

S27377

Van Pelt, Peter I., 1778-1861.

The Goodness of God.

New York, Pelsue & Gould, 1812. 23 pp.

MWA copy.

THE
GOODNESS OF GOD,

TO BE PRAISED BY MEN, &c.

A
DISCOURSE,

DELIVERED

ON THE FOURTH OF JULY,

IN THE NORTH BRICK CHURCH.



By P. I. VANPELT, A. M.

Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church, in Richmond County,
New-York.



NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY PELSUE AND GOULD,

No. 3, New-street.

1812.

BEST COPY
AVAILABLE

DEDICATION

TO

PETER WILSON, L.L.D. P. M. S. D. M. S. &c.

Professor of Greek and Latin Languages, and Greek and Roman Antiquities, in Columbia College, New-York.

RESPECTED AND DEAR SIR,

IT is common and natural for men to embrace a favorable opportunity, publicly to express their high sense of the worth of those who are distinguished for talents and for commanding virtues in the literary walks of life; and who are regarded as the benefactors of mankind. Such, sir, are the sentiments and motives that have induced me to dedicate the following discourse to you.

Having in my juvenile years received many important and useful lessons of instruction at your feet, as well in the arts and sciences, as in the oracles of divine truth and of our holy religion, I know well your devoted attachment to the glorious cause of salvation, through a Redeemer, while at the same time, your heart expands with the best wishes for our beloved country, for the triumph of republican principles, and with a generous benevolence to your fellow men.

May the God whom we serve increasingly bless you in your labours and happy family; spare your useful life to a good old age, and at last crown you and yours with everlasting joy, is the sincere prayer of,

Dear sir,

Your friend and obedient servant,

And nephew,

P. I. VANPELT

Castleton, Richmond County, }
July 7th, 1812. }

Evening of the 4th July, 1812.

At a meeting of the Committee of Arrangement in Richmond County, for celebrating the 36th Anniversary of our Independence, it was unanimously resolved, that Messrs. Barton, Heliker and Williams, wait on the Rev. P. I. Vanpelt, with the thanks of the Committee for his patriotic and excellent discourse delivered this day, and that he be pleased to furnish a copy for publication, &c.

Signed by order,

Major NICHOLAS BURGHER, Chairman.

JACOB CROCHERON, Esq. Sheriff, Sec'y.

To which was received the following answer.

GENTLEMEN,

IN conformity to your wishes, I herewith send you a copy of the discourse delivered on the 36th Anniversary of our Independence. The sentiments it contains, are the sentiments that flow from a heart, warm with the love of God and our country. Accept my thanks for your expressions of gratification, &c. and every assurance of respect and esteem for your welfare, &c.

Signed,

P. I. VANPELT.

July, 1812.

CELEBRATION

OF

INDEPENDENCE.

—♦—

GOD'S GOODNESS TO BE PRAISED, &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 favoured 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, specially to his chosen and beloved people; therefore does he give latitude to his feelings and break out successively in the strains of glowing desire, “Oh 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 bands that subjected us to the government of England; the causes

* Horne on the Psalms, vol. 3.

propelling them to which, are ably stated in that instrument which had just been read.*

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

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 English, Scotch, and Hessian officers, exceeded the greatest latitude of thought, and stand unparalleled for civilized people on 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 attacked 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 valour.

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 valour.

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 Green. Ah! time fails me to mention in detail all those patriots and the armies of suffering soldiers that achieved 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 bases. The Almighty Ruler of the Universe seemed to say, Liberty is the cause I 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 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 aught 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 awfully 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

* Psalm lxxviii. 59. last part.

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 part 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 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

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

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

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 skilful 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 streights 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 "depredations on our commerce." Our merchants, active and enterprizing, were literally robbed by them, and that 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 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 streight, but it penetrated to the very mouths 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 belligerants of Europe.

Such is only a small sample of the deleterious the aggravating and provoking insults and injuries that have been committed against us by the most 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 cit-

izens 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 of 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 favours. He'll find when 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 expostulation, remonstrance and negociation 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 among our 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 Percivals and Castle-reaghs. Under such infatuated and blind counsels has that nation laboured for years. If ever a government tried by every honorable and christian means to avoid war, ours has. Chargeable as we are with guilt 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 our 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 every 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 intrepid 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 to 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 holy 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 influences. 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...she laid embargoes for the sake of 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 geographical 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 subdue 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.