

*Chatham N. J.*  
**ORATION,**

**DELIVERED AT CHATHAM, (N. J.)**

*On the Celebration of the Anniversary  
Independence, July 4, 1805*

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**By DOCTOR A KING.**

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" I planted there a League of friendly states,  
" And bade them Freedom their ambition bring,  
" Rare to be seen! Ungodly cities rise,  
" Cities of brothers form'd; while equal life,  
" Accorded gracious with revolving power,  
" Maintains them free, and in their happy streets  
" Nor cruel death nor misery is known.

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**MORRIS-TOWN;**

BY MANN AND DOUGLASS,  
1805

# ORATION, &c.

LET us for a few moments suspend our emotions of mirth and festivity, while we turn our attention to the more glorious occasion, which has summoned us together. In common, or as is usual among the Patriots of America, we are met in commemoration of that day, the recollection of which, must awaken all the feelings of American pride and call forth those noble energies of soul, which governed our ancestors in the declaration of that Independence which it must be the ambition and boast of our nation to maintain.

THAT day which gave birth to the genius of Liberty, who spreads her banners o'er our wide domain, and shelters us from every impending ruin, with which we are threatened by instilling into the hearts of our worthy Freemen, a love of Liberty, Truth, Patriotism, and Religion.

HAPPILY for us, the firm zeal of our councils, and the undaunted prowess of our arms, enable us to review the first periods of our national history, with the pride which results from the consciousness of having sprung from ancestors, who, disdaining the restraints of bondage or dependency, nobly dared to be free.

FREQUENT recurrence to first principles, will always be attended with advantage; observing them in all their original purity and force, their value and importance will be impressed on the mind, and we will be better enabled and disposed to correct their abuse or corruption, to renovate their vigor, and enforce their observance.

IN this view, the Anniversary we are now celebrating has its peculiar use; it reminds us of the virtuous enterprise of our ancestors, who bartered their blood to purchase a freedom, their high opinion of civil liberty, their solemn determination to perish in their country, rather than become the ignoble vassals of domineering power, labouring under the yoke of bondage, or wear out their lives in servitude and chains.

It teaches us in the most emphatic language, and ex-

hibits to us in the most alluring colours, the duties which we owe to our country and posterity, and accursed be that spirit who is so far sunk in lethargy, that it does not catch the generous enthusiasm, from those illustrious examples, and swear, that such shall forever be the boast of American pride.

THE changes and revolutions in governments, have generally been the struggles of contending candidates for ascendancy, contests for the sceptre of power, in which the people have occasionally been used as machines, without sharing in the glory or advantage of success or meeting with sympathy or compassion in defeat. The result to them, (the people), has been a change of rulers without any addition to their happiness. Individual ambition, and not public good, being the purposes to be answered, the flush of victory has rather served to exasperate resentments, than moderate the passions—and *the People*, deceived by the hope of better days have frequently found their burthens increased and their miseries enlarged.

WHICH may justly be said to be the case in our last Administration, when we were groaning under the weight of oppression, occasioned by internal taxes, to support as it were *regal grandeur*. But how happily is the order of things fixed in the general system of all things, by the Supreme Ruler of the Universe—for so it seems that there is no existing in this life without the principle of opposition reigning; in this case we have it very brilliantly displayed—for as we have so lately been groaning under the weight of oppression, and now alleviated from the burthen, with how much more warmth and satisfaction do we embrace the happy epoch of a better regulated Government, than otherwise we should have done, had we not have been oppressed with that weight.

It appears, that the God of nature has so formed his universal system of government, that one thing must always answer another, and leave all things rightly considered on an equilibrium.

HAD we have been left to enjoy ourselves in all the

freedom and harmony our hearts could wish, without any change or interruption in the state of our affairs, we would have sunk down into a lethargy, become inactive, inanimate and dissatisfied, because we became satiated with the enjoyment of freedom and ease, and slaves to idle passions, when the world would not have been spacious enough, or contained luxuries sufficient to have gratified our voracious desires—in short, we might have thought this world but an empty shade, containing nothing that could afford pleasure to unmeasurable passions, and even been dissatisfied with creation, because it did not abound in variety enough to gratify the voracious mind of man.

BUT now in this case, we are relieved from toil, from Yokes, from Chains, from Prison and from bondage—and are happy under our present Administration, because it is wholesome and not oppressive and we in a changed state of existence, enjoying the blessings of the *New World*.

BUT however great the pleasure may be of commemorating those days which have marked the dignity of a national character, yet is the festivity clouded with the sad remembrance of servile meanness, or the most condemnable indifference—if glory dazzles on the one hand, its splendor is diminished on the other. The occasional establishment of their liberties, are rather to be considered as the result of favorable accidents, than the fruits of any uniform system of rights.

BUT our fore-fathers, who first settled this country, brought with them those genuine principles of liberty, which have governed it since its first establishment;—They understood the rights which belonged to the People, and those which pertained to their Rulers. Educated in the school of jurisprudence, they acquired those rational maxims of civil liberty, which will forever serve as props and ornaments of the society in which they are cultivated. Their proud spirits would not brook the approach of tyrannical authority—they refused to clank their chains to the rod of any master, or bind their necks to any yoke, however light and easy the bur-

then. Adhering to these principles, and determining to support them at the hazard of their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors, that revolution, whose commencement we are now celebrating, was originated and completed.

Our fathers then presented to the world an example of greatness, wisdom, and zeal, which are unequalled in the annals of man, and which must do honor to America, as long as intrepidity and virtue shall have a votary on earth. The People of this country, have abundant cause therefore to felicitate each other, on the early and uniform opinion they have displayed of liberty in its rational sense—of the industrious care with which our ancestors first established it—of the zeal and bravery with which our fathers defended it, and the solicitude with which they have transmitted to our hands, a reputation unstained by dishonor, unsullied by baseness. And if any wretch can be found so base as to desert his country's cause in the hour of any danger—to shrink from the service she may require of him, or still to be the advocate of an implacable and overbearing foe, a mark should be put upon his forehead, to single him out as a fit object for the execrations of his countrymen—the detestation of mankind, and the everlasting curse of his God.

But to turn from the present uncouth subject, I think I cannot better impress your minds with a virtuous feeling, than by raising to view, some of those extraordinary traits, in the character of the illustrious *Washington*. To celebrate his virtues in that heart-felt sympathy and adoration, which is becoming Freeman, when commemorating that day, which his virtues and exertions caused to be glorious, must be discharging that duty which we owe to that heaven-born son of Columbia, whose actions are no more, but whose name must be as extensive as the light of the sun, and as permanent as the rocks of ages. While performing this duty, we must claim the exclusive privilege of expressing the agonies of our sorrow, and with the solemnity of real mourners, most sincerely weep o'er his urn.

WHILE we are led to regret the great and irrecoverable loss our country has sustained, by the death of her deliverer, we must feel a measure of joy arising from the reflection that he died lamented; many great and virtuous men in various ages, and among the different nations of the world, have shined like the Moon, in their respective orbits; but when compared to the illustrious *Washington*, who might with propriety be called the *resplendent Sun* of America, whose virtues and abilities poured forth the genial rays, and disseminated the light and vigor of liberty in the hearts of the Sons of Columbia—their glory and excellence was swallowed up in the refulgency that proceeded from our most excellent Chief. Those who are inclined to extol those who have been remarkable for great abilities, representing any one of them as the perfection of human nature, and insinuating that none more remarkable, eminent, or virtuous ever lived, let them not lisp the name of *Washington*, lest the glory of their particular favorites be eclipsed, as the light of the Moon is by the Sun. The Glory of Columbia has never been equalled by those ornaments of mankind.

HE was greater than *Alexander*.....Because destitute of that guilty ambition that fired the breast of that hair-brained Grecian youth. When he appeared in the field under the command of *Braddoc*, we have every reason to suppose, that a fervant desire to save his countrymen from the cruel hands of the Savage barbarians, induced him to leave the pleasures of a rural, and endure the fatigues, toils, and dangers' of a Soldiers life.

He was greater than *Vespasian*....His virtues were not blotted by an insatiate love for gold; his noble breast never lusted after such paltry stuff, it was not poverty that drove him from his peaceful abode, neither was he under the necessity of entering the field to support a broken fortune, or to accumulate wealth; his refusing any compensation for his services evidently proves he was not infected with that pernicious vice.

He was greater than *Julius Cesar*.....Although this Roman chief was eminent for great abilities, and par-

ticular virtues, we find his reputation spotted with pride and base presumption. Was Washington guilty of these vices? Was the Commander of the American Army, and the Senate of Columbia in opposition to each other?— Did the General refuse to obey the orders of Congress? Was he desirous to aggrandize himself rather than promote the cause of liberty? No; these imperfections never polluted the virtuous heart of *Washington*.

He was greater than *Philip* and *Peter*..... These great men injured their reputations by the acts of cruelty and barbarity they so often committed, which shock the feelings of humanity to relate or hear.

Washington was a stranger to this ferocious spirit, he knew nothing of this beastly disposition, his soul did not delight in the afflictions, and sufferings of others, his fellow creatures—it was not made of stuff so stern.— Did he ever smile when he heard the Soldier sigh, or saw him weep? Did he stand unaffected when he saw him bleed? Did he not commiserate his hard fate when destitute of the necessaries of life? Did he ever hear the mourning of the Soldier's widow, and the cries of his orphan children, without sympathizing with them and alleviating their sorrow if in his power the truly brave are humane, and are not insensible when they see the tears, or hear the complaints of the distressed. Observe the conduct of Washington at the melancholy circumstance of the unfortunate and much lamented *Andre*.

He was greater than *Trajan*.... The worthy deeds of this noble hero, were tarnished by listening to the tongue of slander, which filled him with the spirit of jealousy, that green eyed monster, the consequences of which deprived many thousands of their lives who were his friends and delighted in his prosperity. Our illustrious hero would willingly have thought all men virtuous as he was virtuous, as a vicious mind is always suspicious, so a virtuous one thinks no evil.

He was greater than *Charles*.... This Sweedish monarch by his rashness and intemperance, had a brave army destroyed, in the midst of Russia by Peter; in all

his transactions, we see more courage than conduct. *Washington* was deliberate in all his conduct, and in his measures; and exercised them with calmness; he well knew that in the multitude of counsellors there is safety, and therefore did not like *Charles*, keep his officers ignorant of his designs.

*Washington* knew bad men existed, but he was willing to think every man good, until he proved him to be bad—when proved and found to be such, he would rather reform than destroy; his ear was never pleased with the voice of slander, and if he was under the necessity of hearing accusations, he was willing to make great allowances for prejudice and party spirit—his judgment was never formed until he heard the defence of the accused, as well as the accusation—he could well bear a superior—this gives him the pre-eminence of *Cesar*. He could well bear an equal; this makes him greater than the jealous *Pompey*. His honest heart never envied another for his merit—nor ever descended to such base meanness as to heave out scurrillous invectives, against the reputation of a rival candidate because he would hew down the frame of his competitors character, to erect his own fabrication on the other's ruins, nor suffer his colleagues so to do. And I would ardently petition, with a thousand supplications, that such a reformation might take place in the breasts of the People—that their future reputations might not be stained with that black vice which has been so predominant among us—*unprovoked slander*.

When speaking of the virtues of *Washington*, I might add *Mercer*, *Warren*, *Montgomery*, and other departed heroes who fell in the Revolution, whose virtues are eminent in the sight of our veterans, but to extol them all, would exhaust the most tranquil mind; therefore we will conclude by saying, America can boast of having had great and good men, who possessed as great virtues as ever were possessed—and that we fervently hope, that our present and future rulers, may be still greater and better.

FINIS.