

summer, and that he formed a very high opinion of Duluth and her destiny. It will probably cause general surprise, and, if we mistake not, wide spread interest and gratification to read the following fragment of verses on Duluth, which the great poet shortly afterwards penned in the course of a letter to a friend at the head of the lakes:

DULUTH

[The poem follows]⁴

Respectfully yours,
MENDAX.

The correspondent of the *Item* failed to note the significance of the signature, "fallacious"—but it definitely shows the whole thing a mere joke, not even meant to deceive any save the careless reader.

THE DATE OF THOMAS PAINE'S FIRST ARRIVAL
IN AMERICA

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IN MY first approach to the study of Thomas Paine,¹ I concluded a paragraph on the date of his first arrival: "So that the present state of the matter is that Paine landed here no earlier than December 7 and no later than December 12, 1774."² While engaged in more extensive researches on Paine, I have discovered evidence which nullifies this conclusion and definitely settles this problem.

Moncure D. Conway, the standard biographer of Paine, offered no authority for the statement that Paine arrived in Philadelphia November 30, 1774.³ In 1910 Albert Matthews produced evidence tending to discredit Conway's date and to put the arrival between December 7 and December 14.⁴ By employing the same technique as Matthews, my own study narrowed the hypothetical limits to

⁴ The *Item* omits the title, and runs line 14 of the *News* text (the single word "Anvil") as part of the line preceding; minor differences are due to misprints.

¹ "New light on Thomas Paine's First Year in America, 1775," *American Literature*, I, 347-371 (January, 1930).

² *Ibid.*, p. 349.

³ *Life of Thomas Paine* (2 vols., New York, 1892), I, 40.

⁴ "Thomas Paine and the Declaration of Independence," *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, XLIII, 245-246, n. Parrington adopted Matthews's conclusion in *Main Currents in American Thought*, I, 328. So, also, R. Blankenship, *American Literature as an Expression of the National Mind* (New York, 1931), p. 151.

December 7 and December 12.⁵ But the final inquiry leads us back to Conway and establishes beyond reasonable doubt that he gave the exact date, November 30, 1774.

We know that Paine arrived in Philadelphia towards the end of 1774 on the London Packet, Captain Cooke.⁶ The statement that he arrived between December 7 and December 12 was based upon finding the London Packet listed in the weekly Inward Entries of *The Pennsylvania Gazette* and *The Pennsylvania Journal* for December 14 and of *The Pennsylvania Packet* for December 12. But on December 7 *The Pennsylvania Gazette* was already announcing: "By the ship London Packet, Captain Cooke, arrived here from London, and the Earl of Halifax Packet, Capt. Boulderson, arrived at New York from Falmouth, we have the following Advices." Paine himself remarked in his letter to Washington, November 30, 1781: "It is seven years, *this day*, since I arrived in America."⁷ We are now sure that Paine's memory was not playing him false seven years after the event. Christopher Marshall, Philadelphia merchant and patriot, noted in his diary on November 30, 1774: "This day Acct. came up to town of the Arrival of the Ship London Packet Capt. Cook from London full of Goods and near one Hundred German and English Servants."⁸ The evidence is, then, quite conclusive that Thomas Paine landed in Philadelphia November 30, 1774.

⁵ *Loc. cit.*, pp. 348-349.

⁶ In *The Pennsylvania Evening Post* of April 30, 1776, Paine referred to himself as having come in "the London Packet, last Christmas twelve month" (Matthews, *loc. cit.*, p. 246). Also, in a letter to Franklin, March 4, 1775, he wrote: "I did not sail in the Vessel I first intended, it not having proper Conveniences, but in the London Packet, Capt. Cooke" (Franklin MSS., American Philosophical Society).

⁷ The italics are by Paine. Conway does not refer to this letter as evidence of the date of arrival, but prints it later in another connection (*Life of Paine*, I, 178). It was most likely in Conway's mind as authority for November 30, 1774.

⁸ This entry will not be found in the *Extracts from the Diary of Christopher Marshall* edited by William Duane (Philadelphia, 1839, 1849; Albany, 1877). I am quoting directly from the manuscript, which is preserved in the Library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.