

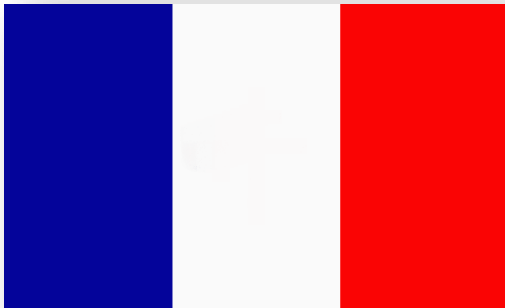
DR RICHARD PRICE, D.D. F.R.S.

‘TREMBLE ALL YE OPPRESSORS OF THE WORLD’

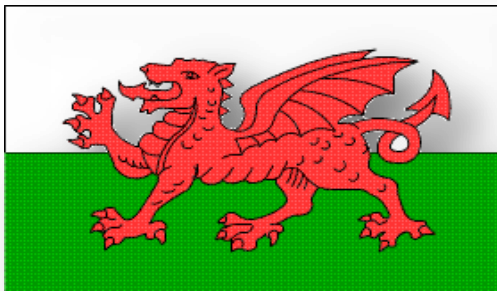
FLAGS ON DISPLAY



The Betsy Ross flag of the original thirteen colonies of America is said to have been designed/made after a visit by George Washington and others to Betsy Ross to discuss the need for a new flag. Accepting the job of manufacture Betsy changed the original six pointed stars to the five-pointed ones seen here.



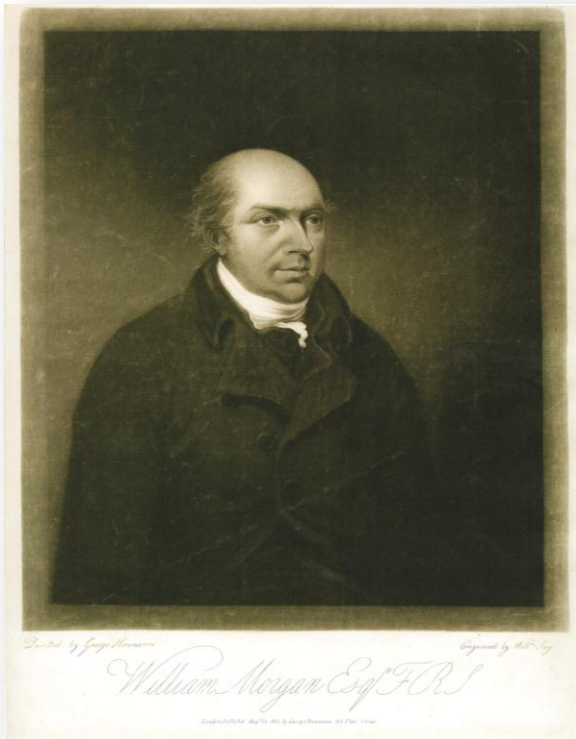
The familiar French Tricolour is adapted from the cockades worn during the French Revolution. Price's nephew George Cadogan Morgan would wave his cockade on entering a new town. The colours red and blue are traditional Parisian colours. Lafayette suggested adding white to 'Nationalise' the flag. The current colour design dates mainly from 1794.



The Welsh Flag or Y Ddraig Goch (The Red Dragon) is said to be based on the Red Dragon of Cadwaladr, King of Gwynedd, and the Tudor colours of white and green.

Friends and Other Contributions

- ▶ To read Price's collected correspondence (published by University of Wales Press in three volumes) is a veritable who's who of the eighteenth century in Britain, Europe and America
- ▶ Just a few of those correspondents are mentioned here as well as some of the other contributions made by Price to British society



William Morgan FRS 1750-1833

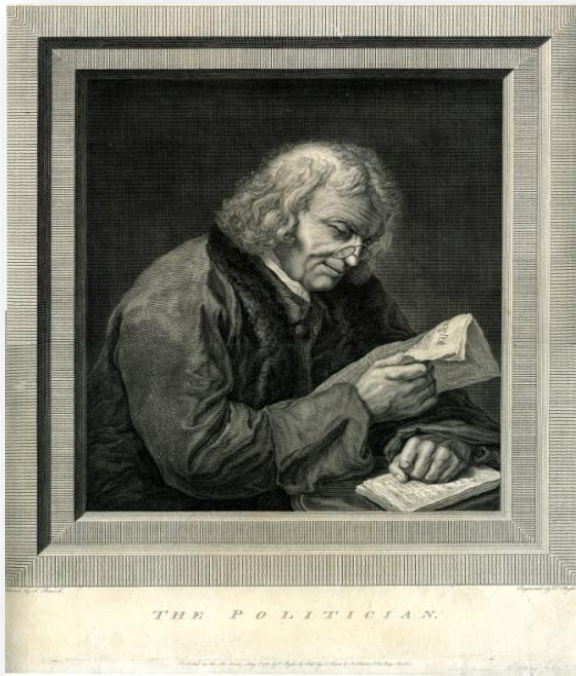
By George Hounsom

Engraved by William Say

Born in Bridgend, William was the son of Price's sister Sarah. and local doctor William Morgan Snr. William, like his brother George Cadogan, was educated at Cowbridge School. He later moved to London and lived with his uncle Price for a time. Having given up a medical career he became actuary to the Equitable Life Assurance Society in 1775, at Price's instigation, holding the post of actuary for 55 years

On his retirement his son Arthur took over for a further 40 years. During this time the society became one of the largest financial institutions in the world. It only ran into trouble in the first decade of the 21st century after ignoring advice given to it by Price over two centuries earlier. William helped Price produce the Northampton mortality tables that were the insurance industry standard for over 50 years.

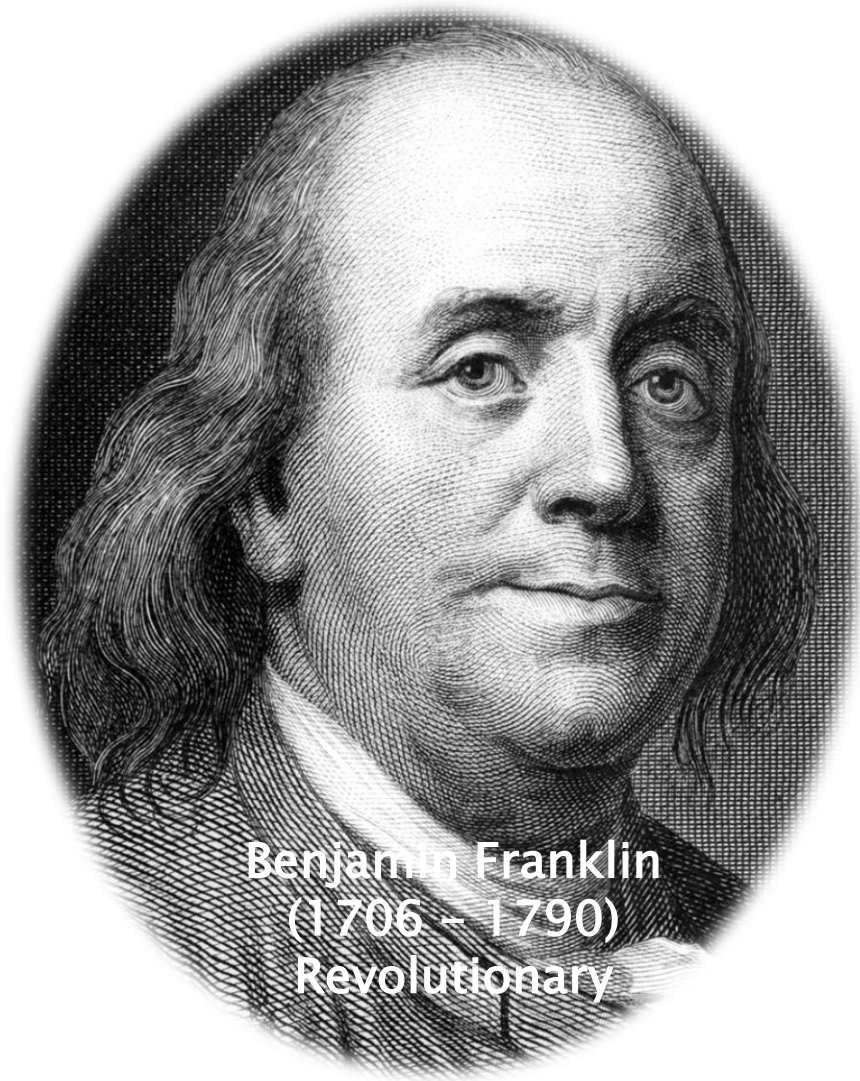
William Morgan experimented in scientific matters and is now credited with being the first to actually produce X-rays in an experiment. He received the Copley Medal of the Royal Society for his own work in annuities and became a Fellow in 1790.



THE POLITICIAN

By Stephen Elmer
Engraved by Thomas Ryder

This 1780 painting is now known to be of Benjamin Franklin, who was Price's closest friend. It shows Franklin reading the London *Morning Post* while his hand rests on a copy of Richard Price's 1776 pamphlet *Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty* which defended and supported the American rebels.

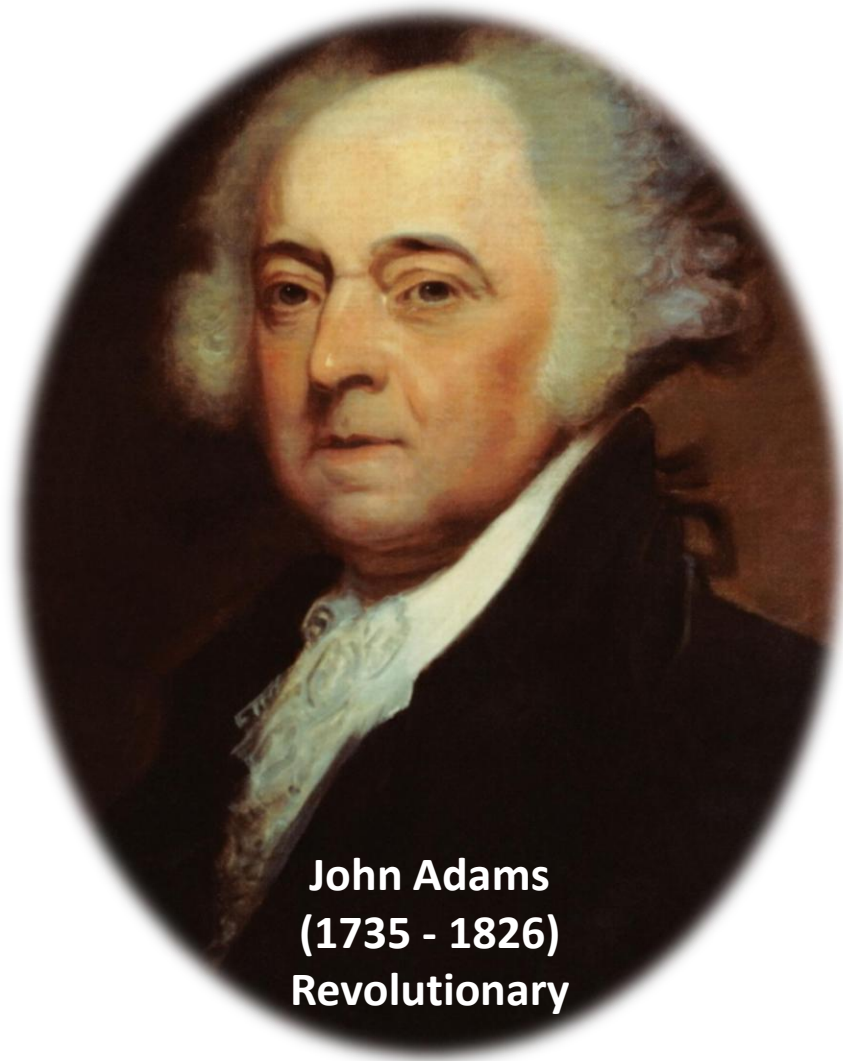


Benjamin Franklin
(1706 – 1790)
Revolutionary

Signatory of the American Declaration of Independence,

Benjamin Franklin, along with Joseph Priestley, was Price's closest friend. They met regularly in London before the American Revolution and afterward maintained their correspondence until Franklin's death. They shared many interests, particularly science, moral philosophy and political debate.

Price was made a member of Franklin's American Philosophical Society and the anti slavery society he had established in America.



John Adams
(1735 - 1826)
Revolutionary

Signatory of the American Declaration of Independence, Vice President to George Washington and America's second President.

As America's first Ambassador to Britain Adams and his wife Abigail became close friends of Price. So much so Adams told Price: 'There are few portions of my life that I recollect with more entire satisfaction than the hours I spent at Hackney, under your ministry; and in private society, and conversation, with you at other places.' Price also christened Adams's first grandchild who was born in London

America's First President.



George Washington
1732 – 1799
Revolutionary

Price received a letter from Washington in 1785 thanking him for copies of his work on *The Importance of the American Revolution* and expressing “the sincere esteem and respect which I entertain for you”.

Price received a doctorate from Yale university in sole company with Washington in 1781.

JOHN HOWARD 1726-1790



John Howard, Philanthropist and prison reformer and long time friend. Price spent many months editing proofs of Howard's landmark work on the state of European Prisons. The Howard League for prison reform is named for John Howard. He died in Russia in 1790

A very close friend to Price who helped Priestley find employment as librarian to Lord Shelburne. Price also aided him financially and edited and added to Priestley's works on electricity. After a loyalist mob burnt his house and laboratory Priestley emigrated to America and died there in 1804. He felt the same would have happened to Price if Price had not died in 1791

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY 1733-1804





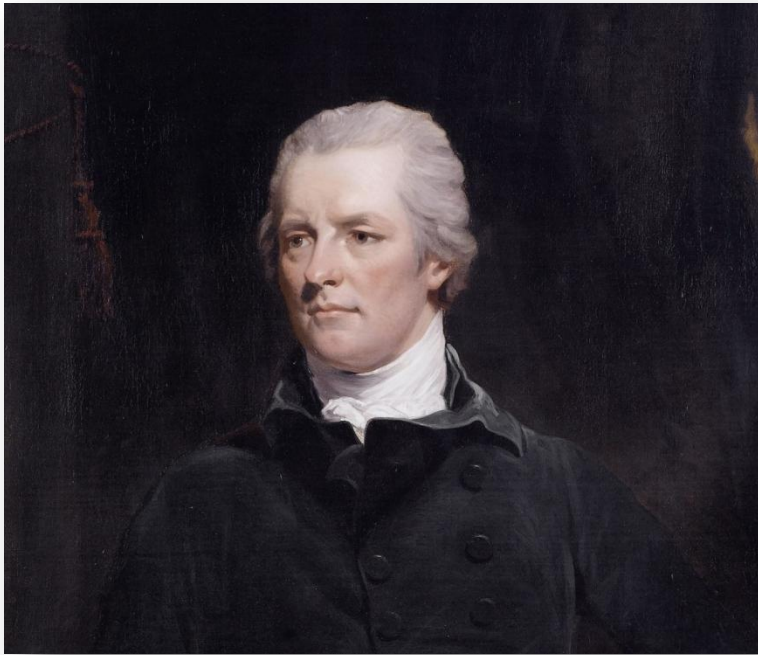
TOM PAINE 1737 – 1809

American rebel and author of *Rights of Man* in which he also defended Price against Edmund Burke. Paine visited Price in the wake of the French Revolution and found him “all Joy and Happiness at the progress of freedom in France”

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT 1759–1797

Feminist writer and author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. She lived for a while at Newington Green and attended Price’s chapel. He in turn helped her financially. In *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* (1790) she powerfully defended Price against Burke





William Pitt the Younger
1759 –1806

Throughout his life Price had worried over the size of Britain's National Debt and the potential it had for inducing national bankruptcy and even civil unrest. He wrote many papers on the subject in his lifetime and also advocated the establishment of a Sinking Fund in order to reduce the debt. Later, when Pitt became PM, Price was invited to Downing Street and asked to submit three plans to reduce the National Debt. Pitt then introduced the scheme, though he did so by adopting Price's third plan, the least useful according to Price



Baron Johan Derk van der Capellan

Capellan was a Dutch Patriot who saw his country, which was then part of the Austrian Netherlands, as being in a similar situation to the Americans in relation to Britain

Very enthusiastic about Price's writings he translated Price's *Observations on Civil Liberty* into Dutch. The two men then entered into an extensive correspondence for short time

Price also involved himself with reformers in Scotland and Ireland, even going so far as to advocate votes for Irish Catholics on the same terms as voters in mainland Britain

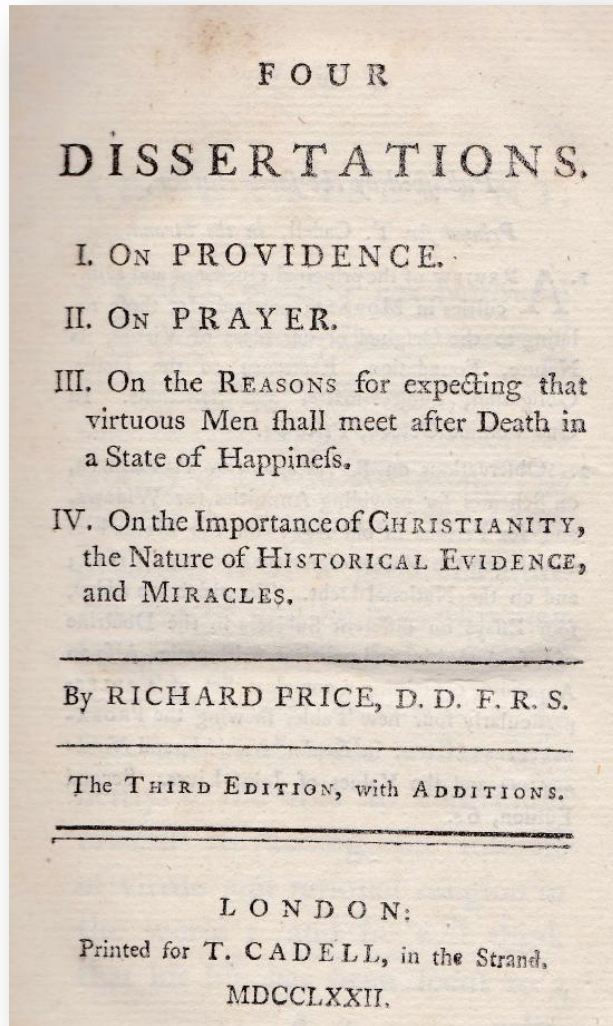


John Horne Tooke 1736-1812

Collaborated with Price on a pamphlet entitled *Facts addressed to the Landholders, Stockholders, Tradesmen, Merchants, Farmers, Manufacturers, Proprietors of every Description and Generally to all the Subjects of Great Britain*

The pamphlet was highly critical of the Lord North government, with Price contributing a section on finance and the national debt. Its publication caused a short rift in Price's friendship with Lord Shelburne as the noble Lord felt it made a wholesale attack upon the Civil List

Later, as Britain clamped down on reformist activity in the wake of the French Revolution Horne Tooke would be arrested in 1794 on charges of Treason and placed in the Tower of London. After a six day trial he was acquitted along with his co-defendants



Price published *Four Dissertations* in 1767. In it he criticised the Scottish philosopher David Hume (portrait below) for attacking the credibility of miracles. Hume's objection he declared 'is founded on indisputable fallacies, and is indeed nothing but a poor though specious sophism'. Price later regretted the severity of his remarks and wrote apologising to Hume



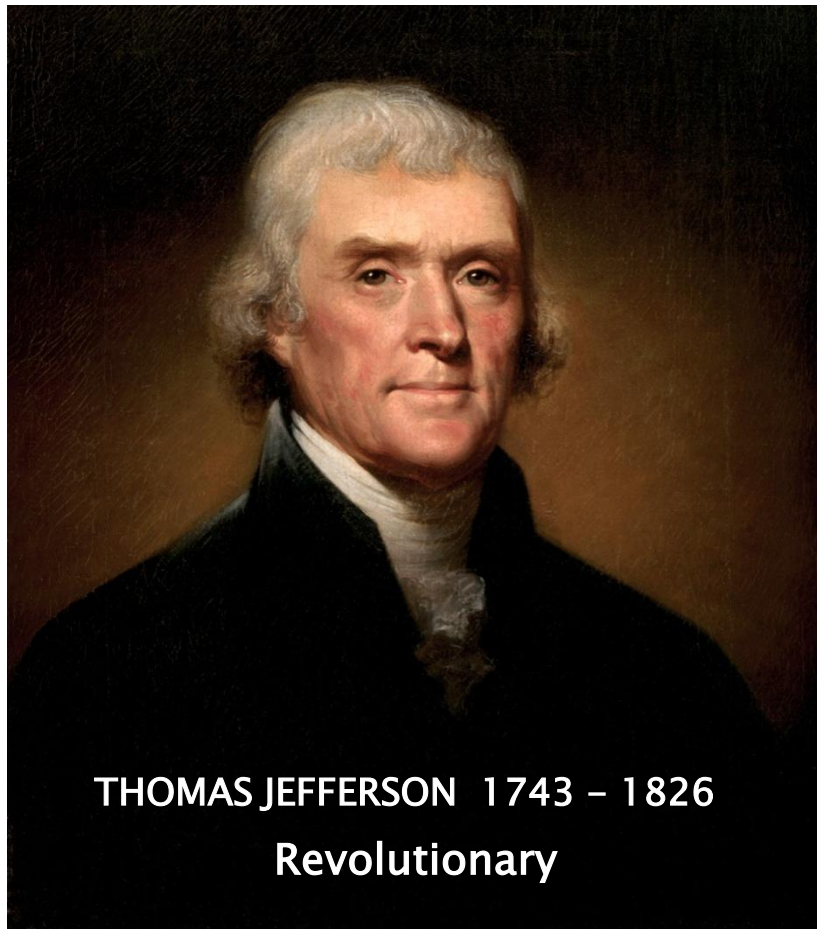
David Hume wrote back to Price: 'So far from there being any Occasion to make me an apology for your late Publications that you have prevented me in my Intentions of writing to you, and of returning thanks for the civility with which you have treated me...I own to you, that the light, in which you have put this Controversy, is new and plausible and ingenious, and perhaps solid'



William Petty, 2nd Earl of Shelburne 1737–1805

A close Price friend, Petty was in government on a number of occasions and consulted Price on many issues, but particularly those to do with finance. They first met after Petty read one of Price's works (Four Dissertations)

Petty became Prime Minister between 1782 and 1783 and was responsible for instigating the peace between America and Britain, though his government fell as a result of the terms of the Treaty of Paris being considered too generous. Price was outraged by this. Price was also very well informed about the nature of the negotiations either through Petty or Franklin in Paris, or both



Signatory of the American Declaration of Independence, Vice President to John Adams and America's Third President.

Price knew Jefferson well. They began corresponding following publication of Price's *Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty*. Later Jefferson lived in Paris and described all the opening events of the French Revolution in a series of letters to Price. Jefferson once declared to Price that: 'Everything you write is precious...' and 'every thing which comes from you [is] pleasing and instructive.'

PATIENCE WRIGHT
1725 – 1786



Wright was an early
Madame Tussaud

She made wax figures
of loyalist and rebel
Americans and many
British Government
and public figures

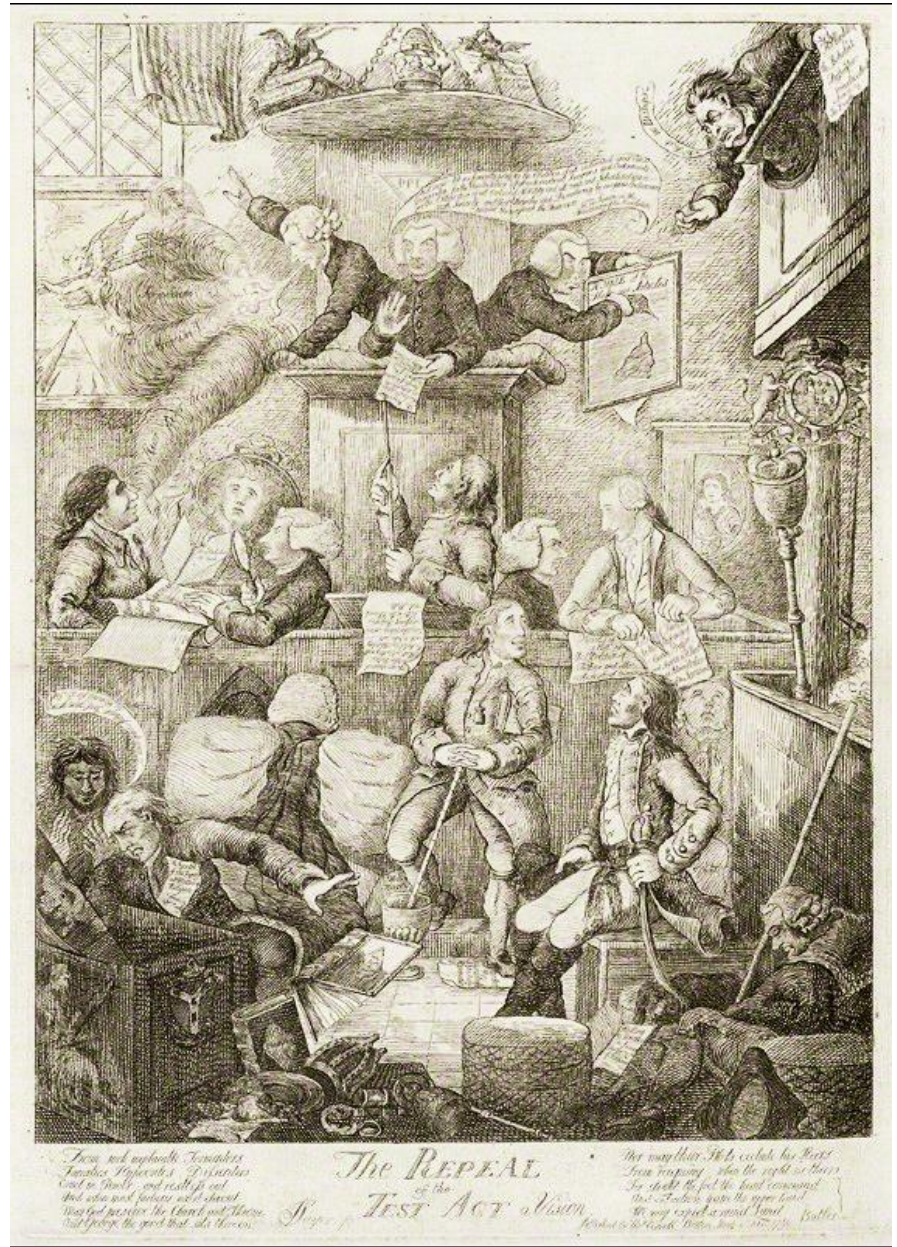
All the while she
openly supported and
acted as a spy for the
American cause

Price is mentioned as
a friend in her
correspondence with
Benjamin Franklin

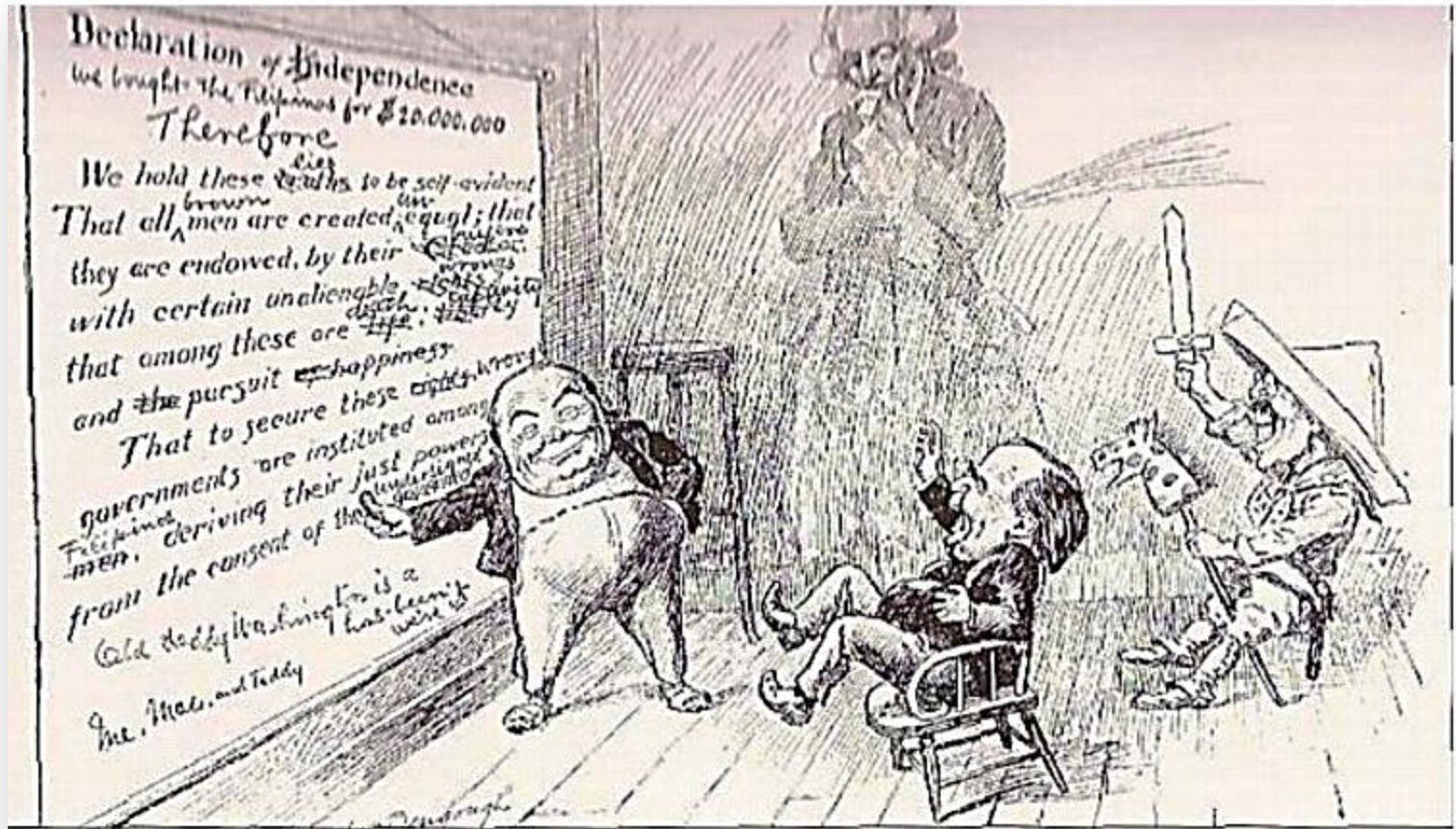


Wax Figure of Pitt the Elder
by Wright now in the
Westminster Abbey Museum

Richard Price The Repeal of the Test Act



“Fun for the Boys”



"FUN FOR THE BOYS."¹

Life, Life Publishing Company, New York, August 23, 1900
[artist: William Bengough]