

ETHICAL SOCIETY, 3 Farnsworth  
AN

July 1801

# ORATION,

SPOKEN IN THE

SECOND BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE,

AT NEWPORT,

ON THE

FOURTH OF JULY, 1801,

PURSUANT TO A VOTE OF THE TOWN.

By PAUL M. MUMFORD.

S 4  
F1 11

How does the lustre of our Fathers actions,  
Through the dark cloud of ill that cover'd them,  
Break out and burn with more triumphant brightness.

NEWPORT  
PRINTED BY OLIVER FARNSWORTH  
M, DCCC, I

Newport, July 6th, 1801.

DEAR SIR,

THE Committee, appointed by the Honorable Town-Council, do, as directed, present you their thanks, in behalf of the Citizens of Newport, for the excellent ORATION which you delivered, in compliance with their wishes, on the 4th instant, the Anniversary of American Independence; and request of you a Copy of the same for the Press.

We are,

With sentiments of unfeigned esteem,

Your's, &c.

WILLIAM DENNIS,

JOHN CAHOONE,

DAVID MELVILL, jun. } Committee

PAUL M. MUMFORD, Esq.

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GENTLEMEN,

IF any thing can give value to my life, or has the power of endearing it to me, it is the favor with which my fellow-citizens "have been pleased to look towards me." I say *favor*: I consider it as such; because it involves a token of their *esteem*, to me the most valuable of worldly treasures. To the request of the Honorable Council, which as their Committee, you communicate, I cordially accede; believing it was intended as a *tribute to sincerity*. Though the sentiments which I had the honor of pronouncing at the late Anniversary of our National Independence, were not contemplated as ever to reach the Press; yet it would be impossible for me to resist such a compliment, from so venerable a source, and so grateful to my feelings. Forgetful of the many imperfections which their appearance in print may betray, they are humbly submitted.

Accept, I pray you, for yourselves, and those in whose behalf you appear, the unfeigned expression of my acknowledgements.

PAUL M. MUMFORD.

Newport, 6th July, 1801.

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## ANNIVERSARY ORATION, &c.

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*Friends and Fellow-Citizens,*

IN compliance with your will, I rise the humble echo of sentiments to which the day is dedicated; and which, like the zephyrs of the morning, dilate in innocent pleasure, diffusing freshness, and fragrance. As yonder sun in his Eastern height, beams light and hilarity through the chambers of night, and wakes the repose of their slumbering tenants; so the invigorating influence of the present anniversary, as recorded in the annals of our Country, in its regular return, revives the feelings and the principles, by which we claim to be Americans. It is esteemed a prerogative, to those who are nobly attached to social duty, more pre-eminently glorious than could be derived from royal patents, that in the revolving circle of time we are annually presented with a day, signalized by the virtues of our Fathers, and hallowed by the genius of *Liberty*; on which the nobler faculties take the lead, expanding o'er the human race, as one extended family, and in generous pleasure mark the improvements of their condition.

WE are assembled, fellow-citizens, to commemorate our *Independence*, as a *Nation*, by which a magnanimous people were advanced from

bondage. The review, *ſ*aid as it is, involves many melancholy traits occaſioned by an arduous and bloody Revolution, through which it was ſecured. The gloomy tints of devoted ſuffering, glance on the darkened mirror of remembrance, and create a flow of emotions, ſolemn and ſerene—which, mingling with a conſciouſneſs of rectitude, and the exalted ſenſations of eventual victory, conſtitute an enjoyment worthy of human nature, and acceptable to its author. Though there are many, perhaps, here preſent, who have mourned the fate of a fond father, a beloved brother, or more tender friend, ſwept from the catalogue of exiſtence by the unprincipled arm of deſpotiſm ; though the tears of ſorrow and ſympathy have not yet forgotten to flow at the recollection ;—there is comfort in the reflection, that they were *voluntary* ſacrifices in defence of their Country, and the rights of mankind ; that their names are endeared to poſterity, and embalmed in gratitude and eſteem ; that their bleſſed ſpirits are reclining in the bright portals of celeftial bliſs, and ſmile in conſcious ſecurity, that the cauſe, for which they ſuffered, is eſtabliſhed, and that the vengeance of tyrants can no longer reach them.

SUBMITTING, then, to the Supreme diſpoſer of events, and ſatiſfied that his diſpenſations, whatever appearance they may wear to mortal eye, are wiſely ordained to promote the moſt ſubſtantial good of men, let us attempt to unfold a theme the moſt illuſtrious and intereſting, which the hiſtory of Nations affords.

It ranks among the number of our misfortunes, fellow-citizens, that an era the most auspicious to Liberty ; that the birth day of a Nation ; on which millions of men emerged from an abject state of Colonial depression, and assumed the majestic attitude of continental independence : It ranks, I say, among the number of our misfortunes, that so auspicious an event ; the anniversary of our political existence ; the moments of our fondest hopes, are often seized upon, and monopolized by the rapacity of factious impostors, and prostituted to abandoned purposes. It has too often been our lot, when invited to attend the celebration of this day, to have our principles arraigned, and our feelings insulted, by the lofty impertinence of some crouching satellite of satellites, whose canine genius, set on by political Nimrods, in obsequious celerity, yelps for the immolation of virtue, and the extinction of right.——

“—— all is false and hollow ; though the tongue  
Drops manna, and can make the worse appear  
The better reason, to perplex and dash  
Maturest counsels :——”

I am warranted in these observations, by recent examples, which evince their truth ; and being truths which relate to the object of the present assemblage, it has become my duty to make them ; a duty which I shall pursue in its strictness.

An imperfect organization of a few of the facts which relate to the commencement, and the progress of these States ; together with a few hints of the different principles, by the collision of which, the event we celebrate was produced

(and by the continuation of which, we have politically been "born again" into a new, and regenerated life) hastily thrown together, without symmetry or grace, will comprise the present report. And I regret that want of time, or ability, precludes me from affording one better adapted to the refinements of sentiment and literary taste.

There was a time, when America was without a name, and her shores were solitary, and dismal : When her best soil gave its substance to unfruitful trees ; and the fairest flowers of the valley "wasted their fragrance in the desert air." It was set apart in the original decrees of destiny as the refuge of *liberty*. Its discovery was attended with many singular events, and excited many speculations. The prowling monster of oppression, that roamed the eastern world, reared up its haggard form, and stretching its baleful eyes, surveyed in grim concern, the looming continent. The oppressed, who had been held in shackles of slavery, burst them asunder, and rose, in confidence and courage, to redeem their rights and their existence. Always consistent in zeal for domination, many attempts by the crown of England were made to people it ; but in vain. In vain were men embarked under the influence and patronage of a king ! They fell victims to disaster, and disease. The corrupt motives, by which the impulse that brought them was communicated, imparted a bane that sunk them in the dust. No possible adjustment of flesh and blood, in human composition, could

withstand the peculiarities of its clime, but such as was the temple of those principles, which have exalted its name, and made it respected. *Puritan* was the genius that effected its population, and, I trust, *pure* is the genius that yet presides over, and preserves it.

The reign of James the First, is remarkable for religious persecution. There was at that time, in England, a class of men who held a repugnance to the Romish church as then established, and to popish ceremonies which they deemed idolatry. Numbers of them were destroyed, without form or ceremony, as impious heretics, till the desperate remnant, superior to the "ills that covered them," resolved to explore the wide wastes of a new discovered country, rationally judging, that at the distance of 3000 miles, they would be beyond the grasp of intolerance, where they might enjoy, in security, the immunities of their nature. The hardships they had endured, producing a spirit of inquiry which taught them to reason for themselves, it would have been astonishing had they not brought with them opinions favorable to *liberty*. Possessing an intuitive knowledge of government, they knew very well that it was the common birthright of man ; and that every attempt to restrain it, by unconstitutional, and unreasonable means, was a violation of the compact which forms the ligaments of society.

However repeated their transmutations, as to the forms of their police, one principle seems

carefully interwoven in them all, viz. exemption from foreign, *and oppressive taxation*. Early did this jealousy arise, and early was the right asserted. “What is good land (said they) without good laws? It were madness to leave an improved country, to plant in a wilderness, and give an absolute power to another, to tax us at pleasure.” Natural right, and human prudence are opposed to such doctrine. Such were their protestations against the inroads upon their privileges; and hence it is clear, that from the first moment of their settlements, they understood their relations to the mother country; the nature of their duties;—the extent of their rights; were apprised of the dangers that would invade them; and grew up in a determination to repel attempts of the kind, from whatever quarter they might arise, even at their first appearance.

How delightful is the sound of *Liberty*! How rich, and substantial the enjoyment that is derived from its possession! Pronounce it to the slave: He hears it in stupid apathy: To *him* it has lost its charms. But the lowly cottager, while performing the round of his narrow inclosure, followed by the innocent pledges of his early vows; or the more humble hermit, seated in the silent serenity of solitude, in strains of unadulterated sentiment, express its value. It is a gem of immense and equal value to every grade in the scale of human being;—a common right which, like the blessing of health, no commutation can compensate, and is indispensable to every enjoyment. The moralist may analyze the



mind ; exhibit the dependency of passion in connected order, and calculate the impulse to duty. The philosopher may expostulate on fortitude, and teach forbearance. But the more exalted energies of *freedom* do not require their explanations. As self evident truths, they mock the dull formalities of language, and cleave to the finer perceptions of sensibility. Shall it be invaded by the daring strides of ambition ! The thought carries *indignation* to the heart.

The progress of liberty in the American States has been such as to furnish its true characteristic. Partaking of human nature, it is essentially the same in all countries, but favors the clime in which it is nourished. In the free, and salubrious air of America, it is natural to suppose that it exists in full vigor, and the highest perfection. Considering too, the qualities of mind which impelled to its early population, and which are not to be eradicated from the breasts of Americans, we feel a satisfactory confidence that the force of faction, and the arts of intrigue, will be exerted in vain.

The imperious policy of Britain, beheld with envy, the rising prosperity of the colonies ; and affected by a distempered jealousy, that the artificial authority it held up, would be inadequate to the designs that were entertained, of converting them to a source of revenue, lost itself in rage. Their respective demands arose in alternate gradations, till the one, in infatuated zeal, asserted the right of "*binding in all cases*

*whatever* ;” and the others, forced by necessity, solemnly declared to the world their right of freedom and independence.

It is not the present purpose to enumerate the grievances inflicted in a thousand shapes, by which they were driven to a Declaration of Independence : They are yet fresh wounds, still bleeding in the sensibilities of Americans, which time can never heal, and which nothing could alleviate but the successes they have procured. They are recorded in dusky pages, over which weeping humanity will bend for generations to come. Is it said that the Parent state was actuated by maternal care to secure a rude and misguided offspring in the blessings of prosperity ? With as much ascendancy of reason it may be said, that the barbarities, practised by West-Indian planters, upon the wretched Africans, doomed to their inclemency, are acts of tender mercy and affectionate fraternity. Did the Parliament of England upbraid the Provinces with an intention of throwing off their allegiance and their subjection ? As well might the Provinces reproach that Parliament, with an insidious design of reducing them to a state of absolute slavery and unconditional submission. When royal agents, in secret conclave, were bartering your lives and property ; when the atlantic was vexed and fatigued by the frequent delegations of oppression, destined for the then hapless shores of America ; when the interior of the country was darkened, and polluted, by the accumulation of ministerial tools, who were spreading abroad to spy out your liberties, and to embarrass your

councils ; when argument was answered by the glittering array of military marches ; when the terrific sound of *rebel subjects*, was echoed “ to and fro,” with impious intent to dishearten and divide ; what was the light in which that Parliament and that ministry appeared ? And what, fellow-citizens, were your sensations ! The first may be imagined : The other I will answer. To answer it, is the honest pride of an American heart. They were as they *yet* are ; and composed a warm desire, and invincible determination, to maintain, at every risk, the rights with which nature, and nature’s God have indued the sons of men. Delusive was the miscreant hope of fastening on this country the cords of bondage. In masculine strength and irresistible energy they were burst asunder, and the brutal host, in the cowardice of guilt, abandoned their project, and fled beyond the horizon.

Truth, however, prompts the remark, that it was not a contention against the *People* of England ; no more than the war of extermination, which has been carried on by that country, for eight years, against the Republic of France, is *their* war : No, the *People* of England were averse to the aggressions which issued in the severance of an Empire. The brightest talents of that nation, as they have protested against the enormities, which, of late, have deluged in blood one half the globe ; so they, then, were advocates of the American cause. It was a struggle against privileged orders, which have ever sought the destruction of human happiness : It was a strug-

gle against the voracious policy of Britain, which by a settled delusion of the divine right of kings, and hereditary Government, has laid the liberties of its subjects in chains. The People of every country are allied by the vital currents of same interest—same danger;—the danger of being built upon too oppressively. They are the broad base; the massy doric of embellished orders, those “stupendous fabrics” which boast of lords and kings. Their labors dissolve in the constitutional economy, and transfusing the apertures of financial animation, go to adorn the exterior, and perpetuate the lassitude of political parasites, who bask in favor.

It would be difficult to take a position so elevated as to give a general outline of the Revolutionary scenes that would do justice to those who conducted the important drama. The points that have been considered, were not selected as prominent features, but as the more latent causes by which it was produced, which furnish the fairest example of that species of liberty, that the citizens of the United States have ever claimed and supported. Though the wide-spread & convolving dispositions of the great body of the people were collected in “an ark of covenant” established by the confederation, the organ of which (the continental Congress) stood an Apollo of wisdom, and a colossus of majesty, and firmness; though their judicious negotiations with foreign countries, aided and accelerated the final success; though the singular, and successive captures of the British Hannibals,

Burgoyne and Cornwallis, comprise a constellation which adorns our history, and gives rank to the American name among military nations : tho' it be a fact that more than *eleven thousand*\* of our brave countrymen, in disease and famine, breathed their last on board the Jersey prison-ship, whose bones, for years, lay whitening in the sun, on the shores of Long-Island : tho' the blood of our citizens, murdered in inexorable cruelty, after surrendering, and while supplicating mercy, yet stains the site of Fort-Grifwold, & cries from the ground in execration to the name of Arnold : though many of our populous towns, ravaged, and despoiled, by every device which abandoned mercenaries could invent, are yet mournful mementos of the days of your adversity : though the foul & dingy features of British abominations, in projects of subjugation and servitude, rise up in cloudy gloom on every side : though all these are distinct topics, a minute delineation of which would extort tears of unrivalled resentment, and renew the emotions, by which our Independence was supported ; too much crowds upon the view to allow them the time they would require.

Such, fellow-citizens, is a feeble and imperfect sketch of the principles, and the operations which conducted to our National Independence ; distinguished above all others, the day we are assembled to celebrate ; and held a radiant course to its final acknowledgement by that

\* Ramsay's History Vol. 2, page 285.

Power, which in lofty menace, and arrogant assumption, strove to reduce us to the vile condition of vassals. It has been usual on this occasion, to idolize certain characters, and to wing the envenomed shafts of detraction against others. To stigmatize men who "deserve well of their country" with illiberal epithets, and to breathe upon their virtues the corrosive sublimate of meditated calumny ; while prostitution and fraud were winked at, and encouraged. But it is a joyful hope which the events of this day inspire, that the true distinctions will soon be made, when a mark shall be set upon the forehead of vice ; when gilded pomp shall no longer pass current for worth ; when falcon fancy shall cease to quarry upon principle ; the temple of Janus be closed forever, and double minded duplicity, pierced by the keen glance of detection, end its career. While the most generous effusions of the heart, in extacy of gratitude, present their tender monitions in behalf of the paternal patrons of *liberty*, and plead that they may not be forgotten ; more generalizing reason, though equally ready to pay the tribute of thankfulness, apologizes for the seeming neglect, by suggesting the dishonorable connection it would create with those, to whom the rattling tongue of adulatory eloquence has so often chanted sophisticated praise. Live on then, ye venerable *Fathers*, "and as ye move, our happiness increase." Thou effulgent orb of philosophy, and model of rectitude, from whose comprehensive and benignant faculties, the memorable instrument proceeded, in which our Independence broke upon the

world ; who holdest the most distinguished station in the esteem of thy fellow-citizens and their national council ; thou real Patriot, and friend of man : To thee, as the faithful delegate of heaven, do we look with animated hope, that thy precepts, and thy example ; thy watchful care, “ and affectionate concern ” for the prosperity of the people whose confidence has covered thee with glory, will go far in the establishment of “ peace upon Earth, and good-will among men.” Thy merits, and the merits of those united with thee in *duty*, and in *principle*, need not the adventitious aid of verbal perspective ; they will receive, from a free and enlightened people, their appropriate reward, in silent soliloquies of unfeigned devotion.

However hopeful our prospects at the cessation of hostilities, still there were angry and portentous clouds resting upon the political horizon. Though the veteran combatants, who had studied woe, and threatened devastation, were withdrawn from our coast ; and though *it had pleased Divine Providence to dispose the heart of George the Third to forget all past misunderstandings* ; still the anxieties of doubt, and the pains of solicitude were not at an end. The bosoms of our patriots yet throbbed with apprehension, and were more anxious in proportion as they had been successful. The sense of common danger, which had compressed opinion to one cemented mass, having passed away, a relaxation ensued, teeming with destructive consequences. Those inducements by which their views were

united in the attainment of a general object, having, by the return of peace, ceased to operate, illicit speculations of private interest commenced, which threatened to tarnish the glory, and frustrate the advantages which were enjoyed and expected at so favorable a termination of the contest. Imbittered partizans were watching with invidious eyes, and inflamed desire, that their malignant predictions might be verified. Their feverish minds had dreamed of wild disasters, as they thought, or affected to think that the people of America could not sustain their Independence ; but, after dashing against *each other* to mutual injury for a season, would eventually implore the protection of some European power.

Such sentiments, and such examples spread like a pestilence, and, by a kind of irrefragable influence, impressed for a moment the *citizen-soldiery*, whose virtuous exertions, in every age, are the best defence of their country. Observing the conduct of many who had been officiously conspicuous, they thought they saw a neglect of the principles, for the maintainance of which their strength and lives had been exhausted. Jealousies arose, and accustomed to the unequivocal spirit of the camp, a hasty resolution had well nigh prostrated their honor, which was endeared to them by a series of sufferings, thro' which it had been preserved with increasing lustre. But the tutelar genius of a WASHINGTON gave a better direction. The repository of all that is good and great, he spoke to them in the name of *liberty*, and they nobly stifled



suspicion, resolving to save themselves from blame, and to secure his approbation, which they knew to be devoted to their chief interest—the interest of their common country. As in '75, they had relinquished the tranquil walks of rural and mechanic occupation, and enlisted in the troubled and tremendous scenes of war; so in '83, when the common good required it, they were not less ready to lay down the implements by which they had extorted justice from their enemies, relying on the public justice, and the favor of heaven, for their further protection and indemnity.

To behold a victorious army, breathing at once, the noble ardor of the *soldier*, and the amiable virtues of the *citizen*, after avenging in arms their country's wrongs, returning from

“ the field where war grows hot, and  
Raging through the sky, the lofty trumpet  
Swells the madd'ning soul,”

and hastening with “ ineffable delight” to regain the “ blissful seat” of domestic enjoyment, was indeed, a magnificent, and a novel spectacle. It will afford, thro' distant ages, a refuge for our hopes. It holds high a splendid assurance, that American liberty, fortified by the virtues of her sons, will, in spite of pious fraud, and political delusion, endure forever. Whenever slavery, arising from its bed of dust, clanks its rusty chains, we shall revert to the remembrance, as a shrine of inspiration, and a pledge of safety.

While traveling, with the strength of expectation, along the arboured walks of successful

experiment, a last impediment came within the view. It early occurred that the system of the old confederation was an imperfect organization of the political energies, and inadequate to a state of peace. Devised on the spur of occasion, amid the clashing of bayonets, & the scent of sulphur, its pulsations were irregular and languid; and its financial arrangements were not calculated to meet the accumulated claims which public service had created. It became necessary, therefore, to supply these defects by a new, more generalizing, and efficient form. It expired without a struggle; and *the new Constitution*, emerging from the wisdom of sages, and adapted to our genius and condition, assumed its vitality.

To call it good, "would be to pronounce but common praise." Its eulogium, however, must consist in the benefits it procures for, and the advantages it confers upon the people. It was the emanation of their will, as delegated to the convention which formed it: It was devised for their guardianship; and under the dispensations of a faithful administration, I trust, it will prove a source of general happiness, and secure to posterity the rights which were redeemed thro' blood and slaughter. If it is susceptible of amendment, it provides the power, which is an important and primary principle of perfection.

Thus, fellow-citizens, had we arrived at what had been considered the termination of our troubles. When each individual, in the pursuit

of his rightful employment ; and in the enjoyment of honor and confidence, resulting, not from birth, but from *actions*, and the sense that was entertained of them, might glide smoothly down the current of time, repeating benedictions upon his country, and praises to the wisdom and the bravery by which it had been consecrated the sanctuary of liberty, and the Canaan of promise and redemption. Exonerated from the demands of a foreign despot ; secure from his encroachments, and under the auspices of chosen institutions, it was, to be sure, the reasonable hope, that, as a people, we might recline beneath “ the shadow of our vine, and fig-tree, and there would be none to make us afraid.” But the advancement of society, like that of the mind, must, in the nature of things, meet frequent interruptions. The one composed of adverse passions, alternately predominant, the polarity of reason is often disturbed, and with difficulty restored. The other composed of adverse interests, selfish, stubborn, blind and capricious, unprincipled venality is an easy transition. It will not be forgotten, that the ample tide of royal pretensions, against which the resources of the continent were directed during the revolutionary war, impregnated many of our mock patriots with glittering particles, and almost converted them to diamonds. By a recurrence to the most interesting period of our national existence, we discern the scattered seeds of aristocracy converging to a point ; and in the heat of ambition, and the degenerate moisture of corruption, germinating in manifold directions. They “ grew up

like a well watered plant ; shot deep ; rose high, and bid fair" to flourish in baneful luxuriance. For the last four years, it moved on in huge gigantic strides, and with "bold strokes," and secret machinations, threatened destruction to every opponent, and the utter subversion of our chartered rights. Our constitution wantonly and wickedly violated : Our tongues hampered by the stale pretext of sedition : The pens of our patriots prohibited : Foreigners, who were panting for a moment's respite from European convulsions, forbidden our land : The lives of our citizens sacrificed in complaisance to British requisition ; and, in the domineering round of usurpation, our property invaded. Willingly, however, do we extend the veil of forgetfulness, and cover from remembrance enormities that are divested of terror. If they are retained in recollection, it is with an associate and charitable belief that the *prime agents* were few, and, with all their fascinating deceptions, would have been but solitary instances of impotent iniquity, were it not for the deluded victims, whom their specious adroitness decoyed to their standard. With an affectionate attachment to the virtuous of our countrymen, who are "*the salt of the earth ;*" whose intelligent spirits, as from the city of *Torneo*, have discerned the precipice to which we were rushing, and born independent testimony against it : And with mutual congratulations in the righteous reward of integrity, by which the ax has been laid unto the root of those evils, we regard their graceless fall with silent looks of disdainful defiance. It is a consolation, such as absorbs

the faintest symptom of rebuke, that the glowing ardor of natural sentiment, in the full conviction of right and utility, has out-run the force and influence of tyrants, and in songs of triumph pervades the world.

Having hastily gone through a train of considerations which the occasion inspires as to the past ; let us pause, and briefly reflect upon the duties which the present enjoins.

By a fiction of law, it is held that a *King* can do no wrong. But apart from the delusive subtleties of fiction, it is an American principle, that "*the voice of the People is the voice of God.*" Collectively spoken, it pronounces the *equality of right* and the *equality of justice*. The people are in fact the source of power ; the natural sovereign. Constitutional forms are derivations of their will, to which, and to the necessity of permanence, they owe their validity. Administrative agency is but a delegation of that will, to speak its understanding and its interest, and is amenable for wilful transgressions at the tribunal of its inquiry. Whatever may have been said of the barbarities of faction (by which I mean unlawful associations, inimical to the general interest ;)—however, in inflamed colouring, ascribed to popular complaint ;—and though, in unbridled ambition, it has been asserted that this country could never be happy without an hereditary Chief ! it is placed beyond a contradiction that *faction* has ever originated among those vaunting and exclusive advocates of order, who claim

dignities by birth, and talents by prescription. Hence the important truth, that watchfulness, among the citizens at large, of self-created, self-styled pretenders, is indispensable to the preservation of their liberties.

The principal departments of our general government, fellow-citizens, have recently experienced a change of officers. Our happy constitution, competent to its own preservation, has, in vital warmth and natural energy, freed itself from the morbid matter that oppressed it, and renewed its age in regenerated life. It is to be supposed that the extended efforts of such gigantic strength, will palsy, for a time, the settled impulse of national transactions, more especially as reformations and retrenchments are necessary; and that such opportunities will be eagerly embraced, by those inimical to your interest, to censure and condemn. Watchfulness, therefore, is doubly necessary; not only of those who have in charge the most dear and valuable of your interests; but of those also, who, in the rage and bitterness of disappointment, would rejoice to blast your expectations. As "the tree is known by its fruit;" and as a little time is required for its maturity, before it can be reasonably judged of;—let us not be too hasty in pronouncing upon the advantages, or disadvantages of the changes that have been made; but considering that whatever they may be, they will eventually come to the test of truth and experience, suspend opinion for a moment, and provide ourselves with candor.

In a *Republican* Government, (which is, indeed, our most valuable heritage) the will of the majority is absolute. In proportion as it is more philanthropic than the will of an individual, or a selected Aristocracy, in that proportion we esteem, and adore it. It is that for which our ancestors explored an inhospitable shore : It is that for which you have sustained an eight years conflict against the formidable forces of Britain ; and which we have been taught to consider as the palladium of our liberties. Such will, announced according to constitutional forms, becomes a first principle of legal obligation, from which there is no appeal but to force, the first principle “ and immediate parent of despotism.” Hence an orderly, and peaceable acquiescence in the will of the majority is a sacred duty, which none will withhold who have at heart the happiness, and freedom of all.

Relying, then, upon the virtues of our countrymen, who have organs to discern, and feelings to appreciate sincerity ; and that they will unite their exertions to preserve the harmony of society ; and in support of those who are charged with its authorities, while acting for the common good, we look forward to many, many days, and years of tranquil, and uninterrupted enjoyment——

“ When all th’ opposing elements of life  
 The gales of rage, and hurricanes of strife,  
 Shall cease, and waft our bark on silken sail,  
 And on life’s ocean one great calm prevail :  
 When mutual passions mutual charms shall lend,  
 And each to each be *Neighbor, Father, Friend.*”