

de  
**ORATION**

**PRONOUNCED AT**

**WEST-SPRINGFIELD, (MASS.)**

**JULY FOURTH,**

**EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND THREE.**

~~~~~  
**BY SAMUEL ELLIOT, Esq.**  
~~~~~

*Kind NATURE plann'd the BASE of EMPIRE here,  
'Tis thine AMERICANS to do the rest.*

---

**BENNINGTON: PRINTED BY A. HASWELL & CO.**  
**1803.**

WEST-SPRINGFIELD, JULY 4th, 1803.

SIR,

HAVING heard the Oration you have this day pronounced, on the anniversary of our independence, we present you our thanks for your performance, and request a copy for the press.

GID. WARNNER.

JONA. SMITH. JUN.

JESSE STEBBINS.

} Committee.

Samuel Elliot, Esq.

---

AVERSE to unnecessary ceremony, or apology, I comply with your request.

SAMUEL ELLIOT.

Gid. Warnner & others, Committee.

---

# ORATION.

---

RESPECTED AUDITORY,

**W**ITH tremulous diffidence, I proceed to the duty assigned me. To a generous audience I appeal for an effusion of candor : in proportion to my assurance of your friendship and good wishes, my anxiety will vanish, and my confidence be raised. That I shall have the fortune to please all, to raise the general clap, or gain universal applause is not to be expected. But whether I delight or disgust, please or offend, my duty shall direct me, and my own breast sanction the sentiments I offer.

Most nations have had their favorite days on which to assemble for festive and political purposes. In sacred writ, we read of dedications, thanksgivings and jubilees : and the histories of Greece and Rome teem with accounts of games and festivals.

But at this delightful season, when nature herself seems pregnant with ensigns of freedom. When she seems robed in her fairest attire. When the birds chant songs of liberty—Under a benignant and salubrious atmosphere, and a government the purest on earth—At such a season, and under such circumstances, to assemble and celebrate the *birth day* of American independence and rational liberty, is the enviable lot of Americans alone!

Happy and glorious people! England may boast of her liberty, her magna charta and her trade. France of her strength, her numbers and ease. Their own pride may feel gratified at the boast, but more true joy may

be found in *thy fair courts of freedom, on the shores of America, in one day*, than in "thousands elsewhere." Here, a generous sympathy prevails in all hearts, and the very recollection of this day, banishes every gloomy sensation, and lights up the most ardent enthusiasm in every breast. On this day your chains were broken— On this day the grand charter of your liberties was sealed!

Convened at this important era, we are naturally led to an examination of the causes which led to our emancipation, the principles on which our independence was predicated, the nature and beauty of our government, our present blessings and future prospects. It is not to be expected that I should descant upon the subjects so interesting and sublime, with the sapient dignity of a *Washington* or an *Adams*; the beauty, correctness, and energy of a *Jefferson*: or the ease and eloquence of an *Ames*, a *Morris*, an *Otis*, a *Livingston*, a *Lincoln*, a *Granger* or a *Marshall*. But it will be enough that my dignity be impartiality, my ~~nomina-~~ **tions** patriotic sensibility, and my ornament truth. These things premised, it may not be improper to apprise my audience of the method adopted for the examination of these subjects. I propose in the first place, to speak cursorily of the origin of our independence; in the second, of the adoption of our constitution and government; in the third, of the early measures of that government; in the fourth, of its later proceedings; and, in the fifth, of its probable permanency, and the approaching strength and grandure of America.

From the most trivial circumstances, effects the most astonishing and momentous often originate.— From a single rash or imprudent act, the most formidable nations are sometimes ruined. These considerations, while they serve as a legislative lesson, remind

us of the causes which wrested our infant country from the horrid fangs of oppression.

The aggressions of aspiring Britain, which laid the foundation of our independence are still remembered by thousands in our country—They are inscribed on the page of history, for the view and instruction of all. Ambitious for extension of power, for accumulating wealth, and for the complete subjugation of her provinces, she unfeelingly trampled upon our dearest right, and filched from us, our richest treasures. The mad councils of her *war hounds*, led her to invade us in hostile array. Her navies and her cannon were driven, frowning on our coasts. We met them with firmness. We repelled her assaults. The voice of Danger roused the country. Our fathers witnessed the critical conjuncture with heroic fortitude. The strong arm of the aged farmer, and the active frame of the youthful hunter were courageously braced in the cause of our insulted Rights!

After a tedious night of confusion, havoc and war; after the pure blood of our gallant *Warren*, of *Mercer*, *Montgomery*, and other martyrs to freedom, had crimsoned our desolated and afflicted shores; after the fate of war had laid our villages in ashes, and caused affliction to abound, “as a thick cloud;” after our infant Congress had declared us *a free and independent nation*, boldly asserting the reasons for the measure, nobly relying on their own valor, the justness of their cause, and the approbation of heaven for support; and appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world, for the rectitude of their intentions; after alternate victories and defeats, numerous skirmishes and well-fought battles, **THE MORNING OF RECONCILIATION** gleamed, and **PEACE** arose with cheering beams on our Land! A general treaty of amity and peace followed, and the bloody portals of war were fortunately closed.

Several years spent in deliberation, and our Consi-

tution, that palladium of our rights and security, was brought forward, under the auspices of *Washington, Jefferson, Franklin*, and other American worthies. In its original state it met with some opposition from Mr. *Gerry* and others, who contended for further provisions in favor of the People, which provisions were soon adopted by way of amendment, and, (being annexed to our Constitution) now form, a second *Magna Charta* of our Liberties.

Our Constitution was adopted, and measures were immediately taken to ordain and establish such laws and regulations as are essential to all good governments, with a due regard to the peculiar principles and circumstances of our own. Our laws in general, were unexceptionable, and America, emulous to rise among the nations of the earth, was found an asylum for the oppressed of all nations, and the seat of industry and trade, as well as Liberty, Justice and Peace.

But too soon the late bloody war commenced in Europe, and every allurements was held forth, and every scheme adopted by the contending parties, to bring us into a participation of their quarrels. Both France and England hoped for our interference, but were both disappointed by our declaration of neutrality. England became the first plunderer of our commerce—France followed. With the origin of that war, and our subsequent treaty with Great Britain, originated that baneful *party spirit*, which, gaining accessions from succeeding measures, became at last so formidable, as almost to threaten a destruction of our government. The *standing army, land tax, sedition and stamp acts, and a rigid condemnation and exclusion from office, of all republicans*, measures of the federal party, proved very illy calculated to allay the spirits of disaffection obvious in most parts of the union.

To assume the office of  *censor* is neither my duty nor my wish. Whether those measures were, as Mr. A-

dams has declared, the effect of imperious necessity; whether they were the result of ill-judged policy, or whether they sprang from an *overbearing disposition to rule*, is left with the candid world for decision. Their effects damped the energy of the nation, preyed upon the vitals of our republican government, and began to assimilate our policy to that of Britain. Whatever were the real motives which induced to their adoption, it is evident, that the United States were not prepared for their operation. The authors of these bold and dangerous measures were neglected and others called to administer the government.

On the 4th of MARCH, 1801, a day memorable in the civil annals of our country, citizen THOMAS JEFFERSON was declared *President of the United States!*

The circumstances attending the election, (and which must always reflect the highest disgrace on his opposers, as he had been previously chosen *President*, and Mr. Burr, *Vice-President*, by a handsome majority of the electors through the union,) the circumstances, I say, attending the final choice by Congress, must be known to all.—At his dignified approach, opposition felt abashed.

From that day, the sun of Republicanism, which had so long been obscured by adverse storms and *federal magic*, infused heat and vigour into the great mass of Americans, while, at its cheering rays, those *who loved political darkness rather than light, became restless, clamorous, and inveterately disaffected.*

The measures immediately consequent on his election, were such as might rationally be expected from an independent character, an able statesman, and a genuine friend to the best interests of his country. The odious *stamp and sedition acts* were abolished. The *land tax* was no more imposed. The *excise system*, which created more than 400 offices, which loaded with exactions our infant manufactories, and which opera-

ted very unequally among the several states, subjecting the single state of Massachusetts to a greater tax, than all those south of Maryland; this system, I say, so peculiarly burthensome to your own state, was also exploded. Our *federal judiciary* was brought down to that state, so wisely instituted by Washington. And the fathers of our independence, with the real friends of our liberties and constitution, after a long, unjust, and shameful exclusion from office, were again allowed the common privileges of citizenship, and even esteemed eligible to offices of honor and trust!

The mild and patriotic *Maddison*, the meritorious *Dearborn*, the sagacious and persevering *Gallatin*, (who 24 years ago, indignantly left the oppressors of Europe, for an honorable residence under the banners of American liberty,) the active, enterprizing, and literary *Lincoln* and *Granger*, forming at once, a firm phalanx in the republican cause, and a bright constellation of statesmen, were invested with those civil powers, which their several capacities and merits so justly claimed.

Our President in these important appointments evinced his respect for the New England states. Three of the above characters, were citizens of New England. On his accession to the presidency, the proscribed majority, (or in other words, the genuine republicans,) assumed their legitimate stations; and, possessing claims, resulting from former services and injuries, were of course allowed a share in the honours, profits, and administration of our government. As vacancies occurred, and as officers forfeited their trusts by wanton abuse of our government, the questions asked, respecting the candidates, were, not *solely*, "is he honest?—is he capable?" but care was also had to reward the claims and services of oppressed, and insulted merit; to procure men whose *principles and friendship to our government*, as well as their *general honesty and*



*capability* rendered most suitable; and to break asunder that system of partiality and aristocracy, which had been so pernicious in its effects, and so pregnant with disaffection in every department of our country.

His measures have been congenial with the situation, circumstances and manners of our country. His policy has been neither *British* nor *French*, but *American*. But he has been guilty of *these crimes*; he has preferred the friends to the government and himself, to the most bitter enemies of both; and he has sanctioned a sale of some slender ships, when we were under no necessity for their use, and reserved the proceeds for our treasury, in preference to laying them up for decay, rottenness and loss!

Yet for this independent and dignified conduct, he has been reviled by the common enemies of principle, and political simplicity, rectitude and economy. Idle tales of his *infidelity* have been resorted to, as the most formidable weapons, and most ready destruction. The mean and barefaced attempts of his adversaries, have, generally speaking, recoiled with tenfold fury on themselves. Truth and justice must prevail, and the dastardly calumny, so liberally diffused, as it originated in malice and envy, begins to loose its efficacy, and will finally find a tomb, "when envy sleeps with him in his grave." Then an afflicted country will mourn the loss of a character second to none but Washington, and will shrink from his slanderers, as from the most poisonous of reptiles. Then, at least, the unfeeling detractor will be able to wound no more his generous and patriotic breast.

At present, who can be so deaf to charity, and so obstinate in error, as to believe our President unfriendly to the Religion of his country? After having spent his life, (a life pure and illustrious, distinguished for morality, benevolence, and every generous, noble, and Christian virtue), in the service of his beloved country?

After having said in his first address from the Presidential Chair, that we were “enlightened by a *benign Religion*, professed indeed, and practiced, in various forms, yet all of them inculcating honesty, truth, temperance, gratitude, and the love of man, acknowledging and adoring an *over-ruling Providence*, which by all its dispensations proves that it delights in the happiness of man here, and his greater happiness *hereafter?*” And, after having expressed his decided disapprobation of the publication of Paine’s third part of the *Age of Reason?*\* Who, I repeat, can yet apprehend him hostile to the pure precepts of Christianity? Since his exaltation, has religion been discountenanced? Has it drooped? Has it decreased? Has it been demolished? No one can doubt the purity of his mind, the religion of his *heart*, or the benevolent and accommodating disposition of his soul. He is an advocate for *religious* as well as *civil* freedom, the love of which brought our forefathers to America. He detests religious *coercion*, but cherishes with liberal zeal, and pecuniary donations, † both the *literary* and *religious* institutions of his country.

How honorable for himself, was that diffidence and candour, expressed in his inaugural speech:—

“I shall often go wrong through defect of judgment; when right, I shall often be though wrong by those, whose positions will not command a view of the whole ground.”

And how generous, pious and ardently patriotic, his close:—

“Relying then on the patronage of your good will,

\* I am credibly informed, that Mr. Jefferson, with the several heads of Departments, have uniformly opposed the publication of this *deistical treatise*.

† See an account of his advancing 50 dollars, for the support of missionaries among the Indians; and a liberal donation to a newly instituted Academy.

advance with obedience to the work, ready to retire from it, whenever you become sensible how much better choices it is in your power to make. And may that *infinite Power, which rules the destinies of the universe* lead our councils to what is best, and give them a favorable issue for your peace and prosperity."

Ask for testimonials of his merit?—We present you not with a display of regal pomp, or the empty magnificence of lordly ancestry; but we exhibit our *Jefferson* as the glorious compatriot with Washington; as the scholar, statesman, and philosopher!

Notwithstanding all these favorable traits in the characters and actions of our rulers, yet every day's experience, is evincive of the malignity of *party spirit*. Notwithstanding the mildness and wisdom of our Chief Magistrate, with the unanimity and energy of our present Congress have exalted our national character to a dignified respectability among the nations of the earth; yet, we find some so bitter and hostile, as to misrepresent his every act, to spread abroad the most impious and nefarious slander, and to stoop to any means however base\* and criminal, to alienate the confidence of

\* *Among other pitiful attempts to injure Mr. Jefferson as President, within the compass of my knowledge, is a late review of "Fayette in Prison," by a supposed legal student now in Boston, the same man, who last year, with Falstaff's impudence, spoke of the farmer, as a character loaded with general abhorrence. After venting his malice against the author of Fayette, and stating a number of foolish and false circumstances, he seemed to loose sight of his main subject, and falls upon Mr. Jefferson with great fury, for having written, (as he said) a complimentary letter to the author of that piece. Now, should it prove true, that Mr. Jefferson did actually write to a young man of fair reputation, would this derogate from his character or his dignity? So far from it, that we have reason to rejoice in the possession of a President, who on being exalted, does not forget that he is man; does not lose all condescension; does not proudly trample upon and despise his fellow citizens, but looks with humanity and complacency on his subjects, however humble their station; consoles and instructs them, and becomes in reality, the FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE.*

his fellow citizens. They have stiled him *pusillanimous* for his wisdom and aversion to temerity and war. They have accused him of sacrificing *the honor of his country*, because he preferred the mild and prudent measures of *Washington* to the more bold and hazardous councils of *Hamilton* and *Ross*. They would represent him as criminal, because our representatives have placed at his controul, *two millions of dollars*, during the recess of Congress!

The prospect of a Spanish war, and a consequent disaffection towards our present administration, seemed awhile to be the idol of Mr. Jefferson's opposers. But his capacious soul led him to escape the danger, to respect the laws of nations, and to effect a bloodless accommodation, as much to the satisfaction of the country, as if it had been done by the expense of armies, by the slaughter of thousands, or by plunging us into a long and dangerous war with France and Spain! Yes, the happy conclusion of this interesting business, the actual cession of all Louisiana with the privileges annexed, to the United States, through the gentle channel of negociation, in its twofold operation, at once effecting the command of the Mississippi and a territory of country, nearly as large as all the United States; and a full and honorable indemnification to our merchants who suffered by French spoliations, must ever remain a monument of the sagacity and wisdom of our government, and silence the slanderers of our President.

In speaking of the recent measures of our government, I am led to a sense of gratitude to heaven, for the triumph of principle and prudence; and that the angel of peace still watches over our land. The salutary measures of our republican brethern, have, a second time, rescued us from carnage and war. The wisdom and justice of these measures, will, however, be scarcely allowed by their violent opposers. *A Griswold* and a *Ross* will call them *pusillanimous*; and a

*Morris* will plead the benefits of war. Yet, with deference to their superior discernment, I would urge the necessity of avoiding every occasion of war, where it can be effected with any degree of honor, or any reasonable sacrifice. With what solemn earnestness has our Washington warned us to avoid the wiles and wars of Europe? His prophetic soul, his knowledge of mankind and the human heart, led him to predict the many efforts of the inconsiderate and ambitious, to bring us into war; and he admonished us to resist them.

Great and good man! Thy country shall long reverence thy name, and thy friends adhere to thy precepts!

The annals of modern Europe, and the history of ages are fraught with awful and instructive lessons on the subject of war. Where its infuriated spirit prevails, Liberty is prone to droop, industry, which alone can exalt a nation, is neglected as menial and insignificant, and ferocity of manners inculcated. One contest sows the seeds of a second, a second of a third, and so *ad infinitum*. Thus the punic wars succeeded each other, and thus the wars in Europe. Scarce ever do nations close a conflict without degradation on the one part and elation on the other: and restlessness, ambition or despair are the invariable consequences. Before we plunge *ourselves* into war, we ought to reflect on its miseries and horrors. Have we forgot the British war! Have we forgot the New-London massacre; the still more savage cruelties inflicted on our prisoners at New-York, or the untimely fall of our beloved Warren and his comrades at Bunker's hill? And we may repair to the mouldering tomb of *Alexander, Asdrubal, and Hannibal*, and learn as we weep over the ashes of those victims of war, the complicated miseries incident to ambition and a thirst for domination, and martial glory, proudly elevated in the car of ~~France~~ <sup>France</sup>, they despised every thing but conquest and danger. Returning from our imaginary and af-

fecting excursion, we may rejoice in having a band of legislators, who prefer the mild and humane measures of a Cincinnatus and a *Washington*, to the mad impulses of passion, the destructive dictates of revenge!

But shall we sacrifice the honor and real independence of our country to preserve peace? No—Our preservation from war will procure us the dignified respect of the world; will keep us aloof from its perils; enable us to “mature our yet recent institutions”\* and to consolidate our growing and indigested strength. Our preservation from war, is our preservation from injury and distress, and, perhaps, slavery and destruction. Once engage rashly in the quarrels of Europe, once “pass the Rubicon,” and our national interests and destiny will be linked with theirs. Should every endeavor for reconciliation fail, and our sincere exertions for peace be finally frustrated, then and not till then, ought the bold language of war to be heard in our councils—Then and not till then, ought the sword to leap from its scabbard, and the American people to buckle on their armor, rally round the standard of their insulted country in martial array, and swear to “Conquer or die.”

In our preservation from war, rests in a great measure, the security of our present free and republican government. The rough, inclement atmosphere of war, is pernicious to the sweet foliage of liberty. Amid the distresses and convulsions of war, the best governments often degenerate, the rights of the citizen are absorbed and lost! In the “hot bed of public calamity” the daring usurper is too often bred!—These are some of the evils of war, yet alas! they are about to be realized again in Europe. War has been declared by England, and the world must again be drenched in blood! We trust, however in the hope of exemption—we trust that our distance from Europe

\* *Washington's Legacy.*

will insure our neutrality. Yet, bold indeed are the interested fomenters of war. Among the veteran opposers of our country's tranquillity, stands Mr. *Hamilton* of New-York. Ambitious and insolent, too sanguine for consistency, too haughty for submission, and too virulent for popularity with any party.—The secret calumniator of Washington, the open and scurrilous abuser of Adams, and the shameless enemy of Jefferson. Listen to the following specimen of his rancor and chargin; part of his address to a federal caucus, held last spring in New-York : just before a sweeping frost blasted those full blown ~~popies~~ *popies*, which in his opinion, promised a copious and superabundant harvest of federalism. *“Arouse yourselves, fellow citizens, and destroy the monster, engendered in that hot bed of democracy, Virginia; we cannot fail of success, at the present election, and the triumph which is, whether our grasp will form the first link of a chain that will encircle the Union, and compel the pusillanimous statesman to retire from the helm of a government, the weight of which he is incompetent to sustain.*

And behold, it was reserved for this wonderful man, to discover the pusillanimity, and incompetency of our President! In his pure eyes, both *Washington* and *Adams* were unfit for the office. Where, O ill-fated America, will you produce a man acceptable!

Fellow Citizens, if you crave this man's approbation, “let loose the dogs of war!” Prostrate your *civil* before the *military* authority, and place him above your laws. Lay aside your proud feelings of liberty, and submit to his controul. Give him the shining *breast plate*, the *splendid car* and that *uncontroulable power*, for which he fights so ardently; this done, and *HAMILTON* will be satisfied. This done, and he “cannot fail of the triumph, which is, whether HIS GRASP will

*form the first link in that chain, that will BIND and encircle the Union !”*

O shade of Washington! the man whose abilities you always courted, and flattered, but whose real character you always disapproved, is among the first to censure your last and solemn advice. He zealously inculcates “invidious distinctions.” He reproaches thy native state for her influence and republican virtues. But, we trust, O fainted patriot! Thou citizen of the Celestial Courts! in thy friends and followers, to find an impregnable bulwark against oppression: to find the firm supporters of that liberty, for which you fought and suffered. “In our *Jefferson* we almost realize a second *Washington*!” In thee, departed guardian of American freedom, we found a champion to defend us from foreign insult and tyranny. In him we find a sagacious and patriotic counsellor, to shield us from the intrigues of domestic adversaries, and the “*grasps*” of aspiring ambition!

The happy issue of our difficulties at New-Orleans; the flattering and unexpected prospect of complete indemnification for French spoliations, the unanimity and firmness of our present administration, the happy state of our finances; all afford the most agreeable presages, and leave us at ease and security, to reflect on the probable *fate* and *durability* of our free and admirable government. And no sooner is the subject introduced, than this momentous question ominously interesting, presents itself for solution:—*How is it possible for a free and elective government like ours, to buoy up against the countless obstacles which must inevitable beset it? Against obtruding anarchy, encroaching aristocracy, the efforts of the ambitious, the influence of our schools, the influence of the clergy, and the systematic opposers of the rights of man?*

I answer, that those idle fears excited by a superficial knowledge of history, and inculcated in some of our



feminaries, relative to republics, must vanish with the prosperity of ours, and with the progress of *real science*. How long did Rome flourish as a republic? Longer than under any one despotic government. How long has St. Marino, and other European republics existed?—Almost beyond the memory of man. *All* descriptions of governments are subject to revolutions and destruction; why then ascribe them solely to republics: Where now is the French monarchy? True, the nation bows to the most daring usurper, but her Lewis, and her regular monarchy have been overthrown.—*All kinds of governments* are subject to decay; but shall we relinquish the best on earth, supported and guaranteed by the good sense, virtuous habit, and improved understanding of a gallant and enlightened community, from a pusillanimous apprehension of its *future* downfall. Forbid it Americans,—Forbid it Heaven!

I answer, our schools will generally be regulated by the prevalent sentiments of the country; and, the clergy, whose influence is formidable in most governments, already begin to demean themselves with that moderation and candor, peculiar to the generality of American clergymen. The number of those, whose false zeal and deep rooted prejudices, render odious to all, save *political maniacs* is small and hourly decreasing. The deluding plans, formerly so successful, have lost their efficacy, and we now hear the respectable parson exclaim—“Why so much slander against Jefferson? Are our rights infringed, or our liberties curtailed? Is our treasure expended in vain and extravagant measures, or lavished on a set of useless officers? Or, is there not, on the contrary, a system of economy and prudence obvious in every department of our government? And, although *Mr. Paine* has come to America, by *Mr. Jefferson's permission*, rather than *invitation*, yet, do not the former services of Paine, and his uniform support of the civil rights of mankind, rather diminish the

odium incurred by his infidel labours? And does not this consideration, together with the certainty, (fully recognized by Mr. Jefferson,) that Christianity is built upon a rock, not to be shaken by a thousand *Paines*; and with the high sense we entertain of *religious* as well as civil freedom, form a sufficient reason for that permission, which in fact, could not have been denied? And the civil manner in which it was granted, must impose a strong and lasting obligation on Mr. Paine, not to *abuse the goodness and justice of this country.*"

We yet have a *Jefferson*, the disciple of *Washington*, the undeviating advocate of civil and religious freedom, whose benign influence "encircles the union," and will not only give stability to the cause at present, but will descend with his labours and our descendants; and, with the admonitory Legacy of *Washington*, mould the manners of succeeding generations.

We yet have a *Maddison*, an ornament of human nature, and a firm pillar in the temple of freedom.

We yet have a *Gerry*, whose sacrifice of private feeling for the public good; and whose perseverance and influence at the court of France averted the raging billows of war which threatened to desolate our coasts.

We yet have a *Lincoln*, a *Granger*, a *Dearborn*, a *Bradley*, and other brilliant luminaries to adorn the northern states of our union.

We yet have a bright youthful constellation, just entering on the theatre of public life, whose salutary influence, while it protects the rights, will meet the thankfulness of the rising generation.

And I answer, we yet have a support, more glorious and durable than names, or the influence of individuals, in the manners and dispositions of the *American people at large*. They were early taught the value of liberty. They were early instructed in the love, nature and principles of a free government. They are acquainted, experimentally with no other. They are under every

inducement to admire, cherish and support it. It was established under the auspices of their beloved Washington. It was sealed with the best blood of their fathers! Their education, their occupations, their independent and manly feelings, collectively form, an impenetrable barrier against the assaults of injustice. May they never slumber under oppression, nor fall asleep by the delusive lullaby of a tyrant!

With the consolatory impressions, created by the foregoing reflections, we are led to hope for the speedy suppression of every sentiment adverse to rational liberty, and the genuine rights of man. We are induced to hope the period near, when to have been friends of *Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, our revolution and republican government*, will be held honorable in all circles; when our best and worthiest citizens, will no more be branded with indiscriminate reproach; when by exercising our inestimable privileges at our annual elections, with manly independence, we shall incur no more the harsh epithets of *disorganizers* and *traitors*. When men will be respected for their services and merit, not solely for their wealth. When the steady advocates of our rights, will be preferred to more dubious characters, though encircled by flatterers, by treasures, and mushroom honors, the progeny of those treasures. When an ardent love of country, shall prevade the union. When measures, and not men, shall be the motto. When songs of joy, peace, and unanimity shall be heard to accord on the *southern*, and on the *northern* mountains. When industry, sobriety, and love of order, shall increase with the extension of our country. And when our government, the noblest model of legislative wisdom, shall be admired by all, even its present revilers.

Yet, with all these commanding advantages, and flattering hopes, UNION among ourselves, republican brethren, is the only sure anchor of our safety. As we

have embarked in a glorious cause, no less than the preservation and support of the dearest rights of a great and rising republic, let no mutinies be seen, let no adverse storms affright, or avert our course; but let us, like men, fulfil our duty to God and our country. Active and adroit will be our adversaries. Their zeal and ingenuity will devise new and formidable means for exciting divisions and disaffection. We ought neither to slumber nor sleep till our cause is completely guarded. Presses independently conducted and ably supported, ought to be established, and the misrepresentations of pseudo federalism thoroughly exposed.

Could I raise my feeble voice, so as to be heard by all America, I would exclaim—One grand object seems to be the *ostensible*, and ought to be the *real* desire of all parties. For the attainment and preservation of this object, the happiness and prosperity of our country, we must govern ourselves by the justest rules, of friendship, magnanimity, and wisdom. Make mutual sacrifices of feeling and interest, when necessary. Prefer the welfare of the country, to that of individuals. As all free governments open avenues for promotion and office, we ought to be emulous for the confidence and respect of our fellow citizens, but never to place our hearts so much on the mere *emoluments* of office, as on the honorable discharge of *duty*. And, as all cannot be officers or rulers, we ought to possess the same humble and accommodating disposition of our President, who declares himself “*ready to retire, whenever the people become sensible how much better choices it is in their power to make.*” Yes, friends and brethren, *union* and *friendship* must be our *watch-words*. We must guard against every symptom of division. Let the well known fate of the divided house, be held forth as a sovereign *caveat*. For myself, I declare, my admiration of our inestimable constitution and government; my ardent wish for their preservation; and that so far

as my humble powers can have any influence, so far they shall be dedicated to the service of liberty, my country, and its government. And, may that Almighty Being, who presides over the destiny of nations, and has hitherto made our cause and welfare his peculiar charge, command his choicest blessings to descend on our land! May he render our government and prosperity commensurate with the duration of nature. For the glory of America, may it long be the case, that her own sons and the citizens of the world, as they approach her shores; shall exultingly exclaim—*There is the land of plenty and happiness! There is the asylum of Liberty!*

Permit me, on this occasion, fellow citizens, to draw a faint description of that respectability, and eminence of character, that national prowess and glory, consequent on the general prevalence of virtuous, moral, and patriotic sentiments; and of those scenes of glory, which are opening to our view. Scenes, the very idea of which, carry our imaginations captive, and cause these more limited speculations, which sometimes please and sometimes terrify, to evacuate our minds.

We possess, fellow citizens, as many local advantages as any people on earth. Our extensive territory, placed in a variety of favored climates, washed by the vast atlantic for a thousand miles; affording capacious ports and bays; the most eligible sites for trade, and fertile shores for cultivation; happily interspersed with large and beautiful rivers, lakes and canals. Here rolls the beautiful meandering Connecticut. There the navigable Hudson. Still farther southward, flows the Delaware, the Susquehanna, Potomac, and James. On our western borders are seen, with rich extensive intervals of soil, the far-famed Ohio and Mississippi, with a chain of lakes, the wonder of the world. The following lines by Mr. Dwight, an American poet, very beautifully describe some of our natural advantages:—

" In each blest'd clime, to crown industrious toil,  
 " See every product spring from every soil,  
 " Here the fur whitens in the frozen shade,  
 " Here flocks unnumber'd crowd the pastur'd glade,  
 " Here threatening famine double harvests scorn,  
 " Europe's rich grains, and India's useful corn,  
 " Virginia's fragrant pride huge fleets convey,  
 " And fields of rice float cumbrous o'er the sea,  
 " While all its wealth, the world of waters yields,  
 " And treasures fill the subterranean fields.  
 " These goods to waft where'er expands the wind  
 " To bless and to sustain the human kind,  
 " See, stretch'd immense from Cancer to the pole,  
 " On either side contending oceans roll;  
 " O'er this all Europe wings her haughty sails;  
 " O'er that, all India wafts on spicy gales;  
 " While bays and streams, and lakes her realms explore,  
 " And land each product at each happy door."

Besides these local or natural, we enjoy the most enviable *civil* and *personal* blessings.—The best constitution on earth—a free, elective, republican government, administered with wisdom and economy—with a code of laws, being an improvement on all preceding systems of jurisprudence. Here no haughty despot may legally lord it over his fellows; no lawless soldiery break in upon the domestic happiness & trample upon the dearest rights of families, nor horrid inquisition, by dint of mystery and superstition, contract and debase the mind!

Our personal advantages consist in an active, enterprising, generous, independent race of freemen.—Bold and magnanimous in war, industrious and civil in peace, statesmen and soldiers, aged and experienced for *council*, young and robust for *action*, a brave and well disciplined militia, at all times ready and able to defend our liberties and independence, a beautiful and virtuous sisterhood of fair country women, in all respects worthy of their exalted station, the friends and companions of the chosen sons of liberty, with a

rising progeny of promising youth, the hope and consolation of our country. These are our blessings—but launch into futurity, and all is enchantment—the same natural, civil and personal blessings extended on an almost infinitely larger scale! From the frigid regions of Labrador to the Mexican Gulf—from the adjacent Atlantic to the vast Pacific, behold the progress of civilization and improvement! Behold a nation whose numbers are *as the sand*, causing the forests to bow and the wilds “to blossom as the rose!” See cities rise on the banks of the Mississippi, and ships innumerable ride on its waters! Hear lessons of philosophy, piety and wisdom, supersede the savage howlings of the wilderness! where now the Indian vociferates his uncouth *war song*, and beasts of prey howl to the midnight stars, *there* elegance and refinement shall reign, manufactures and commerce flourish, and civil order and freedom prevail! As our imaginations advance into these future scenes, we behold oriental splendor and the grandeur of Europe, fade before the solid glory of the western world. We behold the name and character of America known and respected in every region under heaven, and our dignified *flag* securely and proudly wave on every sea, the admiration of nations: and amidst all this splendor and magnificence of national character, we behold our constitution and government, stand like a pillar of brass, at once proving the practicability of republican principles, and serving as a monument of American glory and independence, and we seem to hear, reverberating back from futurity, the ravishing shouts of innumerable freemen on *this anniversary* which shall never be forgotten, but remain an *annual* and *everlasting* FESTIVAL, in commemoration of LIBERTY, and the ESTABLISHMENT of the RIGHTS OF MAN!

## NOTE.

Here it may not be improper to state, that a report circulated with avidity last Spring, by the pure, charitable, and discerning federalists of Hampshire county, purporting, that Samuel Elliot had been hired to ride through said county, for electioneering purposes, just before the annual April Meeting, is a scandalous falsehood. To those who are so expert in translating a journey, undertaken for the three-fold purpose of effecting a settlement (in the capacity of administrator) with the creditors of Mr. Amos Foster's estate—of transacting business between Mr. Afa Nichols, merchant of Cambridge, and Mr. Babcock, merchant of Leyden—and of settling some arrangements with a brother at Brattleboro', Vermont, (who had resigned a distributing Post Office in his favor, and had expressly requested his presence,) into a paltry electioneering adventure, with a number of *attributed* miscarriages, he tenders his sincere contempt.

---



---

ERRATA.

In the second page in the name of one of the committee, for *Jesse* read *Ferre*.

In the 4th page, 20th line from the top, for *illuminations* read *animation*.

In 10th page, 12th line from the bottom, for *though* read *thought*.

In the 13th page, 2d line from the bottom, for *France* read *Fame*.

In the 14th page, 12th line from the top, for *popies* read *hopes*.

Same page, 26th line from ditto, for *where* read *when*.