



AN

ORATION,

PRONOUNCED BEFORE "THE WASHINGTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, OF THE COUNTY OF FRANKLIN IN THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD."

JULY 5, 1813.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

—*—
BY FESTUS FOSTER, A. M.
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"As a roaring lion, and a ¹¹raging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people."—SOLOMON. ¹

BRATTLEBOROUGH :

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NORTHFIELD, July 5, 1813.

REV. SIR—We have the pleasure to present you the thanks of “The Washington Benevolent Society of the County of Franklin in the Town of Northfield,” for your patriotic Oration, this day delivered, and solicit a copy for publication.

Your's respectfully,

CYRUS WASHBURN,
OBADIAH DICKINSON,
SAMUEL PRENTISS,
THOMAS POWER, } COMMITTEE.

Rev. Festus Foster.

NORTHFIELD, July 6, 1813.

GENTLEMEN,

In complying with your request, permit me to assure you of the high sense I entertain of your approbation, and that of the Society which you represent.

FESTUS FOSTER.

Cyrus Washburn,
Obadiah Dickinson, Esq.
Capt. William Burnet, Jr.
Doct. Samuel Prentiss,
Thomas Power, Esq. } Committee.

ORATION.



AMERICANS!

THIRTY-SEVEN years have rolled away since you declared yourselves an independent people, and assumed a rank and name among the nations of the earth. You were then few in number, destitute of the means and resources of war, and without any constitution or efficient government. But you were virtuous, united, brave, and resolved to be free. Your cause was just; your best men commanded your armies and guided your councils; and your success was complete and glorious. You took up arms in defence of your lawful and constitutional rights; and when these were secured—when your persons, your firesides, and your altars were safe, you laid down your arms and returned to the occupation of peace. No visionary schemes of foreign conquest inflated your breasts. The dreary wilds of Canada and Florida had no charms to filch from you the blood of your sons and treasures of your country. To organize your national and state governments, to provide for the payment of the debt contracted during the war, and to secure to yourselves and your children the fair inheritance already acquired, were deservedly the objects of your attention. But few years had elapsed, when these objects were apparently accomplished. Constitutions for the government of the respective states and of the nation were deliberately framed and adopted, and a system of finance devised, by which the payment of the national debt was made easy and sure. The wisdom and purity

of the first administration had gained such entire confidence of the people, that the glory of Columbia was the enrapturing theme of every poet and orator. This anniversary was a national Jubilee, on which was rehearsed the oppression of these infant colonies, the tyranny of the mother country, the bravery of your heroes, the triumph of your arms, and the establishment of your freedom and independence. Elated with the recollection of the past, you extended your views to the future, and anticipated the proud eminence which you were soon to hold among the nations. You beheld the vast forests falling before your sturdy sons, your herds feeding on a thousand hills, your vallies of corn waving before the wind, your temples and seminaries of learning rising to view, your populous sea-coast defended from invasion, your fleets wafting your surplus produce to every land, and returning laden with the riches and luxuries of the world.

While you were in the full tide of political prosperity, and about to realize all that you anticipated, the furies of the bottomless pit were let loose upon the French nation; delusion and frenzy, sanctified by the names of reason and philosophy, seized their minds, and their whole country became a field of blood. Their ill-fated Monarch, who aided us in our struggle for Independence was led to the scaffold; their Queen and nobles followed; the ministers of religion were required to abjure their faith in a God and Savior, or bow their necks to the Guillotine. Having exterminated the whole race of royalty and nobility, and confiscated their estates, "the rabble became the supreme powers." The bold and impious, who "neither feared God nor regarded

man," were exalted to the highest posts of honor and power. The arbitrary edicts of five hundred apost^{ates} libertines, and atheists, were the *republicanism* of France. The power to correct and execute any person on suspicion, without the formality of a trial, was their *liberty* and *equality*. The consoling doctrine that there is no Inspector and Judge of human actions, and that men may not only *live*, but *die* like brutes, was their *reason* and *philosophy*. Their mis-named republic soon admitted consular dignities, and their first Consul soon became a despot, threw off the disguise and took the crown and title of King and Emperor. This most tremendous revolution, so far from meliorating the condition of that infatuated people, has given them in exchange for a stable and temperate monarchy, the most absolute and sanguinary despotism. There is not a man in the kingdom whom their Corsican Usurper may not put to death with impunity, nor ^a female whose virtue is secure from his rapacity. With him oaths and compacts are idle tales, tears and supplications excite no compassion, the ties of friendship and bands of wedlock are brittle threads, religion and law, life and death depend on his passion & caprice. He makes and depresses kings and popes at pleasure, massacres princes and peasants, individuals and multitudes, without discrimination.

Not content with the misery and ruin of their own country, the infuriated men of France have extended their views to other nations, and by intrigue, corruption and violence, assailed the thrones and monarchies, the constitutions and liberties of all Europe. Republics, kingdoms, and empires were torn from their old foundations, and buried

in oblivion. The continent was plundered of its wealth, and distributed to a horde of vassal kings. England was left alone to resist the overwhelming torrent and save the shattered remnants of civil liberty. That little isle, like the ark of Noah resting upon the flood, was the only place of refuge from the general inundation ; and on the preservation of her cargo were founded the last hopes of the moral and civilized world. “ The ocean has long blazed around her ; the navies of the world have disgorged their thunders at her breast,” but, shielded by a gracious providence, she rides in triumph over the wrecks of her enemies, and emerges unhurt from the smoke and flames that surround her.

Nor was the ambition of France to be restrained within the boundaries of Europe. She has crossed the Atlantic and practiced her seductive arts upon the American government. Her baneful influence was early felt in the opposition made to WASHINGTON’S proclamation of neutrality, in the greater opposition to the British treaty which he approved, and under which we enjoyed unparralleled prosperity, and in the attempts made in Congress to introduce commercial regulations, by which a decided preference was to be given to our intercourse with France, to the injury of Great Britain. The inflexible virtue of WASHINGTON, and the temporary firmness of ADAMS, preserved our honor unfulled ; but exposed us to the wrath of the *terrible Republic*. She demanded money of our envoys, as a preliminary to negociation, and attempted to enforce the demand by menacing us with the vengeance of her arms. Finding her designs upon our government defeated, she resolved to change our administration, and to give us men subservient to her

views. To effect this she employed her arts and her emissaries to excite discontents among the people and create a belief that our rulers were aiming at despotic power.— WASHINGTON was denounced as a *hypocrite* and a *traitor*— ADAMS as a *monarchist* and an *incendiary*. Mr. JEFFERSON, a naturalized citizen of France, and an admirer of their new government and philosophy—the enemy of WASHINGTON and of the *Constitution*, was designated to bring these States under the control and direction of France. “Wait,” said one of her distinguished citizens,* “*Wait, till election is over, and then you may do as you please ; so we shall have a President from our partizans. We shall have Mr. Jefferson, and then the councils of America will be ours.*” This project, alas ! was too successful. They have had a President from their own partizans ; they have had Mr. JEFFERSON : and from *that day* the *councils of America* have been *theirs*, and they have done with us as *they pleased*. They have corrupted and divided our citizens, drained our treasury, burnt our ships, imprisoned our seamen, annihilated our commerce, violated treaties and promises, insulted our humble remonstrances, and compelled us to embark with them in the war against England. All this we have borne with more than christian patience and submission, and like spaniels, crouched to the men that kicked us.

Mr. JEFFERSON assured us, on leaving the presidency, that his pupil and successor, Mr. MADISON, was pledged to pursue the policy which he had adopted. The history of our government, during the administration of these two French citizens and partizans, is a history of the decline and degra-

* Dupont.

dation of the United States. The former, by his own confession, found the government “in the full tide of successful experiment;” and yet radically changed the policy of his predecessors. When our treaty with England expired by its own limitation, he refused to renew it. When a new one, negotiated by his own ministers, was offered for his acceptance, he instantly rejected and returned it, without consulting his constitutional council. When France by her edicts violated our rights as a neutral nation, he humbly acquiesced. When, twelve months afterwards, in consequence of our submission, England issued her retaliatory Orders in Council, his indignation was kindled, and the Napoleon warfare against her commerce commenced.

That base hypocrisy and duplicity which have characterized the whole history of the restrictive system, and the vile expedients and artifices to which our administration have descended, must disgust men of all parties who have any remaining sense of honor and honesty, and “damn” the men, then in power, “to everlasting fame.” Under the pretext of saving our commerce from the increased dangers to which it was exposed on the ocean, we were commanded to go into “dignified retirement,” and sleep over our mouldering produce. No intimation was given that this was designed to be a hostile measure against England. Our minister on the contrary, was instructed to represent it to that government as a regulation purely municipal. Still the most effectual means were employed to cut off our trade with that nation by *land* as well as by *sea*; and when the commercial states entered their loud and solemn remonstrance against the ruinous measure, the mask was thrown

off, we were accused of advocating the cause of *England*, the measure was confessed to be an intended act of warfare against that nation, and its failure to extort from her the repeal of her retaliatory edicts, its very *consistent* authors and friends gravely imputed to our charge. Thus did our Virginia Statesmen, attempt to carry on a disguised warfare between the commercial States and Great Britain, without the knowledge of either. This was truly a philosophical experiment, and worthy of its renowned projectors; but unfortunately, the commercial states, being impregnated with a little *common sense*, produced an explosion, burst the restrictive crucible, and defeated the grand design.

From that moment every discerning politician saw that a war with England was inevitable. Not because she had given us any new or just provocation; but because the Imperial Despot of France had demanded it from our pusillanimous administration, and they had too plainly shewn that they dare not resist his mandate. He had already burnt our ships and sequestered forty millions of our property to punish us for our hesitancy and delay. When called upon to explain this wanton violation of treaty and national law, he upbraided us as “a people without honor or policy,” and fit only to be insulted; he assured us of his determination that “there should be no neutrals”—that if we heartily entered into his Continental System, or “caused our rights to be respected, he would favor our commerce, otherwise it should be driven from the ocean.” His Continental System was to exclude British goods from all countries under his influence or jurisdiction. No sooner was his Imperial pleas-

ed the non-intercourse law, and frankly avowed it to be a measure of warfare against England, and designed, like the embargo, to force her to repeal her retaliatory edicts. But that no *one* act of our government, however partial and unjust, might not be marked with the national characteristics of hypocrisy and deception, this was pretended to be founded upon the previous repeal of the French edicts, which our government *knew*, or *might have known*, were “the fundamental laws of the French empire,” and in their fullest extent enforced against us. In proof of this they had the declaration of the Emperor himself; the explanation of his minister, that “as there was no exception in favor of us in the decrees themselves, there could be none in their operation;” they had also the decisions of his court of prizes, and knew the practice of his naval officers. So conscious was Mr. MADISON that the pretended repeal was a base fabrication and imposition, that he would not suffer the Secretary of State to make any inquiries of the French ambassador. There were good reasons for his not hazarding a contradiction, where he might well expect it. Prudence forbade an untimely detection of the fraud, which might have frustrated the premeditated war with England. He might also indulge the hope that his Imperial Majesty would so far extend clemency and compassion, to a French citizen and partizan, as not to expose him to public infamy and scorn. In this however he has been disappointed. Neither patience and submission under his most humiliating insults, nor a ferocious and unjust war against his mortal foe, nor the melting eloquence of our poetic ambassador, were able to avert from our President the Emperor’s unequivocal tes-

Did Mr. MADISON blush, or feel remorse, or indulge any anxiety that his reputation was injured by this? Not a whit. In the character of a modern philosopher, or Virginia President, truth and morality are but small and indifferent ingredients. “The end sanctifies the means.” If war with England is effected the illuminated philosopher cares not how.

Had not all pretensions to truth, honor, and decency been previously forfeited, they must have found a certain grave in that ever memorable manifesto, setting forth the causes of the war. To call up the old quarrel about the Chesapeake, which had long since been amicably adjusted,—to rave and shew the world how madmen act, because the British would not repeal their edicts without some evidence of the repeal of her enemy’s, when, by the Emperor’s testimony, he has that evidence in his pocket, secreted from them, from Congress and the nation,—to sigh over the misfortunes of our seamen, when by his commercial restrictions he had turned them naked into the world, and forced them to take refuge in the British Navy,—to bring forward without the shadow of evidence, the malicious charge of exciting the savages to take up arms against us, when we had invaded the territory of those revengeful nations—and last and worst of all, to exhibit that insipid drama, called the “HENRY PLOT”—that stale story of Treason which a modern Judas was hired to tell for *fifty thousand pieces of silver*, and Mr. MADISON himself the High-Priest who covenanted with him and paid the money——argued, not that there was a dire *necessity* to rush to war, but rather that the *Instigator* was bereaved of *one* sense not even that of *shame*

Other considerations than those already suggested, might have had their influence in producing the declaration of war. The commercial States protested against the restrictive system with the spirit of freemen who knew their rights and were resolved not to surrender them without a struggle. Their loud remonstrances, enforced by their representatives in Congress, had already excited terror in the Capitol, and convinced our philosophers that they must resort to some new experiment. They, therefore, resolved to declare war; and under the flimsy pretext that it would then be treason against the state to expose a corrupt and imbecile administration, they expected to take away the freedom of Speech and of the Press, and compel the commercial States to consent to their ruin without a sigh. The mercenary scribblers in every prostitute Gazette defended this usurpation upon the most sacred rights of the people, and threatened all who dared dissent with the summary vengeance of a Presidential mob. In the southern States our republican gentry actually embodied to silence the voice of reason and the notes of remonstrance, and most inhumanly mangled and massacred some of our best and worthiest citizens. The civil and military officers of a great city took no measures to suppress the outrage; the Gazettes, which before threatened this vengeance, justified the bloody deed; and when arraigned before the tribunals of justice to answer the demands of the violated law, the culprits were told to "Go in peace," and not even admonished to "sin no more."—Our mobs, or national guards, in the northern States, were placed upon a more respectable footing. They assumed the name of "armed volunteer associations," and were placed, here and

right of expressing their opinion upon public men and measures. These armed associations, by their own confession countenanced, and their officers commissioned by the President of the United States, can be viewed in no other light than his spies, informers and executioners. In this light alone are they entitled to consideration. Of themselves they are too contemptible to excite either your hatred or your fear; and though they may gnash their teeth, they dare not touch a hair of your head.

The events which have transpired since the declaration of war, clearly prove two facts of a most alarming nature;—that the *ostensible* reasons for which war was professedly declared, were not the *real* ones,—and that so long as French partizans have the ascendancy in our councils, we can never expect a peace. Excepting the British Orders in Council, we had no cause of complaint against that nation which did not exist under the successive administrations of WASHINGTON, ADAMS, and JEFFERSON; and yet neither of these Statesmen recommended war. We had no cause of complaint which did not exist when the arrangement was made with ERSKINE; and yet Mr. MADISON approved that measure and never intimated that we had any just cause of war. Contemporaneous with the declaration of war, the Emperor of France published the repeal of his decrees, upon which the British Cabinet revoked their Orders in Council, and made propositions to our government for an armistice. Now if the Orders in Council, had been the *real* cause of war, we might have *expected*, nay we should have been *morally certain*, that an upright and magnanimous administra-

ly embraced the first overtures of peace, and terminated the desolating fury of a needless war. Instead of this we find these overtures rejected ; and the old subject of *impressment* for the *first* time, brought forward as a cause of war ; and a renunciation of the *right*, demanded as the condition of an armistice, and a preliminary to negotiation. The doctrine maintained by our government upon this subject is so novel and singular, so unlike that of all European nations, as to render an accommodation impossible. For they claim not merely the protection of *American* seamen but that of *foreign renegades and deserters*. Nay Mr. MADISON in his last message to Congress, contends that our flag shall protect, not only the *persons* who sail under it, but the *property* which it covers ; and that Great Britain has no right “ to search for, or seize British persons or property on board our merchant vessels,—and that no search, for any purpose, in war or peace,” can be admitted. According to this doctrine, we, as a neutral power, may man our ships with British sailors, load them with the property of her enemy, and even supply her enemy with articles contraband of war, and transport his troops to her shores, without molestation. Now with all due deference to so high an authority as Mr. MADISON, I shall venture to contend, that it is the universally acknowledged law of nations that belligerents may visit and search neutral merchant ships—that they have a clear and undisputed “ right to examine whether they are carrying articles contraband of war—whether the property be that of an enemy—and that they have a right to examine the *persons* on board, because, if they be enemies, they have a right to make them prisoners of war.” Here then, by the ac-

known law of nations, is an end to the inviolability of a neutral flag. And if a belligerent may take from a neutral ship his *enemy*, merely because he may injure him hereafter, with how much more reason may he take his *own subject* who owes him perpetual allegiance, and whose service he has a right to demand. This is the doctrine of all European nations, and the full extent of the claim set up by Great Britain. Mr. MADISON well knew that that government ought not, and would not yield to his new and extravagant demand. The proposition was never made with the remotest expectation, or even possibility of its being accepted. It is one of the many stratagems which he has been wont to practice, that he might inflame the resentment of the people against the British nation, and beguile them into a belief that he was most sincerely desirous of peace. Of the same character is the grand parade of a mission to the wilds of Russia to negotiate a treaty with England, when it does not appear that either Russia or England is made acquainted with the measure.

So long as the councils of America are under the influence and controul of the emperor of France, and so long as we can serve his interest in the war with England, he will not suffer us to make peace. The British government may make restitution for the attack upon the Chesapeake; they may repeal their Orders in Council; they may give up the right of Search and Impressment; and when all this is done, some new ghost will be conjured up by our political jugglers to stand in the way of peace. Nay to insure the rejection of his exorbitant demand, and put an end to all hopes of an accommodation Mr. MADISON instructed his minister to

inform the British government, that we had many other “just and weighty causes of complaint.” These, for prudential reasons are not to be made known to them, till they have atoned for the attack upon the Chesapeake, relinquished all illegal Blockades, rescinded their Orders in Council, and renounced the right of Search and Impressment. Then our Attorney General is to have leave to file in his bill, and present a specification of the other “just and weighty causes of complaint.” We may, therefore, be sure that the men now in power will never make peace, so long as they can find the shadow of a pretext for war—so long as there is a man to be enlisted, a dollar to be loaned, or an article to be taxed.

Sons of Columbia!—Look upon your degraded, impoverished, and bleeding country. By the love you bear to your common parent, by the duties you owe to her children, search for the causes of that morbid disease which preys upon her vitals, and rescue her from an untimely grave.—Who has annihilated your once prosperous commerce, and confined your ships and produce to become food for worms? Who has forced your sailors and fishermen to ^{beg} ~~buy~~ their bread or flee their country? Who has exhausted your treasures and credit, and added FIFTY MILLIONS to the national debt? Who is about to load you with taxes which your fathers at every hazard, resolved not to bear? Who has waged a needless and unjust war, and brought against you a powerful nation? Who has enticed your brothers and sons to the camp, to suffer want and disease, or to be butchered by savages and buried in foreign lands? Why have your rulers brought upon you this train of evils—this “beginning

of your sorrows?" Because the Imperial Tyrant of France, the Destroyer of nations, and the "Scourge of God," has demanded this sacrifice, and the councils of America have been under his control?

Descendants of the immortal Heroes and Martyrs of Liberty! Will you consent to become the slaves of France? Will you surrender to her your Independence, which was "the price of blood," and the bequest of your worthy sires? Will you fight her battles and subdue her enemies, that she may more easily subdue you? Have you profited nothing by the downfall of other nations? Do not the graves in which are buried the liberties of Italy, of Holland, of Switzerland, of Spain, and of Portugal, utter their warning voice? Have not the flames of Moscow, admonished you to "be also ready?" Have not the ardor, the courage and the success, with which the Russian warriors opposed the Mighty Conqueror, inspired you with the like spirit? Where is the patriotic fire which once glowed in your fathers' breasts? If it be not buried with them in the grave, if their memory and example be not forgotten, you will resolve to live free or die. These commercial states have already been drained of their life blood, oppressed and ground to the dust.—Once prompt to resist the least encroachments upon their birth-rights, they have borne privations and exactions from their present rulers, with a patience and submission which have been continued into cowardice and stupidity. Charitable in their opinion of public men, and in their construction of public measures, they have "hoped against hope" for a deliverance, till they have exceeded the bounds of that "charity which hopeth all things—and endureth all things."

"Experience has shewn that they are more disposed to suffer,

while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves* by" any measures which might endanger the tranquility and union of the States. A twelve year's *ma ch*, on "the downward road," has brought you to the brink of that *black abyss*, in which are buried the *republics* of the old world. The *crisis* has now *come* ; there is but one alternative ; and the *momentous question*, this day before you, is, Whether you will consent to share the common fate of republics, or whether you will take *effectual measures* to preserve your Freedom and Independence ? Do you ask *what measures* ? Go to the Tombs of your *ancestors* ; they shall speak from their *graves* and teach you. Invoke the spirit of WASHINGTON—that shall direct you. With the *boldness, energy and perseverance* of injured freemen, attempt a national reform ; and never relax your exertions, till you have effected a radical *change* in the policy of your government and extended Peace and Commerce, good Faith and justice to all Nations. Address those who have *wasted and oppressed* you, not as your Lords and Masters, but as your agents and *deputies*, who have *no power* but that derived from you. "Remind them of" the *motives and objects* which induced you to enter into a confederation with your sister States. "Warn them of" the *fatal tendency* of "all attempts to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over you. Appeal to their native justice and magnanimity. Conjure them by the ties of your common kindred," by the *band* of your common *union*, by a *pledge* to "the general welfare," "to *disavow* these usurpations which will *inevitably interrupt* your *union* and *correspondence*." Should they prove "deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity"—should

your “repeated petitions be answered only by repeated injuries,” should your rulers be “marked by every character which may define a *tyrant*,” and your government, not only cease “to secure your *life, liberty and happiness*,” but become “destructive of these ends,”—your *rights* and your *duty* are clearly defined in that ever memorable instrument which gave *birth* to your nation, and laid the *foundation* for the joys and festivities of this day. The *Sages* of America, the *Patriots* of the Revolution, in Congress assembled, “appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of their intentions, have *published and declared*,”—that “when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a *design* to reduce a people under *absolute despotism*, it is their *right* and their *duty*, to throw off such government, and to provide *new* guards for their future security.”

Let not the favorites and dependants of Administration, who grow *rich* by your *poverty*, and *great* by your *misfortunes*, expect to excite your fears and defeat your endeavors by founding the alarm of *treason* and *rebellion*—by reviving the exploded doctrines of *non-resistance* and *passive obedience*. This cant of the Old Tories, this last resort of Tyrants will be duly appreciated by Freemen who know their *rights*, who feel their *wrongs* done them, and whom duty impels to seek redress. They will be dismayed by no dangers, impeded by no obstacles, ensnared by no wiles. Following the footsteps of their illustrious Fathers, they will rise superior to all opposition, and demonstrate to the world, that they are the legitimate sons of the great founders of our Republic, and lawful heirs to this Land of Freedom. Our escape from the

Gallic snare shall add new lustre to the American character, and our LIBERTY and INDEPENDENCE shall remain unimpaired by the corrosion of time, and unshaken by the conflict of nations.

You will now indulge me in a few remarks to the professed friends and disciples of the venerable Father of our Country.

SONS OF WASHINGTON!

While you cherish the memory and venerate the character of your illustrious Father, let his political precepts be engraven upon your hearts, and his example be the rule of your conduct. He lived not for *himself*, but for his *country* and *mankind*. His actions were founded on *principle*, and guided by intelligence. From his first appearance in public life to the maturest era of his excellence, we behold the same undeviating course of magnanimity and virtue. In no situation, to which the emergencies of his country called him, however menaced by peril, or beset with temptation, do we detect a single departure from moral rectitude, or a solitary instance of mental imbecility. Conscious of the purity of his motives, and constant in the pursuit of his object, we never behold him dejected by adverse fortune, or elated with the greatest success. What he had concerted with wisdom, he executed with vigor. As a HERO, he was intrepid to conquer, and humane to forgive. As a Statesman, he united the deductions of reason to the ardor of patriotism. By the equity of his administration, party spirit was disarmed of its venom; and by the sanctity of his person, calumny (like the viper upon the hand of Paul,) was shaken off without harm. Ambition was over-awed by the

majesty of his virtue ; and envy, made desperate by the invulnerable purity of his life, recoiled upon herself. Let other nations boast of an ALEXANDER, a CÆSAR, a CROMWELL and a BONAPARTE, who fought the subjugation of the *globe* ; we glory in a WASHINGTON, who was content to make his *own* country free and happy. Let *their* names and their ruthless deeds be engraven on the cold and senseless marble : WASHINGTON lives in the hearts and affections of his countrymen ; and a continent defended from invasion, a nation blessed with freedom, are the fair monuments of his fame.

To contemplate a character so exalted and useful, to cherish virtues so distinguished and exemplary, and to preserve from all encroachments the liberties and constitutions left us by our political Savior and Benefactor, are among the duties and the objects of your institution. Had Heaven, in mercy to our nation continued the *life* of WASHINGTON to this hour ; or had not our rulers “set at nought his counsels,” we might still have enjoyed peace and a friendly intercourse with the nations of the earth. A departure from his impartial and pacific policy, has brought upon us war, poverty and disgrace. A revival of that spirit and genius, which characterized his Administration, may yet save our devoted country ! This “labor of love,” this work of Patriotism and Benevolence, has devolved on you. The HERO who once defended your rights, the PATRIOT, who once guarded your Liberties IS NO MORE ! Having reached the highest summit of earthly glory, he gave you his parting counsel and benediction and took his flight beyond the stars. From the battlements of Heaven he now looks down

upon his *ill-fated country*, and while the Patriotic tear rolls down his furrowed cheek, he calls upon you and conjures you by the memory of his past services, by your professed veneration for his character and example, by your love of freedom, by the affection you bear to your kindred and friends, by the duties you owe to posterity, by ALL that is dear to social and civilized men, to repel every encroachment upon your Rights and Liberties, to arrest that mad policy which has already depressed your spirits, exhausted your strength, and plunged you in WAR ; he entreats you never to hold your peace nor relax your exertions, till you have rescued your country from impending RUIN, and brought back the GOLDEN AGE !

ERRATA.

In the motto in the title page, for *raging bear* read *ranging*, &c.

In the 5th page, 2d line from top, for “ apostles,” read *apostates*.

Same page 17th line from top, add the article *a* before female.