

ENCYCLOPÆDIA AMERICANA.

A

POPULAR DICTIONARY

OF

**ARTS, SCIENCES, LITERATURE, HISTORY, POLITICS AND
BIOGRAPHY,**

BROUGHT DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME;

INCLUDING

A COPIOUS COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL ARTICLES

IN

AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY;

ON

THE BASIS OF THE SEVENTH EDITION OF THE GERMAN

CONVERSATIONS-LEXICON.

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NOTICE.

At the commencement of this Encyclopædia, it was announced that it would be completed in twelve volumes; but, owing to the great difficulty of accommodating the length and number of so multifarious a collection of articles to the proposed limits, it was found, on approaching the end of the work, that it would be impossible strictly to adhere to these limits, without so curtailing what remained, as to make this disproportionate to the preceding parts. Under these circumstances, it became indispensable to publish a thirteenth volume; and we have taken the opportunity thus afforded to furnish a number of supplementary articles. In addition to these, the reader will find, in the Appendix, at the end of this volume, many references to articles already given. In the preparation of a work including so great an extent of subjects, it could not always be anticipated what variety of topics would be treated under particular heads; and it was thought, on examination, that the reader would be much assisted, in consulting the work, by our furnishing a considerable number of additional references.

In preparing this Encyclopædia, the conductors have endeavored to obtain the best materials and the best assistance within their power. Their labors have been lightened by the kind contributions which they have received from various quarters. To the Hon. Judge Story, and to John Pickering, Esq., of Boston, they are under peculiar obligations. The longest and most elaborate articles in the law department are from the pen of the former gentleman; and it is needless to say how much

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these add to the value of the work. From Mr. Pickering they have received, in a variety of ways, the most important aid. They are also indebted for valuable contributions, or favors of other kinds, to numerous other gentlemen, among whom they may be permitted to mention Mr. Duponceau, of Philadelphia; Mr. Woodbridge, editor of the Annals of Education; James E. Heath, Esq., of Richmond, Virginia; Gov. Marcy, B. F. Butler, Esq., and Dr. Beck, of Albany; Rev. Professor Palfrey, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Mr. De Schweinitz, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Samuel A. Eliot, Esq., of Boston; Gov. Cass, and Mr. Brush, of Michigan; Gen. Dearborn, of Roxbury, Massachusetts; Mr. James K. Paulding, of New York; Hon. Nathan Appleton, and Professor Ticknor, of Boston; Mr. Roberts Vaux, and Mr. Thomas Evans, of Philadelphia; Rev. Frederic A. Farley, of Providence, Rhode Island; Dr. Walter Channing, of Boston; Dr. Dewees, of Philadelphia; and the late Hon. Charles Ewing, chief justice of New Jersey. The friendly aid received from these and other gentlemen is most gratefully acknowledged.

Boston, Feb. 1, 1833.

Utrecht, was appointed master of the buck-hounds, then secretary at war, and, in 1713, chancellor of the exchequer. On the breach between the earl of Oxford and viscount Bolingbroke, he adhered to the interests of the latter. Upon the death of queen Anne, he was displaced; and, in the ensuing parliament, took a leading part in opposition, and signalized himself by advocating the treaty of Utrecht, and in his defence of the duke of Ormond, and earls of Oxford and Strafford, when impeached by the house of commons. On the breaking out of the rebellion in Scotland, under the earl of Mar, in August, 1715, he was arrested at his seat in Somersetshire, on suspicion of being concerned in that event; but he made his escape from the messenger. On a proclamation being issued for his apprehension, he soon after surrendered himself, and was committed to the Tower, but was never brought to trial. On regaining his liberty, he continued his opposition, but on more broad, and less Jacobitical grounds than heretofore, and remained in strenuous contest with ministers until his death, in 1740. His son, by the daughter of the duke of Somerset, became, on the death of the duke, earl of Egremont, the title having been granted to that nobleman, with remainder to his grandson. The latter succeeded the first earl of Chatham as secretary of state, and died in 1763.

WYTTE, or **WITE**, in the ancient English customs; a pecuniary penalty or mulct. The Saxons had two kinds of punishments—*were* and *wyte*; the first for the more grievous offences: the *wyte* was for the less heinous ones. It was not fixed to any certain sum, but left at liberty to be varied according to the nature of the case.

WYTTE, George, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born, in 1726, in Elizabeth county, Virginia. His education was principally directed by his mother. The death of both his parents before he became of age, and the uncontrolled possession of a large fortune, led him, for some time, into a course of amusement and dissipation. At the age of thirty, however, his conduct underwent an entire change. He applied himself vigorously to the study of the law; and, soon after his admission to the bar, his learning, industry, and eloquence, made him eminent. For several years previous to the revolution, he was conspicuous in the house of burgesses, and, in the commencement of the opposition to England, evinced an ardent attachment to liberty.

In 1764, he drew up a remonstrance to the house of commons, in a tone of independence too decided for that period, and which was greatly modified by the assembly before assenting to it. In 1775, he was appointed a delegate to the continental congress, in Philadelphia. In the following year, he was appointed, in connexion with Mr. Jefferson and others, to revise the laws of Virginia—a duty which was performed with great ability. In 1777, he was elected speaker of the house of delegates, and, during the same year, was appointed judge of the high court of chancery of the state. On the new organization of the court of equity, in a subsequent year, he was appointed sole chancellor—a station which he filled for more than twenty years. In 1787, he was a member of the convention which formed the federal constitution, and, during the debates, acted, for the most part, as chairman. He was a strenuous advocate of the instrument adopted. He subsequently presided twice successively in the college of electors, in Virginia. His death occurred on the 8th of June, 1806, in the eighty-first year of his age. It was supposed that he was poisoned; but the person suspected was acquitted by a jury. In learning, industry and judgment, chancellor Wythe had few superiors. His integrity was never stained even by a suspicion; and, from the moment of his abandonment of the follies of his youth, his reputation was unspotted. The kindness and benevolence of his heart were commensurate with the strength and attainments of his mind.

WYTTENBACH, Daniel; a learned philologist of the Dutch school, who was a native of Berne, and was born in 1746. His father having been appointed a professor at Marburg, he was admitted a student of that university. He afterwards went to Göttingen to study under Heyne, with whose assistance he published, in 1769, *Epistola Critica ad Ruhnkenium super nonnullis Loci Juliani cui accesserunt Animadversiones in Eunapium et Aristonatum*. This learned work procured him the friendship of Ruhnken (q. v.), whom he visited at Leyden, and who obtained for him the professorship of philosophy and literature in the college of the Remonstrants at Amsterdam. He subsequently devoted his talents to the illustration of the works of Plutarch, and, in 1772, printed, at Leyden, the treatise of that writer, *De Sera Numinis vindicta*, with a learned commentary. In 1779, the magistrates of Amsterdam created a philo-