

AN
ADDRESS,
DELIVERED BEFORE THE
REPUBLICAN CITIZENS
OF NEWBURYPORT,
AND THE
NEIGHBOURING TOWNS,
IN THE
REV. JOHN GILES' MEETING-HOUSE,
ON THE
FOURTH OF JULY, 1809.

.....
BY THE REV. JOHN GILES.
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Newburyport,
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1809.

NEWBURYPORT, JULY 5, 1809.

REP. AND DEAR SIR,

THE undersigned, appointed a Committee by the Republicans of this and the neighbouring towns, who attended the delivery of your elegant, instructive, and truly patriotic Oration, do, in their name, tender you their grateful thanks and acknowledgments for the same, and request the favour of a copy for the press.

We are, with great esteem and affection, your most obedient and very humble servants;

JAMES PRINCE,
NATH'L COGSWELL,
JOHN BRICKETT.

THE REV. JOHN GILES, NEWBURYPORT.

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NEWBURYPORT, JULY 7, 1809.

To the Committee of the Republican Citizens of Newburyport and the adjacent towns.

I NOW furnish you with a copy of what I delivered on our anniversary day. Your warm solicitations, with the misrepresentations that are in circulation, induce me to give up my original design of keeping it from the eye of the public. Should it in any measure contribute to subserve the good of our fellow-citizens, the speaker will, from that cause, feel much gratified.

I am, Gentlemen, with due respect, your sincere friend and humble servant,

JOHN GILES.

JAMES PRINCE,
NATHANIEL COGSWELL, and
DOCT. JOHN BRICKETT, Esquires,
Newburyport.

ADDRESS.

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WE hail, with heart-felt joy the return of this our political birth-day. A day, much to be remembered ; and which will shine with undiminished lustre in the historic page, till the latest æra of time. Not only we, my fellow-citizens, but millions yet unborn, are deeply interested in the salutary benefits which will assuredly result from it ; and what the sweet singer of Israel said of the Sabbath day, is in a sense applicable to this. “ This is the day which the Lord hath made ; ” and in unison with the sacred responses of the pious Jews let us reverberate “ we will be glad and rejoice in it. ” But while we exult in the happy fruition of heaven’s fairest fruits to man, let us retrace the means by which they were produced and secured ; and surely we cannot be so blind as not to recognize the omnipotent arm of Jehovah, by which the snare is broken, and we are delivered.

England has been, and still is called our parent, or mother country. But, ah ! how unnatural for a mother to hate the prosperity and happiness of her children. Such has England been to us, a cruel and unnatural parent ; she has, and still does envy

our growing prosperity. A book, which we all esteem as a book of the highest authority, informs us, "the children ought not to lay up for the parent, but the parent for the children." This first law of nature she has inverted and outraged, though her offspring, in their infant state, generously contributed in fitting out large and expensive armaments, to repel the attacks of France, who was then our mutual enemy. Yet, after providence had crowned our arms with success, our generosity, instead of exciting gratitude, increased in her insatiable claims. She attempted to accumulate to herself millions, from our increasing industry, by enforcing upon us a stamp act, so that no man should have power to buy, or to sell, which had not this mark of the beast. But resistance to this arbitrary act, flew like an electric fluid, from one end of the continent to the other. "This obnoxious act, it is true, was repealed in two years after it was passed, but one of much more mischievous magnitude immediately followed. I mean the declaratory act, which asserted the right of the British parliament to bind America in all cases whatsoever. If the stamp act was an usurpation of our most precious and sacred rights, the declaratory act left us no right at all; and contained the full grown seeds of the most despotic government ever exercised in the world. It placed us not only in the lowest, but in the basest state of vassalage, because it required an unconditional submission in every thing, or as the act expresses it, "in

all cases whatsoever." And what rendered this act the more offensive is, that it appears to have been passed as an act of mercy ! Truly then might it be said that the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel." But reluctant to have recourse to measures hostile and destructive, we first appealed to justice and humanity ; and the soft persuasive language of oppressed and injured innocence reached the British throne, her Council, and her Senate, in humble petitions and remonstrances ; to all which, like the poisonous adder, she turned a deaf ear, and meek persuasive supplications served only as incentives to hasten her on in her bloody and murderous designs. Her most experienced Generals were selected, who, accompanied by her choicest men, were soon wafted across the Atlantic and vomited on our shores ; when all the horrid baleful effects of a destructive war followed.

This section of the Union became the theatre on which British prowess first attempted to appal, and strike with terror, the raw and undisciplined ranks of Republicans. Every eye was fixed, and every heart palpitated, in anxious suspense. The contest was unequal, but exploits the most glorious, have been achieved by men when determined to be free ; and though this little band of heroes, borne down by superior numbers, retired from the bloody field, yet not before their ammunition was quite expended, and numbers of their enemies had bit the dust. But are we to conclude that the final

issue of events was left to capricious chance ? No. God has the directing and controuling of all human events, so that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, it is he who teaches our hand to war, and our fingers to fight :

“Who sees with equal eye, as God of all,

“A hero perish, or a sparrow fall.”

To will, and to do, with God, is one and the same thing, and he who formed the world without instruments, can never be at a loss for instruments to accomplish his designs. He it was who raised up Moses to emancipate his chosen tribes from Egyptian bondage ; and he it was who raised up a WASHINGTON, to be the political saviour of his country ; nor does history, ancient or modern, present to our view a more finished character. As a statesman, in the cabinet wise, calm, and penetrating. In the field, bold and vigorous in executing. As a warrior, beloved and almost adored by his men. Patient but firm, under hardships and defeats, and when disappointed of those promised succours, which the extreme wants and sufferings of his army demanded ; he had the address to conciliate his soldiers to severe deprivations. Immortal Washington ! thy mighty name requires no mausoleum to perpetuate its memory, for it will be embalmed in the heart of every genuine republican, till the latest period of time : yet while we highly appreciate his worth, we must still remember he was but the instrument, God is the author of our

political, as well as eternal salvation, and to him must be ascribed all the glory of our triumphs. And O, let us rejoice that we are placed remote from European broils, and like God's chosen people of old, we are a people which dwell alone. Time has repaired the ravages and desolations, which an unrelenting foe, in their murderous expeditions, had widely spread around our once bleeding country; our towns and cities, which were reduced to ashes, have more than recovered their pristine glory; the temples of the Most High, demolished by the unhallowed hands of a prophane and licentious soldiery, are again raised from their ruins, and our desolated plains, moistened with human blood, teem again with a rich variety of plenty. O! let us praise the Lord, for his goodness endureth forever.

Let us now briefly examine the texture of our political ark, so much unlike that of all others, it is tangible in all its parts. It is a principle universally admitted, that the more simple the machine in its component parts, the less expensive, and the more certain and effectual in its operation. In our constitution we perceive that simple, and yet energetic machine. For the discovery of this mystery, which was hid for ages, mankind is indebted to that revolution which, for our happiness, and the happiness of millions yet to come, has been accomplished on Columbia's happy shores. To discover its unparalleled worth and excellence, above ancient and

modern governments, we must point out the defects of the one, and the universal benefits which emanate from the other. The republics of Greece and Rome, when first formed, like man since the fall, contained in themselves the seeds of self dissolution; they degenerated into an oligarchy, from whence sprung a dictator, who soon assumed the pompous but empty name of emperor. The fall of these two empires, which had the form of republican governments, but destitute of the power, are cited by some men, who maintain, some ignorantly, and others designedly, that mankind has not virtue enough to be governed by such a form; but depraved as man is, I consider such a sentiment degrading, and a libel on his character, for no man will willingly give a guinea for an article, when he can obtain one much superior for a cent. "The wisdom, civil government, and sense of honor, of the states of Greece and Rome, are frequently held up as objects of excellence and imitation; but could the mist of antiquity be dispelled, and men and things viewed as they really were, it is more than probable that they would admire us, rather than we them." For had they understood, what we have discovered, the principle of representative government, they, and Venice, which continued for a longer period than either of the former, might have existed till the present moment. It is on this system that our government is founded; "It is representation grafted upon democracy; it

has fixed the form by a scale parallel in all cases, to the extent of the principle. What Athens was in miniature, America will be in magnitude; the one, was the wonder of the ancient world, the other is become the admiration of the present, it is the easiest of all forms of government to be understood, and the most eligible in practice;” this will be clearly demonstrated in contrasting it with monarchy. “Government by kings,” saith one, “was first introduced into the world by heathens, from whom the children of Israel copied the custom. It was the most prosperous invention the devil ever set on foot for the promotion of idolatry. The heathen paid divine honours to their deceased kings; and the christian world has improved the plan, by doing the same to living ones. How impious is the title of “Sacred Majesty, applied to a worm,” who in the midst of his splendour, is crumbling to dust. Monarchy is ranked in Scripture, as one of the sins of the Jews, for which a curse in reserve is denounced against them. The Scripture alluded to, is in the 8th chapter of the first book of Samuel, and we have good reason to believe there is as much of king-craft as of priest-craft in withholding the Scriptures from the public, in Popish countries, for monarchy in every instance, is the popery of government.” Again, in one country, England, this destructive character is elevated in the eye of the law above men, and in a sense, above angels; he is impeccable, that is, he can do no wrong. Impious

sentiment ! Lying assertion ! Is it no wrong to tear poor unoffending Africans, by millions, from their families, and afterwards treat them worse than beasts of burthen ? Was it no wrong to sacrifice two hundred thousand lives, during our revolutionary war, at the shrine of monarchy ? Let the myriads that have perished in the East-Indies, to satiate the tyrant's thirst for gold, refute the impious falsehood. And ye brave, but persecuted sons of Erin, for whose accumulated sufferings we mourn, and tenderly sympathize, may the success which attended the efforts of Columbia's sons, speedily crown those of yours to shake off the yoke, that has pierced your very hearts, and wrung from your souls the most bitter groans ; you have been hunted down, like beasts of prey ; and your various sufferings, such as whippings, burnings, and strangulations, are lasting mementoes that George the third can do no wrong ! These are but a few of the curses which flow from monarchy, and from which we are happily freed. We are now under a settled, free, simple, yet stable and glorious constitution, a constitution which guarantees to all, equal rights, and equal privileges. We have none of those gewgaws, hereditary titles and honours. "Titles," saith one, "are but nick-names, and every nick-name is a title, the thing is perfectly harmless in itself, but it marks a sort of foppery in the human character which degrades it ; it reduces man into the diminution of man, in things which are great ; and the

counterfeit of woman in things which are little ; it talks about its ribbon, like a girl, and shews its garter like a child. The star which glitters upon the breast, is but a false mirror of the character it is intended to represent, and consequently exhibits no certain merit but its own." A celebrated writer of antiquity saith, " When I was a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things." In England, they boast of their liberty, yet there the people are deceived with the name, while destitute of the thing ; for in no country are the extremes of opulence and wretchedness, luxury and misery, so perceptible, as in that land. The enormous load of taxes under which they groan, and which is hourly increasing, reduces three fourths of its population to a situation the most degrading ; the fare they subsist upon, is inferior, both in quality and quantity, to that upon which our hogs subsist ; and to add insult, to wretchedness and misery in the extreme, the very men who riot in luxury and debaucheries, obtained by the hard earnings of this oppressed and injured people, tauntingly call them the swinish multitude. With us, the benevolent heart is not lacerated with the sight of suffering humanity ; our streets are not crouded with walking skeletons, who scarcely vegetate. No, the labourer and the mechanic fare equally with the rich, upon the best of nature's productions ; and though this is a sad eye fore to a few 'choice spirits,'

yet to the philanthropist, it is matter of joy, and daily thanksgiving .

Our constitution invests the people with an uncontrollable right over all monies expended in the support and maintenance of government, nor does the whole expense for the support of the Executive, with that of the Judiciary, and members of Congress, amount to the sum granted to the Prince of Wales. We, my fellow-citizens, to day enjoy the promised blessing, they shall every man sit under his vine and under his fig-tree, and none shall make them afraid. Religion with us, rests, as it always ought, upon its own immutable basis. Universal right of conscience, is a sacred, exclusive, and distinct right, given to men by their creator, and therefore no mortal power or person has any authority or controul over the conscience of another ; therefore every act or law, as in England, called Toleration, and which, I am sorry to say, is a phrase which sullies a part of the Constitution of this State, is improper, and unfounded, " As both are despotisms. Toleration is not the opposite of Intoleration, but is the counterfeit of it, the one assumes to itself the right of withholding liberty of conscience, and the other of granting it. The one is Pope armed with fire and faggot, the other is Pope felling, or granting indulgencies."

For present, and past mercies, to day let our shouts of praise ascend to the eternal throne, he has hitherto bestowed upon us supreme Magistrates that

would have honored any country. WASHINGTON, though dead still lives in our grateful remembrance. ADAMS, whose administration at the time, through the overbearing influence of pernicious counsellors, was tinged with sombrous shades ; but like the sun, whose glory for a time may be obscured, yet now the clouds are dissipated, and he shines with resplendent lustre. Nor let us, my fellow-citizens, upon the present joyful occasion, omit the meed of praise, which the public services of the illustrious JEFFERSON demand, who sacrificed, like a true patriot, his own popularity, at the shrine of the public good. His name will live, when the memory of his enemies will rot, and perish ; and the page of the future historian will elevate him to a rank amongst the most distinguished characters. Nor must we pass unnoticed MADISON, the man whom the people hath delighted to honor. His past patriotic services are sure earnest of his future upright administration ; and without pretending to inspiration, I should not wonder if he, like his worthy predecessor, should become the object of detestation to the very men, who now profess to have him in the highest admiration. Well, should this event finally be the case, I hope, and believe, there is still virtue and patriotism in a large majority of the people of the United States, to refute the well known adage of grovelling despots, that ingratitude is the common sin of all Republics.

The names, and characters, of those renowned worthies, HANCOCK, ADAMS, WARREN, MONTGOMERY, the veteran GATES, GREEN, and others, have been so repeatedly eulogized upon similar occasions, that the speaker shall only observe, that they being dead yet speak, and their patriotic exertions, to emancipate their suffering, oppressed, and bleeding country, will survive monuments of the most durable marble, or costly brass.

Let us, my fellow-citizens, to-day, renew our solemn vows, that we will call no man master upon earth, nor bow to any but the glorious Emanuel as our Sovereign Lord and King; to him alone universal conquest appertains, and those whom he subdues, are those who alone are benefited and aggrandized by his conquests. With the increasing age of the world, increasing light is disseminating; and let but a people, or nation, feel their physical strength, and from that moment, Monarchical Automations will be abolished. This I will illustrate from history.

“ It is related, that in the Canton of Berne, in Switzerland, it had been customary from time immemorial to keep a Bear at the public expence, and the people had been taught to believe, that if they had not a bear, they should be undone. It happened that the bear, then in being, was taken sick and died too suddenly to have his place immediately supplied by another. During this interreg-

num; the people discovered, their grass grew, the corn sprung up, the vintage flourished, and the sun and moon continued to rise and set, and every thing went on as prosperous as before. Taking courage from these circumstances, they resolved not to keep a bear any more, for, said they, a bear is a very expensive voracious animal, and we were obliged to pull out his claws lest he should hurt the citizens.

Let us then be glad and rejoice, that with us the sovereign people can raise up and pull down. The power is in their own hands, so that they can create, and they destroy. So congenial is this principle to human nature, that even kings themselves are republicans, for if any of their order tower above the rest, they will immediately combine, to pull him down upon a level with themselves.

Before I conclude, suffer me as the mouth of others, to express our gratitude to you, venerable warriors and fathers, who at your country's call cheerfully and magnanimously quitted domestic comforts, and volunteered your services in the field of battle, and at the expense of property; family inconveniences, and the risk of life itself, you gloriously succeeded in shaking off the yoke, and giving to your country a distinguished rank among the nations of the earth. And this day we reap the fruits of your toil and labour. We highly respect, and duly appreciate your important services, and they will live in the grateful remembrance of all true pa-

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triot's when you are numbered among the dead. And should occasion call, may you, my young fellow citizens, be emulated by the patriotism of your aged fires, and prove yourselves worthy to be called their Sons.



FINIS.

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