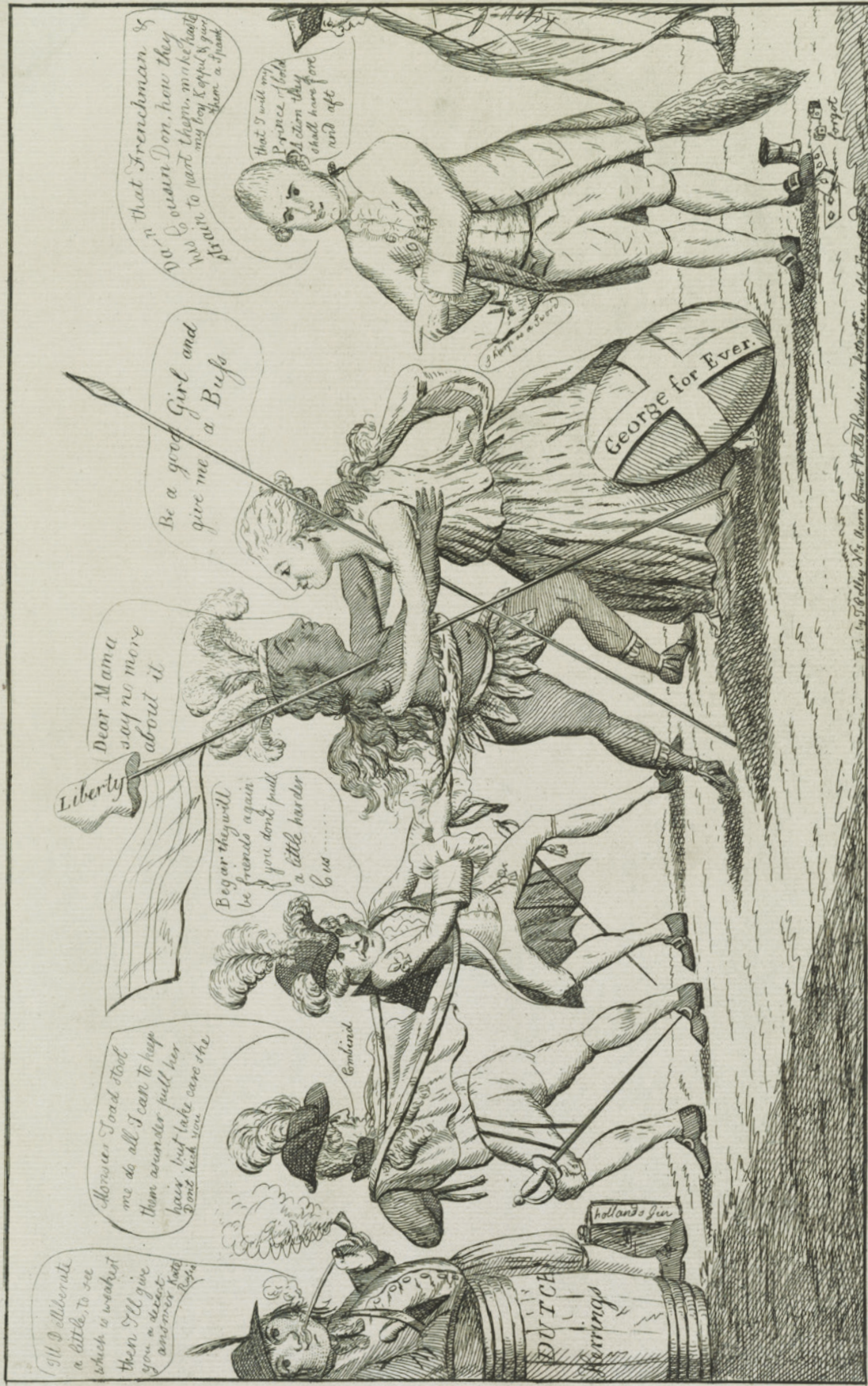




The RECONCILIATION¹ between BRITANIA and her daughter AMERICA,⁴

A curse upon all Artifice
May Britons never thrive

While Roguish Minis - is they keep
to Eat them up alive

By Lots they³ oh Dam - on well
Each place we put our trust in

Cut them of short till make good sport
Whilst honest men are thrust in.

Pub'd by Richardson May 11/72 N. 6. 6. High Holborn

PRINT

The Reconciliation Between Britannia and Her Daughter America by Thomas Colley, 1782

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Political cartoons use words and images to make a point about a political or social issue. Sometimes they are meant to persuade the viewer and sometimes they are simply meant to make the viewer laugh. They represented a diversity of opinions and could be found in newspapers or be sold individually as prints.

This political cartoon was published in 1782, less than a year after the British surrender at Yorktown, the last major battle of the Revolutionary War. While the war was not officially over, the British defeat at Yorktown made clear to many in the British government that negotiating a peace treaty was the best move possible, and by the time this cartoon was published, negotiations had begun.

With the exception of the two on the far right, each of the figures shown represents a country rather than a specific individual. In the center, America, pictured as a Native American woman holding a Liberty Pole topped with a Liberty Cap, hugs Great Britain, who has a shield with “George for Ever” at her feet. To the left, America’s allies in the war are shown. France and Spain try to pull America away, while a figure representing the Netherlands watches and chats with Russia (which is not pictured). On the right, two British politicians observe the scene, with Lord Fox (shown with a fox’s tail) telling Lord Keppel, who was in charge of the British Navy, to get Spain and France out of the way. Below the cartoon, a poem perhaps suggests that Fox and Keppel are not to be trusted.