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Mr. WARE'S

THANKSGIVING SERMON,

February 19, 1795.



THE CONTINUANCE OF PEACE AND INCREASING
PROSPERITY A SOURCE OF CONSOLATION
AND JUST CAUSE OF GRATITUDE TO THE
INHABITANTS OF THE UNITED STATES.



A

S E R M O N,

DELIVERED FEBRUARY 19, 1795 ;

BEING A DAY SET APART

BY

THE PRESIDENT,

FOR

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

THROUGH THE

UNITED STATES.

BY HENRY WARE,

PASTOR OF A CHURCH IN HINGHAM.

Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a Prey to their Teeth.

—— The Snare is broken and we are escaped.

That I may see the Good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the Gladness
of thy Nation.

DAVID.



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1795.



PSALM CXLVII. 12, 13, & 14 ver.

PRAISE THE LORD, O JERUSALEM ; PRAISE THY
GOD, O ZION.

FOR HE HATH STRENGTHENED THE BARS OF THY
GATES : HE HATH BLESSED THY CHILDREN
WITHIN THEE.

HE MAKETH PEACE IN THY BORDERS, AND FILLETH
THEE WITH THE FINEST OF THE WHEAT.



THE occasion, my christian friends, which calls us together this day to the house of God, is equally important and joyous ; and the observance of this day by the whole people of united America, in public expressions of gratitude to God for important national blessings, exhibits to the imagination a most magnificent and interesting scene.

To aid us in contemplations suited to the occasion, I have selected the passage of Scripture which has now been read.

It may be applied, perhaps, with as striking propriety to the present circumstances of the inhabitants of this country, as it ever could be to those of any people, since its original application, by the sacred penman, to the situation of the children of Israel, at a time of great prosperity. In

In the President's proclamation for this day, we have a representation of the present condition of the United States, which remarkably corresponds, in its leading features, with the elegant and sublime description in the text.

He maketh peace, saith the Psalmist, in thy borders. The President, in the preamble to the proclamation, speaks of "our exemption hitherto from foreign war, "and an increasing prospect of the continuance of "that exemption." The Psalmist says, *He hath strengthened the bars of thy gates.* The President takes notice of "the great degree of internal tranquility "we have enjoyed, and the recent confirmation of "that tranquility, by the suppression of an insurrection which so wantonly threatened it." And parallel to the words of the text, *He hath blessed thy children within thee, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat,* are those of the proclamation, which remind us of "the happy course of our public affairs in general, "and the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our "citizens."

On account of such important public blessings, the children of Israel are called upon to express their gratitude to God. *Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, praise thy God, O Zion!* And in "circumstances which "so peculiarly mark *our* situation with indications of "the divine beneficence towards us," we are reminded in the proclamation of our "duty as a people, with
"devout

“devout reverence, and affectionate gratitude; to
 “acknowledge our many and great obligations to
 “Almighty God, and to implore him to continue
 “and confirm the blessings we experience.”

That we may know the extent of our obligations, and have feelings awakened answerable to them; let us now take a particular view of that state of prosperity, which, at this day, marks the condition of the United States; the general outlines of which are so justly sketched in the proclamation.

The basis of all our public happiness are certainly the *constitutions of government* under which we live; which, in a degree perhaps never before experienced in any country, “unite, and by their union establish, liberty with order.”

In other countries, *liberty* has usually languished under a system of corruption, or been crushed beneath the arm of arbitrary power; or else the *social order* has become the victim of faction; and *liberty* has degenerated into a licentiousness, more dreadful in its operation, and more oppressive in its effects than any other system of tyranny.

The constitution of the United States, and those of the several states which compose the Union, are formed on purely republican principles. They were the deliberate act of the people,—intended to secure their rights, by guarding, on the one hand, against encroachment and oppression by persons invested
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with civil power ; and, on the other, against the numberless evils, which must result from a relapse into licentiousness and disorder. And they happily embrace the two great objects of government,—security of rights to individuals, and of strength, dignity, and order to society.

Under these constitutions every man enjoys perfect security, and feels an honest independence, while he conducts consistently with the general good, and does not contravene the rights of others. The poorest member of the community is conscious of a perfect equality with the richest, in respect to the protection of his person, and the security of his property. And not only so, but, under the constitution of this Commonwealth with few exceptions, and under that of the United States without any, he is taught to feel his importance as a member of the body politic, by his having an equal voice in the election of persons to hold the most important offices of government, and by being himself, equally with others, eligible to the first offices.

It is a great excellency of our government, that our rulers are from among ourselves ; and that they do not derive their stations from birth, or any adventitious circumstances, but are raised to office by the suffrages of the people ; that they enjoy no hereditary distinction, or right of domination ; that they are servants of the people,—accountable to them for
their

their conduct in the offices in which they are placed by their voice, and liable to be displaced, if they are found to neglect their duty, or betray their trust.

Our constitutions of government, under which all enjoy equal rights, by having equal protection of persons and security of property, and by being equally represented in the administration, are the glory of our land, and the admiration and envy of the friends of freedom in other countries. Imperfections they doubtless have in common with all other productions of human wisdom; yet such is, notwithstanding, their intrinsic excellence and real importance, that the contemplation of them this day may with the greatest propriety fill with satisfaction *our* hearts, who are so deeply interested in them, and our lips with praise to the benign Author of all good: inasmuch as they lay the foundation of all our civil and political advantages, and are the source of most of our social and domestic felicity.

Next to the glorious fabric of our government, “the preservation of our peace foreign and domestic,” by which we continue to enjoy its blessings, lays claim to a tribute of gratitude to the *God of peace*.

In order justly to estimate the blessing of peace foreign and domestic at the present day, and in the present posture of affairs, it is necessary for us to lend our attention to the circumstances which have, for some time, endangered its existence.

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Several

Several circumstances, in the course of two years past, have concurred to embarrass our internal affairs, and to render our situation with foreign nations extremely delicate and critical.

The war, which has been carried on with so much zeal and obstinacy between France and several of the European powers combined against her liberties and independence, could not, from the nature of the thing, be uninteresting to this country. Having ourselves, so lately, made a glorious and successful sacrifice in the cause of liberty, it was natural for us to rejoice to see the principles of freedom extending their influence. And we could not but behold with peculiar satisfaction the ardent and resolute exertions for freedom in a large and powerful nation with which we were in alliance; and which had long groaned under as refined and systematic despotism, as, perhaps, ever existed in the world.—And, proportioned to our satisfaction in the efforts made by the French nation to shake off the fetters of slavery, and recover their freedom, was our indignation at the unprovoked, and unreasonable interference of a wicked combination in her internal concerns. And as sincerely as we lamented the excesses, which, till lately, disgraced the glorious cause in which France was engaged; and as much as we detested the sanguinary measures pursued by a faction within her; the American people had discernment enough to know, that

that these excesses were not to be attributed to the cause in which she was engaged ; and they had candour enough to trace them to their true source. They knew that great convulsions were inevitable in so great a revolution, and that violent measures were to be expected in the exertions of a people, who were engaged with zeal and resolution in crushing an ancient and established tyranny ; and still felt the deepest resentment against those, who had been the instruments of their oppression, and who, they naturally supposed, were wishing to prolong it. They were aware, besides, that the open invasion of France by the combined powers, and their secret intrigues in the heart of the country, by exasperating the friends of the revolution, by sowing jealousies and distrust among the leaders of it, and fomenting faction in every form through the nation, were the principal causes, to which were to be imputed the shocking scenes, which cast a deep shade over the dawn of freedom in that country.

The American people, in general, have wished well to the cause of the French, through every stage of the revolution ; at the same time that they had to lament it should be the occasion of so much incidental misery, and such shocking scenes of wanton cruelty and injustice.

This partiality of the Americans to the cause of the French, expressed perhaps by individuals too
strongly

strongly and pointedly for a neutral power, operated as an encouragement to them to employ every effort to engage us to take an active part in their cause; at the same time it awakened the jealousy of some of the combined powers, and might probably be one occasion of the unfriendly and hostile mode of treatment adopted toward us by the British court.

Thus were we exposed to the attempts of one nation to draw us into the war, which through the arts of an intriguing minister had nearly proved effectual; while by another we were provoked by various insults, and by acts of robbery, outrage, and hostility challenged to unsheath the sword.

To defeat the views and frustrate the expectations of those, who wished us to take part with them in the war, in such a manner as to preserve at the same time their friendship and confidence; and to support our national consequence with those, who had grossly insulted and injured us, without drawing the sword to resent the insult, and seek satisfaction for the injury; required in our government more wisdom and address, and more coolness and moderation united with firmness, than generally fall to the lot of men, to whom are entrusted the affairs of nations.

And the difficulty of conducting in such a manner as to avoid taking a side in the European war was increased by several inauspicious circumstances among ourselves.

There

There were some men among us so regardless of the common good, and entirely under the influence of selfish views, as to rejoice in the prospect of war, from the hope of rising to wealth by the calamities of their country. There were with us, as there are in all countries, men who are impatient of the lingering process of industry and regular business to make their fortune. To such men war presents the most fascinating prospects. Having, before their eyes, examples of enormous estates very easily and rapidly amassed, in the course of the late revolution in this country, by privateering, and various kinds of speculation, which war, and its consequence, a general derangement of affairs, never fail to present; they dream of nothing but war and revolution: and nothing will satisfy their avaricious desires, till by war they can be furnished with an easy and expeditious way of rising to opulence; or by producing internal confusion, and effecting a change in the order of things, they can avail themselves of the general convulsion and shift of property to secure an ample share to themselves.

Characters of this description abounded in every part of the Union; and they were not deficient in exertions, nor very scrupulous in their measures, to engage others with them in the cause.

They were joined by all the restless, ambitious, and disappointed persons, who, having abilities
which

which rendered them dangerous, but wanting those virtues which beget respect and confidence in mankind, had been defeated in their ambitious and aspiring views by the good sense and caution of the people. Stimulated at once by ambition, chagrin and resentment, these men were ready to join in a measure, which furnished so alluring a prospect of producing a revolution in government, or changing the present order of things in such a manner, as to give them an opportunity of rising to eminence and distinction.

Some were advocates for war from an opinion that the national honour required it. Some, because they cherished an old grudge against Great-Britain, and, without attending well to the probable consequences of the measure, were ready to seize on any opportunity to manifest their resentment. And some there were, who thought this country obliged, either by treaty or by the principle of gratitude, to engage actively with France in her contest against the enemies of her freedom and independence.

It happened unfortunately that within the United States were many citizens deeply indebted to British merchants. A rupture with Great-Britain presented a certain prospect of either an entire extinction of those debts, or at least a delay of the term of payment.—And we cannot but lament that the language employed, and measures proposed by some influential

tial members of Congress were such, as to expose them to the suspicion of acting under the influence of this consideration. Candour, however, and a regard to the honour of our country would lead us to hope, that no man, entrusted with a share in the management of our national concerns, would advise to measures obviously tending to involve the whole country in a ruinous war, for the sake of relieving some individuals, in the state to which he belonged, from the necessity of paying their just debts.

The several characters and descriptions of men which have been mentioned, besides their own direct exertions, had their several spheres of influence ; and being joined in their measures by the disorderly, the discontented, the enemies of the Federal Government, and those who were disaffected on account of its general operation, or particular parts of its administration, they constituted a very formidable faction in the state.

The more effectually to accomplish their purposes, they instituted societies in imitation of the jacobin clubs in France ; and in order to strengthen their party and carry into effect their designs, they had recourse to measures which must have sunk a good cause into disrepute,—a bad one it rendered infamous. By seditious and inflammatory publications they endeavoured to poison the public mind,—to deceive the people,—to excite their jealousy, and rouse their passions. The

The enemies of peace and order were greatly aided in their designs, by finding, in several parts of the Union, printers of news-papers, who regarded so little their duty to the public, as to devote their presses to the cause of sedition, and to suffer falsehood, slander, and misrepresentation to flow copiously in those papers, which should have been sacredly employed as the vehicles of public instruction and political information. In those papers they defamed and abused public characters,—they misrepresented and censured the measures of government,—they endeavoured to cast an odium on the most meritorious officers of government on account of their most meritorious actions, and thus to destroy the public confidence in them. They abused the President for exerting his constitutional authority in order to preserve our peace. They vilified and traduced those members of Congress, who advocated moderate and pacific measures ; holding them up to public detestation as lukewarm patriots, as being under British influence,—friends to Great-Britain, and enemies to their country. Their speeches they mutilated, and handed scraps of them to the public in such a form, and so detached from their connection, as entirely to pervert their meaning, and convey sentiments which were never entertained by their authors.

By the circulation of those papers, suspicions were sown among the people, the public sentiment was misled,

missed, and the public feelings agitated. And the spirit of disorder, uneasiness, and opposition, by which the public tranquility was threatened in every part of the Union, in one part of it actually broke out in avowed opposition to the laws, and open rebellion against the government.

These, which I have mentioned, are some of the leading circumstances, which have operated to disturb our internal tranquility,—threatened to shake the fabric of our government—thus endangered our freedom, and rendered it difficult for the friends of peace, in the administration of government, to prevent our country from being entangled in the European war.

Amidst all these obstacles to the continuance of peace and tranquility, through the wise and seasonable measures adopted by the President, and the faithful exertions of the friends of peace and order in Congress, supported by the concurrence of public sentiment, and accompanied with the smiles of heaven, we yet enjoy the blessing of peace ; and a fair prospect, which is daily brightening, that we shall continue to enjoy it under circumstances highly advantageous, and consistent with public faith and national honour. Rejoicing in the continuance of peace, and the check, which has been given to a spirit of disorder and insurrection ; we have reason to bless the day, when the friends of peace and advocates of moderate

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moderate measures prevailed over those, who, by rash and violent proceedings, would have precipitated our country into a ruinous war. And we have the further satisfaction of seeing, that the leaders of faction are losing their influence,—that the honest and well-meaning citizens, who had been duped by their artifices, and betrayed into their measures, begin to be undeceived,—and that the societies, which had arrogantly usurped the prerogative of the people, and were endeavouring to dictate to their representative government, and to controul its measures, are fast dwindling into insignificance.

To the continuance of peace, the suppression of insurrection, and the triumph of order it is chiefly owing, that this country is, in other respects, in so flourishing a condition.

It requires but little discernment and only common attention to perceive, that the unexampled prosperity of the several classes of our citizens, our rapid improvement in agriculture and manufactures, the surprizing increase of our commerce and navigation, the prodigious accession of wealth and strength to the community at large, and the easy circumstances of the inhabitants in general, of every class, are chiefly owing to that regular course of things, which several years peace, a good government, and internal tranquility have produced. And nothing is more certain, than that all these marks of prosperity must receive

receive a check, and some of them perhaps be utterly annihilated, were we to engage in a war with any of the European powers, or were our government to be materially shocked by faction.

There never was a time heretofore when this country was in so flourishing a condition, and made so respectable a figure abroad, as it does at this day. Among many other evidences of our increasing wealth, power, and importance, it is particularly worthy of our present notice, that notwithstanding the long and expensive war by which we purchased our independence, the resources of the United States are such, as to enable them to pay, with a great deal of ease, the interest of the public debt ; and that the present debates in Congress, on the reduction of the public debt, discover to us that there is ability in the nation and a disposition in our government, by a pretty rapid process to sink the principal. It is highly honorary to the United States, and a source of consolation to the citizens ; that, while other nations, already burdened with debt to the utmost extent of their resources, are yet madly plunging into the most ruinous wars to add to their embarrassments ; it is the enlightened policy of our government to avail itself of the present prosperity to relieve the country of existing debt, and, if possible, to avoid the necessity of increasing it, and to prolong that peace and prosperity, which furnish the only hope of its final extinction. The

The success, which has attended the late negotiation with the court of Great-Britain, furnishes another proof of our national respectability. We have authentic, though not official notice, that the Envoy Extraordinary, lately sent by our Supreme Executive to the British court, on business of the most interesting nature, has effected the design of his mission. This success, while it evinces that our friendship is of some importance in the estimation of other powers, we have reason to hope and expect, will contribute much to our future prosperity and happiness.

To enumerate the marks of private prosperity would lead me beyond the limits of a sermon. It is, besides, unnecessary. They are seen and felt by all the inhabitants of our land. That people in general of nearly every class and occupation enjoy a state of unusual prosperity ; that the means of a comfortable subsistence were never more than now within the reach of all ; that industry and enterprize in every line of life are highly encouraged—that they receive a sure and ample reward—and that this reward is well secured to him who earns it, are facts so obvious, that they can neither be overlooked nor contested.

Equally certain it is, that we live under a mild and free government ; as mild and free as we can bear—a government, under which each individual has given up as few of his natural rights, as is consistent

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sistent with the secure possession of the rest in a state of society.

For all these public blessings and marks of private prosperity, which distinguish our condition as a people and as individuals, let the just tribute of our united thanks ascend this day, as an acceptable sacrifice, to that God, by whose providence we enjoy them all.

And while, with hearts deeply impressed with a sense of our obligations, we unitedly praise the Lord for these indications of divine benignity ; piously noticing the footsteps of a kind providence in our national concerns : the proclamation directs us, “ at the same time humbly and fervently to beseech the kind Author of these blessings graciously to prolong them to us, and to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to him for them.”

While we hold in just estimation the patriotic exertions of those men, who were instrumental in framing and establishing the happy government under which we live, as well as of those who have been the means of preserving to us the great blessing of peace, and promoting our prosperity ; let us yet always bear in mind, that, in effecting these blessed ends, they were but the instruments of that providence, which rules over all ; and that our first acknowledgements are due to *the Father of lights, from whom comes down every good and perfect gift.*

This

This direction of the President to express a pious sense of dependence on the great Governor of the world is peculiarly seasonable at the present day, when we are in so great danger of imbibing the atheistic sentiments so openly avowed and publicly countenanced by a nation, with which we have close connections and constant intercourse.

The French people, as was naturally to be expected, in their zeal to destroy every vestige of the ancient tyranny and superstition, have gone to a lamentable excess on the other extreme. They have too evidently confounded government with tyranny, and religion with superstition. We are not however to imagine, as has been too hastily believed by some, that the French are become a *nation of atheists*.—Yet it is certain that a very considerable proportion of the nation have exploded all religion; and, in some of their most public and solemn acts, their government has virtually rejected the doctrine of a God governing the world by his providence. While we put a candid construction on the present infidelity and irreligion of the French, attributing it to their zeal to exterminate all superstition; and while we hope and believe that, ere long, they will vibrate back again to some rational system of religion, we cannot be too careful to avoid the contagion of their present principles.

Next to acknowledging the hand from which our
blessings

blessings flow, it is necessary for us “ rightly to estimate their immense value.” If we estimate our public blessings according to their worth, we shall never be willing to sacrifice them to private interest, party prejudices, national pride, passion, or resentment. It will be our wish to prolong them to the latest period, and to preserve them unimpaired.

We are directed to pray, that God would “ preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity, and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits.”

Nations are apt to grow arrogant and presumptuous, as they become rich and powerful ; and wantonly to engage in destructive wars, which serve to exhaust the treasures, and waste the strength of the country, to contaminate the morals of the people, and, by a certain process, to corrupt their government and undermine their liberties. They will sacrifice the lives and property of the inhabitants to national pride and resentment ; and, instead of endeavouring to reconcile differences with other nations by fair negociation, will bring the heaviest calamities on the country, by appealing to the sword for decision on the most trifling occasions.

Another danger to which we are exposed by prosperity is, that, as we increase in wealth, we shall progress in luxury ; that distinctions in society will be marked by stronger lines, as we depart from that
mediocrity

mediocrity of condition, which, as yet, very much distinguishes the situation of the inhabitants of this country ; and that, as inequality of condition gradually increases, we shall gradually lose our republican sentiments and manners, and with them our republican form of government. God forbid this should ever be the case ! But certainly there is a natural tendency toward it, which it requires some care both in the Government and in the people to guard against.

The body of the people, especially in the middle and lower walks of life, must cherish the republican virtues. They must be distinguished by industry, frugality, and temperance ; so as to maintain their individual freedom and independence, and prevent the wealth, and with it the power of the community, from settling into the hands of a few.

And the Government would do well to set the people an example of republican plainness and frugality. Were persons in high office in government to discountenance by their example the introduction of luxury, extravagance, and dissipation, it might have considerable influence on the manners of society at large. They may further subserve essentially the public good by pursuing regular and uniform measures in the administration of government ; by a fixed and permanent policy ; and by holding up as few objects of speculation as possible, which serve to discourage the exertions of patient industry, by enabling
enterprising

enterprizing individuals, and often the least useful members of the community, to acquire large fortunes without industry, and without pursuing any regular business.

The President's caution against delusive pursuits, which endanger the advantages we now enjoy, reminds us of certain commercial regulations proposed in Congress for the purpose of promoting the commercial interest of the country. Upon thorough examination of their nature and tendency it appeared that they must, in the issue, have operated extremely to our disadvantage. This being the case, the adoption of them with the expectation of their promoting our advantage must have proved a very delusive pursuit.

It reminds us of the vigorous effort afterward made, by taking advantage of the general indignation at the depredations made on our commerce by the British in the West-Indies, to stir up the people and the government to acts of hostility in return. Besides the numberless incidental calamities of war, the exposure of the lives and property of the citizens, such a measure must have brought on us, it must have been the occasion of increasing beyond all calculation our public debt, and in equal proportion augmenting our public burdens.

A more delusive pursuit can scarcely be imagined, than that of plunging a nation in war to obtain in-

D demnification

demnification for injuries, which, if obtained, would pay but an inconsiderable part of the probable expences of the war. Especially where any hope remains of an amicable adjustment of difficulties by negotiation.

It leads us again to think of the clamours, daily made against our government by persons, who would make the people believe it too aristocratic in its form and oppressive in its operation.

Under our present government, where each man is fairly represented, where all, except in a very few cases of incapacity, are alike candidates for office, and every public officer is subject to the law, and accountable for his conduct in office, there is as much freedom and equality as can exist with social order. Every attempt to lessen the confidence of the people in their public servants, to spread discontent and jealousy, to foment a spirit of faction, to excite insurrection or opposition to the measures of government; and all misrepresentations of the designs and measures of men in office, have a certain tendency to undermine and destroy, instead of increasing, the freedom of the people. This the leaders of faction know. But they have popular themes of declamation with which to deceive the people; and they have it in their power, by disguising well their real views, to delude into their measures many honest and firm friends to *liberty with order*.

Equally

Equally unfriendly to the continuance of liberty and equal rights are the popular societies established in this country as checks on our government. Whatever may be their pretences to democratic principles, they constitute a dangerous aristocracy. They are inconsistent with any permanent government, as they tend to keep a country in a state of perpetual revolution. In the history of France for three years past we have melancholy evidence, that they put it in the power of a few popular and ambitious individuals to controul the operations of the representatives of the people, and in effect to exercise the whole power of the government.

A spirit of jealousy is the soul of a republican government. By watching faithfully the measures of government, the people have it in their power to keep in office those men who serve them with fidelity, and pursue measures promotive of the general good, and to displace those who do not,

But this is a service they can only perform themselves. It is not capable of being delegated to others. They can neither with propriety nor safety entrust it in the hands of men they do not know ; men who have nothing to recommend them to public confidence, but their own high pretensions to exalted patriotism and concern for the liberties of the people—pretensions, which none but their own society have acknowledged, and which we do not
know

know that they have ever supported by actual exertions for the public good.

While, as friends to order, we reprobate all combinations of men for the purpose of opposing, embarrassing, or controuling the operations of government, or influencing elections ; as friends to liberty, we should cherish a spirit of jealousy, and earnestly wish that all might be vigilant in guarding their rights, and in preventing the corruption of government, and checking its tendency toward despotism.

The prayer of David respecting those, who were combined against him and opposed his wife government, seems peculiarly applicable to the combinations against our Federal Government. *Slay them not, lest my people forget ; scatter them by thy power, and bring them down.* It is not to be wished that opposition should be wholly extinguished. It would be an unfavourable symptom. It would denote a political lethargy. But it is desirable that it should be prevented from rising to excess, and, by powerful combinations of men, shaking the fabric of government. A little fermentation gives a proper animation and vigour to the body politic ; but, carried to excess, it produces convulsions, which threaten dissolution.

Again. We are not to expect the continuance of our present advantages, unless we “ merit it by not
“ abusing

“ abusing them, by our gratitude for them, and by
 “ a corresponding conduct as citizens, and as men.”

We shall be guilty of abusing our advantages, if, as a nation, or as individuals, we become vain, presumptuous, and insensible of our obligations ; corrupt and licentious in our manners, regardless of the principles of piety and morality, and inattentive to religious obligation and social duties. And we shall deserve to lose our excellent government and the freedom it secures, if we ever become, on the one hand, so inattentive to our rights, as to allow the government to become oppressive ; or suffer intriguing men, on the other hand, to amuse us with the idea of more perfect freedom, so as to undermine the principles of our excellent constitution, and by their insidious manœuvres to excite discontent, and produce a revolution.

While our primary and principal view, in improving with fidelity our national advantages, and making “ our conduct as citizens and as men, correspondent to them,” is to secure and perpetuate thereby our individual interest and the common good of our country ; it is natural and just for us to make it a secondary consideration, at a time when the convulsions of Europe oblige so many to quit their native countries and seek a secure and peaceful retreat abroad, “ to render this country a safe and propitious
 “ asylum to the unfortunate of other countries :”
 and,

and, with our faithful exertions, to join our united and fervent prayers for this happy effect.

While we again pray, “ that true and useful
 “ knowlege may be extended among us, and that
 “ habits of sobriety, order, morality and piety may
 “ be diffused and established,” let us accompany our prayers with the most zealous and faithful exertions to promote these desirable ends.

As long as the inhabitants of this country shall be attentive to the subject of education, extending public advantages, as is now done in this and some of the other states in the union, to the children of every class of citizens ; and as long as we shall be distinguished by the general prevalence of the habits of *sobriety, order, morality and piety*, there can be no danger of our losing the blessings of freedom and good government. But, certain it is, these blessings will be no longer ours, when those habits shall be lost, and the general extension of the means of education shall be neglected. We shall always have a government suited to our character. Freedom and order can be supported only in an enlightened and virtuous community. Ignorance and vice require the severer discipline of arbitrary power. And it is their natural tendency to introduce it.

When we extend our view to other countries, in many of them we meet with striking evidences of the justice of this last remark. We find that igno-
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rance and superstition, and a prevalence of bad morals are the support of despotic power.

Our satisfaction in contemplating the flourishing condition and bright prospects of the United States is checked, when we contrast with it the calamities of other nations, which are either oppressed by despotic power, involved in the miseries of destructive war, or struggling with faction at home and conflicting with foes abroad in the cause of liberty.

Enjoying ourselves the sweets of peace, freedom, social order, and prosperity, and sympathizing in the sufferings of those to whom these blessings are denied, let it be our fervent and devout prayer to Almighty God, “that all the blessings we possess or ask for ourselves, may be imparted to the whole family of mankind.”

F I N I S.

