from the water's edge to the Mast Head covered with Streamers and Ensigns.

The Shore now became doubly crowded with lookers on, full of Curiosity and admiration. The musick Boats drew somewhat nearer and the loyal and inspiring ode "God save the King" was played and Chorussed. After this Ceremony the Boats and Galleys proceeded on their way down the River and

¹ Mrs. William G. Read, of Baltimore.

² The original manuscript has been followed in every respect.—EDITOR.

the *Roebuck* as they passed, firing a Royal Salute, The Musick, the number of Spectators & the Brilliancy of the gay tribe which peopled the River made the whole uncommonly solemn and striking.

The General and the whole Company who had attended the Regatta landed opposite Mr Whartons House at 6 oClock. Here the preparations had been made for the remain-

naval Arch were erected two small Amphitheatres; the Approach to the Arch was between these. The Company was conducted to the lower end of the Carousel ground opposite the Center of the Arches and House, whilst Spectators not to be numbered darked the whole plain around: a very strong guard controuled their Curiosity and with the Colours of the Army waving at different intervals



FRONTISPIECE OF ANDRÉ'S NARRATIVE. FROM THE ORIGINAL WATER-COLOR SKETCH BY HIMSELF.

ing amusements of the Evening. The House stands at about 600 yards from the Water, at the bottom of the Garden a Triumphal Arch was erected of the Doric Order decorated with military Emblems and Devices and inscribed

"I bone 'quo Virtus tua te vocat I pedé fausto." 150 yards farther towards the water stood another Arch of the same Order but decorated with naval Ornaments. Its inscription on the Freeze was "Laus illi debetur, et a me gratia major"

under the military arch stood in Niches two Grenadiers, under the naval one two Sailors. The Ground between the last Edifice and the Delaware was the Spot fixed upon for the Carousel, and at the upper end near the

framed-in the Ground with martial uniformity and splendour.

The company having proceeded up the Center with some Order and Solemnity The Ladies were Seated on the Amphitheatres, those attached to Knights in the most conspicuous places.

The Ladies selected from the foremost in youth, beauty and fashion were habited in fancy dresses. They wore gauze Turbans spangled and edged with gold or Silver, on the right Side a veil of the same kind hung as low as the waist and the left side of the Turban was enriched with pearl and tassels of gold or Silver & crested with a feather. The dress was of the polonaise Kind and of white Silk with

long sleeves, the Sashes which were worn round the waist and were tied with a large bow on the left side hung very low and were trimmed spangled and fringed according to the Colours of the Knight. The Ladies of the black Champions were on the right, those of the white on the left.

The combined Bands of musick of the Army

other Knights one were in a pink Spanish dress with white mantles and sashes: they wore high crowned pink hats with a white and a black feather and carried the lance and Shield of their Knight. The lance was fluted pink and white with a little banner of the same Colours, and the Shield was silvered and painted with the Knights device.

THE KNIGHTS WERE :

<i>Knights.</i>	<i>Shield.</i>	<i>Motto.</i>	<i>Lady.</i>
<i>Chf Knt:</i> LORD CATHCART, 17th Drns.	Cupid on a Lion	"Surmounted by Love"	Miss Achmuty
<i>Esqres</i> { CAPT. HAZARD, 44th CAPT. BROWNLOW 57th	A Heart and a Sword	"Love & Honour"	
<i>Hble</i> MR CATHCART 23d			
<i>Esq:</i> CAPT: PETERS dsd			
MR BYGRAVE 16th Dra	Cupid tracing a Circle	"Without End"	Miss. J: Craig
<i>Esq:</i> MR. NICHOLAS			
CAPT N. ANDRÉ 26th	Two game cocks fighting	"No Rival"	Miss P. Chew
<i>Esq:</i> MR. ANDRÉ 7th			
CAPT: HORNECK, Guds	A Burning Heart	"Absence Cannot Extinguish It"	Miss N. Redmond
<i>Esq:</i> MR. TALBOT 16th Drag:			
CAPT N. MATHEWS 41st	A Winged Heart	"Each Fair by Turns"	Miss Bond
<i>Esq:</i> MR. HAMILTON 15th			
MR. SLOPER, 17th Dra	A Heart and Sword	Honour & the Fair	
MR. BROWN, 15th			

having taken their Station behind the general and attendants, a very loud and animated march gave the Signal for beginning the Ceremony of the Carousel.

Seven white Knights on Horses of that Colour entered the Quadrangle from the left proceeded by a Herald and three Trumpets. Their device which the Herald bore on his Coat and with which the Trumpet banners were blazon'd was a white and red rose with their Stalks entwined. The motto was "we droop when separate" and the Knights stiled themselves "Of the blended Rose."

Their dress was that worn in the time of Henry the 4th of France: The Vest was of white Sattin, the upper part of the Sleeves made very full but of pink confined within a row of straps of white sattin laced with Silver upon a black edging. The Trunk Hose were exceeding wide and of the same kind with the shoulder-part of the Sleeves. A large pink scarf fastened on the right shoulder with a white bow crossed the Breast and back and hung in an ample loose Knot with Silver fringes very low under the left hip, a pink and white Sword belt laced with black and Silver girded the waist, Pink bows with fringe were fastened to the Knees, and a wide buff leather boot hung carelessly round the ankles: The Hat of white sattin with a narrow brim and high crown, was turned up in front and enlivened by red white and black plumes, and the Hair tied with the Contrasted Colours of the dress hung in flowing curls upon the back. The Horses were caparisoned with the same Colours, with trimmings and bows hanging very low from either ham and tied round their Chest. The Esquires of which the chief Knights had two and the

The Knights of the blended rose each preceded by his Esquire passed singly at equal Intervals in procession round the Field and saluted the General and Ladies, being returned to their ground on the left, they drew up, the chief Knight a little advanced in front and the others equally divided on either Side, the Herald moved to the Center of the Area, three trumpets preceding him, to summon attention. The first defiance was then pronounced in the following Words

The Knights of the Blended Rose, by me their Herald proclaim and assert, that the Ladies of the Blended Rose, excell in Wit, Beauty and every Accomplishment, those of the whole world, and, should any Knight, or Knights, be so hardy as to dispute or deny it, they are ready to enter the lists with them and maintain their assertions, by deeds of Arms, according to the laws of ancient Chivalry.

The Herald then approached the Company at the upper end of the Field and repeated the defiance and afterwards moving to the right, pronounced it with the same Solemnity on the opposite part of the Field to the White Knights.

Seven Black Knights now appeared within the Quadrangle. They were in black Sattin contrasted with orange and laced with gold according to the stile of dress of the White Knights; Their Horses were black and likewise ornamented with black and orange. The Esquires were in orange coloured silk with black mantles and Trimmings: They stiled themselves Knights of the Burning Mountain, and their Herald had that device on his Coat with the motto "I burn for ever."

THE KNIGHTS WERE :

<i>Knights.</i>	<i>Shield.</i>	<i>Motto.</i>	<i>Lady.</i>
Chief Knight, CAPTN WATSON Guds.	A Heart and a Wreath of Laurel	"Love and Glory"	Miss Franks
Esqrs. { CAPT. SCOTT 17th { MR LYTTLETON 5th			
MR. UNDERWOOD 10th	A Pelican Feeding Her Young	"For Those I Love"	Miss N. White
Esq. MR. HAVERCAM			
MR WINIARD 64th	A Bay leaf	"Unchang'd"	Miss ———
Esq. MR BOSCAWEN Guards			
MR DELAVAL 4th	{ A Heart aimed at by several } { Arrows and struck by one. }	"One only pierces me"	Miss B. Bond
Esq. CAPT THORNE 4th			
MONSR DE MONTLUIRANT	{ A Sunflower turning to the Sun. }	"Je vise a vous."	Miss B. Redman
Esq. CAPT. CAMPBELL 55th			
MR HOBART 7th	A Mariner's Compass	"To the Fairest"	Miss S. Chew
Esq. MR BRISCOE			
MR OF BR TARLTON	A Light Dragoon	"Swift, Vigilant & bold"	Miss Smith
Esq. MR HART 46th.			

They shewed themselves to contend for the superior Worth of the Ladies of the burning Mountain and to disprove the Assertion of the White Knights in favour of their Ladies.

After having moved in procession round the Quadrangle, exchanged a Salute with their Antagonists, and paid their Compliment to the distinguished group of Spectators, they took their place opposite to the White Knights and their Herald was sent with the same ceremonies as that of the blended Rose, to defy the Knights of that device to make good their Assertion: Their defiance was nearly in the following words.—

The Knights of the Burning Mountain enter these lists not to contend with words, but to disprove by deeds of Arms the vainglorious assertions of the Knights of the blended Rose and to shew that the Ladies of the burning Mountain as far excell all others in Charms as the Knights themselves surpass all others in prowess

On a parley being sounded the two Lines of Knights having sheathed their Swords, met midway, and the White Chief throwing down his glove in defiance towards his adversary's Feet, an Esquire from the Black took it up and returned it to him as accepting the Challenge. The Esquires now presented the Knights with their Shields and Lances, and the whole after saluting with the Lance, returned to resume their places.

The Signal for the Charge was next sounded when the Tilt took place with great rapidity and dexterity, each Knight's Spear appearing to be shivered against his Antagonist, the Charge back again was immediate and with the pistol, which was fired in passing, the other pistol being produced, a third Charge was made; The Knights then drew their Swords and rode again at each other striking as they passed. The Whole now advanced against each other at once and closed, each Knight to his adversary, fighting hand to hand, and circling round, to direct their blow, till on a Signal they desisted to admit of a Single Combat between the Chiefs.

These whilst fighting furiously, were parted by the interposition of the Judges of the Field, who doubtless deemed the Ladies so fair and the Knights so brave that it would have been impious to decide in favour of either.

The Knights of both colours thus reconciled by a happy compromise formed in one Line at the bottom of the Field, alternately a black and a white champion, and advanced in Line to salute the witnesses of their Feats, they then filed so as each to ride by his Opponent, and being preceded by their Trumpets and Heralds and attended by their Esquires moved in procession to martial music thro the first Arch, on the other side of which they formed themselves on either side the avenue leading to the next; The Company passed between them towards the house & were saluted by Each Knight as they came opposite to him.

The House was lighted and ornamented with much Brilliancy and Taste: a great number of looking glasses multiplied every object, These were festooned over with Flowers Knots and scarves of pink and green silk and the walls were decorated with ornamental paintings in Fresco in a very elegant Style. The Ladies sat down to Tea whilst the Knights dismounted. The latter soon entered arm in arm and repaired to pay homage to their fair ones by whom they were each presented with a favour.

The ball now began: The Knights only and their Ladies standing up in the first dance; The second dance The Knights' Ladies danced with the Esquires. By this time it was about 9 o'clock and quite dark and the Fireworks which were prepared in the garden and on the Arch next the House were announced. The Company distributed themselves at the windows and doors, and were entertained with an Exhibition which besides its real merit, had that of Novelty to recommend it to the greatest number. The Fireworks closed with a grand illumination of the Arch, on the summit of which was a figure of Fame, from whose Trumpet issued in Letters of fire "Tes Lauriers sont immortels"

The Ladies returned again to the Ball Room,

and another dance had scarce been led down, when they were summoned to Supper; Thus was one pleasure ever substituted to another throughout this various evening, long before satiety could take place.

Behind and adjoining to the house a Saloon 180 feet long had been erected, it was arched with Frame work and lined with Canvass painted and decorated in the manner of Scenes. A great number of Lustres hung from the roof along the whole length of the building, Looking Glasses, Chandeliers and Girandoles covered the Sides, the whole enlivened by garlands of flowers and festoons of Silk and Ribbon: At different intervals were large Niches for buffets and several doors render'd the attendance convenient. The Tables decked profusely and with a great deal of Taste, held 400 people. There was some Appearance of Enchantment on entering the Room, when such a perspective of Ornament and illumination caught the Eye unexpectedly, when at the upper End were discovered 24 negroes in blue and white Turbans and sashes with bright bracelets & Col-

lars bowing profoundly together, as the company journeyed thro' the prodigious length of the Saloon, and when the most pathetic musick was performed by a concealed band, Every one seemed to hesitate if they should proceed, whether the objects before them appeared sacred or whether they involuntarily stopped to gratify their Surprise.

After Supper the Herald by sound of Trumpet proclaimed the Kings Health and the Band of Musick played God save the King, which was chorussed by all present. The Healths of the Commander in chief The Founders of the Feast, The Ladies of each Device were next drank—Very loud acclamations were given when the General and Admirals Healths were pronounced and persons who were near both, could perceive a generous Emotion, answer the undissembled Testimony of our Love and Admiration.

Freighted with new Strength and Spirits the whole repaired again to the Ball room and day Light overtook them in all the festive Mirth with which a youthfull band could be animated.

From the Manuscript of John André.

