

The Happiness of America.

AN ORATION,

DELIVERED AT SHAFTSBURY,

ON THE FOURTH OF JULY,

1804.

BEING THE

eight
TWENTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY

OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

BY O. C. MERRILL.

*"Communities would flourish if Philosophers ruled them, or
their Rulers become Philosophers."* PLATO.

(Published by particular request.)

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Saml. W. Colletts Orator



Bennington

Indy your history

• S I R,

AGREEABLY to the unanimous wish of the Audience, the Committee of Arrangements embrace this opportunity of returning you their sincere thanks for your patriotic, energetic, and elegant Oration, delivered this day ; and, in compliance with their wishes, we do cordially request a copy for the Press.

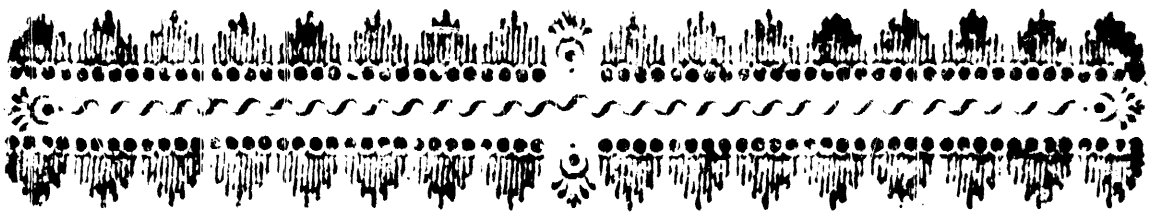
*We are, with sentiments of esteem,
Sir, your's,*

GIDEON OLIN,
JONAS GALUSHA,
JOSIAH WRIGHT,
NATHANIEL WALLACE,
EZRA BAKER,
ANDREW SELDEN.

Com. of Arran

ORSAMUS C. MERRILL, Esq.

Shaftsbury, 4th July, 1804.



AN ORATION, &c.

WE are assembled, *Fellow Citizens*, socially to commemorate a day, distinguished in our history, as the advent of Independence, and to pay our annual tribute of gratitude to the Fathers of America, whose revolutionary labors hastened on this happy period.—This interesting occasion naturally tempers the soul to complacency, and excites all its elevated and immortal energies—we feel the pressure of past deliverance—enjoy the cheerful face of things present—and behold the fields of futurity enamelled with the opening blossoms of greatness.

The morning incense of gratitude has already ascended from a thousand altars—the *Anthems of Liberty* have been sung—the *Declaration of Independence* has been read to you, and I presume your minds are prepared to dwell upon the agreeable and advantageous situation in which we are providentially placed.—It is more congenial

to the just contemplation of the grand event, which unfolded and secured to us the "goodly heritage" we enjoy, than any other subject we could adopt. By the choice of it, I shall avoid the necessity of giving a circumstantial recital of our revolutionary struggles, which seem rather to fall within the province of the historian.

In counting over our numerous felicities, as I propose, we shall feel the mild beams of the sun of Liberty warm around us, and as we travel on in the light of Independence, gathering up the gifts that a beneficent Providence has strewed in our way, it will be natural to look up to their derivation, and the medium thro' which we received them. This will amend our views, and we shall be elated with a train of pleasing emotions and sublime conceptions, all corresponding and associating with the correct opinions, and ennobling principles, that glowed in the generous bosoms of those considerately-daring sages, now pavilioned in the silence of the tomb, whose deeds it is our pride to applaud, whose virtues we revere, and should emulate, and for whose memory we drop the warm tears of sensibility.

The transactions that took place, during the eventful crisis of our revolution, conducted and accelerated the blessings we have in undisturbed fruition.

In that season of darknets and peril, doubts and difficulties, the majesty of the people appeared—it went forth—the minions of tyranny trembled as it advanced—it spoke of Independence as its inheritance. The American Congress heard its well known

—felt its holy impulse, and obeyed, with alacrity, its potent requisitions:—they moved to the consideration of the then existing state of things, and the result was the promulgation of the Declaration of Independence, which was disseminated and publicly read in all the States, and welcomed with enthusiastic demonstrations of joy.

The rays of Independence did not, however, at once dispel the surrounding glooms; the storm of war still raged, for Independence was then but a feeble ray, “a new-born light, reposing on the bosom of chaos.”—Portentous was the hour!—yet the labors and wisdom of our native councils, in concert with the energy and promptitude of our robust citizen soldiery, soon prevailed over the inordinate schemes of coercion and conquest, plotted by England; and routed their invading hosts. This achieved, the heroes who had gone out to the battles of Liberty, and were living, returned to embrace their brother heroes, who had tarried with the household, (for in those days all were heroes :) then acclamations of joy resounded in the hall; but it was the joy of grief, it shone in tears, for they remembered the fallen heroes, who had been their strength in war, and the kindling of their joy in peace.

Mindful of the object obtained by their recent sufferings and sacrifices, actuated by one spirit, they hovered round, and gently fanned the growing flame which was lighting them and their posterity to happiness. Deliberation projected wise and prudent measures, which were digested in private

consultations, in the thunder of public debate, and matured by experiment. Heaven approved and blessed the means; the beam of Independence grew, it sublimely rose above the dark mountains of Chaos, and shone with cheering radiance; it dispelled, as it ascended, the noxious vapours of Despotism, and it diffused far and wide, its salutary and vivifying influence: it attracted the attention of all classes of people, and engaged the meditations of a world; and it furnished statesmen, philosophers, and freemen, with ample means to assist their philanthropic enquiries, and to advance them in all the knowledge material to the existence of Liberty, and the more general spread of happiness.

Thus broke forth the day-dawn of our regeneration—thus opened to us the morning of Independence; which ought to be considered the certain harbinger of a long and glorious day: and now settled down in tranquility and peace, and thro' the benign interposition of Providence, secured, as far as human affairs admit, from a recurrence of the evils we have passed through, and the alarms of future wars, alike removed from the excesses of Liberty and the horrors of Tyranny; with no cares, except such as regard our happiness, and none to annoy, we may set ourselves down as the happiest and most highly-favored people in the world, without incurring the charge of national prejudice, or of illiberally aspersing others.

In the hallowed retreat of persecuted Liberty, are united the aggregate excellencies of the other parts of the earth; indeed, it

would seem as if Heaven itself had purposely reserved all its choicest gifts, physical and civil, moral and religious, for this last-discovered portion of the globe.

In looking over our natural advantages, we discover that plastic Nature has been lavish of her bounties, and has uniformly blended beauty and usefulness, variety and convenience. Our territory is extensive—the climates salubrious—the soil luxuriant, and the productions various; by means of which, we are furnished in abundance with every healthful blessing, necessary for subsistence, for comfort, and for recreation.

The lofty mountains, and fruitful hills and vallies—the waving forests, and spreading lawns—the noble rivers, and commodious harbors, all essentially contribute to the delight and accommodation of the inhabitants, and hold out a mirror that reflects the true image of union, prosperity, and greatness; the means of transporting, with facility, the surplus produce of the interior, to our seaports, of carrying on intercourse with one another, and of exportation abroad, are made convenient and easy.

In the natural distribution of their respective gifts, each State has some advantages of situation or of productions, peculiar to itself. Some abound in necessaries, some are plenteous in the elegancies of life, and some are noted for their commercial advantages.—These considerations are wonderfully enhanced, when we reflect, that this diversity of blessings is friendly to union, and the preservation of that relationship, now politically existing, and which, by this

economy, nature evidently intended should promote the welfare of a great and flourishing people, by creating that reciprocal home dependence, variety, and fullness, which would knit the whole together, while it superseded the need of dependence upon the caprices of other nations. This is certainly no small advantage, that we do not depend upon other countries for the necessaries and comforts of life. Connected with this, and almost equally important, is our being removed from those continual jealousies, and bloody dissensions, which distract the old world.

Our happy situation, for an extensive inland commerce, and the reciprocal benefits that must arise therefrom to every State in the Union, is in this, and every other light we regard it, a precious consideration, and may be viewed as one of the main pillars which supports that independence we now celebrate. From this fertile source is derived that interchange of sentiment, good will, conformity of habits and manners, and consequent intellectual extension, which must be favorable to science and philosophy, propitious to our union, and congenial with the spirit of Liberty.

In fine, if we consider the manner in which the new world was opened to us, the advantages acquired since, our advancement towards the perfectibility of government, the surprising increase of population, and the amazing prospects still in view, opening and enlarging; we cannot look with indifference, or pass over in sullen silence, the wise measures pursued, and pursuing, by the

present administration, which apathy itself must consider as auspicious to the existence and perpetuation of our rich privileges, and sterling blessings, as well as to the advancement of that just glory which springs from the culture of the arts of civilization and of peace, and seeks not to build upon the ruin and degradation of others. With pleasure, therefore, I call your attention from the natural advantages we possess, and which would be in vain were we deprived of liberty, & the aids of government.

Among the wise measures of the present administration, the most prominent is the *peaceful* acquisition of Louisiana. — The *peaceful* acquirement of this territory, presents to the world, a new and luminous example of pacific and open negociation, eclipsing the boasted triumphs of conquerors, and giving an important lecture to the world, upon the easiest method of being happy and prosperous, and of honorably settling national differences, and extending the limits of a country, without being embroiled in the dire contests of ignoble ambition, which unfeelingly tramples under foot the tenderest claims of humanity, and disgraces the rational character. And here, we reap an advantage in being removed from the habitual jealousies of the eastern continent, and ought to be particularly thankful that the European Hydra, denominated the *Balance of Power*, does not extend its baleful influence to the western shores of the Atlantic.

The *acquisition*, in itself considered, is the most valuable ever obtained by any nation — it is ‘the fairest hope of posterity’ & the deathless plume of the present generation; and if we

suffer ourselves, for a moment, to contemplate the astonishing change in the aspect of the whole country, within less than two centuries, and this portion of it around our own doors, within the space of fifty years past only, we shall be led to justly accredit the importance of the immense purchase of Louisiana.

On the first arrival of our ancestors to this country, they found it a dismal, frowning wilderness, the haunt of wild beasts, and the abode of untutored savage men; and where our populous, spiry cities, and clustering villages fill the prospect, stood a solitary wigwam, and there grew the wild wood, the native hunter's lonely ramble. Commerce now expands a thousand sails, where once floated a rude-formed bark canoe; and science and tillage flourish, where ignorance and indolence held an undivided gloomy reign.

If we have thus risen into eminence, and become distinguished as one of the first nations on earth, and this too, under every disadvantage and discouragement; what may rationally be expected, when under the auspices of a mild, yet energetic administration, every advantage and encouragement is offered; when all obstructions are visibly removing, and immense fields opening and alluring to enterprize---new excitements to union and independence, and new granaries for the feeding of peace, and for the supply of nations---our civil institutions in a continual state of revision and correction---our population rapidly filling and "flowing in a steady stream towards the western world"---what but opulence and happiness can we expect?—
And in the coming period, when time shall

have matured the great designs, which have just started into existence, and our nation seated on the loftiest pinnacle of human greatness, unintoxicated with their elevation, and undazzled by the splendor which sparkles around them, the people will annually assemble to recognize and celebrate this stupendous monument of wisdom, prudence, and negotiation, the *peaceful* acquisition of Louisiana.

Destined in the course of events to possess the lands once owned by the natives, we regret, that instead of being extirpated, or left to gain an uncertain and penurious subsistence, they have not been cherished, and brought to rejoice with us, as partakers of the same common nature, and children of the same Almighty Parent.... This justice required---but the felicity of effectually beginning, and desirably forwarding this benevolent work fell to the lot of a *Jefferson*---and to recover them from their debasement---to give to vagrant Liberty a fixture of character, and to introduce into their villages, the household virtues, and the habits of industry, is one of the most lovely features of the present administration, and adds one more to our many blessings.

That we have a constitution of government not forced upon us by an imperious conqueror, or adopted from necessity, but one framed in the bosom of peace, and deliberately chosen by ourselves, is a felicity, of which few nations can boast, and none in so great perfection as the people of America.---The auspices attending the peaceful adoption of it, its being carried into operation by the strength of reason and argument alone, are circumstances too favorable to be overlooked in the enumeration of our blessings.

And it is a proud trait in the American character, which I mention with more pleasure, as it discloses a disposition, manifestly similar to that which actuates the majority of the men in place at the present day; and it affords high evidence of republican firmness and consistency. We cannot too often reflect, that fear, fraud, or necessity, did not impose upon us a constitution---it was the sober and dignified triumph of sentiment and of *peaceful* action---and that *sentiment* and that *action* were *American*---*Fear*, an ingredient principle, incorporated with every other government under the sun, is a stranger to ours, it is an exotic, obnoxious to freedom; whatever has relation to our constitution, possesses the vital energy of Liberty, and native American principles:---it brings every thing to the "umpirage of reason;" and as to the simplicity of its structure, it resembles the manners of the people who spoke it into existence---it is without example and without a parallel.—— But this monument of wisdom, which marked out a new era in Liberty, requires a more elaborate and honorable mention, than I shall be able to give it.

This Charter of our Freedom has numerous beauties, and intrinsic qualities, which are the root of all our civil blessings. Here the controlling principles of man are ameliorated, his social condition improved, and his moral life corrected. The liberty and security of person, and the rights of property, are here regarded with scrupulous exactness, and are substantially the portion of every American--- How eligible, yea enviable, does our situation appear!---If we look around the world, only a

Small portion of the human race can be said to enjoy even the *shadow* of these rights. The bulk of mankind are detrudded down to the most ignominious debasement, and grinding servitude, under the double burden of civil and religious oppression; while we are basking in the “full-orbed” effulgence of Liberty, happy in our government, happy in our families, and the society around us; nothing to contend with but our passions, and nothing to do but study that which makes for our happiness, and the stability of Government; to industriously follow our several occupations; to listen to the mellow voice of Contentment; and glow with gratitude to the Almighty Giver of these good gifts.

The people of America have intelligence to know their situation, and the extent of their rights—this, few nations have, and upon the judicious exercise of it, with the ordinary blessings of providence, rests the perpetuity of their political pre-eminence. Knowledge is the standing army of Republics. Since the beginning of time, more powerful and multiplied means for the extension of science, and the art of self government, were never put into operation. The press is free—and the circulation of intelligence is rapid and general—nurturing schools are flourishing in every vicinity—and the spirit of investigation walks abroad in open day, and with vivacity pervades all classes of our citizens—nothing is wrapped up in mystery—the holy bandages of privilege and superstition, by which mankind have been led blindfold to certain destruction, & induced to ‘lick the hand just raised to shed the blood’ of their political and religious existence, are

torn off in America—the public conduct of the legislative, executive and judicial departments, are open to inspection and animadversion—and the truths of religion are not “hid from our eyes,” nor the rights of conscience cloven down by a crafty and vindictive priesthood.—Where slavery exists, these rights have been rudely violated—but where freedom has nerved the mind and swayed its energies, they have been regarded—these rights we have establish’d on a basis apparently calculated for perpetuity—and were never designed to console, to laugh at, and betray us, like the fugitive and deceitful visions of imagination, or the hollow professions of venal men, who would sacrifice the dearest interests of community, for the fleeting splendors of a moment.

And here I would remark, that our civil privileges may be considered more estimable, because with them we have no national church establishment, no patent articles of faith, or forms of worship, and no undue preference is given to one denomination above another—but protection is offered to all.

Religious freedom, banished and driven from every other corner of the globe, by the “red-cross squadrons” of religious tyranny, has here unfurled her snow-white standard. Come to this asylum, all you, whose lives have been embittered by the continual fleecings and cruel impositions of pampered priests and voluptuous princes—hither repair—open armed, religious freedom kindly invites you to partake of her blessings, “without money and without price;” or, if you chuse, stay at home, but follow the example of Americans, and like them enjoy the unem-

unobscured exercise of your religion, and clarify and garnish your pulpits for the emanations of vital piety.---Why wander ye like troubled ghosts, in the dark valley of superstitious credulity. Let Religion, "Heaven-born maid," disrobed of the tinsel of vice, and the fable shroud of wrinkled superstition, and pure and undefiled by human inventions, appear in your temples, in all her native simplicity, and the blooming freshness of eternal youth, white-mantled and ethereal, and "soft and sweet as looks of charity, or voice of lambs that bleat upon the morning"---she'll ask your willing love, and soothe you with artless, unaffected caresses.

Americans not only seek happiness for themselves, but are endeavoring to deserve it, by substantially securing the means not only of obtaining, but transmitting it to posterity, and diffusing it to mankind generally. Inspired by a strong impression of the bounties showered down upon their country, their hearts are open to benevolence, and charitable institutions are formed and forming, to promote domestic happiness, and to relieve private virtue in distress. And while we ascribe these blessings to the true source whence they flow, there is a satisfaction in contemplating the channels, through which they have been conducted and distributed to us in fertilizing streams---and these channels are more particularly the constitution and laws of the land. And it is a happy circumstance, that these are capable of amendment, and are not unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.---The Constitution of America has

within itself, the immortal principles of correction and renovation, which we trust will one day bring it as near perfection as human affairs can ever approach. The amendments already made, furnish respectable testimony of the good effects derived from this provision. And altho' its deadliest enemies, with invidious vulgarity, compare it to a swine with a farrow of young, and liken it to "an old brass kettle, that wants continual mending;" good men glory in it, and consider this invigorating principle it possesses, politically orthodox.

It takes its power from the people, who are the legitimate originators of government, and "whose image and superscription it bears." To say that the people are imperfect is to speak the truth—to say they are incapable of refinement and improvement, is at best, a bad compliment—or that they are stubbornly set against instruction, is no commendation of their heads or hearts. But to say they are open to improvement, have candor to hear, are desirous of receiving instruction, and are daily progressing towards perfection. is to place them in the most amiable and exalted point of view--we look at the constitution in the same light--and as the people improve that should be amended, and as they progress, that should accompany them, as the ark of their political safety; for man, and constitutions of government have not yet reached the last limits of human perfection.

But these froward children of the "old school," who love the "old way" right or wrong, are not only unfriendly to amendment, but sicken at the happiness of America, and if under the haggard and bloated form of detrac-

tion, they could blast the fair prospects rising full-fast, at every step we take ; it would afford them savage satisfaction, because the presiding genius of the country is unfavorable to that rank and precedence, which hereditary titles and distinctions anciently claimed.

When men act from *feeling a grievance*, there is a boundary to their passions ; when they act from disappointment, and a zeal for certain opinions, the influence of imagination gives unbounded licence to their passions.— This is exemplified in the character of the two interells which have divided the people of America. Opposition to the measures of the past administration, arose from a sense of grievance—the most distinguished feature of the present opposition, is disappointment in a favorite plan of government, diverse from the existing one, and *not* from a sense of grievance—This difference widens as we examine it—Opposition from a sense of grievance, subsides when the burden is removed or lightened, for it looks only to the *evil* done ; when that is remedied, the commotion is quieted—Opposition, from a zeal for the introduction of certain opinions, or that arises from the gangrene of disappointed ambition, considers the *good* conduct of government obnoxious to its views. If the measures of Administration are conceived in wisdom, and bottomed on philanthropy, it operates as a greater provocative—for the *good measure*, furnishes the body of the people, with a plea for the support of the system the opposer wishes to destroy ; hence the *good act* irritates the adversary more than iniquitous and oppressive acts would.—

This accounts in a great measure for the embittered and rancorous revilings, which teem from the opposition presses, and every day's observation realizes the position, that the *virtues* of the present administration, provoke more than do its *errors*. But their chapter of accidents is every day opened, and will reveal more and more their wanderings from the track of their fathers. There is no pleasure in noticing this dereliction of a portion of our fellow-citizens, further than to shew, that Heaven, ever propitious to America, has inspired the councils of the nation, with a spirit no less prudent than patriotic, and a sacred and inflexible regard for the rights, of the people, which has steadily and substantially elevated them to a pitch of glory, far too high for the pitiful & excentric flights of envy and detraction.

To learn how to diffuse and give perennial vigor to these "corrected sweets" of Independence, it is proper occasionally to reflect upon the period of our nativity, and to let our minds retrace the important preliminary, and the at once affecting and joyful subsequent scenes, that stand recorded in the annals of the Republic, and there portrayed in the strong language of Nature, and uncovered simplicity of truth—and as we read, to cherish and caress the spirit they breathe, and imbibe the lessons they give, for in them we learn the price of Independence, and the unwearied exertion and care necessary for its peaceful preservation.

The imposing grandeur of our physical situation, and the conveniencies it affords, surpass those of other nations, as does our tow-

ering Andes, the loftiest Alpine height—
 And our political organization is better adapted to expand and dispose the mind to relish these magnificent and rural beauties, and to improve these conveniencies to the ends of happiness, than that of any other government now in operation. The division of our territory into separate sovereignties for the administration of domestic concerns, and the union of these sovereignties for transacting matters of general and national moment, is wisely designed to meet the exigencies of a large population and territory, and unquestionably establishes a position, that has heretofore been considered ideal and absolutely untenable. The refutation of this political hypothesis, which holds a Republican government incapable of regulating the affairs of a great nation, affords at this time, additional delight, when we view it with reference to the recent extension of our territory. Preposterous has been the reasoning of many, who have endeavored to destroy the confidence of Americans, in the government of their choice, by suggesting, that because Rome, and the Republics of Greece, have fallen, that we shall, like them, have only a transitory existence.—If meant as reasoning, it is pitiful—if as a prophecy, it may be true.

The influence of our state and federative principles—the security of our persons and property, as derived from trial by jury, the bulwark of Liberty, and the freedom of the press, the medium of knowledge, the standing force of our nation, which were all unknown to the ancient Republics, must soon explode,

such fallacious reasoning, and justly inspire the people with that confidence essential to the permanency of their government. And when we add to this, the mountain of difficulties thrown in the way of aspiring men by the enlargement of territory, and the new means afforded for the increase of enterprize, of union, and of home commerce, and the proportionate opening of avenues to foreign enterprize, and the consequent augmentation of revenue, we behold a deep-embodied phalanx rising, the wonder of the world, and more formidable to the irruptions of tyranny, than were Chinese walls to Tartar hordes. And if the designs of Providence can be learnt from the chain of causes and effects, which have conspicuously marked our progress, reason would incline to believe, that time, instead of making devastation, was building up a durable monument, to exist coeval with itself.

It is happy for a country to possess the means of making her rulers *honest*; but still more happy, to possess men who need not the intervention of these means--in whose breasts nature has embosom'd this greatest adornment of humanity. That such men occupy the first offices of government, the happiness we enjoy as a nation, surpassing the most sanguine expectation of enthusiastic politicians, sufficiently attests.---Is this the effusion of an imagination disempowered with party zeal?---Is it the mad suggestion of an enthusiast?---Is it the overflowing of republican frenzy?---No---it is the cool decision of the judgment, "it is the testimony which Nature bears to her own character."---Shall we then be silent? when we have met to rejoice that such blessings are

ours, shall we forget the characters who have been instrumental in producing them?—The mad career of an Alexander or a Charles XIIth, may excite our astonishment—the political chicanery of a Machiaval, a Richlieu, or a Pitt, may excite a cold admiration for their abilities—-but it is an association of virtue and talents, a capacity capable of discovering the true interest of a people, and line of conduct best calculated to promote it, that can alone create and secure esteem:—Yes, fellow-citizens, we possess a JEFFERSON great in talents, simple in manners, and pure in morals. The public acts of his life, form the best commentary upon his character—-they stand the deathless memorials of his worth, summoning mankind to an improved state of society, subserving the welfare of the present age, and embracing posterity. These are the base of the grand Corinthian column, whose capital is the people's love—-and these compose the Ægean shield, that will forever preserve him unhurt by the slanders of his enemies—-but why should we recount his services—-a WORLD now FEELS them.

Nor let us forget to dedicate a moment to the pleasing yet melancholy contemplation of the services and sufferings of those American Deities, who, "self-devoted" in their country's cause, stepped foremost to the fields of danger, and died in its defence.—"O Liberty! Heaven's choice prerogative, urged on by thee, their souls disdained the terms of empire offered at the hands of tyrants."—Departed heroes! "the beams of Heaven delight to shine upon your graves," but they will not restore you to our bosoms—-we can no longer

share in the sentiments of the hearts that love and revere you—you know them not—you never more shall know them—but as often as we celebrate this day, we will weave you a chaplet of laurels, and repay the debt of gratitude we owe you, by laying up your counsels in our hearts---we will not weep as children weep, we will mourn like men, considering you as gone, to take “possession of your estates, which ascended to Heaven in charities” bestowed upon your country---your memory will not damp, but richly season our joy.

What scenes of trouble, what dangers, what hardships did they not encounter—yet the mighty spirit which Heaven implanted within, ferened the temper of their minds, and spread its sunshine round them.—And while we pause to reflect upon the virtues of these fainted patriots—Do we feel the fire of liberty, glowing within us? Does it dilate us with gratitude for the rich inheritance we enjoy, the price of their blood,—their blood which was the seed of freedom?

We have met, not for idle merriment, and empty diversion, but to strengthen the bonds of union, and to cherish and invigorate the principles of liberty—and while we contemplate the transcendent blessings we enjoy, let us keep in mind, that to preserve them, requires the guardian care of the people—we must not sit down supinely, with a hope, that these blessings will remain without exertion to preserve them—Such a hope would be delusive. It is not because mankind have grown better, or because there is no disposition to enslave us, that we are free; but because we

have discovered the means of repressing this spirit of despotism ; these means are the rights of election, and of scrutinizing the conduct of our public servants. The foundation of our government, is the virtue of the people, this virtue is made up of individual virtue ; and its strength is made up of individual exertion. Hence it follows, that a defect from virtue, and neglect of duty in one individual, reduces in the same proportion, the virtue and strength of government ; let the first be preserved, and the latter faithfully and diligently performed, and the voice of the people may emphatically be said to be the voice of God. We must likewise reflect that political liberty depends much upon morality and true religion. The practice of moral virtue, and universal philanthropy will characterise the genuine republican.

In selecting characters to fill our public offices, let us be careful to support those who are republicans from principle ; there are in ours, as well as in every country, men whose political opinions, are created and fashioned by the prospect of gain or the hope of office ; whose microscopic souls never felt the impression of a ray from the bright sun of liberty. The cause of freedom is the cause of Heaven ; never then let its sanctuaries be filled with such political “ money changers,” who will turn the “ simple uses” of property and office, into the splendor of exterior pomp, and the vain shews of greatness, which is only covering with flowers the chains that are forging for you or for your posterity. Those who merit your support, and are worthy of the sacred office of guardians of liberty,

are such as pay a willing homage at the altar of liberty, and whose integrity and republicanism are able to withstand the buffetings of persecution, the storms of adversity, and the soft allurements of temptation; and who will enter upon its duties, with a sense of their weight and importance, and "humble themselves before the magnitude of the undertaking." Such is the true republican. To the oppressor he is more terrible than the threatening whirlwind to the unsheltered wanderer: but to the oppressed he is more lovely than the rising beams of the morning, to the night bewildered traveller. Let the haggard form of tyranny approach him in its most terrific attitude, upheld by the "divinity that stirs within him," undismayed he meets its approaches---either vanquishes, or becomes a martyr in the cause he has espoused.

We are now travelling, fellow citizens, in the trackless road of experiment, our destination is the land of national happiness. Already have we entered its borders: already do we begin to inhale the rich odours that rise from its productions; already do the nations of Europe look at our progress with astonishment and admiration, and long to follow our steps. Tyranny begins to unfold its deformity, and they wonder at their former blindness. Let us then, brethren, keep our object continually in mind; and let not the arts of the vicious, nor the allurements of office, or private gain, lead us from the track of our fathers. Let us say to VIRTUE and LIBERTY, *we will be your disciples.*

*The SONG which preceded the exercises,
and the poem which concluded them.*

A NEW SONG,

Tune—*Hail Columbia.*—By *A. H.*

WHEN the sound of war was loud,
Freedom's Sun behind the cloud,
Blood empurpled various plains,
A tribute rich from freemen's veins;
Who loath to bear tyrannic ire,
For friends and country dar'd expire.
By their brave example led,
To the standard thousands fled,
Deeds of valour were perform'd,
Armies humbled, breastworks storm'd.
Then triumphant Freedom rose,
Thundering vengeance on her foes,
Independence led her on,
And the glorious deed was done.

Wishing peace with all mankind,
Rul'd by policy refin'd,
Our constitutions bought with blood,
And form'd to serve the public good,
Have from our independence rose,
And hence our States in peace repose.
Here the sacred scroll we bear,
Valour's purchase—Virtue's care,
Let the aged join the strain,
Sages read it o'er again :
Learn your lisping babes to know,
Whence their best endowments flow,
In your circles once a year
Independence loud declare.

While a Jefferson presides,
And with skill the nation guides,
Rancourous war, ambitious strife,
Calm nature's horror, curse of life,
From this our favour'd land shall flee,
Nor e'er disturb our harmony.
Dealings open, just, and fair,
Cautious both to spend and spare ;

Council prizing more than war,
 Each event providing for.
 Shielded by the powers above,
 Happy in a nation's love,
 Let our rulers hear the strain,
 Independence—shout again.

Lisping infants join the song,
 Grateful youth the strains prolong ;
 Every sex, and every age,
 In the delightful scene engage :
 Th' extension of the human mind,
 By sexual follies unconfin'd ;
 Generous patrons, here you see,
 Blest result of Liberty !

Brothers, sisters, hand in hand,
 Bring the charter of the land ;
 Take it, guard it for their sake,
Independence is the stake !
 E'er you slight so rich a boon,
 Sol, in blood, should shroud the Moon.



The Genius of Columbia.---A Vision.

By A. SELDEN, Esq.

BENEATH the west mountain, the sun had retir'd,
 The shadows came on, and the twilight expir'd,
 Thick vapors ascending envelop'd the skies,
 And lock'd the fair lanterns above from mine eyes ;
 Loud thunders portentous were rocking the world,
 Wide volumes of lightning around me unfurl'd,
 Fierce whirlwinds horrific, tore forests amain,
 And spread devastation and death on the plain.

My bosom o'erburden'd was ready to burst,
 I fainted with anguish and fell to the dust ;
 Thy Genius COLUMBIA, appear'd in my sight,
 Hush'd noise, and dispel'd all the sorrows of night ;
 The sweets of ambrosia perfumed the spheres,
 The music of angels enchanted my ears ;
 While softly, prophetic, the Genius did sing,
 In accents far sweeter than Zephyrs of spring.

“ My empire shall rise and its blessings shall roll
 “ From ocean to ocean, from pole unto pole,

" Extending its course on fair Liberty's plan,
 " Through regions unmark'd by the footsteps of man.
 " The savage ferocious his nature shall yield,
 " Quit forests of danger, and till the rich field ;
 " The arts and the sciences fondly shall gain,
 " And rise to the summit which man can attain.
 " The vine cover'd mountains of Gallia e'er long,
 " Shall furnish poor Europe with pleasure and song ;
 " Cold Russia, the fruit of her vintage shall taste,
 " Nor wish her rich gardens to ravage and waste ;
 " With rapture transplant the pure grape in the north,
 " Which rooting shall thrive and its fragrance send forth,
 " Till all the fierce nations in friendship shall join,
 " To reap their own harvests, and taste their own wine.
 " The schemes of my Chieftain, * inspir'd from above,
 " To Greenland and Chili in triumph shall move ;
 " O'er Europe to India directing his ken,
 " And forming the slaves of the East into men.
 " The mountain of Zion—the seat of a God !
 " For years under foot so inhumanly trod :
 " Shall the richest of structures and columns display,
 " While nations and nations are born in a day.
 " Then shall the glad world a huge off'ring behold,
 " Of India's rich spices on altars of gold,
 " Prepar'd by a people long scatter'd and peel'd,
 " Whose shame is now cover'd—whose bruises are heal'd
 " Who join the wide nations in transports of joy,
 " To bid the fell battle no longer destroy ;
 " While the blood-stained Chief to his vineyard repairs,
 " To change his dire weapons to prune-hooks and shares.
 " No tyrant or despot shall speak from his throne,
 " The crown be dishonor'd—the mitre unknown,
 " The courtier and sycophant, curst while alive,
 " Like drones, by the people, be drag'd from the hive.
 " Then plentiful harvests shall whiten the field,
 " The vine and the olive rich juices shall yield ;
 " And gladness the brow of each mortal adorn,
 " As long as the evening succeedeth the morn "

* Mr. Jefferson.