

AN
ORATION,

PRONOUNCED AT ORRINGTON,

JULY 4th, 1808.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY

OF

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

◆~~~~~◆
BY ENOCH MUDGE.

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B O S T O N :

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1808.

AT a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of Orrington, July 4, 1808—

Voted, That the Committee of Arrangements for this day, (Mr. ELISHA DOANE, and Mr. ELISHA ROBINSON) wait upon the Rev Mr MUDGE, and thank him for the appropriate Oration this day delivered at their request, and solicit a copy of that, and the Odes which were sung, for the press.

JOHN WILKINS, Clerk.



REPLY.

Orrington, July 6, 1808.

GENTLEMEN,

THE late period of your applying to me to prepare some Odes for, and an Address on the Anniversary of Independence, to the inhabitants of Orrington, I hoped, would have been a sufficient reason to have let them fallen into oblivion. The Address may be considered as the effusions of the moment, but by the accurate notices of a gentleman who was present, I may venture to give you the following as the identical Address which you heard. I shall let your solicitations be my only apology, and subscribe myself,

Yours, E. MUDGE.

The Gentlemen of the Committee.



ODE ON INDEPENDENCE.

Tune...CONFIDENCE.

COLUMBIANS rise, and hail the day!
Arise, and wake the raptur'd lay;
For on this bright, auspicious morn
Our Independence first was born.

Ye aged Patriots, lead the sound,
And spread your grateful joys around,
That youth may catch the hallow'd flame,
And praise JEHOVAH's sacred name.

Let all, whose patriot bosoms glow,
All, who the joys of Freedom know,
Join in the strains, and swell the choir,
And warm themselves at Freedom's fire.

Columbia's standard, now unfurl'd,
Shall wave o'er an admiring world,
And strike our foes with dread and fear,
And shew our friends that Freedom's here.

Long as the sun shall rule the day,
Or Cynthia shine with borrow'd ray;
Long as the wind sweeps o'er the main,
OUR INDEPENDENCE we'll maintain.

Thou lofty Ruler of the skies,
Accept our grateful sacrifice;
Keep far our foes, our cause maintain,
And thou our safeguard still remain.

May no tumult'ous feuds arise,
To darken our propitious skies,
Unite us firmly, keep us free,
Dependent only, LORD, on thee!

ODE ON SCIENCE.

Selected by the Choir.

**"THE morning sun shines from the east,
And spreads its glories to the west,
All nations with its beams are blest,
Where'er his radiant light appears.**

**So SCIENCE spreads her lucid rays,
O'er lands that long in darkness lay ;
She visits fair Columbia,
And sits her sons among the stars.**

**Fair Freedom her attendants wait,
To bless the portals of her gates,
To crown her young and rising States,
With laurels of immortal day.**

**The British yoke, the Gallic chain,
Were urg'd upon our sons in vain :—
All haughty tyrants we disdain,
And shout aloud COLUMBIA !"**

AN ORATION.

“ **THE** day we celebrate—be it devoted to the recollection of worthy deeds, and noble actions.” While thousands of our fellow citizens hail the auspicious day with joy and religious gratitude ; while thundering cannon rouses the inhabitants of our populous cities to festivity and pleasure, the burst of gratulation shall re-echo from the distant towns and villages, and waving flags display the general joy ; and proclaims the birth day of our **INDEPENDENCE** and **FREEDOM**.

THE exercises of this day present the most agreeable repast of pleasure, to the aged veteran, who has toiled through the distressing scenes of oppression, loss, warfare and want ; he hails with pleasure, this, as the day of jubilee, freedom, peace, and felicity. The youthful mind delights to listen to the amazing scenes which inflames his heart with patriotic zeal and vigor on this anniversary. We are not assembled to boast of our superior privileges, and inflate the heart

with national vanity ; nor to enkindle enmity against other nations ; no more than to wrangle about the political differences of our own.

WE assemble to refresh our minds with a view of our Independence ; to trace the circumstances, and revive the principles which led thereto, and to realize the blessings which we enjoy thereby. This, it may be expected, will lead us to the exercise of gratitude, and inspire us with zeal to transmit the blessing, pure and uncontaminated to posterity.

“ IN former ages, it was common for a part of a community to migrate, and form themselves into Independent societies. In later times, a different policy has prevailed ; a monopolizing system, which retains the emigrants in connexion with, and dependence on the parent state—by this policy Europeans have given full scope to their boundless avarice and ambition.” Though they in reality possess but the smallest part of the globe, they extend their pretended claims over the immense riches of the east, and extensive realms of the western continent.

THE circumstances of our forefathers were peculiar ; they were oppressed and persecuted at home, by their inhuman countrymen which obliged them to flee three thousand miles across the Atlantic, to find an asylum among savages, and wild beasts of this boundless and dreary wilderness. What dependence could they place, on those who had exiled them from the land of their nativity, and denied them the rights of humanity ? What allegiance or loyalty, were due to

a government which denied them the sacred rights of conscience ? which imposed fines, proscriptions and banishment ? Hard indeed was the lot of this handful of defenceless wandering exiles.

CAST out from the endearing embraces of friends—far secluded from all the blessings of civil, social and religious society—borne down with fatigues—a prey to wild beasts, and fierce savages, panting for human blood—thinned with pestilence and pining with hunger—having no resources of comfort but in their own fortitude, and trust in **JEHOVAH**. Precious sufferers, and sires of our country ! we owe the tear of sympathy, and tribute of warmest gratitude to your sufferings and memory. Scarcely had they past the first scenes of their suffering, and acquired a small pittance by hardship and industry, before they felt the galling yoke of tyranny to descend and fasten on their necks. How, O ye winds, could ye waft the tyrant's mandates against suffering innocence ! Why, O ocean, did ye not rise and envelope the heavy chains in your fathomless bosom !

LOYALTY suffered long, and severely, from the hand of cruelty ; but at last ventured to complain of the wrongs she endured, and the evils she feared. The Monarch was deaf, the ministry were hard and unmoved as the adamant. America remonstrates and petitions. The ministry and Parliament invent new schemes of oppression, and forge heavier chains of slavery. America, just verging on the brink of desperation and destruction, raises the sword in self defence, blows the trumpet of *Independence*—raises the pole of **Liberty**—solemnly appealing to heaven for the

rectitude of her cause—declares in a voice of seven-fold thunder, to the gazing astonished nations of the world, that she will henceforth, be **FREE AND INDEPENDENT, OR DIE!**

A LONG, a bloody, a doubtful, an obstinate conflict ensues. On the one side, able and veteran troops with experienced officers, versed in European tactics, flushed with hopes of certain and speedy conquest, winged with the enchanting power of gold—reinforced by multitudes of German mercenaries, and hordes of savages armed with the tomahawk, scalping knife, and every instrument that barbarity could invent or malice make use of. On the other, a few raw, unexperienced militia, rising at the sound of danger, leaving the employments of husbandry, fishery, or mechanical labor and mercantile pursuits. Many were destitute of arms or ammunition, and more of suitable clothing and rations.

THE first were animated with the flattering promises of a haughty monarch and tyrannic ministry, with the fluctuating charms of delusive glory—with anticipations of subjected colonies—proscribed patriots and enslaved rebels. The country they soon expected to divide into Lordships, Manors, and Bishoprics, while their feet should tread on the necks of their vassals.

WITH these, and such like subjects, they frequently feasted their deluded imaginations. The Americans were under the impression of fears and slavery. A jealousy of natural rights invaded—a sense of wrongs endured—they were fighting for life, liberty, their families, and the land of their nativity. They

were avenging their country's wrongs and their brethren's blood. To attempt an Eulogy on their valor and courage, were superfluous. While the battles of Lexington, Bunkerhill, Montreal, Trenton, Princeton, Saratoga, Guilford, the Eutaw Springs, Monmouth and Yorktown, remain on the page of history, we shall not want for instances of courage and bravery in the American Soldiery. We must not forget their heroic Officers, who led them through fatigue and hunger, through blood and slaughter, to victory and glory. Perhaps no Officers ever achieved more with the same means.

AT length the contest was decided in favor of American INDEPENDENCE. This had been acknowledged by several nations, and now haughty Britain was brought to the feet of America, and acknowledged her rank as a SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT NATION. Truly important and critical was this eventful crisis. A whole nation of people, scattered over an extensive territory, without any substantial form or Constitution of civil government. Here we must admire the wisdom and superintendence of that God whose kingdom ruleth over all, for concentrating the views, feelings and sentiments of the nation in a Constitution so just, and so glorious. This is the glorious tenure by which our Independence and Freedom are preserved to us, this day inviolate. When Americans were selecting for themselves a form of Government, they saw no one among them who had been born with a crown on his head, and a sceptre in his hand. They had been too much oppressed by the despotic power of Monarchy to submit to that form.

NEITHER could they observe a happy few of distinguished mortals born to rule, bearing the marks of hereditary honor, wisdom, and political ability. They discarded an Aristocracy.

THEY believed that government the best, which originates in the People ; which best provides for and embraces the individual and collective interests and happiness of the People. This is a Federal Republican form of government. The most prominent features of which are “ The rights of conscience, to worship God according to the dictates of our minds—the right of self-government, to make, revise, and alter their laws, as their circumstances and happiness require—the right of free and frequent elections—the responsibility of all officers to the people—the right of trial by jury—the liberty of the press—the right to keep and bear arms in our own defence and against all unreasonable and vexatious searches and seizures—the right of frequent assembling to consult on measures for the general good.”

SUCH a Constitution as this, lays the broad basis of universal happiness. Where the rights of conscience are secured to a people, there can be no temptation to become hypocrites in Religion for the sake of offices, civil or military. Thank God, we have no religious tests to shackle the conscience, and render the mild and benevolent religion of Christ odious and despicable. We may view God in his works of creation, and in his moral government of the universe, with adoration and rapture, while the holy volume of inspiration is equally open to all to collect from thence instruction and edification in righteousness.

THE fear of GOD is not superceded by the fear of man, from an apprehension of immediate responsibility to a mitred Prelate, a religious Functionary, a fellow worm of the dust, himself an accountable creature. We are accountable alone to GOD and our own consciences ; hence our duty is a willing sacrifice, a cheerful offering. Where people are assured that the hard earnings of industry shall not be wrenched from the hands of labour, nor filched from the pocket of economy to fatten a haughty monarch and pamper a horde of flattering sycophants fawning at the foot of the throne, to offer the detestable sacrifice of adulation to gain offices of oppression—where the rights of individual property are held sacred, and the cultivators of the soil are its owners, and the inhabitants lords of their own tenements ; there, there are the strongest incitements to enterprise, industry, and economy.

WHAT a boundless field is opened under the influence of the freedom of the press, for the exertion of genius and ability, in every grade and department of life ? Where information is generally diffused among a people, merit, virtue, and ability are brought to view, and stand eligible to office in every department, so that we reign as kings among ourselves. The freedom and frequency of our elections, also afford a fair opportunity to select the deserving and good, and to suppress and degrade the corrupt and aspiring demagogues. And if any are falsely accused, a trial by jury ensues—an opportunity for a fair and impartial appeal to the justice and candour of the nation. Our military establishments are, under GOD,

the centinels and bulwarks of our country. This renders it necessary that the militia should feel their importance, and render a prompt and correct attention to duty. Finally, our Constitution guarantees to us all the franchises and blessings of a free, happy, and independent nation. Such blessings call for the warmest acknowledgments of gratitude and homage to our adorable Benefactor. May the duties of this day be performed in this spirit. Let us invoke all the sympathies of tenderness for our distressed fellow-mortals, who are groaning under the yokes of despots, and are pinched by the hard gripes of necessity and indigence. Look abroad over our extensive continent, which yields the produce of almost every climate. Here, we have presented, by the divine hand of beneficence, all the necessaries, conveniencies, and delicacies, which reason can wish, or fancy crave.

REFRESHED with such recollections, how does it become us to drop all party distinctions, and kindly salute each other in the character of true AMERICANS ?

HAPPY art thou, O Columbia ! Who is like unto thee, O America ! favored of the LORD ! Long may the divine protection guard our sacred rights. Long may the American flag be regarded and honored by the sovereignties of the globe.

MAY the dove of benevolence carry the olive of peace to the belligerents of Europe. May our rulers be under the influence of firmness, moderation, and wisdom. May our INDEPENDENCE and PEACE continue forever.

ODE ON INDEPENDENCE.

Tune...PENNSYLVANIA.

GREAT God ! to thee our gratitude we raise,
Thine was the pow'r, and thine shall be the praise ;
Thou didst relieve us, and our efforts crown,
Thou cast the haughty monarch from his throne ;—
The Independent clarion loudly sounded,
All nations hear'd, and Britons stood confounded.

When Britain's hungry eagles, waiting stood,
Panting for prey, and thirsting for our blood,
Our heroes rose to check the vulture's speed,
Appeal'd to heaven, declar'd they would be free'd—
Threw off the yoke, and pledg'd their sacred honor.—
Freedom approv'd, and hover'd o'er the banner.

Lo ! then the Constitution rose to sight,
The labour of our faithful Sages' might ;
The mighty structure shall majestic stand,
The temple and the bulwark of our land ;—
Here slavery never shall her reign recover,
But Independence o'er the temple hover.

O God ! watch o'er the stewards of our trust,
May they be firm, and to their country just ;
A liberal policy to all extend,
Servile to none; to ev'ry nation—friend ;
With INDEPENDENCE may they fill their stations,
And give example to republic nations.

O let religion shed its charming rays
O'er this blest land, and fill our souls with praise,
For all the blessings of indulgent heaven,
Which he with liberal hand to us hath given.
May Freedom, Peace, and Love be still increasing,
With every other precious, needed blessing.

We praise thy name, thou source supreme on high,
Of wisdom, pow'r, and truth, and majesty ;
Thy throne shall stand, thy government endure,
When nations sink, and empires are no more—
We owe our INDEPENDENCE to thy favour,
Preserve One, and keep us free forever.

Free, independent, pious, and sincere,
May we within thy hallow'd dome appear,
On each return of this auspicious day,
And there in praise our grateful tribute pay ;
And while existence to our nation's given,
May we be grateful for the gifts of heaven.