

AN

W. Sheldon

ORATION,

PRONOUNCED

BEFORE THE

REPUBLICAN CITIZENS

OF

WINDSOR,

ON THEIR

CELEBRATION

OF THE

THIRTY SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

OF

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

.....

By A. AIKENS, Esq.



..... at once pluck out
The multitudinous tongue, let them not lick
The sweet which is their poison :

SHA.



PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE
VERMONT REPUBLICAN.

JULY, 1812.

Windsor, July 4th, 1812.

SIR,

The Committee of Arrangements in behalf of the Citizens assembled to celebrate the birth day of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, return you their sincere thanks for the very able and Patriotic Oration delivered by you, and request the favor of a copy for the Press.

In communicating to you, Sir, this expression of the public sentiment, the Committee perform a most pleasing duty, as it entirely coincides with their own.

In behalf and at the request of the Committee,

with respect and esteem, I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

WILLIAM JOHONNOT.

ASA AIKENS, Esq.



July 8th, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,

Permit me to express to you, and through you to my Fellow Citizens who were present at our Celebration of the 4th, my deep sense of the honor done me in their request for a copy of my Oration for the Press, through the medium of your letter.

Though I am sensible of many defects in the style and arrangement of that performance, still, as the sentiments are such as I am ever willing and ready to support, I comply with the request, and herewith place a Copy at your disposal.

I am, Gentlemen, very respectfully,

your obedient, and humble Servant,

A. AIKENS.

MR. WILLIAM JOHONNOT,
*and others, Gentlemen of the Committee
of Arrangements.*

Walter Shulsons

*Presented by the A
Oct 18th 1812*

AN ORATION, Delivered at Windsor, July 4, 1812.

By ASA AIKENS, Esq.

Published at the special request of the Republican citizens of said town.

Fathers and Fellow Citizens,

Having been invited by your committee of arrangements to participate with you in the celebration of this day, in the character of your orator, I have repaired hither with no other regret, than what arises from a consciousness of my own inability to do justice to the occasion on which we are assembled. But aware of that indulgent generosity, so peculiarly characteristic of republican spirit, I come forward with cheerfulness, and claim your charity as a mantle for my imperfections.

We have heretofore been accustomed to assemble on the anniversary of American Independence, solicitous only to manifest, with becoming fervor, our gratitude to the heroes of the revolution, for those invaluable privileges, which, under God, they have bequeathed us.—But if I behold in the countenances of this respected assembly, the characteristics of Americans, who retain the first love of their fathers, you came not here, to-day, with this view alone.—But you came here, as men solemnly impressed with the importance of the destinies which await us,—as men, who, though the halo of peace is torn from the cap of liberty, still glory in your country's cause, and rejoice in the name of American.

As such then, let us unite in the celebration as our fathers united in the achievement: let us participate in this feast of reason, and libate together on the altar of our country's good. And while kneeling at her shrine, let us not be unmindful of our whole duty.

The present, is indeed, a crisis.—It is not now sufficient that we adore and burn; we must also cherish and preserve.

We are now commencing another war, in vindication of those sovereign rights, which our fathers bled to acquire. Are we commencing, did I say? It has long since been begun. Our brethren on the borders of the wilderness have already felt the stroke, from the savage executors of British vengeance! The war-whoop has sound-

ed—Not a western gale passes, but what brings to our ears, fresh instances of the victims who have perished: While every tide of the Atlantic, reproaches us with the cry of our fellow-citizens, who have been torn with brutal violence, from their liberties, and their friends—not indeed, by an open enemy in honorable war; but by that lawless power who has capriciously substituted naval force for maritime right, and imperiously claims the sole dominion of the ocean.

It becomes us, therefore, as men of candour, seriously to investigate the causes of those difficulties, which have eventuated in so important a resolution—to probe the wounds, which have been inflicted upon our national sovereignty and honor.

By going into this inquiry we shall be enabled the more duly to appreciate the measures of our own government.—We shall find, that our troubles have not grown out of any radical defect in our own system of national policy; but out of the astonishing revolutions, and rapid changes of power which have lately been effected in Europe. In fact, we shall find, that our former prosperity was the result of a happy concurrence of fortuitous circumstances, (which alas! have passed away, perhaps, never to return) rather than of any extraordinary wisdom or fore-sight of our own.

For some time previous to the American revolution, there had been a balance of power, established and maintained with scrupulous tenacity, between the different nations of Europe; each watching with a jealous eye, the movements of the other, as the best safeguard of its own independence. While this state of affairs continued, the several powers of the continent found it for their interest, to respect the rights and privileges of the others.—The laws of nature were accordingly adapted to the exigencies of nations, and confirmed by mutual consent.—

Even Kings thought it not beneath the dignity of their crowns to adhere to the principles of common honesty.

At the consummation of our Independence, a vast field was opened for commercial enterprise.

The system of the armed neutrality had been promulgated by Russia, and acceded to by Denmark, Sweden, the United Provinces, the Emperor of Germany, Portugal and the King of Naples, who at the time of their accession were neutral powers---and among the Belligerents, France and Spain did not oppose it.

The principles of this system, were indeed no other than those rules of eternal justice, as applicable to the intercourse of nations, which have for their object, the advancement of the happiness of mankind, and an amelioration of the calamities of war.

It declared that neutral nations had a right to enjoy a free trade with the ports and roads of the belligerents,---That neutral ships make neutral goods---That no merchandizes should be reputed contraband, which had not been declared so, in treaties made, at least with one of the belligerents---That no place should be looked upon as blockaded, except when surrounded by enemies' vessels in such a manner as to render all entrance manifestly dangerous---And finally, that these principles should serve as the basis of all discussions, touching the legality of prizes.

This system, it is true was never acceded to by Great Britain, notwithstanding its intrinsic justice and apparent advantages, though from the number and strength of the powers who had signed their determination to maintain it by force, she was for some time compelled to respect its principles.

With this prospect before them, our government could not mistake their true policy.

They accordingly took their stand on the ground of neutrality---and while its principles could command respect, we were blessed with a prosperity unparalleled in the history of commerce.

Our oaks were precipitated from their ancient mountains to subserve the purposes of a gainful trade---Our canvases whitened every port, and the symbol of our union wanted on every breeze.

But the guarantee of this happy prosperity has proved but the creature of an hour---The fortune of War has placed the whole maritime force of Europe in the hands of Great Britain, while the sword of Napoleon directs the destinies of the continent.

A fatal attack has been commenced on the rights of neutrality; and in the struggle for their maintenance, America has unfortunately been left alone---The tyrant of the ocean and the tyrant of the land, in the direful conflict of their angry passions, have wrested from the other neutral powers, not only their rights but their national existence---Fleets, more numerous than our own, have been annihilated---governments more powerful have been broken into fragments---and statesmen as experienced have sunk under the weight of public calamities.

The American republic in the morning of her existence, has found herself without an ally---and at once the advocate, the supporter, and the avenger of universal justice and universal law.

Though there was really *no first cause* for the present ruinous war between France and Great Britain, the *deliberious* policy of those two nations and particularly of the latter, has furnished a *special cause* for its continuance. It is the extinction of neutral commerce---the building up of their own naval superiority upon the *ruins* of desolated nations!

Great Britain early discovered the rising prosperity of these states.---Her jealousy kindled---her mercantile cupidity took the alarm and sought refuge in that wily and Machiavelian policy, which has since manifested itself in acts of the most flagrant injustice.

Tired of the rotine of her former aggressions upon our commerce, and the tedious diplomatic discussions which they produced under the administration of Washington and Adams--having by the battles of Trafalgar and the Nile, by the sack of Copenhagen, dissipated the maritime forces of the continent, and established her own superiority, she on the 16th of May 1806, sacrilegiously trespassed upon the ancient barrier of national law, by an illegal extension of the system of blockades.

Having previously blockaded as many ports and places as her disposable force could possibly legalize, she on that day declared the whole coast of France from the mouth of the river Elbe to the port of Brest, inclusive, in a state of blockade.

This blockade had, indeed, a proviso annexed to it---but as the saving in the proviso was not *co-extensive* with the enacting part of the order, the whole being illegal, it was nevertheless, a base infringement of the sovereignty of every state.

The proviso itself is no other than proof positive, that the British government did not then consider that blockade a legal one:--For, I trust that the greatest admirers of British generosity, will not be so stubborn in their admiration, as to pretend that she would have foregone any advantage in favor of America, which the laws of nations had placed in her power,---*especially*, after witnessing her backwardness in other instances, to meet the plainest demands of justice. Nay, more---It was never pretended by Great Britain herself, that this blockade was established for the only legal purpose, the prohibiting of supplies for the reduction of places actually besieged: But on the contrary it was expressly declared to be in consequence of the extraordinary measures adopted by the enemy for the purpose of distressing the commerce of his majesty's subjects. Nor was it ever pretended that it was legally maintained by actual investure of an adequate force, till last July; when, forthwith, the government of the United States must be insulted with a grand display of the logical talents of Mr. Foster, in an attempt to prove, what no mortal ever before pretended, that *this blockade* was strictly legal, both in the object and execution of it!

I am thus particular on this point, because it was the first grand vault, in the late wild and open departure from acknowledged principles of National Law---because, it furnishes a tolerable specimen of the low and pitiful shifts, and the palpable contradictions, to which the British Ministry have been obliged to resort in the alternate justification and excuse of the monstrous doctrines they have promulgated--And because it gave the French Emperor a fair opportunity, under the pretence of opposing British injustice with her own weapons, to share with her in the plunder of the ocean.

Nor did he neglect it---Borne over the land in the car of victory---leading as captive, whole nations in his train, and little regarding the impotency of his own marine, he improves on the model of injustice which his enemy had furnished, by decreeing the blockade of the whole British Islands. G. Britain rejoins on the 11th of November following, which was in 1807, by declaring the whole continent of Europe blockaded, with the single exception of those few places from which her own flag was not excluded.

To these edicts, succeeded still others, blackening in iniquity, as their authors progressed in this disastrous strife of insa-

trate avarice and unbridled ambition, till the sources of our commercial wealth were locked up, and neutrality outlawed---Till our merchantmen could no longer traverse the grand highway of nations, under penalty of seizure and confiscation, detention or annihilation! It is a fact, that of the ships which sailed from our principal ports in the month previous to our first embargo, not one fifth of their number ever returned in safety.

But the catalogue of our grievances does not end here.--Would not their foul recital exhaust your patience as much as wound your feelings, I might proceed to recapitulate the wanton infractions, by the belligerents, of the most solemn treaties and equitable arrangements---the indignities which have been heaped upon us under the pretence of search---the utter contempt which British commanders have manifested to our municipal and port regulations---the actual violation of our territory---the firing upon our merchantmen, and the murder of our citizens---But the foulest stain upon our boasted independence, that crying indignity which strikes at personal liberty and confounds the freeman with the slave, remains yet to be named---It is the impressment of our seamen. This practice, as unfounded in principle, as it is wicked in execution, has been uniformly persisted in by the British government---And notwithstanding our expostulations and remonstrances and every offer of accommodation on this point, which justice could demand or honor propose, *no amelioration* has been effected in the situation of the unhappy victims or reparation offered their injured country. The groans of twelve thousand American citizens, chained like galley-slaves to the floating engines of British tyranny---the cries of their orphan children, and the tears of untimely widowhood, bespeak the enormity of the internal practice and call aloud for vengeance.

To these continued acts of injustice and aggression, the American government at length raised the barrier of opposition---not by plunging hastily into war, while yet there seemed a possibility of avoiding its calamities: but determined on flunning the tremendous concussions which have agitated Europe, by preserving our neutrality inviolate, they took a firm stand on the ground of justice and mingled conciliation with resistance.

While they raised the shield for self defence, the olive branch was extended be-

fore it in the same hand which bore the scale of Justice equally poised to both the aggressors--Desirous of peace while it could be maintained with honor, the measures they adopted were pacific---*Pacific*, because they were such as any nation might adopt, and no other nation have a right to complain. They were, nevertheless, *coercive*, withholding our supplies from the belligerents, and depriving them of the benefits of our markets--thus, tending to induce them to respect our rights, on the ground of their own interest:--Ever making *that event* the contingency upon which our restrictions should cease to operate against that nation who complied with it.

But though the effects of this system were truly appalling to the British government--though the cry of consequent distress assailed the throne from every section of his Majesty's dominions--and though consequent poverty and insurrection are the arguments with which that devoted people are striving to influence their imperious rulers to comply with the just requisitions of America, *there were TWO THINGS* which baffled the efforts of our own government, and induced the British cabinet to persevere in their iniquity!

The first of these was the *criminal* impatience and restlessness of a portion of our own citizens under those *privations* of which, the restrictive measures of our government were necessarily the *immediate*, though by no means, the *primary* cause.

Yes, Fellow Citizens, I repeat it, a portion of the people of the United States were highly criminal, in this respect--And the Great Disposer of events is now visiting this nation with the merited reward of that criminality, in the awful necessity of the present war!

The other ostensible cause, which has contributed to this unfavorable result, is the bickerings of *domestic* *Faction*. Universal history testifies that periods of national distress, are those

sought by this anti-national spirit for putting forth its energies and organizing its votaries.

And in the present instance, the disastrous influence of the convulsions in Europe, upon our own interest and sovereignty has tempted *faction* from her hiding place, and she has again sallied forth, with an effrontery hitherto unparalleled in the annals of moral or political depravity. She has set up her cry even within the shade of the Capitol, which is incessantly repeated by the *traiterous*, the *designing*, the *duped* and the *pensioned* in almost every hamlet among us.

Do you ask for proofs of this declaration?--You need not cast your eyes beyond the circles of your own acquaintance.--How many simple and honest men do we behold, real well-wishers to their country at heart, who are staggering under a load of fearful doubts of the rectitude and impartiality of our rulers--who are blinded by *false surmises*, which they never could have drawn from a correct knowledge of the measures of our government, and a clear understanding of existing facts; but which have been infused into their minds by *other men* too well informed to be unconscious of the deceit they are practising.

At this eventful moment, when our government are calling upon us to *strike* and avenge the wrongs of an insulted and abused nation, it becomes our duty to point to the dangers which lurk within, as well as meet those which threaten from without.--We ought to rend the mask from the face of the deceiver, and remove the cataracts from the eyes of the deceived. We ought to recollect and teach to others the solemn truth, that whoever is found advocating the pretensions, or palliating the aggressions of any foreign power, at the expense of our own government, has not the heart

and feelings of an American.—That he is to be regarded as no other than a glozing minion of foreign tyranny—a pander of faction—a would-be parasite of our national honor and independence.—That though the wolf appear in sheep's clothing he is no less a wolf. His unnatural yell is a token to the wary shepherd to beware, however fawning his demeanor, or specious his pretences!

By Faction, I mean the old spirit of toryism—that old serpent in a new skin—that bane of '75, which has ever since been cherished in the hot bed of our commercial relations, and fed on British gold; and which, since those relations have been partially suspended, has turned its wrath against the vitals of our own government, and is now venting in all the forms, which disappointed ambition can devise or falsehood create. Whence this continued & violent opposition to every measure of our government? Whence the foul and slanderous imputations against our rulers, of duplicity in their negotiations, and hostility to commerce? Where is their origin but in our sea-ports—among men, whose patriotism is too often graduated by their accounts of loss and gain—men, who while the rights of neutrality were respected advanced rapidly to independent fortunes, and who are now pining for the crumbs of commercial servitude.

These unfortunate men, mistaking their own private interests for the interest of a great agricultural nation, —never dreaming that any considerations worthy of the notice of government could possibly exist without the columns of the marine journal—calculating the value of our maritime rights by the premiums of insurance to England; and knowing that their early profits depended on their ability to obtain English credit, they have finally identified the interest of Ameri-

ca, with the interest of Great Britain. They have confounded the cause of an unoffending neutral, struggling for the rights of neutrality, with that of the tyrant of the ocean, bent on their destruction!

They have in many instances, in the face of the laws of their country, bartered their own honor and the symbol of our independence, with an enormous tribute to boot, for the despicable consideration of a *British license and British convoy*.

They listen to capt. Foiger, on the subject of French burnings and French prisons, and with him taking fright, they scud away to Great Britain, and sinking meritriciously into her embrace, proclaim her "as the only refuge from the universal tyranny of Bonaparte—as the protectress of the rights of nations—as the freeman's best friend, and the world's last hope!" They hear of the strength of Sir Peter Parker, and the discomfiture of "Sir" Arthur Batt Bingham, and in the same breath, sigh for the protection of the one, and the misfortune of the other.

This is indeed a ludicrous picture, but it is too like the original to excite a smile.

I have spoken in general terms, but there are many honorable exceptions.

Another class of men, influenced by motives of personal ambition, have laid hold on this anti-American spirit, the natural offspring of our commercial relations with Great Britain, and by art and intrigue, both open and secret, would fain make it subservient to their own purposes—the hurling the present administration from power, and setting themselves up in their places. With this view, every measure of our government is traduced, the heads of department vilified, and the dangers which have so long threatened us, and the privations we have felt, been uniformly ascribed to other causes than the *real ones*.

These gentry unblushingly declare to the people of the United States—Great GOD!—and must I speak it, of men who were born to freedom?—It cannot be denied—They unblushingly declare to us and to the world, that the present war has sprung not from the injustice of Great Britain, prompted on in some measure, by the graceless disaffection of the minority here, but, from the unreasonable demands of our government and their hostile disposition to England and Commerce!

They insultingly tell us that the British cabinet have ever stood ready to grant us every remuneration for the past and guarantee for the future which we have a right to ask!

They manifest an anxious concern for the distresses of the merchant, and modestly inform him there is no remedy, but in a change of administration. Effect this change, say they, and we will give you peace—we will give you prosperity—your commerce with England shall be restored—the ferocity of the savages, as by magic, shall become like the gentleness of lambs! We will give you a navy, which shall enable you to lay your enemies in prostration at your feet!

It is thus, Fellow-Citizens, that personal ambition and local interest have united in rearing the standard of opposition among us: And it is by the means and for the reasons, which I have already cursorily noticed, that this opposition, has become assimilated, in principle and affection with the present open and avowed enemy of our country.

But whatever may be the pretensions or the promises, which illicit views and party prejudices may prompt men to make, they are deceitful illusions, which tend only to beguile the yielding mind more easily to perdition.

But our government have reasoned better.—They have seen in the unrighteous orders and decrees of the belligerents, and in their tenacious adherence to them, the developement of a system, which aiming at universal monopoly and dominion, tramples under foot, the most sacred principles of national right; the progress and final establishment of which, and the consequent re-colonization of this people, nothing but an appeal to arms could prevent!

A majority of the people of the United States have reasoned better.—They know the evils to be apprehended from a great navy and are determined to avoid them.

They see in the present deplorable condition of the commonalty of England, an awful admonition, to beware of that engine of Executive ambition, which would be the primordial cause of similar troubles here. They know that these armaments have uniformly excited the pride of their possessors, and the jealousy of other powers—that the excitement of these passions, produces frequent & destructive wars,—that frequent wars must ever create a perpetually increasing debt—be productive of taxation in every shape, poverty and misery among the lower classes of people, and speculation and stock-jobbing among the rich;—In short, they know that national bankruptcy, or revolution and the destruction of Liberty would close the scene!

The immediate predecessor of our present illustrious chief magistrate reasoned better.—He saw, that though a neutral commerce was an honorable road to wealth and affluence, while the rights of neutrals were regarded by belligerent powers, and a necessary resort for America, while she was yet without manufactories, it was nevertheless, the conductor by which foreign influence and foreign vices, would be introduced among us, and the teas-

er by which they would be cherished. He regarded it as the fruitful source of local interests and local prejudices, incompatible with the harmony and best good of the nation.—He was aware that the spirit of commerce keeps the passions of men in a state of perpetual effervescence, and that agriculture and manufactures, uniformly calm them.

Profoundly skilled in the science of government, he saw in advance the consequent evils to which our tranquility and UNION were exposed, and sought their *remedy* in the effect which *local situation* has upon the political œconomy of man

He accordingly cultivated peace and harmony with the natives, and thus opened every facility to the settlement of the Western states.

And what do we behold, as the result of his policy? Two millions of freemen beyond the mountains, uninfluenced by that anglo-commercial mania, so fatal to the repose of New England.—A *band of patriots*, who from their situation, can have no interest adverse to our complete emancipation from the trammels of “British justice” and “French love.”—

A race of men, who, on the first call of their country, have leaped forth, an armed phalanx, emulous only to support her rights and avenge her wrongs—who, I trust, will ever stand a terror to the minions of faction here, and an everlasting guarantee to the integrity of the Union—that Union, the preservation of which, was the earnest prayer of the Great, the Godlike
WASHINGTON.

But, Fellow Citizens, it is not by pursuing a system of restrictive measures *alone*, that our government have so long strove to forego the necessity of the solemn appeal they have made. They have remonstrated against every encroachment upon our rights, 'till remonstrance has proved vain.

They have negotiated—and notwithstanding they had seen an equita-

ble arrangement disavowed, without any apparent cause or real excuse, they have still continued to treat, in good faith, with that nation who no longer deserved our confidence.

They have demanded a recognition of our just claims, but have been answered by insult, aggression and abuse!—They have sought peace at St. James and have found war at Malden.

They have negotiated, till the British ministry have been driven from their first ground of excuse, that of retaliating upon the injustice of France, to an open avowal of their *real intention*, never to respect our rights till France shall have opened her ports to all the world.

They have been willing to pass over injuries, as casualties inseparable from a state of hostilities in Europe even where a hostile intention against us could not be misunderstood.

But this patient endurance of aggravated wrongs, this long forbearance to rouse the energies of the nation, resulted not from a dread of war, but from a love of peace.

The evils of war are no longer to be dreaded by a free people, than while, as a free people they can avoid them.

And having exhausted the cup of conciliation to the very dregs—having dissipated every hope of an honorable and friendly adjustment—having found an accredited British spy lurking in the bosom of our country, in time of peace, and seeking to undermine our happy union—having seen the western savages influenced to war by British agents,—having borne more from Great Britain than ever one nation bore from another without a contest—Our government *have resolved*—poising themselves on their own magnanimity, and the honor and spirit of the nation, they have resolved to return those hostilities which our enemy had already commenced;—Yes, they have resolved on WAR—a war, not of ambition; not for the pitiful commerce of the present moment;

But, a war for self defence,—for the reclamation and liberty of our citizens —for the preservation of those inalienable and sovereign rights without which, our independence is an empty boast, and our name a reproach.—

And is there here a single individual who can lay his hand on his heart, and sorrow that still greater sacrifices have not been made to the departing genius of peace?—We have nothing left but our *integrity*, our national honor, and national independence.—One step more would have plunged us in degradation.

Or has any one so far forgotten the price of our heritage as to think it not worth this struggle to retain?

Go then, to the tomb of some departed soldier—ask of his shade the price of your liberties:—His genius shall arise, and teach you a lesson as solemn and impressive, as the cause in which he fell was sacred.

He will recount to you the direful scenes of Monmouth, of Saratoga, of Groton and of Charlestown—He will point you to the sanguinary field, where the staff of the aged father was broken, where the blessing of the anxious mother was cut down, and the fond hopes of the betrothed damsel, disappointed forever!

He will lead you to the spot where great Montgomery fell; and as you tread with unhallowed steps, an humble mound, he will bow his head and weep—“*Here lies my son,*” he will say, “but he is happy for he, died in the cause of freedom.”—

But why appear the silent testimony of the dead, while we are yet blessed with the presence of here and there an actor in that great drama?

Ye aged and venerable *few*, whose whitened locks grace this assembly; declare to us what were your feelings—what the emotions of your hearts, when without the necessary arms or equipments, you broke from the tender embrace of domestic affection, and

marched to the tented field, to “breast the onset of vain-glorious invasion?”—What were the privations, the fatigues, the anxieties, the marches you endured?

What were the ravages—the scenes of woe and deep distress, which you have witnessed, from the hands of those tyrants who would enslave you?—What were the dangers you escaped?—What were your sensations when in the hour of disastrous battle, you saw your brother sink down on the field of death?

Tell to us the whole story of your sufferings; and when you have done, God forbid, that you should have spoken in vain!

And can it be, that with these facts ringing in our ears, and this noble example before us, that we should now be slow to action?—That we should shrink from the *last resort* for the defence of those rights, which our fathers fought to acquire, and which, *we*, in turn, are challenged to maintain?—No—we will not brook oppression. Tho’ tenfold darker were the prospect, tho’ foreign influence may brandish her menaces, tho’ faction may strive to divide, and palsy the energies of the nation, we will say to our government, GO ON:—The hearts of this people are with you—the spirit of our fathers is inherited by their children. We will rally again to the standard which WASHINGTON reared.—The enemy is the same that hero fought—the cause the same in which he toiled.

The field of honor has again become the field of duty—and having drawn our swords, let us pledge ourselves to one-another and to the world, never to sheathe them till every wrong is redressed and the hand of the aggressor effectually stayed.

Conscious of the rectitude of our cause, and convinced of the necessity of the contest, we cheerfully leave the result to that Almighty Being, in whose hand nations rise and fall, prosper and decay.