



MR. FALES'S ORATION,

DELIVERED AT

LENOX, JULY 4th, 1807.



U. S. Lib.
AN *The Am.*
ORATION,

PRONOUNCED AT LENOX,

JULY 4th, 1807,

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY

OF

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

—●—
BY WILLIAM A. FALES, A. B.
—●—

*In the American contest we saw that reform which had been
born in England, and banished to America, advance like the
shepherd lad in holy writ, and overthrow Goliath.*

GRATTAN.

*All civil government as far as it can be denominated free, is
the creature of the people. It originates with them. It is
conducted under their direction; and has nothing in view
but their happiness.*

PRICE on Civil Liberty.

PRINTED AT PITTSFIELD,
BY PHINEHAS ALLEN....*July, 1807.*

TO MR. FALES.

SIR,

THE Committee of Arrangement are requested, by their Townsmen and Fellow-Citizens, to express to you their entire approbation of your ORATION, this day delivered, to thank you for your exertions in a cause which they approve, and to request of you a copy of your performance for the Press. Be assured, Sir, the Committee heartily comply with this request, and that your country has yet in store rewards for WORTHY SONS.

By order of the Committee of Arrangement,

C. HYDE.

Lenox, July 4th, 1807.

TO DOCTOR HYDE,

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

SIR,

WITH a consciousness of its imperfections, I submit my performance to your disposal; trusting that this act of compliance will be attributed to its true cause, the high and grateful sense I entertain for the character of the Inhabitants of *Lenox*, and a wish to reciprocate their attentions.

With every sentiment of respect,
I am, Sir,
Your humble servant,

W. A. FALES.

AN ORATION.

BY the Declaration of Independence, which has just been read, America assumed her proper station in the scale of political existence, and was ranked among the nations of the earth. We, Americans, are assembled to commemorate this period, the brightest in her history, to view her rising in strength, to watch her gradual advances to her present state of grandeur, and to reciprocate felicitations on the effulgence of our political horizon. After the indulgence of expectation, which the unparalleled concurrence of events irresistibly excites, the mind naturally reverts to a contemplation of those principles, that occasioned the dignified serenity of the scene, and conduced to the beauty of the prospect. "Proud of the strong contention of our toils," it sweeps the long tract of years, and gives each hour its living brightness. Let us then, Fellow-Citizens, with filial affection follow the progress of illustrious ancestors, from scenes of peril, oppression and dependence, to the happier paths of peace, greatness and freedom. Let us enter with them the Cretan labyrinth, where they wandered in uncertainty, without a clue to direct their path, or an oracle to predict the issue.

DRIVEN by the violence of hierarchial zeal, our ancestors fled from the bosom of a country, abounding with the luxuries of life and to which their affections

tions were rivetted, to a spot hardly known in the map of the world, and destitute of the embellishments of art. That spirit of Liberty and Independence, which the shackles of tyranny and the oppression of power could only restrain, but not destroy, smoothed the billows of the ocean and softened the horrors of the wilderness. It felt that in a government dependent on the caprice of a Monarch, whose will could hush the voice of reason, and whose passions could divert the current of justice, its existence would be as painful as vassalage, its privileges as limited as mortality.— But immortal in itself, it desired to confer immortal happiness. In the bosom of America, our ancestors found an asylum from oppression, and a climate as liberal as their feelings. Here then, while only an abode for the rude inhabitant of the forest and the wild unlettered son of nature, came our free and manly forefathers, enriched with experience gathered from every quarter of Europe, and ennobled by souls fortified by a familiarity with danger. They erected their little government, in the simplicity of innocence, on the broad basis of freedom; and unanimity and correspondence appeared in every part. Their laws were the children of justice, and their actions were dictated by reason and charity.

LIBERTY, however, is not the exclusive offspring of America. She was born with humanity, and is coeval and coexistent with its influence. Fostered by the nourishment of government, she is coordinate with its excellence. But the first act that proclaimed her power manifested the perfection of life. She rose in the dignity of her nature, and hurled the tyrant TARQUIN from his throne. From this time she was seen roving on the banks of the Tiber, scattering the blessings of her destination on the winds of heaven, and nursing a band of heroes to defend her empire.— Here her limbs matured in strength, and her features beamed with the excellence of her nature. The professed enemy to slavery, her dominion was founded on choice and her power supported by inclination.—

Her

Her trophies were the triumphs of reason and her spoils the subjection of passion. Her influence was not circumscribed by the boundaries of Rome, it often visited and gladdened the plains of Greece, meliorating the condition of life and ennobling the dignity of man. Though her abode here was comparatively of short duration, yet in the school of her heroes she has left imperishable monuments of her existence.— From the time of her departure from Greece, she held undivided communion with the patriots of Rome, nursing the arts and sciences, and growing with the powers of her offspring. Rome was at that time at the acme of grandeur, a proud commentary on a government of Freedom. But there is a point in human elevation, in human happiness and in human perfection beyond which nature has never risen. She appeared already to have ascended to this point, and to have approached the insurmountable barrier to human progress. Her movements were from this time retrograde in the path of perfection, and she soon retraced the ground over which she had passed. Liberty beheld with regret, the decline of her favorite land, she saw the destruction of her votaries, the violation of her altars, and with indignation abandoned the scene with the soul of CATO. Lingered however at a distance from the ruins of her fallen pride, convulsed with hope and uncertainty, she beheld with joy and admiration the revival of her influence in the bosoms of the destroyers of CÆSAR. “ Hope elevated and joy brightened her crest.” Ardent and persevering, she again appeared desirous to erect her standard in the heart of Rome. Philanthropic and forgiving, she again lent her influence to the councils of the Fathers. But her exalted expectations were unfounded, for her power was gone. And drooping gradually with the virtue of the people, she gasped with the expiring power of the Senate and fled with the breath of BRUTUS, her darling son. From this time there are rarely any traces of her influence, few signs of her existence. Ashamed of man, and mortified at the unworthiness of those she came to exalt, she appears to have renounced

all communion with the world, and for centuries, during the long reign of popish ignorance, reposed in the cradle of oblivion, lulled to rest beneath the ruins of empires. But generous and winning in her disposition, as the sun of science pierced the mists of ignorance and began to dawn upon the world, she made frequent attempts to recover her power, and restore man to his former character and happiness. Her light was seen glimmering at different times in different parts of Europe, but her existence at these intervals was transient and ineffectual. Thus she continued without any fixed habitation among men, wandering from country to country, as the inhabitants were enlightened by science, or degraded by ignorance; till she was welcomed with open arms on the Western shore of the Atlantic; and the injured but immortal alien found a refuge in the benevolent and exalted systems of America. In the pure affection of her votaries, she has buried all remembrance of her former sufferings, and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, her influence is as splendid as her blessings, and commensurate with her wishes. Such then being the influence of Liberty in America, floating on every stream and breathing in every breeze, can it excite wonder that she revolted from the machinations of Britain, and resented the slightest encroachment on her rights? America had already given birth to men, whose knowledge of the human character, and whose disquisitions, on the nature of society and the immutable laws of its regulations, had elevated her in the scale of intellectual and political greatness, and refuted the hypothesis, that genius is the child of climate. Nature, by placing her at a convenient distance from the powers of Europe, had removed her from the influence of those maxims, that dictate their conduct, by rendering an intercourse with them dangerous and uncertain, had enforced the propriety of a dependence on her internal resources, and proclaimed in the strongest language, that she was destined to be free and independent. Glowing with the purest love of Country, her Patriots roused their countrymen to a sense of their

wrongs,

wrongs, and invited them, like the father of HANNIBAL on the Altar of Liberty, to renounce obedience to a power, whose friendship was measured by interest, and whose visits, like those of the locusts of Egypt, destroyed the vigor and beauty of the land.

ENGLAND, in the supremacy of thought, had arrogantly proclaimed herself the pole star of American conduct. She had vainly imagined that in her bosom was enshrined the vital principle of action, and possessing the heart, she could give, govern and direct the motions of the whole system. Pampered by this delusion into fancied greatness, and erected by opinion into a Giant invulnerable to opposition, she soon travelled to the extremity of her ideal power, and gave free scope to an appetite, raging as avarice, boundless as ambition. The suspicions, which she entertained of the filial obedience of America, first appeared in the year 1759, and from that period to the Revolution, her progress of usurpation was continued, and her aggressions on the rights of the Colonies multiplied. Though America often felt the spirit of resistance, yet we must consider the year 1765 as the era of the resurrection of those principles, that in the fifteenth century had induced their forefathers to fly from the savage persecution of civilized society, to the friendly benevolence of untutored nature. They had been entombed in the bosom of America, embalmed in spiritual fragrance, and fortified against corruption by more than Egyptian art. But at this period they rose, like HERCULES from their sleep, in all the beauty of youth, strength of manhood and perfection of maturity. The memorable stamp act, introduced that year to manifest the power, as it did unequivocally the arbitrary humor of Great-Britain, kindled a flame that soon became coextensive with the country. The absolute right of taxation, claimed by England over the American Colonies, and "to bind them in all cases whatsoever," could not be indulged without striking at the root of Liberty, and annihilating those proud expectations, which had disarmed
barbarism

barbarism of its terrors, and prepared in the wilds of America, a receptacle for Freedom, who was then a wandering outcast from Europe. Oppression roused indignation and justified resistance. Still, however, the actions of our fathers displayed the calm maturity of age, rather than the effervescence of youth, governed by moderation and a wish to avoid the horrors of war, they laid a gentle, conciliatory petition at the footstool of British power. But deaf to their petition, as she had been unjust to the voice of nature, Britain answered their request with new impositions, to be levied at the point of the bayonet. And when, as JUNIUS observes, they complained of an act of the Legislature, they were outraged by an unwarrantable stretch of the prerogative, when supporting their claims by argument, they were insulted with declamation. Resistance, which had been foreborn out of respect for order and humanity, first reared its crest in the State of Massachusetts. In the year 1775, the battle of Lexington commenced, which was even then considered, the prelude of American Independence. For there existed at that time men, whose intellectual vision comprehended those events, that will forever decorate the history of America, and stamp immortality on her name. These men foreseeing, what would be the conclusion of the war ; by the majesty of their minds and the force of their language, gradually opened the prospect to the view of their countrymen, and prepared them for the enjoyment of blessings, which life was not too valuable to purchase.

BUT though the exertions of America were eventually crowned with success, she was not always the favorite of fortune. She experienced every vicissitude of life, and often drained the cup of bitterness of dregs. The war closed in 1782, and with it, the power of Britain over the American Colonies. In its origin, progress and effects, it resembled a cloud skirting the horizon of the heaven, which swells in magnitude, dazzles by its lightening, terrifies by its thunder, but renovates and beautifies the face of creation.

I will

I will not attempt the superfluous task of delineating every feature of a Revolution, which should be engraven on the heart of every American, and which is announced by every object we behold. Mounted on the wings of poetry and eloquence, it will soar beyond the regions of oblivion, and display to the latest posterity the imbecility of arms, when opposing the rights of man. But, my Countrymen, let us for a moment indulge the pleasure of retrospection, let us look back on the glorious scene of Saratoga, Monmouth, and Yorktown, and see the eagle of triumph hovering over the arms of America. How do your bosoms swell with admiring emulation, while viewing in imagination those fields once crimsoned by the blood of enemies, and where once waved the standard of victory. While we bleed with those who bled, we triumph with those who conquered, and restore to the living paths of glory, those deathless names, that fame has long since recorded in the glorious catalogue of the sleeping patriots. We look with reverential affection to that directing wisdom which moved unruffled through the howling tempest, "ever stronger as the storms advanced," "firm as the solid base of this great world" rested on the unconquerable integrity of its intention, and effected the greatest revolution the world ever knew. The genius of Liberty, unhurt amid the convulsions that distracted her favorite land, soared superior to the storm, and saw from the ruins of our antient establishment, a splendid fabric arise, whose columns bore the marks of strength, and with perpetuity shining in its proportion. Like the star, that conducted the antient wanderers to the spotless luminary of the moral world, she led her votaries to her temple, and drew from its recesses a volume, breathing the language of inspiration and written by the pen of divinity, in which, were inscribed the attributes of a government, destined to eternize the existence of America, and astonish the world by her greatness and felicity. But this charter of our rights, which was calculated to give a new world to civil government and extend the limits of political speculation,

like

like the precepts of the bible, which labor to establish a spiritual Elysium on this side the grave, and on the other, to afford a passport to eternal glory and happiness, was for sometime distorted by human fallibility, and cramped by the growth of principles, which England, like the blighting pestilence has spread around her. It has been the misfortune of America to have entrusted the administration of the Constitution to men, unfriendly to its spirit, and who perverted its intention. While its essence was security, equality and happiness, its operation was invasion of rights, distinctions in society, and the demon of discord.— While its soul was liberty, its practice was oppression. Else why have we to lament, that in this country, where we boast of security of property and gratitude towards merit, there ever existed a Funding System? That stupendous fabric of iniquity, which has been justly compared to a worm that never dies, feeding on the stamina of the Constitution. By this America lost FORTY-SIX AND A HALF MILLION OF DOLLARS, and tarnished her character for gratitude and justice. Why have we witnessed the turpitude of our rulers in an Alien Law, which outraged the very spirit of the Constitution and contravened its influence? This law, the child of a former administration, was only considered the prologue to the grand drama, that was intended to have been acted on the continent of America. It was invested with talismanic power to check the progress of reason and justice, to paralyze the spirit of liberty, and to usher in the refined ordinances of Monarchical ascendancy. It commingled the branches of government, and gave existence to a power incompatible with Republican virtue. By this, the Executive, Judicial and Legislative authorities were consigned to the custody of one man, who was made paramount to control. If it should at any time have been the misfortune of a person, who had fled from the oppression of his own country, and sought an asylum in ours, confiding in our benevolent and maternal professions, had renounced obedience to his natural, and devoted his services

to his adopted mother by any circumstance whatever, to have incurred the displeasure of the President, his punishment would have been expulsion from the only land on which he had bestowed his affections, and in which he had fondly hoped to have passed the remnant of his days. I say any circumstance whatever, because the President was judge of the offence. He might expel from the country without reason or justice, any foreigner that should unhappily offend him. The exertion of this prerogative would not at all times have carried a conviction to the minds of men, that it was justified by utility, or that the alien had, either by contempt for government, or violation of the laws, forfeited that protection, experience had learned him to expect, or merited the punishment he had received. Why do we blush at the iniquity of other times, when we hear that the Liberty of the Press, the bulwark of the Constitution, and the channel of wisdom and information has been choked by a Sedition Law ; and its current, which ought to have been free and unruffled, has been diverted from its course and partial in its operation ? The Standing Army was a child of the same parent, destined to promote the same views.— Although it existed for a short time, and was finally strangled by its author, yet we must impute its death to his foresight, rather than to a reformation. Other unnecessary, if not iniquitous provisions were introduced by the Anti-Democratic principles of the former administration. It however destroyed some of these, while others were left to be swept from existence by the correcting wisdom of our present rulers, Excise Laws have been abolished—Judicial expences retrenched—expenditures by our foreign relations greatly diminished—and our taxes fall so gently upon us that we hardly feel their weight. Tho' at the same time the Treasury, the confluence of a few remaining tributary streams, has swollen in magnitude, overflowed its banks and washed away a part of the immense mountain raised by the Funding System, and which by constant attrition is now tottering to dissolution. Our commerce floats in every sea. Our
friendship

friendship is courted by every nation. Enterprize has penetrated the wilderness. Agriculture is already laboring in its bosom. And reasoning from analogy or experience we may look forward to greater happiness and power. The extinguishment of the public debt must be a matter of great anticipation, and if we believe the information flowing from the most correct sources, it will soon take place. According to the history of the treasury, the debt stood in the year 1801 at \$81,991,268 49 cents, and in the course of six years, from 1801 to 1807 inclusively, it was reduced to \$52,727,756 76 cents. If we add to this sum, the increase by the purchase of Louisiana, viz ; fifteen million, it will make the debt \$67,727,754 76 cents. Thus it stood on the first day of January, 1807, making a diminution of the debt notwithstanding the expence incurred by the acquisition of Louisiana of 14,260,000 dollars. From these data, we may conclude that the time is not far distant, when it will be wholly extinguished. We know that with the necessity is absolutely connected the act of taxation, a partial diminution of the former, will proportionably lighten the latter. Can you then assent to the hypothesis that the influence of freedom is only proportionate to the circulation of Aristocratic sentiment; or will you say that the progress of America to glory and happiness terminated with the former administration? No.— You will accede to the assertion, as founded on truth, and warranted by fact, that the free operation of the Constitution in its purity and spirit, has been felt only since the present administration came into being, for at its head we behold the man who gave it form, soul and existence, and on his right, and on his left hand, his copartners in glory, his fellow-laborers in patriotism. By their protecting care, America has increased in power and respectability with the revolution of years. Her rapid rise in wealth, strength and consequence is clearly demonstrated by a late useful and accurate calculation. According to which, in the course of twenty years her population has increased from 2,650,000 to 5,156,000 inhabitants—her dwelling-houses

ing-houses have increased from 650,000 to 1,225,000. The improved lands have risen from 21,500,000 to 39,400,000 acres, and the average price for each acre from two to six dollars. The merchant vessels have increased from 250,000 to 1,107,000 ton. The imports have risen from eleven to eighty million of dollars. The exports of American productions only have increased from nine to forty-one million. The national revenue in a period of twelve years has increased from eight to thirteen million of dollars. The specie in circulation from ten to seventeen million.

SUCH then being our situation, having every thing to expect and but little to fear, shall we listen to those sceptics in politics, those sciolists in speculation, while they consign us to the cold mansions of the tomb, in which have mouldered the skeletons of ancient Republics? The credulous and fearful may tell us that Rome once existed, that Greece once possessed her Republics. They may inform us that human nature is mutable, imperfect, and more under the influence of passion than the guidance of reason.— They may predict that America will produce a **CATALINE**, a **PISISTRATUS**, a **CROMWELL**, and a **BONAPARTE**; and they may declare that Republics have ever cherished the seeds of their dissolution.— But we will answer them by a reference to the virtue of our countrymen, to the excellence of our Constitution, and the impartiality and virtue of our laws.— We will proudly tell them, that our infantile history and present situation afford the best treatise on a Government of Freedom. We will joyfully assert that America, though in the dawn of life, already enjoys the intellect of age; and though not initiated in the art of war by a savage butchery of her own children, yet she can exemplify to the world that in the bloom of youth, she possesses the sinews of manhood.— Though unacquainted with Monarchical policy or Aristocratic cunning, she can detect Rebellion in its infancy, and convert the restless Apostle of Sedition into a lesson of instruction to the latest posterity.

THE great objections, that have been levelled against the present administration, are pusillanimity of conduct, and impotence of measures. It has been accused of destroying an useful Navy, and leaving our harbors unprotected ; of sacrificing on the altar of peace the honor and dignity of the nation.— It has been denounced as careless of the interest of Commerce, and regardless of the wealth and respectability of the country ; and some men have had the hardiness to declare, that the crimes of a nation, whose government they admire, and whose manners they affectedly imitate, are to be charged solely to the misconduct of our rulers. The last of these accusations is a libel which no honest man even for a moment will believe. The others may have the appearance of truth, yet are destitute of its intrinsic qualities. It is true that the administration have lessened a navy, expensive in its existence and impotent in its influence, which without giving us the empire of the sea, stripped us of revenue, and laid heavy contributions on our brethren. It is likewise true, that fair and honorable negotiation in the acquisition of territory was preferred to the ravages of war. In what respect then are these objections valid ? Has the pusillanimity of the nation been exposed on the coast of Tripoli ? The laurels that bloom on the brow of the hero of Derne answer the question. Do the plans that were laid in the Western country, and which have lately been unfolded at Richmond, charge the administration with weakness ? Posterity will find recorded in the history of its opponents the strength and vigilance of the Government. These objections are praises on the administration, unintentionally bestowed upon it by its enemies.

“ IN this pause of recollection, when the long agitated mind is vibrating to a rest,” and opposition is sinking to its grave, when the heart proud of past events, glories in the present and exults in the prospect of the future, the mind big with contemplation walks abroad in the majesty of purified splendor, to
 estimate

estimate by comparison the peculiar privileges of an American. It hardly crosses the Atlantic, before its objects are obtained, for it sees the revolutionary miseries of America reacting on the fields of Europe. It beholds kingdoms deluged in blood, princes exiled from their country, fragments of governments floating on the wind, and laws stripped of their pinions hastened to oblivion, before the self-created power of a man, nursed in storms and guiding the car of fortune. In one quarter it beholds a Despot seated on the necks of degraded millions, and trampling under his feet rights written in the code of nature. Wretchedness is pictured around him, no countenance of joy ever smiles upon him, no voice of innocence ever greets his ears, but happiness forever flies before him. Here it beholds a hapless subject, ignorant of crime and without the operation of law, hurried to a timeless grave, or it enters the damp abode of calamity, and sees a wretch with locks whitened by affliction, old though in youth, pining amid the noxious vapors of a dungeon, no cheering sun to warm the lagging current of his blood, no signs of life to remind him of the existence of fellow-man. From this horrible picture of degraded nature, it casts an eye to another quarter, and beholds a Monarch not less cruel, but with less power to injure, around him groan a people overloaded with taxes, and sinking beneath the weight. Laws, that are made for the protection of property and the security of life, never reach their dwelling, for they are warped from their course to preserve the "best blood" of the land, and secure "the nobles" of the country. These patricians, like those at ancient Rome, enjoy every civil and military employment, engross every rank in religion, and occupy every department in politics. While the Plebeians, like the characters in sacred history, can look at the promised land only at a distance. The mind, sick with this view of crimes, this perversion of the intentions of the righteous Creator of man, returns with transport to the peaceful and contrasted situation of this country.

country. Here it beholds erected the proud standard of Universal Liberty, and its banners, like the sun, visiting every part of the soil. On its front is engraven "Equality of Rights," and to its shelter the oppressed of every country are invited. Law and justice in their unvaried march through the land shed their benign influence on the cottage of penury and the palace of opulence. Obedience and respect for the laws are the security of government, and protection of rights is the equivalent it returns. In ourselves we behold a nation united with strength, and liberty accompanied by happiness. Ambition does not here corrupt the blood of the patriot, nor freedom of opinion war with the immutable truths of pure religion. The singularity and number of our advantages, with the purity of our laws, the excellence of our Constitution, and the virtue of our Citizens, abundantly promise that the moral causes, that have operated the destruction of other countries, shall never find admission here. But to continue in the possession of these ennobling sentiments, to feel our minds expand with the enlargement of our blessings, let us often read the histories of those governments that are now no more, and learn from experience what we ought to do. Let us view with holy affection the Constitution and reverence its ordinances, and by giving efficacy and operation to its spirit, we shall prolong to the conclusion of the world our national existence. We have entered on the ocean of experiment, with virtue to govern and experience to direct us. The storms of fate have ceased to rattle over our heads, and the convulsions of infuriated man, raging in the bosom of hapless Europe, are heard only in whispers, passing over the fertile and peaceful plains of America. The angel of peace, crossing the waters of Europe, has erected her altars on our shore, and already we behold frankincense of gratitude ascending from the hearts of a happy people to the throne of eternal justice. But to guard against that corruption, which born in prosperity and fattening on wealth,

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has infected every government from the first dawning of civilization in the patriarchal institutions, to the erection of "the most stupendous fabric of human invention," a glimpse of the numerous changes government has undergone in its various stages of existence cannot be wholly inapposite. The retrospective glance of experience informs us, that Government receives its form and complexion from the manners and the morals of the age in which it has its birth, and by a reaction upon these, commands a proper and interesting regard. In its origin, it was the rough and sturdy offspring of nature, simple in its form and undisguised in its operation. It always corresponded to the circumstances of its birth, and sometimes accomplished the object of its mission. It came to relieve the poor, and strengthen the weak. While these endeavors engrossed its attention, it grew in power and increased in respectability. But the enlargement of society stirred those seeds of decay implanted in every object of creation, and the monster corruption began to rear his head. Wealth was introduced, and with it, inequality of rank and diversity of character.— These gave birth to numerous relations, which multiplied the regulations of government and increased its restraints. By these, its simplicity and purity were destroyed; new forms arose, but they in their turn being found incompatible with the circumstances of the times gave place to others. Yet these changes do not always testify the progress of improvement, or display the healing hand of correction; we too often behold the victory of passion, the servility of fear and refinement upon error.

THOUGH government, like the human character, has changed its aspect in almost every age, yet like that, we warmly believe, although in opposition to the opinion of many, it has discarded many imperfections, and is susceptible of many improvements.— We know that from a view of all the governments that have existed from the commencement of the world,

world, ours was formed, under the auspices of those, who intended that it should embrace the virtues and avoid the vices of each, and as far as the experience of thirty-one years can predict, the object is obtained, notwithstanding it has been obliged to encounter in its operation, division of sentiment and reconcile the disaffection of prejudice. It has combated and conquered the enmity of Europe, and like "the oak that thrives by the rude concussion of the storm," strengthened by the contest. Her European enemies feeling her existence a continual reproach on their own situation, and confounding wishes with power, long ago willed her end, and sent their emissaries to accomplish the predictions of their soothsayers. These instruments of royal hatred opened their batteries upon the fort and found it invulnerable. Decoyed into a repetition of attack by the suggestions of disaffected ambition, they soon learned that their hopes were vain and success impossible. Thus America has proved by her victory of these machinations, that the virtue of her citizens is impregnable. She has displayed to the world the stability of her temper, and announced by her resistance of temptation, that when under the guidance of reason, she will always act right. Her political greatness arises from causes that promise a lasting continuance to her empire, it is not the offspring of chance, growing from the ruins of Europe, and continuing only with the miseries of other countries, for supported by the strength of her own soil she can live in solitude, relying on her own courage, she never need ask the assistance of her neighbors.—Fast progressing to harmony of opinion, we read the sentiment of the nation in the existence of the present administration; with this the language of most of the States has long sounded in accordance, and the voice of *Massachusetts* has just joined the choir of the Union. Without animadverting on the causes of her aberration from the path of principle and greatness, we will rejoice in her return, and exult in the fall of that "Ignis fatuus," that has too long made her the sport

sport of delusion. Massachusetts, "the cradle of the revolution," as our illustrious President has called her, must ever be considered an important branch in the Union, as the head of the New-England States, and will ever command respect and gratitude for her early and dignified firmness in resisting oppression.— She has been so far honored by British malignity, as to have two of her sons proscribed as Traitors to royal authority. HANCOCK and ADAMS, who now slumber in the peaceful bosom of that soil, in whose defence they risked their lives, "liv'd unknown 'till persecution dragg'd them into fame, and chas'd them up to heav'n."

"These suns are set. O! rise some other such."

NEVER did the Anniversary of our Independence find us in so happy a situation as this, in which the triumph of our principles has placed us. Congratulation on this glorious occasion cannot be considered the ebullition of victorious passion, or the joy of successful prejudice, it must rather be imputed to the calm influence of reason, or to those sensations which patriots have, when they behold their country returning to a sense of her duty. Our joy springs from a source closely allied to that principle, found in every bosom, where reason holds her empire, which strives to disperse the mists of ignorance and prejudice, and excites the noblest satisfaction, when sophistry yields to argument, when truth supersedes paradox, and when reason subjects passion. But Republicans, as our victory has been glorious, let our triumph be honorable. Let us do justice to our principles by giving them fair and unconstrained operation; remembering that

*"A cause like ours is its own sacrament,
TRUTH, JUSTICE, REASON, LIBERTY and LOVE,
The eternal links that bind the world are in it."*

THOUGH

THOUGH there unfortunately exists a variety of political sentiments in this country, we will in candor suppose that they eventually concentrate in one object, the prosperity of the nation. Though the struggle with our opponents has been tedious and trying, though their opposition has been severe and acrimonious, let us by a striking contrast display the superior virtue and intrinsic excellence of our own principles. Let gratitude be one of our first virtues, and never may the time arrive, when with intemperate folly, we shall wish to pluck from the breast of sanctified worth, the laurel of honor, won at the post of danger, in the dark hour "that tried men's souls." Though some of our revolutionary heroes have forgotten the principles of '75, we will never forget their services—we will deplore their errors, but we will respect their virtues; and since we have the man of our choice to illumine the path of duty, and point to the goal of ambition, let us, as far as our reason and freedom of opinion will justify, place ourselves under the guidance of his superior wisdom, imitate his example, and most joyfully accord with the sentiments he has already expressed. Let us prove by obedience to the laws and reverence for the constitution, that we appreciate his worth and deserve our victory. And while the eminence we now stand on and the vast prospect before us, inspires us with great and noble views, let us in that spirit of unanimity, that has gone forth in the land, look with joyful anticipation to that day, when the names of Republican and Federalist shall be forgotten in that of **AMERICAN**.