

AN  
ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BY REQUEST OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF THE SONS OF LIBERTY,  
IN BENNINGTON, VERMONT,  
ON THE  
FOURTH OF JULY, 1814.

~~~~~  
BY ELDER ELON GALUSHA.  
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PRINTED BY THE UNANIMOUS REQUEST OF THE  
ASSOCIATION AND ATTENDING CITIZENS.

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BENNINGTON, VERMONT.

PRINTED BY DARIUS CLARK AND CO.

1814,

## BENNINGTON, JULY 4th, 1814.

AT a large and respectable meeting of the "Sons of Liberty," joined by citizens of his town and vicinity, on the 4th day of July, A. D. 1814, it was unanimously resolved, That Stephen Bingham, William Haswell, Frederick Bates, O. C. Merrill, S. B. Young, and David Robinson jun. be a committee in the name of this meeting, to return their cordial thanks to Elder ELON GALUSHA, for his excellent and patriotic Address, delivered to them this day, and request a copy thereof for the press.

WILLIAM HASWELL, *President.*

SAMUEL B. YOUNG, *Vice-President.*

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## BENNINGTON, JULY 4th, 1814.

ELDER ELON GALUSHA,

SIR—In pursuance of the foregoing resolution of the meeting, we request you will favor us with a copy of, and permission to publish, your Address, delivered in this village on the anniversary commemoration of our Independence. The request is sincerely made with a view to increase and extend its beneficial influence.

We are happy in being selected by the meeting as the organs of their request, as it affords us individually an opportunity of joining with them, in approbation of the sentiments, and stile of your address. The language was well chosen, and the principles were American. Your portraying the baleful consequences of division was emphatic, and exactly adapted to the public pressure of the times. Your analogous view of the direful effects of party spirit, resulting in the declension of Empires and Republics that once flourished, and the sanguinary scenes it had from age to age providentially produced, was impressive, affecting and solemn.

STEPHEN BINGHAM,  
WILLIAM HASWELL,  
FREDERICK BATES,  
SAMUEL B. YOUNG,  
ORSAMUS C. MERRILL,  
DAVID ROBINSON, Jun. } *Committee.*

SHAFTSBURY, JULY 21st, 1814.

GENTLEMEN,

I am far from desiring to have my performances appear in public print, especially the hasty composition of a few hours. But submitting to your superior judgment, which has deemed it for the public good, I cheerfully comply with your polite request.

ELON GALUSHA.

Messrs. STEPHEN BINGHAM,  
WILLIAM HASWELL,  
FREDERICK BATES,  
SAMUEL B. YOUNG,  
ORSAMUS C. MERRILL,  
DAVID ROBINSON, Junr,

} Committee.

# AN ADDRESS.

*FATHERS AND BRETHREN, IN ISRAEL,*

SURVEY me not with an indignant frown while I rise to discuss the topic of the day : for be assured that had I deemed it derogatory to the ministerial character, to act in my present capacity, while conscious of pure motives and seeking prudent measures ; had I deemed it a disparagement to the cause of our precious Redeemer, or incompatible with a faithful discharge of the all-important functions of my office, as an ambassador of Christ, I should have remained in silence on this occasion, and not have opened my lips in this assembly.

I EVER did abhor, I ever shall detest the man, who enters the sacred desk, and under the pretension of unfolding a message of peace, and imparting the word of life, to a dying audience, opens a budget of base invectives, bitter reproaches, and party aspersions, tending to excite animosity, discord, division. outrage and sedition, in the minds of his hearers. Far different from this be my present design : Rather let an ardent wish, for the true interest of every citizen, the reconciliation of contending parties, and the welfare of our beloved country prompt my speech.

ALTHOUGH it be not the province of the gospel minister, to regulate the civil department, yet having a common interest with other citizens, and fervently desiring their temporal prosperity, as well as eternal felicity ; it is his right, yea it is his

duty, on suitable occasions, and in a proper manner, not only to point out those evils which annoy our present happiness, and forebode our future ruin, but also to recommend such measures, as shall tend to preserve, inviolate, our blood-bought liberties, and perpetuate the unparalleled blessing, which propitious Heaven has conferred upon us. Was there ever a period since the existence of our nation, which demanded the reconciling aid of the divine, and the united energy of every christian patriot, the present is one. Then while the dark portentous cloud, that overspreads our land, continues to gather blackness, and apparently thickens for an awful tempest ! When the fate of our republic, and the destiny of unborn millions, hangs on the passing moment ! shall I ! can I ! refuse to employ my feeble tongue, in my bleeding country's cause ? Patriotism and benevolence, reason and conscience, forbid. But God grant, that while I speak, my mind may not be affected with virulence, my lips polluted with reproaches, nor my tongue dipt in the poisonous gall of party spirit.

BE union my object ; wisdom my guide ; heaven my support ; and the public good my reward.

### *FELLOW-CITIZENS,*

THE return of this joyful anniversary, should awaken in every heart, the love of liberty ; enkindle in each bosom the fire of patriotism ; and light up in every soul, a sacred glow of gratitude.

THE event we now commemorate, is the most interesting and glorious (of a temporal nature) that ever graced the page of the historian, or invited the attention, of a listening audience. It ought to be duly impressed on each mind, deeply engraved on every heart, and faithfully taught to the rising generation.

**THE** day now celebrated, fraught with so many inestimable blessings, and succeeded by such fortunate consequents, may well be termed the birth day of American Independence, happiness, and glory.

**ON** that blest day, the Sun of Liberty, first dawned upon the western hemisphere; and irradiated the plains of Columbia with his cheering beams.

**THEN** were thousands, whose breasts had burned, with an immortal thirst for freedom, emancipated from the cruel hand of oppression, and the lawless strides of an avaricious, haughty, and ambitious power. The bright morn was hailed with transports of joy. The countenance of new-born sons of independence was dressed in cheerful smiles: while shouts of gladness, mingled with acclamations of praise, vibrated the air, and resounded round the American shore. The rolling wave and the passing breeze, caught the sound and conveyed it to distant climes. An astonished world acknowledged the interposing hand of Heaven, and admired the heroism and magnanimity of our Fathers, in bursting their chains of colonial bondage, and assuming an exalted station among the nations of the earth. America, from thence, shone with an increasing lustre, far surpassing the brightest luminaries of the east.

**THEN** let this glorious anniversary ever be consecrated to our country and our God! let each one burn on the altar of his heart, the incense of unfeigned gratitude, to that Divine Benefactor, who aided our fathers, in the day that tried men's souls: who clothed their minds with fortitude, in a gloomy and threatening hour: who guided them through their long and desperate struggle, and gave them at last the full fruition of liberty, peace, and unrivalled prosperity.

**SHOULD** we not also be mindful of the blood of patriots and heroes, who proved their love of freedom, and regard for

posterity, by the sacrifice of their lives. Let us also venerate those worthy veterans, who survived the bloody contest, and who still mingle in our assemblies, on these interesting occasions : or having enjoyed, for a season, the fruit of their arduous and manly toils, have resigned to us, with sacred charge, the precious purchase of their valor, and retired to their balmy rest, in still more pleasant climes.

**RESPECTING** the justice of that event which we now commemorate, and the moral right of America, to dissolve her connexion with Britain, and manfully contend for those sacred rights, which are the gift of nature's God, I only ask, whether a virtuous and enlightened people, ought to be slaves, or free-men ? And may those, who lift their voices to sanction despotism, become themselves the oppressed ; and those, who now groan in shameful bondage, become the oppressors, if tyranny must be upheld.

It is not my present design, to develop the particular causes, the repeated injuries and indignities, received from our mother country, which led to the declaration of independence :— Suffice it to say, that such was the system of taxation, adopted by the British parliament, with regard to the American colonies ; such was her arbitrary and unprincipled exercise of authority over them, and such were the unprovoked outrages and savage barbarities, of British officers and soldiers, committed by her toleration, upon the innocent inhabitants of our country, as to evince that every tie of parental affection and duty, was, on her part, violated : and therefore filial obligation, on our's, as far as respects submission to her tyrannical government and unlawful edicts, was totally and eternally absolved.

**THEN** America, though apparently feeble, rose in the majesty of her strength ; and committing her cause to God, and leaning upon his omnipotent arm for support, resolved to defend, by force of arms, their natural, civil, and sacred rights,

which continued remonstrances and repeated intreaties, had failed to protect. I do not purpose, at this time, to explore the bloody field of the revolutionary contest. Doubtless, the important scenes in that grand tragedy, are as well known to the auditors as the speaker : yea, methinks I behold some of the venerable actors of that interesting drama, now listening to my feeble voice, which can but faintly describe the tremendous scenes of that painful conflict ! tell it to your children !—let them tell it to their children : and their children to their children's children : and thus transmit a history of the important events, to the latest posterity. For our present purpose it may be sufficient to observe, that after many dark and gloomy scenes which appalled the hearts of all but the invincibly brave, after many sanguinary struggles, which made all but the immovably stedfast souls tremble ; that beneficent God, whose favors, in behalf of America, had become most signal, was pleased to cause the mighty contest to issue, in the permanent establishment of a free and independent government, the wisdom and prudence of whose constitution, excited wonder among surrounding nations : Which guaranteed to each individual citizen, as much liberty, as is consistent with the nature of man, and the existence of a civil polity : Which protected him in the undisturbed enjoyment of all his just and equitable rights : In short, which has never been paralleled, and doubtless never will be equaled by any human code. Under this incomparably happy government, we have long enjoyed, and still enjoy, peculiar privileges and invaluable blessings.

HERE each member of community, has liberty to pursue the occupation of his choice, and reap the fruits of his labors. The husbandman is not compelled to toil, beneath the burning heat of a summer's sun, and moisten the earth with the sweat of his brow, to have his earnings snatched from his hands, to feed, with luxuries, the indolent retinue of a more idle lord : Nay ; he partakes the rich bounty of the cultur'd



soil. The mechanic and manufacturer, bear not the burden of the day, to support a prodigal nobility, or more profligate clergy; but enjoy themselves the avails of their laudable industry. The professional man freely exercises his skill and fails not of his reward. The student is unrestrained in his pursuit of knowledge, and shares the utility and honor of his attainments. The astronomer and philosopher may contemplate the vast theatre of God's works, trace the chain of causes and effects, till they arrive at the great first cause of all; and there are none to molest them in their favorite employ. The historian can make the faithful record, not being coerced by royal threats, to omit a disgraceful fact, or hide a prince's or a noble's shame. The statesman and politician, may inculcate the true principles of government, and the real policy of the nation, without being arrested for sedition and treason, and executed as a conspirator against his majesty. The divine may explore the volume of inspiration, and teach its heavenly precepts;— he may promulgate the pure gospel of a crucified Savior, and there is no civil arm to thrust him in a loathsome dungeon, as a disturber of peace and order, or drag him as an heretic to the stake, to torture him with the fire and the faggot.

THE christian is not compelled to worship his priest and mock his God; but is controled only by the dictates of his own conscience, and the word of divine revelation. No tongue is bridled by overbearing tyrants, whose reputation and political safety depend solely on the concealment of their real character, the suppression of truth, and the ignorance of the people.

SPEECH and enquiry are free as the air we breathe, and as unrestrained as the sun's broad light. Where is the government, or where is the people under Heaven's wide circuit, whose privileges compare with our's? Go traverse the eastern world, go visit the regions of the south; see despots sway

their blood-stained sceptres, and grind the face of the poor : or listen to the mournful tale of human wretchedness. Then return, view our favored country, and observe the striking contrast.

**BEHOLD** we are crowned with all the blessings of nature, art and Heaven combined. Shall we then prostrate ourselves from the lofty heights to which we are exalted? Can we so imitate our first parent, who sacrificed the greatest good for the worst of evils, the choicest blessings for an awful curse? However astonishing, the solemn fact is much to be feared : For scarce was the tree of liberty planted in Columbia's soil ere the devouring worm began to corrode the root. And although her towering branches have reached the skies, and extended their balmy shade o'er south and western climes; yet her stately boughs already tremble in the furious blast, and portend a future fall!

**IF** she fall! the world's last republic! (the only remaining evidence that an enlightened people can govern themselves) falls, like a luminary of Heaven, no more to rise, no more to shine!

**WHERE** then shall persecuted liberty erect her temple?—Where then shall be an assylum for the oppressed? Where then shall the afflicted saint find refuge from the storm of persecution, and uninterruptedly enjoy the rights of conscience in the worship of God?

**ALAS!** should America cease to be a republic, freedom and hope must perish forever! Then while we deplore the fate of other nations whose glory has departed, let us shun those fatal rocks on which they split. Let us search to find the real source of our danger, and ward the impending ruin ere it burst upon us. Our only danger originates in ourselves.

The viper that gnaws upon the vitals of our republic is nourished in our own bosoms. Party spirit which seeks to build up self on the ruin of others, is the fell demon we have to fear. He has ever been the pest of society and the enemy of human happiness. He arose as early as the days of Cain. On guiltless Abel he perpetrated the first act of his horrid cruelty. He exerted his baneful influence in diverse persons from that period to the advent of our Savior; when he inspired with odium and infernal malice the envious Jews. He wrought mightily in Saul of Tarsus, and others of his day. He has been the instigator of all the bloody and fiery persecutions of the people of God in every age of the world. Not only religious but civil societies and governments he has rent asunder. Contemplate his ravages in ancient Greece and Rome. There he caused brother to fall by brother's arm. There he thrust the murderous hand into a father's bosom, and imbrued it in the crimson drops of his vital blood. There he subverted republics, established the empire of despotism, and in time extended its wide domain to all the nations of the east. Having at length overturned all the temples of liberty in the oriental world,—and she having fled for refuge to the western climes—eager in the pursuit he crossed the broad atlantic, and reared his hideous head in the midst of our sacred assemblies. Here he now fills the diabolical office of poisoning the hearts and enflaming the minds of Columbia's sons—Unless this outrageous monster be expelled from our bosoms, driven from our shores, or powerfully restrained, we shall follow the destructive course of other fallen nations, and our freedom and happiness will be blasted by his malignant breath.

MAY we not be assured of the truth of those words which flowed from the lips of him who never spake amiss; "*A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.*" When good men are disunited, bad ones never fail of seizing that opportunity, if possible, to render them the unwilling instruments of their

own destruction. To combine in support of the common interest of our country, is the ~~same~~<sup>best</sup> means of promoting our individual good. Union is now our only hope: and this cannot be effected by rash and violent means. It is a miserable calculation to think of rendering others our friends by stiling them our enemies, and treating them as such. Asperity never produces reconciliation. If we would set others in paths of duty, who have wandered therefrom, we must lead them with a gentle hand, for they will never be driven by censorious language or rigorous acts. We should also consider that if good men differ from us, we differ as much from them. Therefore we ought to strive to persuade and convince, not to irritate and provoke.

Was there ever a more pressing necessity for the unanimity and joint efforts of every American citizen? We are at war with a potent nation, whose recent triumphs on the European continent have empowered her with zeal and strength to persist in the contest, and increase the rigor of her demands. A formidable army, long accustomed to and well skilled in human butchery, have embarked for our shores. Our enemy's present object is doubtless the total subjugation of America. Her navy, now liberated from the east, will probably soon thunder upon our coasts. The waters of our harbors may soon be literally curdled with blood, and our rich and beautiful seaport towns in conflagration. The inhuman scenes of Hampton and Havre-de-Grace, which would excite indignation in the rude savage's breast, and cause the tear of sympathy to moisten his sable cheek, may possibly soon be acted in the interior of our country. Is it meet then that we should quarrel among ourselves, while dangers thicken on every side, and our united exertions, alone, can save the purchase of our father's blood? The moment swells with importance. There is no time now to contend about the policy or impolicy of former measures; for the die will soon be cast: The only

question with every citizen should be, what does the safety and welfare of my country at this eventful period demand?— And let it be remembered, that united we stand, upon an immovable basis, but divided we fall, to deplore our folly in tears of blood! Then let union be our rallying point! Let the names of federalist and republican be lost in a general struggle for the safety of our country! above all, let the reproachful terms of Frenchmen and tories, be wrapt in the shades of oblivion, and consigned to eternal silence!

LET there be but one name, one mind, one interest known among us; and that truly American. Should we by internal broils and commotions sacrifice our liberties, and rivet the galling chains of despotism, upon ourselves and our descendants, will not the departed spirits of those heroes who bled in defence of our sacred rights, haunt our dwellings, disturb the repose of our midnight slumbers, and harrow up remorse for our unexampled folly? Will not posterity, as they rise up in their successive generations, heap their bitter curses upon our memories, for paving the way to their miserable bondage?

### *MY YOUNG FELLOW-CITIZENS,*

AS you are just entering upon the threshold of public life, may you step forward with that patriotic ardor, tempered by modest diffidence, which may not fail of rendering you brilliant ornaments, and lasting blessings to your country.

As your worthy fathers pass off the stage of public action, may you fill their stations in such a manner, that they can look down with approbation upon your conduct.

BE not too aspiring for office: but if you ask promotion at all, let it be by way of merit, and with a virtuous desire to extend your usefulness. Assume not the highest seats, but take the lowest; that when the voice of the freemen invites you up, you may ascend with honor and confidence.

**BE** ever eager to serve your country, but willing she should choose the capacity. Imitate the noble Spartan, who, when he failed being elected one of fifty, rejoiced, that his country could boast fifty men more worthy than himself. If you would enrol your names on the records of immortal fame, let it be done by the performance of patriotic, magnanimous, and benevolent deeds. And when you go hence, may your memories be embalmed with the precious tears of your grateful countrymen, and the never fading laurel bloom upon your graves.

*VENERABLE FATHERS,*

**YE** who have borne the burden and heat of the day, and are now retiring to the silent shades of the evening: teach your sons the true principles of liberty, and the real value of its blessings: teach them the painful struggles by which you obtained, and the only means by which they can preserve it. Continue to set them examples worthy of imitation, till your declining sun of life, sits at last in its western horizon.

**THEN** may the angels of peace brood upon your sepulchres to guard your sleeping dust, and your peaceful spirits be reposed, in the beatific realms of celestial glory.

**AND FINALLY,** May the storm of party rage which now threatens our independence, be hushed to eternal silence, and the God of our fathers preserve the temple of American Liberty, from the unhallowed touch of the despot's hand, till the Heavens and the earth shall be no more.