

Lord God Omnipotent, 1768

THE allegorical frontispiece in *Edes & Gill's North-American Almanack* for 1769, Boston, printed by Edes and Gill in Queen-Street, is headed in a motto at the top: "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. let all the Earth rejoice!" A detailed description of the plate is given on the title-page of the almanac, as follows: "Two Female Figures. The principal, richly decorated, is seated on a Throne with an Imperial Diadem on her Head, and a Spear in her left Hand. The other Figure exhibits a Virgin with a Civic Crown, in the utmost Agonies of Distress and Horror. The Cap of Liberty falling from the Spear of one, and tottering to fall from the other. The Label of one, is Collidimur; of the other, Frangimur. Two Ships are represented to View in a Tempest in the Instant of dashing to Pieces against one another, and sinking between the Rocks of Sylla and Caribdis. In the Interim are seen two Arch Angels, flying as 'on the Wings of the Wind.' The Label of the one is, 'Shall not the Lord of all the Earth do Right.' The other is, 'The Fool' only 'hath said in his Heart there is no God.' Above all, in a Glory, is inscribed these Words, 'The Lord GOD Omnipotent reigneth, let the Earth rejoice!'"

The almanac was reissued in a Second Edition, with the same plate and with the text in the same type set-up.

The plate is signed "P Revere sculp." No charge against Edes & Gill is entered in Revere's Day Book. Apparently Revere himself designed the plate, as well as engraving it. The size of the plate is $5\frac{1}{8}$ high by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. (See Plate no. 12.)

The copy of the almanac in the Massachusetts Historical Society has written in contemporaneous hand on the lower border of the frontispiece: "This plate was struck in ye Fall 1768 when a large Naval Force, and 4 Regimts arrived." Above the engraving is the following manuscript note: "This represents ye sad State of

Britain and America, by the Taxes laid on ye Latter &c The Figure (1) Britannia wth Cap of Liberty totterg. (2) America with Cap off. 3. She Breaks on ye Rocks." The British fleet arrived at Boston on September 28, 1768, and landed their troops on October 1. The *Boston Gazette*, published by Edes & Gill, in the issue of October 31, 1768, states that "Edes & Gill's North-American Almanack for 1769, will be published on Thursday next [November 3]." In the issue of November 7, the almanac is announced as "This Day published." The announcement carries a long advertisement of the almanac, with a full description of the plate, the same as it appears on the title-page.

Both editions of the almanac are in the American Antiquarian Society and one or other of the editions are in several libraries.