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HAMILTON'S
ITINERARIUM

BEING A
NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY

FROM ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
THROUGH DELAWARE, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK,
NEW JERSEY, CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND,
MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW HAMPSHIRE
FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER, 1744

BY
DOCTOR ALEXANDER HAMILTON

EDITED BY
ALBERT BUSHNELL HART, LL.D.

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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1907

Tuesday Club



Alexander Hamilton armiger
societatis vulgo Tuesday Club, nuncupator, secretarius
et orator, nec non ejusdem, socius veteranus et longo-staticus.

önarcsep

1744

YORK FERRY

At five in the afternoon I called at one Baker's that keeps the York Ferry, where, while I sat waiting for a passage, there came in a man and his wife that were to go over. The woman was a beauty, having a fine complexion and good features, black eyes and hair, and an elegant shape. She had an amorous look, and her eyes, methought, spoke a language which is universally understood. While she sat there her tongue never lay still, and tho' her discourse was of no great importance, yet methought her voice had music in it, and I was fool enough to be highly pleased to see her smiles at every little impertinence she uttered. She talked of a neighbour of hers that was very ill, and said she was sure she would die, for last night she had dreamt of nothing but white horses and washing of linen. I heard this stuff with as much pleasure as if Demosthenes or Cicero had been exerting their best talents, but meantime was not so stupid but I knew that it was the fine face and eyes, and not the discourse that charmed me. At six o'clock in the evening I landed at New York.

NEW YORK

This city makes a very fine appearance for above a mile all along the river, and here lies a great deal of shipping. I put my horses up at one Waghorn's at the sign of the Cart and Horse. There I fell in with a company of toapers. Among the rest was an old Scotsman, by name Jameson, sheriff of the

city, and two aldermen, whose names I know not. The Scotsman seemed to be dictator to the company; his talent lay in history, having a particular knack at telling a story. In his narratives he interspersed a particular kind of low wit, well known to vulgar understandings, and having a homely carbuncle kind of a countenance, with a hideous knob of a nose, he screwed it into a hundred different forms while he spoke, and gave such a strong emphasis to his words that he merely spit in one's face at three or four feet distance, his mouth being plentifully bedewed with salival juice by the force of the liquor which he drank and the fumes of the tobacco which he smoaked. The company seemed to admire him much, but he set me a-staring.

After I had sat some time with this polite company, Dr. Colchoun,¹ surgeon to the fort, called in, to whom I delivered letters, and he carried me to the tavern,² which is kept by one Todd, an old Scotsman, to sup with the Hungarian Club, of which he is a member, and which meets there every night. The company were all strangers to me, except Mr. Home,³ Secretary of New Jersey, of whom I had some knowledge, he having been at my house at Annapolis. They saluted me very civilly, and I, as civilly as I could, returned their compliments, in neat short speeches, such as "Your very humble servant," "I'm glad to see you," and the like commonplace phrases, used upon such occasions. We

¹ Dr. Alexander Colchoun, stabbed by Oliver De Lancey in 1749.

² Todd's Tavern; kept by Robert Todd; known by the sign of the Black Horse, in Smith (now William) Street. It was at this tavern on the evening of January 19, 1736, that a ball was given in honor of the Prince of Wales's birthday.

³ Archibald Home, Clerk of Council of New Jersey 1741; member of Council 1741; again Clerk of Council 1743.

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used upon such occasions, we went to supper, and
 our Landlord Todd, entertained us, as he stood waiting
 with quaint laws, and Jack pudding speeches, "Praised
 " be God (said he) as to Quikry, I defaa any french
 " Quik, to dung me, bot a fluggis is a dute of woad=
 " na tak the trouble to mak, - look ye gentle men,
 " there was anes a Frenchman, axed his friend
 " to Denner, his friend axed him what ha' ye
 " gotten till eat, four and twantye legs of mutton,
 " quo' he, a' sae differently Quiked, that ye winna
 " ken, which is which, - Sae when he gaed there,
 " what Deel was it think ye, but four and twantye
 " sheeps brotters, be God - he was a going on with
 this tale of a tub, when very sasonably for the
 Company, the bell hastily pulled, called him to
 another Room, - and abillie after we heard him
 Roaring at the stage head, I am ye Bitch,
 wharfor winna ye bring a Canle, - after supper
 they set in for drinking, to which I was averse
 and therefor set upon nettles, they filled up Bumpers
 at each Round but I would drink oly three, which
 were to the King, Governour Clinton & Gov: Bladen,
 which last was my own, two or three loapers in
 the Company seemed to be of opinion, that a
 man could not have a more sociable quality
 or

could never throw salt on his tail again. Mr. Bayard was so angry that he had almost upset the table, but we had a good dish of peace by the bargain, which otherwise we should not have tasted. This was the oddest antipathy ever I was witness to. At night I went to Waghorn's, and found my company had delayed their setting off till Tuesday, so I returned home.

Monday, July 9th.—I waited upon Mr. Bayard this morning, and had letters of credit drawn upon Mr. Lechmere at Boston. I dined with Mr. M——s and other company at Todd's, and went to tarry this night at the inn where my horses were, in order to set out to-morrow morning betimes on my journey for Boston. We heard news this day of an English vessel, laden with ammunition and bound for New England, being taken on the coast. I spent the evening at Waghorn's, where we had Mr. Wendall's company, who entertained us as before. We had among us this night our old friend Major Spratt, who now and then gave us an extempore rhyme. I retired to bed at twelve o'clock.

The people of New York, at the first appearance of a stranger, are seemingly civil and courteous, but this civility and complaisance soon relaxes if he be not either highly recommended or a good toaper. To drink stoutly with the Hungarian Club, who are all bumper men, is the readiest way for a stranger to recommend himself, and a set among them are very fond of making a stranger drunk. To talk pawdy and to have a knack at punning passes among some there for good sterling wit. Governour Clinton himself is a jolly toaper and gives good example,



* bumper =
"bordulig felt"

ekönyvtar.sk-szeged.hu

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of making a stranger drunk, So talk Banjo &
have a knack at punning raffles among some
there for good sterling wit, For C-n himself
is a jolly toper, and gives good example,
and for that one quality is esteemed among these
Dons, The Staple of New York, is Bread, flower.