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A Discourse, Delivered on the Fourth of July, in the
North Brick Church.

New York, 1812. 16 pp.

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A

DISCOURSE,

DELIVERED

ON THE

FOURTH OF JULY,

IN THE

North Brick Church.



By PETER I. VANPELT, A. M.

PASTOR OF THE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, IN RICHMOND
COUNTY, NEW-YORK.



NEW-YORK:

PRINTED FOR THE PUBLIC.

.....

1812.

TO THE PUBLIC.

We have annexed the infamous production of the Rev. E. Parish, of Massachusetts, preacher of the Gospel, to one of the most patriotic and truly American discourses we have seen for some time, in order to exhibit to the discerning public of the U. States, the CONTRAST between pure American principles, and infernal Jacobinism, not to say Eastern Federalism; and we sincerely hope it may prove a radical cure to every disorganizing or distempered mind in the union, and contribute the more to consolidate that sacred compact, which is indispensable to the existence and happiness of the only Republic on earth.

PUBLISHER.

INFERNALISM.

Words cannot magnify the turpitude of the wretch who could abuse his clerical office, disgrace his holy functions, and shame his country, by uttering in the house of God, in his presence, on the day appropriated to his worship, such a tissue of blasphemy, falsehood and malice, as the Discourse from which the following extracts are made. We place it on record. This man calls himself a Federalist. "O that mine enemy would write a book!" If this crowd be that of modern federalism, what reflecting man will longer permit himself to be enrolled in a party which fosters such serpents in its bosom? Let him test its language and tenor by the Farewell Address of Washington; let him particularly compare one part of it, with the information imparted by one of Brock's staff officers to Col. Cass, that New-England was to remain neutral during the war; and let him then say whether any honest man could approve this execrable production. We would think not; and yet this diabolical discourse, of the whole of which the subjoined extracts are a fair specimen, has been printed in pamphlet form, and circulated with great avidity by a certain description of characters. We shall afford to a part of it still wider diffusion.

Extracts from "A Discourse delivered at Byfield, (Mass.) Fast-day, July 23, 1812; By

E. PARISH, D. D.

"Do any repeat the inquiry of the text, 'Watchmen, what are the tidings?' I answer, that after more than half a century of war and devastation among the nations, the last enterprise of this terrible power is called by way of distinction the battle, the battle of the great day of God Almighty; preparations are making for this closing scene, the final catastrophe.

"The grand object of this anti-christian confederacy is conquest and war, 'war with the Lamb; war, war, perpetual war, is their object; and the Lamb shall finally overcome them, for he is the Lord of Lords, and the King of Kings, and they who are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. All these congregated kings, with their emperor, are enemies of christianity. Infidel kings and PRESIDENTS have agreed to give their authority to the anti-christian beast. They will prosper, till the indignation be overpast, till the saints are purified, and the wicked are ripe for ruin. The state of society on the continent of Europe, and wherever the influence of anti-christ prevails, seems nearly as corrupt as possible. Those rulers who hold their power only, 'as kings, seem nearly ripe for the most desperate expedition, for the most nefarious warfare. Look at that state in this country where the PAPAL RELIGION has predominated, where now lawless banditti are carrying terror through their fierceity, &c."

"The obsequiousness of this country to the despot of Europe needs no proof or illustration from me. Is it credible that the leaders of this war would bring general distress and ruin on the country, and expose themselves to scorn and detestation for nothing? Men never hazard such evils but for a supposed adequate return. Where in the universe can we discover the motives of such a distracted impulse but in the hearty union with the French emperor? This then is irretrievably the war. This has been so often proved as to need no confirmation. I might as well prove that the sun shines. We engage in this war, then we take side with the despot we enlist under his fatal banner; we make a common cause with him, and must share in his approaching destruction. Can I say any thing more to deter every considerate man from embarking in this terrible conflict.

"By subject submission, by passive obedience in the rank of war; by extinguishing your reason, your conscience, and your spirit, you may readily avoid all political debate and strife. The dead calm of a military despotism soon diffuses silence, solitude and darkness over the land, interrupted only by the exultations of masters, and the despairing agonies of their slaves. The oyster slumbers in her couch, undisturbed by the billows of the ocean, which burst over her house of pearl, unafrighted by the thunders of heaven, which tear the world in pieces around her. So must you become my beloved countrymen, engaging in this NEFARIOUS WARFARE, to shield yourselves against the intolerable vexations, the maddening disappointments, and desperate losses, which you have begun to endure for several years past.

"But if I understand the character of NEW-ENGLAND, this passive endurance of needless, useless, wanton mischief, is not compatible with your views, your temper, your invincible determinations. You must change the radical traits of your character, you must cease to be NEW-ENGLAND MEN, before you can exhibit this tame African slavish deportment. The effect will not be trivial; for the authors of this war have a character as fixed as your own; or if they for a moment should seem to recede from their purposes, it will be only to resume them with greater advantage, and a thousand fold energy. You have experienced their daring obstinacy, and have been humbled under its force. Those who have proclaimed this war, will sacrifice their own existence, before they will give up their claim to domination. They will level the mountains before they will come down to equality, and an impartial deportment to NEW-ENGLAND. They have not a fibre to sympathize with your dearest interests; their course is destructive to your prosperity; their attachments engulf you in ruin. The war will give full play to their hostility and overbearing power. You bend before their influence, you are dismayed. Long have you expected relief from their fatal measures, long have you submitted with the patience of Issachar, who like a stupid ass, bowed down between two burdens. And still do you hope, and hope, and hope for a change of measures in the FRENCH CITIZENS, the GALLATINS, the JEFFERSONS, the BURRS, and MADISONS of the country? You may as well expect that the freezing blasts of winter will cover your fields with corn, your gardens with blossoms. They will as soon give liberty to their African slaves as unembarrassed commerce to their NEW-ENGLAND subjects. Will you then throw yourselves completely into their power, by suffering this warfare to proceed? Will you admit southern troops into your borders? Will you permit French sol-

diers to land on your shores? Will you endure the sight of French officers at the head of your ranks? Rather entomb yourselves among your father's bones. Let the slaves of Napoleon sleep on your pillows, and riot at your tables, but do not let them domineer over the proprietors. You have patiently demonstrated that puning and whining, and petitioning and feebly resisting, will redress no grievances, will prevent no evils, will command no attention, but scorn and derision, and accumulating insults and increasing privations. Of these you have already had enough to satisfy any man's conscience. Pause then—consider—form your immutable resolution—what is the result?

"Have you concluded for yourselves, your children, and children's children, to subject to greater commercial restrictions, voluntarily to submit yourselves to the miseries, now endured by a hundred million slaves in Europe? then it is suitable and fit, that you should be SLAVES. You are strong, and are able to hew wood and draw water for French tyrants. Have you concluded, like Jewish Slaves, to nail your ears to the door posts of your master's house, and to go on buffeting the storms, and hewing down the forests, and dragging your timber from the hills, when your laws virtually declare it shall rot on the shore? Have you concluded to send your ships to sea, to load them with rich cargoes, and as they are moving from the shore, bow your heads, while a voice from the secret chambers, the dark caverns of Congress, forbids a sail to be unrolled, while your ship is fastened to the wharf, as by the spirit of magic, her cargo consuming, her timbers the food of worms. Have you concluded, after your ships are abroad in lawful commerce to yield submission to an execrable and unjust law, which declares that your ships and cargoes are forfeited with treble their value, the day they return to the waters of the U. S. Have you concluded, quietly to see the tyrant of Europe, who is also the tyrant of America, burn your ships, chain your sailors, and march them from prison to prison? Then blow the trumpet, beat the drum, fly to the war, march to the hottest battle, to subdue his valiant and invincible foe. In your foreheads or in your hands wear 'the mark' of IMPERIAL SLAVES. But as you are voluntary, be cheerful in your chains; do not murmur or complain; do not look sullen or sad; submit like Dutchmen, and be faithful slaves. Is this too bad for NEW-ENGLAND spirits? Then do what is infinitely easy; LET THERE BE NO WAR IN YOUR TERRITORIES. PROCLAIM AN HONORABLE NEUTRALITY; let the southern heroes fight their own battles, and guard their slumbering pillows against the just vengeance of their lacerated SLAVES, whose sighs and groans have long since gone up to the court of the eternal, crying for the full vials of his incensed wrath. Rise in the majesty of your unconquerable strength, break those chains under which you have sullenly murmured, during the long, long reign of democracy; better down those iron walls which have incarcerated your souls and bodies so long, and once more breathe that free commercial air of NEW-ENGLAND, which your fathers always enjoyed" &c.

"If you have not so resolved; if you have some of your father's blood yet in your veins; then protest against this war. Protest, did I say protest? Forbid this war to proceed in New-England. Let your PURSANT WORDS be satisfied by inflicting the bloody lash on more than ten hundred thousand AFRICAN slaves."

"Can ye endure the idea, that your beloved sons and grandsons should feast the souls of Heaven in a foreign land? Does not the thought freeze your soul with terror? THEN DRIVE AWAY THE DEMON OF WAR FROM YOUR COAST. The Puritans of NEW-ENGLAND MUST NOT, will not, cannot be dragged into this execrable war."

"Across the Atlantic behold the nation of your brothers gloriously united to resist the dominion of Anti-christ. Briton, like Shadrack and his company in the furnace of Babylon, is surrounded by burning flames, but receives no harm. She looks abroad upon the ocean; not a friendly sail meets her eye; the navies of the world discharge their thunders at her breast; the ocean blazes around her; nearly the whole continent kindles into a rampart of fire at her approach; yet like the invincible host of Israel marching through the Red Sea, she pursues her course; the wrecks of her enemies cover the ocean; she swells the song of praise. In the fires, intended to make her the victim, she triumphs, and like the angel of Menoah, ascends in the flames to HIGHER GLORY. Her banners will wave victorious on the plains of Armageddon, while the blood of her enemies will flow to the horses' bridles, and the flesh of their vassal kings furnish a SUPPER for all the vultures of heaven."

"The wicked achievements of all the wicked governments, from Macedonia's madman to the Swede," furnishes no parallel to this PROFLIGATE measure. It is this moment owing to the FORBEARANCE, the CLEMENCY, and MAGNA-

NIMITY of the ENGLISH, than to any preparations of defence by our government, that our cities are not burning from Maine to Georgia, that one blaze of towns, a thousand miles in extent, does not amaze the world with its sublimity and horror; that a million people are not wandering to-day over the ashes of their dwellings, without a home, without employment, and without bread. The general government cannot provide any reasonable defence. They cannot raise men, they cannot BORROW money. Their drafted "conscripts" will sooner be murdered than march at their orders. Like the decrepid, expiring government of Turkey, ours can crush its subjects, but cannot afford them security. They "can call spirits from the vasty deep;" but the spirits will not come. Our country is now preserved like the prophet in the den of Babylon; the ROYAL LIONS DISDAINED to devour the innocent victim. The late declaration of war will be recorded among the "wonders of history." The story of Herod destroying all the babes of Bethlehem will give place to this more enormous iniquity. The wickedness bearing the strongest resemblance to that of our government, is that of Nero. Nero had heard of the burning of Troy, and his mind was fired with a desire to witness such a scene of horror himself. He, therefore, caused the famous city of Rome, the metropolis of the world, to be set on fire at different places; the flames spread, and the conflagration was universal; the fire raged three days. Nothing was heard amid the roar of the flames; but the crash of falling temples and palaces, the cries of mothers, calling for their children, and the shrieks of thousands expiring in the fire. Nero enjoyed all this, and from the top of a high tower, feasted his eyes with this scene of misery, playing on his harp, and singing the woes of fallen Troy. Just so, it is announced in the papers, that the President of the United States was cheerful and gay, after he had signed the wicked declaration of war, which has already covered the land with misery, torn many bosoms with anguish, plunged numbers into the eternal world. He like Nero has kindled a fire, the future miseries and conflagrations of which we fancy can realize; no pencil can describe; a fire which may burn, not nine days alone, but nine years, or half a century; a fire which may not only consume one city; but fill the whole continent with misery and blood. Who can describe the woes of this war against Britain? War against Britain did I say? It is an abuse of words. The leaders in this abominable work are deceived, if they suppose, we are their dupes. We understand the farce. The government know perfectly well, that they cannot carry on any formidable operations of war. Without the means, what can they effect? Will their blustering manifests batter down the towers of isthmus? Will it tear down the walls of their Gibralters; or silence the thunders of their navies? Then have they little to fear; then, this is really a declaration of war against NEW-ENGLAND. The spirit of the declaration may be thus expressed.

"Whereas the President of the United States finds it impossible, such are the complaints of the people, any longer to maintain the continental system of HIS MASTER NAPOLEON by commercial restrictions; therefore war is declared against Great Britain, hoping and expecting that she will be provoked to blockade our whole coast and destroy our commerce, and so more effectually execute the wishes of our Imperial Master, than a perpetual embargo. This measure is also endeared to us by knowing, that a great part of the personal property of NEW-ENGLAND is always abroad at this season of the year, and must be lost. This will crush their spirit of enterprise, and terminate the opposition of the Eastern States, to our great and good Master Napoleon."

"This NEFARIOUS declaration of war is nothing more nor less, than license given by a VIRGINIA VASSEL OF THE FRENCH EMPEROR to the English nation, authorizing them in legal form to destroy the prosperity of NEW-ENGLAND."

"You must extinguish the sparks of this abominable warfare. You must forever put to rest the hope that you ever will engage in such a mad crusade.

"You do love your country, your children, your privileges, and the temples of your God; then I beseech you by your love of country, by your love of your families—for GOD'S SAKE, I beseech you, exert every lawful method to extinguish the kindling fires of war; TEAR YOURSELVES FROM THOSE who are accomplices in the fatal measure, from those who are covering the land with misery and death. Were your boat fastened to a fire ship, just ready to explode, would you not cut the painter, and bend to the oar till the ocean sparkled around you? Then BREAK AWAY FROM THIS TREMENDOUS WAR, which is sinking you and your posterity, and your country, into the abyss of ruin!"

A DISCOURSE, &c.

PSALM 107, v. 15.

Oh ! that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men !

THE love of God and of our country, we have ever been taught to consider as virtues of a superior order. In the course of events there happen times and seasons when it behoves a people to express these pre-eminent virtues, in the most dutiful and public manner. It is in obedience to this duty that we have met at this time.

The day consecrated by the smiles of heaven and a nation's voice to the offices of gratitude, and rejoicing for civil and religious liberty, must ever hold a distinguished place, and excite no common feelings of pleasure in the hearts of the American people.

Such, Americans, is this day to you ! All that is dear and dignified, and magnanimous, rushes into the mind on the recollection of that eventful crisis, when the congress of our infant, injured country, did in solemn meeting, and in the face of day, declare these states to be free, sovereign and independent. O day of wonders never to be forgotten ! on which an oppressed and persecuted people, raised their suppliant voice to the eternal throne, and had their wrongs avenged by the God of battles. To celebrate with devotion such an event, must, from its own nature, be a useful and laudable practice ; because it exhibits the dignity and excellence of virtue in the human character, and holds out powerful inducements to others to go and do likewise ; because it conduces to promote the public good, and displays with brightening lustre, the " goodness and wonderful works of God to the children of men."

Thus in ancient and modern times, this practice has been perpetuated. Hence you read of splendid monuments, lofty towers, and magnificent edifices, reared on purpose to record the triumphs of the great, the blessings of liberty, and the dear bought independence of nations. But in whatever way the recollection of those events is kept up, and their knowledge extended to future generations, they receive much more influence, and are attended

with infinitely better effects, when they are observed in a sober and religious manner. Hence all humanized and christian people have, on GREAT occasions, repaired to their sacred temples, and devoutly ascribed to the interposition and providence of Jehovah, the honor and glory of their blessings.

This practice is sanctioned by the unerring rule in all cases; the sacred scriptures. The signal deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, is recognised in the institution of the PASSOVER, which they were commanded religiously to observe throughout their generations. So also does the christian church celebrate in the holy Eucharist, the greatest of all deliverances, viz. a deliverance from the guilt and tyranny of sin, through the atonement of the Saviour. of which the things signified by the Passover were both a type and pledge. Hence we also, as in duty bound, ascribe to HIM all the honor and praise for our precious rights and privileges, to whom it justly appertains.

Proceeding then with such principles and views in the celebration of our independence from British bondage, I cannot but express a hearty confidence that what we do, shall be approved of by our God in Heaven, and by all the wise, the patriotic, and virtuous on earth.

Such was the spirit that animated the breast of the inspired poet, when as in the Psalm before us, he calls upon all highly favored and redeemed people to "praise the Lord their God for his goodness." Their great danger and remarkable deliverance is set forth in the striking similitudes, of travellers lost in a wilderness, but directed and conducted home; of prisoners rescued from captivity; of sick and dying men restored to health; of mariners preserved in a storm at sea, and brought safe into their desired haven.*

He surveys the world; views with wonder and delight, the vast scene that lies before him. Struck with a deep sense of the magnificent operations of Deity, he every where sees a divine Providence extended to all things, especially to his chosen and beloved people; therefore does he give latitude to his feelings and break out successively in the strains of glowing desire, "O that men would praise the Lord," &c. But upon what account are we particularly at this time called upon, to praise God for his goodness and for his wonderful works? and that I may not wander in the important and extensive field before me, I shall pursue the following arrangement.

We have cause to acknowledge the divine interposition in inspiring the minds and councils of our fathers with wisdom and courage, to break in sunder the hands that subjected us to the government of England; the causes propelling them to which are ably stated in that instrument which has just been read.†

* *Horne on the Psalms. vol. 3.*

† *The Declaration of Independence, penned with very little alteration by Mr. Jefferson, late president of the United States.*

It required an association of manly heroic virtues to think of, much more to resolve on a separation from the dominion of that king, and from the yoke of that proud government to which we were once subject. Tied down by oppressive and cruel laws, enforcing a system of ruinous taxation with the bayonet and sword, and claiming an indisputable right to bind us as slaves in all cases whatsoever! Misery and death were presented in ghastly and terrific forms on every side.

These painful and afflictive circumstances, together with the fear of not succeeding in the revolutionary enterprize, owing to the arts, the intrigues, the treachery and opposition of many, and the awful fate that was well known to await the leaders in the cause of freedom, in case of failure, must have excited feelings that could only be endured by those champions of liberty and *human happiness*, who, trusting in their God, nobly resolved to **LIVE FREE OR DIE.**

It was carried as if by an electric power, from New-Hampshire to Georgia. It struck the line of demarkation between the lovers and opposers of liberty. The winds and waves of the Atlantic hastened it to the shores of Britain; it stalked in the bold attitude of defiance in the parliament and cabinet of St. James; It was borne aloft through Europe, and pervaded the habitable globe.

The empires of the world listened, and beheld with wonder and with awe! The more enlightened despots saw in it the forebodings of the downfall of arbitrary despotic power; the elevation and extension of the principles of just and equal government; which may God of his infinite mercy grant the nations of the earth to realize.

The eyes of the astonished world fixed on United America, almost literally without arms without ammunition, without money, and without soldiers; without any thing but that which was once the glory of the Spartans...public virtue...the glorious love of country. Royalists were only seen or heard to vaunt their idle rhodomontade about George's majesty; and sure of success, how would they not execute the deadly orders of their master! Then was exhibited the singular phenomenon of a people, poor in means but rich in courage and in confidence, determined to knock off the shackles of slavery.

Illustrious shades of departed patriots and heroes! who formed that grand convention that first introduced and systematized the glorious work of our Independence! your love of country, your fame, your virtues, and your glories shall descend untarnished to remotest generations.

The drama of the revolution was now fully opened; to effect it without difficulty, commotion, loss of treasure and of blood, was not, could not be expected; but the repeated acts of horrid cruelty committed by the English, Scotch, and Hessian officers, exceeded the greatest latitude of thought, and stand unparalleled, for civilized people, in the page of history.

Not only many valuable lives were immolated on the altar of freedom, but the very temples of Jehovah's worship were attack-

ed and profaned, and pulled down ; defenceless towns and villages were set on fire and reduced to ashes by the sons of rapine and slaughter ; cultured fields desolated—widow's houses plundered ; the virtuous daughter ignominiously robbed of her chastity and honor : the father bewails his child ; the mother the loss of her son, her darling son....whose youthful bosom glowed with the love of liberty....who embarked in the contest for freedom, and who died fighting for his country. Many a fair and beauteous form was left on the cold ground, the miserable appendage of a mangled corpse. The blood of the brave and honorable stained the soil and crimsoned the brooks of America, before she could be free, and elevated to that high rank to which she was destined by the God of nature. Alas ! how awful in anticipation, the wide waste of horror and devastation that lay before our fathers ! How portentous that hour when the congregated storms of aristocratic rage broke loose upon us....when the onset was made ? When the demon of war bellowed his loud thunders throughout our land, and hailed the legions of tyrannic power that landed on our shores, an army of patriotic whigs, fearless of danger, and braving death, seeing the banners of their union, pressed around the elevated standard of freedom. Contending not for ambition, nor vain honor and conquest, but for liberty and their country, they endured every privation and hardship ; offering their lives, their fortunes and honor in sacred pledge of faithfulness to their cause. They risked their all in the struggle for liberty.

Lexington opens the tragic scene and gives the first public proofs of republican determination and valor.

I see the new and undisciplined troops organized and led on by our illustrious chief rush to the tented field, and as if by the power of enchantment, perform prodigies of valor.

Bunker's Hill records the martial prowess of a Warren. Alas ! there it was that brave officer fell ! Saratoga shall long remember the splendid triumphs of a Gates. The memory of the gallant Mercer is engraven in the Jerseys ; there flowed the purple stream of his life for freedom. Guilford and the Eutaw Springs raise high their trophies of honor to the able generalship of Greene. Ah ! time fails me to mention in detail all those patriots and the armies of suffering soldiers that atchieved our independence.

Thou Yorktown, rising in the south, long shall the fame of thy siege be remembered with profound gratitude to that God who directs the fate of battles and of nations. There shone our beloved countryman, Washington, the American Joshua in all the radiant effulgence of meridian glory. Never did troops behave more worthy their commander, their country, and themselves. It seems as if Providence had reserved this place, in the native state of our illustrious Washington, for the last brilliant display of great and glorious actions. There ended the arduous struggle for our emancipation from the bondage of unrighteous and wicked task masters, who paid dear for their ignorance and their high-toned love of

royalty and oppression. Then were the rivets of kingly crowns started, and the thrones of monarchy and usurpation shaken to their basis. The Almighty Ruler of the Universe seemed to say, Liberty is the cause I will cherish and will bless.. people of America, you shall be free from the domination of a king and his oppressive servants. It was God that crowned our arms with complete and glorious success. "Oh. that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

There are many circumstances of divine concurrence in the achievement of our liberties that cannot be overlooked, in which the finger of omnipotence is manifestly seen. Indeed every candid and good man will acknowledge the arm of God made bare in the vindication of our country, throughout the whole progress of our revolution. Had not the conduct of the government of Great Britain been such as it was, we might for ought we know, been to this day paying the tribute of subjection and bearing the burden of their wars and distresses. Thus is it that the "wrath of man praises God, and that he restrains the remainder of their wrath."

The raising up a man like George Washington, who, in the temper of his mind; the undisguised sincerity of his heart, and faithful integrity of soul, was most admirably fitted for a commander. A nation's tears best express a nation's love for this exalted character, and a nation's sense of the loss sustained in the death of so great and good a man. Methinks I see seven millions of free and enlightened people crowd to his tomb, to bedeck it on this anniversary, with expressions of filial gratitude and affection...thanking the God that reigns over all, for the gift of a Washington..who was inspired to lead our armies through a long and perilous war, to victory and to the establishment of peace and independence.

He might when he "felt power have forgot right," and seizing on the critical moment, have sought to make himself a military despot. And, a kingly government is a kingly government still. Tyranny is tyranny still, from whatever quarter it comes. You have an awful instructive example of this in Bonaparte, the first of the Gallic Cæsars, who sits on the throne of the Bourbons. and who has subjugated almost all the eastern continent. He seemed to set out with republican principles, and Americans had grounds to hope that he and the French nation would have cherished and maintained those principles, inasmuch as they once assisted us. But time has disclosed the malignity and royal principles of his heart, and the fickleness and treachery of the nation. Such was the time when our distinguished orators exclaimed, "the revolution in France was great...was astonishing...was glorious!" But God had ordered otherwise for us, and Washington meant otherwise. He proved true and faithful to God and the people. "Blessed is he that considereth the people: the Lord shall deliver and bless him."

Emperors and princes of Europe and the world, were ye as our Washington was, humane, generous and brave, according to

the principles of the benign system of our holy religion, the effusion of human blood would be stopped. Then would ye let your people return to the culture of their fields and vines, and with their families enjoy the sweets of peace. But your ambition is never satiated. Ye delight in war and in the misery of your subjects, Great God ! our prayer shall ever be according to thy holy word, " Scatter thou the people that delight in war."* This leads me to speak of our present interesting situation, and of the general state of the world.

Nearly thirty years have passed away since the war of the revolution and the establishment of our national sovereignty. During that time, as was foreseen, and oft-times declared by our sages and virtuous statesmen, the crowned heads of Europe soon became jealous of our rapid growth and unexampled prosperity and happiness as a nation. The war that had been carried on by our people with so much wisdom in council, unanimity and promptness in execution, and more especially our excellent confederated constitution, the bond of our union, the grand charter of our rights, and pledge of increasing glory....a constitution expressive of, and bottomed upon republican principles ; the whole form of our government, which is a government of laws emanating from the people, gave a character to our nation, unfriendly and inauspicious to tyrants and lordly power : a character of understanding, discernment and enterprize, together with a high sense of justice, honor and virtue that bid fair one day to take a stand elevated above the corrupt governments, the enslaved and superstitious nations of the earth. For these reasons, there exists a sort of combination, so far as interest and policy do not interfere, by the kings and princes of the world, against us : because our government, where the people rule, lays the axe at the root of all those governments where kings, and emperors, and nobles rule.

It is manifest that as our government resembles, in its radical points, the ancient government of the people of Canaan, which was prescribed to them by the God of heaven, under which the people lived in peace, and were prosperous and happy, (until they grew corrupt) and as a government of kings and nobles was from the first hateful and displeasing in the eyes of the Lord, for the first king that was given, was given in " anger,"† as a curse and scourge, in punishment of their discontent ; and as government, learning, and religion, originated in the east, and travelled to the western parts of the globe, so I say would it appear, that an all-wise God in his providence, has established in this western world, that just and equal form of government, which from henceforth is the model for all nations ; which happy form of government we fondly hope shall travel back through Europe, to the utmost borders of the east, and liberty, plenty and peace, flowing from the prince of peace, crown with joy the nations of the earth. In that

* *Psalms* lxxviii. 30. last part.

† See the account given in 1. *Sam.* 8. ch.

case, as well in a civil as a religious view, "will the first be last, and the last first." But against our form of government and country, we have suggested a multitude of evils have been, and are daily devised by the enemies of the rights of man.

Hence, already in the administration of President Washington, serious collisions and disagreements began to take place, which were coeval with the treaty that terminated our American war. † This subject was elucidated and masterly handled on the floor of the Senate of the United States by a great and enlightened statesman. It will be seen to the satisfaction of every honest and honorable mind, that important posts in our territory were detained contrary to treaty; that the scalping merciless Indians, encouraged and abetted by the emissaries of Britain, made war upon our frontiers, and the very subjects of Britain, were discovered fighting in disguise in the midst of the savage ranks; a thing that the eloquent earl of Chatham so severely reprehended and utterly condemned but a few years before on the floor of Parliament with his dying lips; for which the vengeance of heaven must be further poured down on that government. Lord Dorchester, the then governor of Canada, in a public speech, expressly encouraged and fomented hostilities against our people and country. It was at this time that the skillful and gallant Wayne, routed and conquered the savages; those that escaped, flew for protection to the "muzzle of British cannon."

At the same time, the barbarians in Africa "were excited and let loose upon us." And at the same time, owing to the predominant influence of England over the Portuguese government, the passage through the straits was interdicted, and our unsuspecting and defenceless merchantmen not only exposed to the piracies of Algiers, but almost every where on the ocean annoyed, impressed, imprisoned, gibbeted and distressed. Redress for these inhuman and outrageous grievances was demanded by negotiation, and partially obtained but not...not by any means to the full satisfaction of our country. A treaty made by Mr. Jay was ratified only as a lesser evil than war. Here was a signal example of American moderation, mildness and forbearance.

In the administration of President Adams another collision and disagreement took place with Spain, which was however soon amicably settled; and another with France, which had begun under the former administration. This was of a more serious and atrocious kind. The French also interrupted and committed "depredation on our commerce." Our merchants, active and enterprising, were literally robbed by them, and not too when they had supplied them in scarce and needful times. They (the French) violated the treaty, disrespected the "consular convention," put at defiance all law and humanity, by refusing to receive

† See debate on the Mississippi transactions, p. 45—48. Senator De Witt Clinton, Esq. from New-York.

our ambassador, and outrageously ordered out of France the representative of a free and independent people. Redress was again sought. These enormities were again in a manner palliated, and again the patience and long suffering of our country was manifested to the world.

In the administration of President Jefferson, the deep rooted inimical spirit of the British pursued us not only on every ocean and sea, and straight, but it penetrated to the very mouth of our harbours. Differences accordingly again broke out with the English, and again with the French, which last to the present day, in the administration of President Madison. Thus is it that we the free people of the United States of America have been treated for a series of years by the haughty belligerents of Europe.

Such is only a small sample of the delcterious, the aggravating and provoking insults and injuries that have been committed against us by the warlike powers of the earth. Who is it that does not wonder that we have escaped war so long? Who dares to undervalue the courage and blood of free and independent Americans? Where is the republican and friend of America that does not find it difficult to suppress a rising storm of indignation, when these facts are mentioned? Who can be so imprudent as any longer to take the part of any foreign power? And who is so unwise, as not to see that a wonder-working God in giving wisdom to our councils and moderation to our citizens has graciously delivered and preserved us thus far. Our country has proceeded on the christian maxims of gentleness and long-suffering...and although this may be contemptible in the eyes of the blood thirsty, yet it is magnanimous before God, and lays the foundation for a great and glorious victory. Oh that men would praise the Lord, &c.

Our situation at present is most interesting. With France we have causes of complaint and differences growing out of their Berlin and Milan decrees...the burning our vessels and interrupting our commerce. These aggressions are of a serious nature... how they will terminate, he only knows who holds in his hand the destinies of nations... "whose counsel shall stand and who will do all his pleasure." This we know, that their emperor Bonaparte is subtle and crafty...that he wears a boasted iron crown...that he pants for universal domination...that surfeited with pride through a long course of successes, he would no doubt readily be GRAND DICTATOR of the world. Having such principles and views, republicans cannot nor do fear his frowns, nor court his favors.— He will find he has Americans to deal with he has a superior race of men, compared with the poor vassals of arbitrary governments. We consider him as the rod of the Almighty's anger, to scourge and punish papal France, and all those wicked Roman Catholic countries, that have cherished that engine of death for the sake of religion...the bloody inquisition. He has already given Rome a shaking which the lovers of papacy will never see it overcome. When he shall have subserved the purposes of heaven...he will be cast away.

With the united kingdoms of Great Britain, Ireland and their dependencies, we are at war. War is an evil ever to be lamented by all good and peaceable people. Much as we deplore it ... it is notwithstanding justifiable under existing circumstances... because necessary for the preservation of the lives of our citizens... the defence of our property, liberty and laws... all of which have been sported with a long time past, notwithstanding exhortation, remonstrance and negotiation have been faithfully employed. This evil has grown out of the ignorance, pride, and total want of justice and humanity of our enemies towards us. These at first dictated their paper blockades of whole countries, and have kept in force their orders in council, so destructive to our commerce, and so flagrant an infraction of all propriety and right. Thus has England been busy ever since the revolution, to scatter the firebrands of discord among us. And calculating largely on the divisions of the people manifested at the elections, on the support of her friends that staid here after the war of '76, and those that have since come among us... that she would yet humble us at her feet for our daring to shake off her arbitrary government... either by making us pay tribute, under the specious name of duties, or effect a civil commotion among us, and have our republic turned into a monarchy. Such is only a continuation of that system of deadly revenge that began with the king, the Norths and Butes, and has since been carried on by the Hawksburys, the Cannings, the Perceivals and Castlereaghs. Under such infatuated and blind counsels, has the nation labored for years. If ever a government tried by every honourable and christian means to avoid war, ours has. Chargeable as we are in the sight of God, still we have cause to congratulate each other that our national character stands high for wisdom, moderation and justice. Having recently and necessarily been brought into war, Americans, this is the time for the burial of all your party differences... for undivided union and a firm and manly support of the constituted authorities of the nation. Shew the nation with which you are at war, and the world at large, that you are determined... unalterably determined with all you have on earth, to defend your country as well from foreign invasion, as to preserve it from intestine faction... lawless ambition... monarchy and corruption. Compel the nations to understand that you are the descendants of fathers who resolved to live free or perish... who stuck to the resolve, until they conquered the legions of arbitrary power, and drove them from our shores. But is it necessary for me at this time too, to urge the virtuous duty of union, brotherhood and good faith, as brothers of one great and happy family. Is it necessary to beseech you to lay aside all undue attachment to foreign government, if there does exist any such attachment and to rally round the standard of American liberty! Men and soldiers of America! is it necessary, in order to animate you in behalf of your injured country, to uncover the bleeding wounds of heroes who fell on the field of battle for liberty? Must I point you to the dreary graves where lay the whitened bones of

our brave fathers...that were lacerated and butchered by a bitter foe, and died martyrs for freedom? Shall I bring up to your view the valiant deeds of our brothers at Tripoli? There you see Preble, the boast of his country, and the intripid Decatur, gather thick the laurel wreaths of honor, and stalk with the plumes of victory. Somers, Wadsworth and Israel, like so many renowned Curtius's, leap into the gulph of death to befriend their country. O youth of America, my country! I perceive you have taken fire from the altar of '76. I see you burn to be led to the contest of glory. Where then is that nation so blind and infatuated, as any longer to think to insult with impunity, the dignity and sovereignty of the only free people on earth. Learn ye tyrants of the sea and land...ye apostates from liberty and justice, learn that we trust not in an arm of flesh only. Trusting in the only living and true God for the justice and righteousness of our cause, and for the preservation of our constitution ye shall be opposed by thousands... thousands of those old survivors of the revolution...of whigs...republicans...federalists...all...all united and in solid columns clothed in armour, shall meet your embattled hosts. Ye shall be opposed by countless multitudes of martial youth who only wait the opportunity to shew whose sons they are...what the country that gave them birth, and what the laws they love...whose souls are fired with the inextinguishable love of those blood-bought privileges, vouchsafed by heaven, and won by the gallant bravery of dear venerable fathers. Remember, that we contend not for the honor of a maniac...or for a profligate, dissipated prince and ministry...but for the solid substantial principles of life...liberty...property...happiness...glory. These are the principles that actuated our forefathers, persecuted in different parts of Europe for their political and religious sentiments...who came over and found an asylum in this western hemisphere, happily separated by an ocean of 3000 miles from the outstretched arms of English and French inhumanity and persecution. And these principles God has cherished and blessed. Since then "the battle is not to the strong, nor the race to the swift," but that success crowns the just. Trusting in God, we have nothing to fear from the boasted navy of Britain, or from the prosperous arms of the French. "The lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice."

If then you are virtuous republicans if you are determined to defend the principles of a good republican government, as opposed to royalty and corruption...won by the valor, and endeared by the blood of so many precious lives. If you are determined that the constitution which guarantees your rights and your privileges... shall stand a monument of American wisdom, union and virtue. And if the Almighty God pleases, that it shall not be surrendered to tyrants. If you are resolved as a band of American brothers, that the stupendous column of our independence shall never be overthrown, 'til it fall in the general convulsion, and awful day of the consummation of all things! Let me devoutly implore you to worship the God of your fathers. Remember to keep the sabbath

days. With reverential awe invoke the pardon of your sins and reconciliation to God, through the merits and mercy of a crucified... compassionate redeemer. Who is exalted a prince and a saviour, to give repentance to his servants...preparation for death...and eternal happiness. He, and he alone sways the holy sceptre of universal empire.

Spirits of grace, breathe over our land thy sanctifying and reviving influence. Defeat the projects of our domestic and foreign foes....turn their counsels into foolishness....and, let the war begun, we trust in thy fear be carried on, and end to the glory of thy name and to the good of our nation. And ever let us be the people of thy care...the sheep of thy living pastures.

Go then beloved countrymen! Go and do your duty. Your country expects it of you! On every anniversary of our independence, you, with the millions of your fellow citizens have rejoiced and witnessed the demonstrations of public joy. You have promised...you have avowed...you have affirmed...you have sworn that you owed no allegiance to any foreign potentate or prince. That you would stand by and obey your country's call against whatever enemy or whenever it might be.

Hark! a voice! 'Tis the weeping voice of America, your beloved country...your land of freedom and of plenty. She has again been greatly injured by the British lion, who but a few years since, her Eagle seized and held in his talons until her independence and her sovereignty was acknowledged.

Your country weeps that she cannot get justice done her in reason and in peace...thank God she loves peace. She negotiated for peace. ..but all in vain; the more fairly she proposed, the more the Rose's and Jackson's receiving their orders from corrupt masters, mocked. and insulted. and trifled with her. She now looks to you independent freemen, to see her righted. To arms! to arms ye sons of 'America and of liberty...you have been nourished and fattened in the bosom of a dear and beloved country....stand by and defend her in a manner worthy the name of Americans.

What did your fathers fight for? Ye war-worn soldiers of the revolution, ah! your number is small. Ye were better known by the bloody tracks of your feet, and your dauntless courage in pursuit of liberty, than you are now. And shall all these invaluable rights ..shall your civil and religious liberties be torn from you? Can you...ought you for a moment to endure the thought of digging down into the graves of the heroes that fought and bled for the freedom of the states, and pluck from their withered brows, the laurels entwined by the hands of a grateful country? No, I am persuaded better things of you. There might possibly be some shadow of excuse for those that took the part of the British, *last war*, but now there is, there can be no excuse...no, none! Here you have your property...your religion...your beloved wives and children...the hope and consolation of your hearts...all secured by mild and salutary laws. See the scroll of your liberties and blessings unfurled, the fruits of your father's toils! Let no geograph-

ice distinctions damp your ardor. Frequently think of...talk of... cherish and support the sentiments of Washington, in his farewell address to the people of his country. "Consider...I look upon him as a wretch who even insinuates a separation of these United States. Frown indignantly upon every, the least hint that is given of a severance of the union. And let him be held in eternal detestation and abhorrence, who shall be found to favour such a diabolical project. Be all federalists who are lovers of the union of the states. Be all republicans who are lovers of free and equal and just government.

Whether you are inhabitants of the north, south, east or west of this great and extensive republic, support the powers that are constituted by the voice of a free people.

Illustrious citizens! the banners that display the eagle, the stripes, and the stars, the insignia of free and united America are the same. Follow them, if required, to the very mouth of the enemy! Vindicate your country and its rights. until tyrants shall again confess that they were wrong when they thought to subvert the free people of America!

Great ruler of the destinies of the universe? thou who didst once fight our battles for us, and struck terror into the hearts of our enemies! help us again, O Lord God of hosts, and we will praise thy name forever and forever.