The cow chace, a poem in three cantos

André John
Title: The cow chace, a poem in three cantos

Author: André John

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.
THE

Cow Chase,

A

POEM IN THREE CANTOS.

BY

Major John Andre,

Adjutant General to the British Army
In New York, in 1780.

ALBANY, N.Y.:
J. Munsell, 78 State Street.
1866.
PREFACE.

The satirical Poem of Major Andre, entitled The Cow Chace, has been regarded with additional Interest from its being among the Last of the Writings of this talented but indiscreet young Officer. It is founded upon an unsuccessful Attempt of a Party under General Wayne, to Capture a Block-house upon the Hudson in New Jersey, and but a short Distance from the City of New York, on the 21st of July, 1780.

This Blockhouse was held by a small Party of Loyalist Refugees, under Colonel Cuyler, but at this Time under the immediate Command of Captain Thomas Ward, and was built to cover the Operations of some Wood cutters employed in the Vicinity.
Preface.

The present Edition is printed from the first, as it appeared at Intervals in the Columns of Rivington's Royal Gazette, of New York City. The original Notes as printed in that Paper, are here preserved as Foot Notes, while all the additional Notes are given at the End, with the Authorities from whence derived.

This Poem has been often printed, and from the first, has enjoyed a certain Degree of Popularity. Mr. Sargent in his Life of Andre intimates, that the Theme may have been suggested by the Fact, that the Author then boarded with John Thompson, the Wood-cutting Agent at New York, and then engaged at this Place. The Piece is said to have been written at Head-Quarters No. 1 Broadway. Dunlap reports, that the Printer received the last Canto from the Author, on the Day before he set out to meet Arnold.

The Army under General Washington lay at this Time in New Jersey, a few Miles back from the River, in Bergen County, in
Preface.

Position to observe the Enemy, but too weak for any aggressive Movement. The Americans were in great Want of the common Necessaries of Life, many of the Soldiers were barefooted, most of them ragged, and not a few bitterly complaining under their Privations, and apparently on the Verge of Mutiny.

The Expectation of an early Arrival of Troops from France, imparted Hope to the Continental Army, and the Discontent which they sometimes expressed, was in no Degree stimulated by a Desire to return to the British Allegiance.

To relieve their Wants by drawing from the Supplies within the Enemy’s reach, was a Measure of Policy, suggested by the first Principles of Warfare, and led to repeated Attempts of this Kind during the Course of this Season.

On the 30th of August it was reported in the Gazette so often quoted in these Pages, that “General Washington, the Marquis de La Fayette, Generals Green and
Wayne, with many other Officers, and a large Body of Rebels, have been in the Vicinity of Bergen for some Time past. They have taken all the Forage from the Inhabitants of that Place, and left them destitute of every Thing for their present and Winter Subsistence. Their Officers were down as low as Prior’s Mills last Friday, but did not seem inclined to make any Attack. Their Artillery, save some few Pieces, with their Baggage, are about twenty Miles in the Country."

Several separate Editions of *The Cow Chace* has been published, and it has often appeared in the Columns of Periodicals, and in Collections of Poems relating to this Period.

As a Specimen of Literature, while it has some Faults, it has other Points of great Beauty, and it everywhere bears Evidence that its Author possessed a keen Sense of the Ludicrous, and the Ability to seize upon those Points of his Subject which allowed the best Opportunity for its Exercise.


Preface.

We have thought proper to insert as an Introduction to the Poem, the Preface and Advertisement of the London Edition of 1781, and such Letters and Newspaper Articles, as might most fully present the Reports of both Sides upon the Subject, with many little Incidents that further serve to give it Interest. The Bitterness of partisan Feeling which so largely influenced the Statements and Opinions of Cotemporaries, has long since past into Oblivion, and no one will at this Day, cherish the Memory of our illustrious Washington, and his distinguished Companions in Arms with less Veneration, by knowing what was said against them by Partizans within the Enemy's Lines, who had every Motive for weakening their Influence, and throwing Ridicule upon their Acts.