

When Faction, in league with the treacherous Gaul,
 Began to look big and paraded in state;
 A meeting was held at *Credulity Hall*,
 And Echo proclaim'd their Ally *good and great!*
 By sea and by land
 Such wonders are plann'd;
 No less than the bold British Lion to chain!
Well hove! says *Jack Lanyard*,
 French, Congo and Spaniard,
Have at you—remember we're Lords of the Main!
 Lords of the Main—ay, Lords of the Main—
 The Tars of Old England are Lords of the Main.

Though party-contentions a while may perplex,
 And lenity hold us in doubtful suspense;
 If perfidy rouse, or ingratitude vex
 In defiance of Hell we'll chastise the offense
 When danger alarms,
 'Tis then that in arms
 United we rush on the foe with disdain:
 And when the storm rages
 It only presages
 Fresh triumphs to Britons, as Lords of the Main.
 Lords of the Main—ay, Lords of the Main—
 The Tars of Old England are Lords of the Main.

This item was published in Rivington's Royal Gazette, a New York paper, on February 16, 1780. It was unsigned, but attributed to Stansbury. Since the summer of 1779, Britain and Spain had been warring, a good omen for the American Patriots, but not for the Loyalists.

"Credulity Hall" is Stansbury's satiric term for Carpenter's Hall, later re-named Independence Hall, the meeting place of the first colonial Congress, for which Stansbury has the equally satiric (and presumably racist) term, "Congo." "Confederate" in the third verse reflects the use of the term to refer to the

Let *Thunder* proclaim it, we're Lords of the Main.
 Then Britons, *strike home*—make sure of your blow:
 The chase is in view; never mind a lee-shore.
 With vengeance o'ertake the confederate foe:
 'Tis now we may rival our heroes of yore!
Brave Anson and Drake,
Hawke, Russell and Blake,
 With ardour like your's we defy France and Spain!
 Combining with *Treason*
 They're deaf to all reason:
 Once more let them *feel* we are Lords of the Main.
 Lords of the Main—ay, Lords of the Main—
 The first-born of Neptune are Lords of the Main.

Nor are we alone in the noble career;
 The *Soldier* partakes of the generous flame:
 To glory he marches, to glory we steer;
 Between us we share the rich harvest of fame.
 Recorded on high,
 Their names never die,
 Of heroes by sea and by land what a train!
 To the *King*, then, God bless him!
 The *World* shall confess him
 "The Lord of those men who are Lords of the Main."
 Lords of the Main—ay, Lords of the Main—
 The Tars of Old England are Lords of the Main.

American revolutionists; the original (ineffective) constitution of the USA was known as the Articles of Confederation. The newly independent colonies at first united only loosely; hence, they were merely a "confederation." The concept was later revived by the south in secession, which termed itself the Confederate States of America, as opposed to the United States of America.

Gillian B. Anderson gives another setting of this item in her impressive collection/bibliography of Revolutionary era material (759-60).