

the logic of the master mind of Franklin, and nerved perhaps by the warm, patriotic heart of his wife, one of the noblest of American women, was strong in his sympathy with the Revolutionists. On the other hand, his wife's sister had married an officer in the King's service. Still halting between two opinions, Mr. Bache stayed in New York and hoped to weather the storm. A simple incident turned the scale. In the month of September (7th, 1775,) one Isaac L. Winn, a Captain of a trading vessel, was brought up for examination by the Committee of Safety; and although he gave to Messrs. Livingston and Scott, who were deputed to examine him, "such sufficient satisfaction of his friendly dispositions to the liberties of America as induced them to believe the suspicions against him to be entirely groundless," and received a certificate to that effect from the Committee, his papers were taken from him. Among them was an unsigned letter directed to Major Moncrieff, at Boston, which from the hand-writing and other circumstances was believed to be by Mr. Theophylact Bache. It ran as follows:

NEW YORK, Sept. 3, 1775.

DEAR MAJOR :—I wrote to you a few days ago by the transport which sailed from hence. I hope you have received it. It is now decreed by the Congress criminal to speak, and it would be equally so to write; not knowing into whose hands this may fall before this reaches you, I am determined not to transgress. I wish to remain in this country as long as I can, and not to do anything that may cause a banishment, or the punishment of being sent to the mines of Symsbury, which are punishments daily inflicted on those poor culprits who are found or even supposed *inimical*.

Don't think of returning here while the unhappy contest continues. You will be ferreted and exposed to insults I would wish you to avoid. I will take care of your wife as much as a brother or friend can do. She is as well and as happy as can be expected.