â??E. B.,â?• â??Some additional Lines, which were recited at the Caractacan Meetingâ?¦â?•

Description

â??E. B.â?•

***â??Some additional Lines, which were recited at the* CARACTACAN *Meeting, at* Longnor*, in* Shropshire*, in* July, 1776.â?•**

So sung the bard, who, in Silurian groves
Sequesterâ??d, chaunted his prophetic strain.
Far other scenes, beyond the vast Atlantic,
Horrid with arms, and stainâ??d with civil blood,
The Muse with grief beholds, and with soft Pityâ??s
Mournful eye deplores, weeping the dire ills
Of lawless Faction, blasting the fair fruits
Which Freedom and true Liberty bestowâ??d,
In happiest climes, on those her favâ??rite sons.
Instead of regal sway, for genâ??ral good,
Fierce democratic rage usurps the seat
Of Empire, spurning with rebellious pride
The hand parental, which has raisâ??d and nurturâ??d
Their infant weakness up to the strength and power.
Yet, â??midst the conflict of thâ?? impurpled field,
If Victory should crown our warriors brows,
O yet may Britons, in whose genâ??rous breasts
Firm Valour is with gentlest Mercy joinâ??d,
(Noblest distinction of the brave and good!)
Learn to forgive eâ??en blind deluded zeal
For what was rashly deemâ??d their Countryâ??s Cause.
Each real grievance, evâ??ry public wound,
By Wisdomâ??s mild and lenient councils healâ??d,
May smiling Peace, and evâ??ry libâ??ral art,
Return again to bless Columbiaâ??s shores;
Commerce with swelling sails waft oâ??er the Main
The various bounties of each distant clime:
May Albionâ??s wide-extended Empireâ??s bounds,
In closest union linkâ??d, defy her foes,
And kindred nations hail one Patriot King!

NOTES:

Title *CARACTACAN* An originally Welsh society honoring Caractacus, the Briton king who led the war against Romeâ??s invasion of England (*National Library of Wales*); *Longnor* Village near the Welsh border.

1 *Silurian* â??[O]f ancient southeastern Walesâ?• (*OED*).

2 *chaunted* Chanted.

15 *impurpled field* A field made purple by the spilling of much blood.

25 *Columbia* America.

26 *Main* The Atlantic Ocean.

28 *Albion* â??A poetic or literary term for Britain or Englandâ?• (*OED*).

30 *Patriot King* King George III, who reigned from 1760 to 1820, but possibly also a reference to Henry St. John, 1st Viscount Bolingbrokeâ??s 1740 treatise, *The Idea of a Patriot King*, which claimed that England needed an outside-of-politics king to take power and save the country from the factional and corrupt party politics that plagued Englandâ??s government under Robert Walpole in the 1720 and 1730s. Before he became King, George was said to have been an admirer of Bolingbrokeâ??s tract.

Source: *The Gentlemanâ??s Magazine,* Vol. 46 (September 1776*), p. 427.*

Edited by George Griffith