

# DISCOURSE,

DELIVERED IN THE CHAPEL OF THE SOUTH-CAROLINA COLLEGE,  
JULY 4TH, A. D. 1819,

*At the request of the Inhabitants of Columbia.*

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BY JONATHAN MAXCY, D. D.  
PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH-CAROLINA COLLEGE

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SECOND EDITION.

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*The South-Carolina College, August 4th, 1819.*

*To JAMES T. GOODWYN, Esq. Intendant of  
the Town of Columbia.*

SIR,—To the request of the Town Council, and Citizens of Columbia, for the publication of my discourse on the 4th of July last; I readily give my assent; and beg leave through you to express my most grateful acknowledgements, for the honour conferred on me on this occasion.

Accept my thanks for the very polite and delicate manner in which you have communicated the wishes of my fellow citizens.

With great esteem and respect, and with best wishes for your prosperity, I subscribe myself your friend and servant,

**J. MAXCY.**

6/14/34

February Col.

## A DISCOURSE

147 PSALM, 20th.

*"He hath not dealt so with any nation; and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the Lord."*

**T**HE blessings which God bestowed on the ancient Israelites were great and peculiar. After delivering them from bondage imposed by a cruel tyrant, he carried them as on eagle wings, through innumerable displays of mercies and judgments; he instructed and governed them by miraculous interpositions of his providence; and after discomfitting all their enemies, triumphantly established them in the promised land. Here, he most signally interposed on their behalf; and was indeed, their shield, in war, and their sun in peace. He dealt not so with other nations. These, left to their own direction, wandered into distant quarters of the globe; lost the knowledge of their creator; debased and dishonored themselves, by the vilest superstitions and the most enormous vices. On the other hand, the Israelites, chosen by God for his peculiar people, were taken under his immediate government and instruction, and furnished with laws religious, moral and political, which at length elevated them to the highest pitch of national prosperity. Well might the Royal Psalmist say, "He hath not dealt so with any nation; and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the Lord."

That men should praise God, for national, as well as for individual blessings, is the injunction of reason and the dictate of revelation. Ingratitude, is of all vices, the most vile and degrading. It robs man of all those humane and generous feelings, of all those high and enabling sentiments, which impart value to his nature and dignity to his character. So great is our attachment to the present world; so busily are we occupied in visionary scenes of happiness, or hurried on in the delusive pursuits of ambition and of wealth, that we are perpetually liable to incur the reproach of ingratitude to God, unless reminded of our duty by some stated occasion, or by some

unusual dispensation of divine providence. Hence, God, in order to secure the fidelity of his ancient people, and to keep alive a sense of their obligations, enjoined upon them a solemn festival to be kept in commemoration of their deliverance from bondage. Yet notwithstanding this, and innumerable displays of power and goodness; this highly favoured people were frequently guilty of forgetting God, their great benefactor. How often does he remind them of their rebellion! How often does he impress upon their minds their wonderful emancipation, as an event which ought for ever to secure their grateful obedience, which ought for ever to be celebrated with enthusiastic devotion? Let us apply these things to ourselves. An inspired Apostle says, they were written for us, for example. Has not God wrought for us a wonderful deliverance? Has he not crushed our oppressor? Has he not smitten the Dragon who lies in the great waters, whose limbs stretch through every ocean, whose voice shakes the ends of the world? God has indeed been our refuge and strength; a very present help in time of trouble. He has not only delivered us from servitude; but crowned us with innumerable blessings. His almighty hand planted the seed of liberty, as an handful of corn in the top of the mountains, whose fruit shakes like Lebanon. Calling to mind the events of our past history, and comparing them with those of other nations, we are obliged to adopt the language of our text, & say, "He hath not dealt so with any nation." As we are assembled to commemorate the nativity of American freedom, and as this auspicious anniversary has fallen on a day peculiarly consecrated to God, we may with propriety call to mind some of the great scenes through which he has conducted us, and recount some of the distinguished blessings he has conferred upon us, as a nation. It becomes us as men and as christians, to bow before his holy altars; to adore his divine majesty, and to present our grateful offerings. It becomes us to venerate that great Being whose beneficent providence has watched over and guided the destinies of our beloved country; it becomes us to recognize our great obligations for his goodness, to humble ourselves before him for our manifold sins, and to confide in that all-potent mercy, which embraces and blesses the universe. It becomes us, in all things

to notice and acknowledge, the providence, and the power of God. He is indeed the governor among the nations. In the pages of inspiration, he is every where described as the great and universal agent in the affairs of men. So perfect is his providence, that the hairs of our heads are all numbered; even a sparrow does not fall to the ground without his notice. Well then may we believe, that the great concerns of the world, the foundation of nations, the rise and fall of states and kingdoms; all their political concerns, and their various fortunes in peace and in war; are all under his immediate control and direction. Strictly and truly speaking, he is the sole agent in the universe. The smallest deviation from this principle will land us in atheism. Hence the scriptures represent God, as exalting and depressing nations at his pleasure. To one he gives great and good men; wise and just rulers, prudent counsellors; upright judges, heroic warriors and eloquent orators; to another he raises up an haughty and relentless tyrant, and stalls on it all the evils of slavery and oppression; of injustice and cruelty. What a contrast to this do we find in the writings of uninspired men! Here, all things are referred, to mere secondary causes, to subordinate agencies, and God is overlooked and forgotten.

Fortunately for this country, many of its first occupants were religious men. They acknowledged God, in all things. Confiding in his providence, they left their native shores; flying from oppression; braving the dangers of the ocean; and heroically urging their course, towards this vast and howling wilderness. Here they arrived; here they bowed the knee to the God of the ocean and the land. To him they piously committed their future destinies. As soon as they had obtained a settlement, they established schools of learning and places of public worship. I mention these things, because, it is principally to these that we are indebted for all our prosperity. An ignorant people would have submitted to any encroachment from the parent state; an irreligious and wicked people, never could have formed an union to resist oppression. The American people could with confidence appeal to God, in the hour of danger. They did appeal. Their cries ascended and came before the Almighty. He graciously in

composed for his oppressed and suffering people. He raised  
 up among them a band of great, wise and virtuous patriots, to  
 guide and direct in council; a band of brilliant warriors and  
 heroic captains, to command in the field and direct the arms  
 of battle. The interposition of divine providence was con-  
 spicuously in the first general congress, what patriots, what independent spirits, chosen by  
 the unbiased voice of the people; chosen as public ser-  
 vants ought to be, without favor and without fear, in an as-  
 sembly of equal laws in the height of her glory, to be  
 before it. There never was in any age, or nation, a body of  
 men who for general information, for the judicious use of the  
 results of civil and political history, for eloquence and virtue,  
 for true dignity, elevation and grandeur of soul, that could  
 stand a comparison with the first American congress! How  
 often the people will do when left to themselves, do  
 their unbiased good sense, and to their true interests! How  
 furious Saul, would he had dropped his sword at the hall door,  
 and have fled thunderstruck as from an assembly of devils!  
 What do I behold! an Hancock, a Jefferson, an Adams, a  
 Henry, a Lee, a Rutledge!—Glory to these illustrious spirits!  
 On you depend the destinies of your country; the fate of three  
 millions of men; of the countless millions of their posterity!  
 Shall these millions be made a noble stand for  
 liberty, against a powerful empire, already coasted  
 with the earth; shall a single temple on a distant and  
 unpopulated shore; whose thousand bowers are every second filled  
 with the constant howl of the most wretched slaves  
 the President and all the members of his august assembly take  
 their seats. Every countenance tells the mighty struggle  
 within. Every tongue is silent. It is a pause of nature, that  
 solemn, awful stillness, which precedes the earthquake and  
 the tornado! At length Demosthenes arises, he only is ade-  
 quate to the great occasion; the Virginian rises, and the  
 mighty struggle! What dignity! what dignity! Every eye  
 fastened upon him. Firm, erect, undaunted, he calls for the  
 mighty torrent of his eloquence. What a picture can he  
 draw of the horrors of servitude and the charity of freedom?  
 At once he gives the full rein to all his patriotic passions, and

gave them a heroic spirit into the hands of his soldiers; the British as well as many actually were sent—and the nation was in a state of "a horrid Death!" This single spectacle of this illustrious man gave an impulse, which probably decided the fate of America. He was a bold and moved the assembled congress as they were sailing hail storm hunting in their minds, rending the forests, and shaking the mountains—God bestows on nations no greater gifts than great and good men, endowed with the high and sustained powers of eloquence. Such a man as Patrick Henry, who on one great occasion when the happiness or misery of millions was at a single decision, rendered important services to a nation, through the generations of the country.

When we look back to the state of the Colonies at the time of the revolution, we are struck with the unanimity, the wisdom, and firmness which pervaded their councils and decisions. This may in part be accounted for from their previous habits, and the privileges they had enjoyed under their several charters. As to rights, a perfect equality existed among the people. No established clergy, no privileged and haughty nobility, trod on their necks and robbed them of the fruits of their labours. The people were all equalized, they knew their rights; they had since their first settlement exercised the power of granting their own contributions to the parent state, this power was secured to them by legal charters; and they well knew that the moment they were deprived of it, they were no longer slaves. This was evidently the only alternative.—Besides this the colonies had not only been just; but generous, liberal, far beyond their compass, to the parent state. In reading their history we are astonished at the large sums of money, and the numbers of troops, raised to aid the military and naval enterprises of Britain. These were all forgotten by a proud and haughty ministry. No man can read the history of the colonies for two years previous to the revolution, without indignation and astonishment. The British government seemed to be bound in a spell of infatuation. They turned a deaf ear to the remonstrances of the colonies; they spurned their petitions. The colonies merely demanded their accustomed rights as they engaged the approaching unequal contest;

they ardently desired a reconciliation with the parent state. This was undoubtedly the general sentiment. During the session of the assembly of Virginia; news suddenly arrived that the stamp act was repealed. So great was their enthusiasm, that they voted a statue to the King. Nothing was easier than a perfect reconciliation with the colonies. When intreaties, remonstrances, and humiliations had been exhausted on one side; and injuries, oppressions and insults on the other, no resource was left but an appeal to the God of armies. The Americans relying on the justice of their cause, with confidence committed it to that God, who rules among the nations.

We now approach a most tremendous crisis. The colonies were then but thinly peopled; they had made but little progress in national wealth and improvement; they were destitute of military skill, and of almost all the conditions of war; they had no general government over them; no supreme controlling power, to develop the resources of the country; to organize and direct their armies. Never did a people engage in a contest apparently more unequal and desperate. But we must remember, that all they held dear, all that they deemed life worth contending for was at stake! They loved liberty and hated slavery; they loved their country; and worshipped their God; they loved life; but feared not death! They well knew "that the race was not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." The disparity in the contest was, to human view, as great as that between the shepherd of Israel and the gigantic Goliath. Our fathers trusted in God, and were not confounded. He inspired them with wisdom, with unanimity and courage. Each individual felt a deep interest in the destiny of his country, and merged all private considerations in the public good. Every countenance betrayed the deep concerns that swayed within. Then might you see the people through all parts of the land forsaking their customary labours, resorting to the house of prayer, and pouring out their cries before the God of the armies of heaven. Ye heard; and pitied his afflicted people.

The peculiar favour of heaven was highly conspicuous in the great men, who by their wisdom and valour protected and



saved this oppressed and injured people. That must be that  
 ear, which does not hear the divine voice, blind must be that  
 eye that does not see the divine hand, in the call and appoint-  
 ment of Washington, in the complicated difficulties and  
 dangers of that crisis, to discharge the duties of commander  
 in chief, required an union of talents, virtues, and qualificati-  
 ons, rarely coincident; and each of which, on common occa-  
 sions, would have added splendor to the laurels of the sage.  
 All these lofty qualities which constituted an exalted gene-  
 ral, were united in our beloved Washington. To the cautious pre-  
 sence of Fabius, he united the intrepid heroism of Alexander,  
 Cool and self-possessed in the midst of dangers, he never lost  
 nerve or advantage. So small were his resources, so diffi-  
 cult to be replaced when exhausted; so critically was he of-  
 ten situated, that the salvation of his country seemed to de-  
 pend on a single movement. No man believes that such a com-  
 mander as Alexander, Caesar, or Bonaparte, could have saved  
 America. More was to be gained by prudent delay, by skil-  
 ful movement and self denial; than by active offensive opera-  
 tions. Other great commanders have been supplied with nu-  
 merous well disciplined armies, and all things necessary to  
 successful warfare. If they lost one army, another was ready.  
 With Washington, every thing was different. Literally  
 speaking, he had to create an army. With such means he pos-  
 sessed; in the face of a superior foe, commanded by the ablest  
 generals; it would have been high honor, to have kept the  
 field, or to have escaped destruction; but to obtain victory, to  
 secure the freedom of a nation; was the height of glory, a de-  
 stiny more than human. We look up to such great and good  
 men as Washington, as to superior beings who seem to be oc-  
 casionally sent into the world to adjust its concerns; and ex-  
 alt its destinies. While Washington was nobly sustaining  
 the contest in the field, it was of the highest importance to  
 the United States, to obtain from foreign nations, an acknow-  
 ledgment of their independence. Here the goodness of God  
 is eminently conspicuous in raising up such men as Adams  
 and Franklin. The former was sent to Holland; the latter  
 to France. To discharge the high trust committed to them,  
 required no ordinary degree of heroism, talents and skill. In

crossing the ocean, they were every moment, liable to fall into the hands of an implacable foe, who they well knew would bring them to an ignominious death. They nobly dared, and succeeded. When Mr. Adams arrived in Holland, it is said, that he was so narrowly watched by the British minister, that he was obliged to conceal himself, to avoid assassination. At length he published his famous manifesto to the states of Holland. In this masterly performance, he so clearly demonstrated that the true interests of Holland, required the recognition of the independence of the United States; that he was forthwith admitted to a public audience; and received the honours due to his rank. This success gained in spite of the utmost efforts of the British ministers, was a noble triumph, and while it crowned with immortal honour, its author, it rendered incalculable services to his beloved country. The illustrious Franklin, was not less successful. His great talents; his extensive knowledge; his weight and dignity of character; his venerable age; his ardent benevolence, and truly patriarchal manners; gave him an ascendancy at the French court; which perhaps, was never obtained by any other minister. What a spectacle is it, to behold this venerable philosopher, at the age of eighty, devoting all his time, and great talents, in the most laborious service, for his beloved country! Much of his success was undoubtedly owing to his personal influence with the King. When the French minister, had reported that a loan to the extent required by Dr. Franklin, could not be granted; the King, apparently, out of delicacy to the Doctor's feelings, presented him with a large sum out of his private purse, and declared, that he meant it not as a loan, but as a gift, to the United States. The hearts of kings and Emperors are in the hand of God, and he turns them as he pleases. Among the States who had the honour to furnish eminent persons for the public service, South-Carolina holds a distinguished rank. Her illustrious Laurens and Pinckney, will live in the hearts of their countrymen while patriotism and liberty, have a votary on earth. It becomes us to do justice to our great patriots and heroes; to the founders of our national freedom. It has somehow happened that the successful warrior has ranked higher in the admiration of

mankind; that the philosopher and statesman; and yet the services of the latter, have been as eminent and extensive as those of the former. There is a splendour and pomp in warlike achievements, which excite the imaginations of men; so that they will admire and applaud even an Alexander, while robbing and murdering neighbouring nations. Fear is the greatest and most universal weakness, to which man is subject. He who can rise above it, and bid defiance to danger and death; sells his more than mortal. Besides, there is something animating and attractive in the movements of armies; in the noise and tumult of battle, in the shouts of victory and triumph. Danger bestows a dignity which nothing else can; especially when it decides the fate of nations. No man stands so high in the esteem and veneration of all America as Washington; and yet perhaps, it may with truth be asserted, that the services rendered by Adams and Franklin; though less splendid, as from their nature they must be; are nevertheless not less meritorious; not less important, than those performed by Washington. Had it not been for these services, perhaps Washington himself, with all his greatness could not have achieved what he did. When news arrived of the success of our ministers in France and Holland, how did our prospects brighten! How did the hopes of Washington himself revive! How did every heart from Maine to Georgia gather fresh strength? Every countenance brightened with renovated hope; as when the shout of victory burst forth from Saratoga, from Princeton, and York Town! By the divine blessing on our counsels and arms, Independence was at length secured.

A situation can scarcely be conceived more perilous, than that of the United States at the close of the war. Our army disbanded, unpaid, irritated at their wrongs and privations, spreading their discontents among the people; our general government possessing powers wholly advisory; thirteen independent, sovereign states, with separate and opposite interests; different views and clashing interests; immense public debts to be provided for and paid; the potent bonds which heretofore held them together removed; our old enemy eagerly watching to profit by our divisions and dissensions: All

these presented a complication of difficulties, and dangers, with which human wisdom, and human power, seemed incompetent to struggle. To prescribe a form of government which should possess adequate powers, without interfering with the sovereignty of the individual states; which should command resources to establish public credit, to cherish and protect our exterior relations and interests; to bind the independent members into one great confederacy of right and powers; to secure an impartial administration of justice; these imposed a task which required the wisdom and skill of all the sages of ancient and modern times. Heroic as was the achievement, it was accomplished. These great and good men, who had conducted us to victory and independence, assisted in our councils, and under the smiles of heaven, blessed this nation with the federal constitution. The great Washington was placed at the head of the new government. It was believed that no other individual possessed sufficient weight of character; to inspire confidence, to reconcile contending parties; to impart energy to laws; to revive public credit, and give dignity to public character. With infinite reluctance did this illustrious man leave his beloved retirement and commit himself to the storm of public life. When convinced by the judgment and intreaties of the wisest and best men in America; he nobly sacrificed his private wishes to the public good; and gave himself to his beloved country. Under his fostering care, united America, rose like the primitive world from chaos; she arose, "fair as the moon; clear as the sun; and terrible as an army with banners." The thunder ceased to roar; the tempest that had swept through the land, died away in silence; the heavens shed their selectest influence; and the abodes of freedom smiled in renovated beauty.

Philosophers and statesmen of foreign nations considered the establishment of the federal government as a hazardous experiment, founded in visionary speculation. The sentiment had prevailed that republican institutions, were utterly impracticable over an extensive territory and numerous population. It was boldly asserted that the powers of our government, were incompetent to the great ends of political association; that the first convulsion from within, or violence from

... would crumble it to atoms; prostrate our towering hopes, and leave us a prey to civil war, or foreign subjugation. How completely these ominous predictions, were falsified by subsequent experience, need not be told in this assembly.

God has blessed us with a succession of great and good men, to preside over our national government, whose wisdom, fidelity and success, have confounded the proud dogmas of philosophy, repelled the assaults of insulting tyranny; and erected to liberty and glory, a monument, which will forever defy the earthquake and the tempest. We are bound by the strongest ties of honor, of gratitude and interest, to preserve and to transmit to posterity, undiminished; the rich inheritance, bequeathed us by the founders of American independence. But few of these illustrious men remain to witness the noble effects of their counsels and toils; and to confirm by their example, the principles which formerly swayed in their bosoms. Their great compatriots have been called home to exult in brighter scenes; and the laurels which bloomed on their brows have ascended to flourish forever in the fields of the blessed.

The blessings which the bountiful author of nature has poured out on these United States, demand our most submissive obedience and grateful recollection. While the tempest of war has poured out its vengeance on the nations of the old world, while "the pestilence that walketh in darkness," hath shrouded them in the habiliments of wo; our lines have fallen to us in pleasant places; our fields have rejoiced in the gale of health, and our skies have smiled in the rainbow of peace.

If we reflect on the causes which have originated our government, which have sustained and given it its present pre-eminence, we shall discover abundant reason to confide in its permanence, and increasing excellence. All the great rights of man in civil and political society, are secured by our constitution; powers sufficiently energetick are deposited in the supreme magistrate; and their abuse anticipated by the frequency of election; our judiciary independent, that it may be impartial; and yet charged with the highest responsibility; the sovereignty of the states defined and protected; and full

steps given, to call forth the ambition of all our citizens for the attainment of wealth, distinction and honour. We see we behold most of the nations of the earth, involved in ignorance, degraded by superstition, and crushed under the sway of arbitrary power; we behold our own enlightened by science, exalted and refined by religion; adorned and blessed by freedom. Such is the universal diffusion of knowledge, that every individual feels a lively interest in the government, and watches with a jealous eye every encroachment of power. Our government rests wholly on the opinion of the people. This opinion, to be correct, must be enlightened; it must be founded on impartial examination, and rational conviction. Hence appear the necessity and importance of rendering education and knowledge universal. Without these, a free government cannot exist. Bad and artful men can easily render themselves popular among the ignorant, for the purpose of personal aggrandisement. Intrigue and dishonesty find their resources in the region of darkness. They dare not "come to the light, lest their deeds should be reprobated." Literature and science, refine the manners, invigorate and expand all the social affections, and prepare men for the high offices of virtue and religion. None but an enlightened people can be free; and such a people may be free forever. To this end nothing is so important as a deep sense of moral and religious obligation. The people who fear and worship God, will certainly be just and benevolent to each other. Such a people will always support a righteous government.

To preserve the union of the states, is an object of the first importance, and of the highest necessity to the stability and permanence of our government. This has been deemed, especially by foreigners, to be utterly impracticable. But we must remember, that the people of these states do not look to a power from without to hold them together and to cement their union. An active everliving force from within; an ardent love of their government as the creature of their power and the child of the affection; a firm and universal conviction, founded on reason and experience, that all the great ends of the most perfect political association, are embraced by their present constitution; these constitute the strong bond, the

an pervading moral force, which binds these states together, and constitutes them one mighty confederacy of rights, interests and powers. Like the wheels of Ezekiel, these states derive all their life and energy from "the spirit within them." It has been asserted that the force of government cannot be felt over so vast an extent of territory, as the United States. Let us consider our local advantages. These present such facilities for union and communication; that it seems as if providence had designed this western continent for one mighty republic. Look at the majestic rivers which roll their waters through every part of our country; survey the wide-spreading lakes and the oceans bordering upon us; to these, add the advantages of canals; and public roads, with our late improvements in navigation; all these circumstances, by facilitating internal intercourse, do in effect, render the states contiguous. Such are our advantages for internal commerce, that these states can supply all the necessaries and luxuries of life; they can grow up to a great, powerful and wealthy nation without the aid of external commerce. The means of intercourse, are so completely within our power, that our mutual wants may be supplied; our mutual, though opposite interests, reconciled and promoted; and what at first appeared like a source of discord, may be converted into a bond of union. So great is our diversity of soil and climate, that all the valuable productions of the globe are within our limits. The great extent of our territory therefore, instead of dividing, will unite us. The great modern improvement in navigation, has diminished distance and time, and rendered the extremes of our country neighbours.

Nothing will contribute more to our prosperity in peace, or to our security in war, than the means of easy and rapid transportation to every quarter of our territory. To obtain this, no part of the globe presents such local facilities and such exhaustless resources for defence or commerce. By a kind and bountiful providence, we are so situated, that it is in our power to avoid the greatest evils of war. No foreign enemy can invade and pollute our soil. Our navies can confine him to the ocean; and thus incalculably diminish the evils of war. This single circumstance shows that our government have

acted wisely in creating a navy, and in providing the means of its gradual increase. War even in its mildest form, is a most tremendous scourge. On the ocean, its evils are chiefly limited to the combatants. On the land its course is marked with ten fold horrors. The aged, the helpless; the fond mother and her weeping infant; fields stript of their verdure; cities ascending in flames; the labours of art and of science suspended; depravity stalking abroad, and opening her mouth against the heavens; wide wasting pestilence, famine and death; all the monuments of skill and of glory overturned, and defaced; and the temples of the living God prophaned and polluted; the riches and toils and glory of ages, levelled in the dust and buried in ruin; all these, the usual attendants of war, portray its horrors, and announce it the most terrifick scourge with which heaven punishes the guilty nations.

In the present state of human affairs, it is vain, to expect an entire exemption from war. Its greatest evils, a kind providence, has put it in our power to avoid. Let us avail ourselves of all our local advantages. Let us assiduously cultivate the arts of peace. Let us bring into activity, all the moral and physical resources and energies of our country, and render them subservient to private and public happiness. Let us learn wisdom from the errors and sufferings of other nations. Look around you: cast your eyes over the ancient and modern world; read their history: it is the history of destruction and misery. The heart sighs and sinks at the gloomy retrospect. Let us hope that this nation will form an honourable exception; that amidst the lapse and desolation of ages, she will exhibit a bright scene on which the eye can fix with pleasure; that her prosperity and her power will rise on the basis of justice; that "violence shall no more be heard in her land: neither wasting nor destruction within her borders; that her walls will be salvation, and her gates praise."

Let us remember that righteousness exalteth a nation; and that sin is a disgrace to a people. A wicked and corrupt people cannot expect to prosper. The present era, with respect to religion, is truly auspicious. Never did there exist such ardor, such unanimity, such liberality in promoting truth and righteousness. The literary, humane and religious associa-



tions forming in all parts of our country cannot fail to impart a salutary influence, and to promote the increase of virtue and happiness.

Among the blessings with which God has favoured this nation, that of perfect religious freedom holds a pre-eminent rank. The awful emblems of our redemption, are not prostituted to office, to wealth and power. As no one sect can domineer over another, all live in peace and harmony. In proportion as the civil power has interfered with religion, it has debased and corrupted it. Religious establishments, by introducing a compulsory power, and exclusive privileges, promote hypocrisy, bigotry and worldly ambition. Such is the nature of true religion, if it exist at all, it must be free. "God is a spirit, and those who worship, must worship in spirit." All that human power can do is to make a show of religion. Fortunately for us, a catholic and liberal spirit appears to pervade all denominations of christians. We have reason to believe that religion, has, for some time past, been gaining ground in these United States; and a conviction of its value, and importance, has become general, especially among the higher classes of society. Nothing could be more auspicious to our government; for a people who do not fear God, will certainly not regard man. There seems to have been a simultaneous impulse on the religious world, to make one grand contemporaneous effort, for the dissemination of truth and righteousness. We shall feel the immense value of religion, to the welfare of society; if we reflect that there is an indissoluble connection between sound sentiment and virtuous practice. A people who possess a deep sense of moral obligation, and of the awful sanctions of religion, will not be likely to revolt against government, nor to submit to its abuse. That amiable equality which Christ enjoined on his followers, is the first principle of genuine republicanism. "Call no man on earth your master." "Let each esteem others better than himself." These two simple precepts, if universally felt and practised, would destroy all servility and pride, all envy and contention; and would substitute a ready and active

compliance in the room of stern authority and reluctant submission.

In her progress, forward, refinement and national wealth, united America, has displayed the energy and enterprise, which characterise, a free, industrious and virtuous people. In agriculture, in commerce, and in all the useful arts; her efforts have been crowned with success. The nature of her government is such, that it gives full scope to the enterprise and zeal of all her citizens. The tide of her population is rapidly rolling towards the west and the south; the arts and the abodes of civilized man, succeed to the gloomy forest and the wandering savage. Here a soil, more fertile than that of Egypt, expands its bosom to the cultivator's hand. Rivers more majestic than the Indus and the Nile, solicit the labouring oar, and bear on their currents the produce and the reward of toil. Over these vast regions, where nature has remained for ages, in solitary grandeur, the American Eagle claps his wings and soaring westward, eyes the distant Pacific; while in his beak he bears the peaceful olive, and in his talons the gleaming thunderbolt, he exults in his rapid course; he claims the skies and the earth as his own; and on his lofty head, presents to the heavens, the bright constellation that adorns it. When these extensive western regions shall be filled with people, the whole habitable world will have been surrounded and settled by civilized man. This event will probably occur in the seventh grand Millenary from the creation. Then the kingdoms of this world, will become the kingdoms of our Lord. All nations shall bow to his scepter, all enemies shall fall under his feet. The bondage of corruption will then be dissolved, and man delivered from vanity, will rise into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. He shall no longer behold the earth withering under the blast of death, but fanned with the gales and watered with the streams of Paradise. He shall no longer tremble at the flaming cherubimick sword, but shall put forth his hand and eat of the Tree of life, and live forever.