

**THE WHIG CLUB: OR,  
A SKETCH OF  
MODERN PATRIOTISM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649733293

The Whig Club: Or, a Sketch of Modern Patriotism by Charles Pigott

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**CHARLES PIGOTT**

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A SKETCH OF  
MODERN PATRIOTISM**



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# THE WHIG CLUB:

OR, A

## Sketch of Modern Patriotism.

COMPRISING THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS:

- |                |                 |               |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Mr. F—x.       | L—y C—le.       | Mr. W—n.      |
| Lord H—d.      | Sir C. B—y.     | Lord C—y.     |
| Mr. G. S—n.    | Lord Wm. G—n.   | Mr. H—ll W—n. |
| Miss P—th—m.   | Sir J. L—de.    | Lord G—d.     |
| Mr. S—n.       | Captain M—s.    | Mr. F—s.      |
| Mr. G—y.       | L—y S—pc.       | Mr. C—t.      |
| Sir H. G—y.    | Mr. E—d.        | Mr. G—t.      |
| Mr. S—t.       | Mr. G. S—m.     | Mr. H—gt.     |
| Mr. W—d.       | Mr. H—y C—be.   | Mr. A—m.      |
| Mr. L—n.       | A—n S—r.        | M—r M—d.      |
| Mr. T—n.       | A—n P—r.        | Lord L—le.    |
| Lord B—ve.     | A—n S—ge.       | D—e of N—d.   |
| Colonel F—k.   | Miss B—n.       | Colonel M—d.  |
| D—e of B—d.    | Miss S—n.       | Colonel T—n.  |
| D—s of B—d.    | Mr. W—s.        | Mr. T—n.      |
| Lord E—y.      | Mrs. M—y.       | Mr. B—l.      |
| Mrs. G—dn—r.   | Ld. C—r of l—d. | Mrs. B—n.     |
| Lord Wm. R—ll. | Lord W—tm—h.    | The M—nc.     |
| Lord J. R—ll.  | Mr. C—h.        | Lord Rt. S—r. |
| D—e of N—k.    | General S—r.    | Lady C—s—r.   |
| Sir J. H—n—d.  | Mr. S—y.        | Mr. R—d B—d.  |
| Captain P—nc.  | Lord M—d.       | Mr. Rt. A—r.  |
| Mr. B. H—d.    | Lord A—le.      | Mrs. B—ll.    |
| Mr. H. H—d.    | Lord C—n.       | Doctor P—rr.  |
| Lord D—y.      | Mr. C—y.        |               |

&c. &c. &c.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR W. PRIEST; AND SOLD BY THE BOOKSELLERS  
IN PICCADILLY, BOND-STREET, STRAND, FLEET-  
STREET, PATERNOSTER-ROW, AND  
STATIONERS'-COURT.

MDCCKIV.

Entered at Stationers'-hall.

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THE  
WHIG CLUB.

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**A** MIDST the various sources of that revolution which still engrosses the attention, and menaces the safety, of all Europe, it cannot have escaped the most superficial observer, how great a share of the anarchy of France must be attributed to those political associations, which she inconsiderately has cherished in her bosom. The clubs of the Jacobins, the Feuillans, and the Cordeliers, have successively aspired to influence the public opinion. But the Jacobins have almost invariably maintained the ascendancy; the weight of their sentiments



has been acknowledged in the decrees of the national assembly and the convention; their sanguinary proscriptions have been accompanied by immediate execution; whoever has been bold enough to expose himself to their resentment, has been compelled to seek his safety in exile, or to expiate his temerity on the scaffold; and that resentment has been constantly levelled against those who have presumed to recommend the re-establishment of order, and a decent submission to the will of the legislature.

Yet this club, whose bloody dictates and savage controul have rendered its very name an object of detestation and reproach to the surrounding nations, was founded rather in weakness than in guilt. It owed its origin to Mr. Alexander Lameth, a man whose chief crime consisted in aspiring with inferior talents to a superior station, in imagining himself capable, at pleasure, of inflaming and restraining the human passions; whose intentions were good, but whose capacity was weak; whose wishes were for freedom, but whose views extended not beyond a limited monarchy; who  
has

has suffered that punishment which those in some measure deserve, who obtrude themselves into situations for which they are unequal; and who has himself been crushed by the very engine he erected.

When Mr. Lameth, with his associates, Fayette, D'Aiguillon, Barnave, &c. found the Jacobins disdained the rule of their founders, they quitted the society, and established a new club, under the name of the Feuillans; they established it too late to save themselves, but in sufficient time to give a lesson to posterity, how dangerous it is to create any political association, which, in a manner, holds itself independent of, and considers itself a check on the conduct of, the legislature. Though the polished writings, keener arguments, and superior character of the Feuillans commanded, for a moment, the attention and respect of their countrymen, these were soon drowned by the words of *liberty* and *equality*, which the Jacobins thundered in the ears of the populace. The Feuillans, in endeavouring to restore order, lost the only means by which they could hope to restore it; the

confidence of the multitude. The moment they became suspected, their fall was inevitable, and their fate may be recorded in a few words--they have been plunged into dungeons, they languish in exile, or they have perished by the guillotine. Ought their destiny to excite our compassion? Surely not. The untutored bear, who is wrecked in the boat he attempts to navigate, only becomes the object of derision: but, if he has allured others by his vaunts to be the companions of his enterprise and calamity, a stronger sensation than that of contempt arises. Do we lament, that the general whose incapacity has exposed his army to destruction, should himself be involved in the slaughter? Punishment with justice follows close on presumption; we cannot but approve the chastisement, though we should be unwilling to be the instrument of it. The leaders, who suffer from their own rash folly and adventurous ambition, cannot be subjects for pity; we reserve it for the millions who have been allured into misery by their visionary and ill-concerted projects.

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