

AN  
ORATION

ON THE LATE

GENERAL WASHINGTON,

INCLUDING

A RETROSPECT OF HIS

LIFE, CHARACTER, AND CONDUCT,

FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF HIS CAREER IN THE GLORIOUS CAUSE OF

*American Independence,*

TO THE PERIOD WHEN HE RESIGNED HIS HIGH OFFICE AS

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

AND RETIRED TO THE HUMBLE STATION OF A PRIVATE CITIZEN;

THUS, EXHIBITING TO THE WORLD A RARE AND SPLENDID INSTANCE OF  
DISINTERESTED PATRIOTISM AND EXEMPLARY VIRTUE.

SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND CORRECTED.

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By JOHN GALE JONES.

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## INTRODUCTORY PREFACE.

IN offering this little production to the public notice, the author feels it necessary to premise a few observations. The subject matter of this oration was originally written in the year 1796, at a time, when, in this country, the system of terror and proscription was at its height; when every zealous advocate of freedom and reform, was subjected to the operation of a suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act; and the whole nation was under the influence of the Treason and Sedition Bills, commonly known by the name of the Pitt and Grenville Acts. It was during the month of November of that year, that the important intelligence of General Washington having resigned his high office of President of the United States, reached England. The author, who was never backward in delivering his free and undisguised sentiments upon public affairs, and who, he trusts, has ever been ready and willing to pay a respectful homage to superior worth and virtue wherever he has found them; perceiving that no one of his fellow countrymen appeared disposed to notice this interesting event, was determined, whatever might be the consequences, to render justice to the exalted character of Washington, and pay a grateful tribute of praise to his exemplary moderation and forbearance. The follow-

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ing oration was accordingly delivered, at the Great Assembly Room in Brewer Street, Golden Square, to a crowded audience; among whom, were the late General Tarleton, Mr. Bosville, Mr. (now Sir Robert) Wilson, and several other distinguished patriotic individuals. Many of the local allusions and historical facts, being no longer strictly applicable to existing times and circumstances, are of course omitted; yet, as the great and eternal principles which it seeks to commemorate, and, upon which the independence of America was founded, are the exclusive growth and property of no particular age or country, but are of general interest to the welfare and happiness of the whole human race; it is hoped, that a feeble attempt to recall these glorious scenes to the remembrance of Britons, and to perpetuate the name and memory of their heroic and illustrious defender, will not be considered an unreasonable intrusion on their patience, or unwelcome to their feelings.

The author cannot conclude, without returning his most grateful acknowledgements to the distinguished noblemen and gentlemen who have so liberally patronized this little work. The very kind and flattering encouragement which he has experienced has been unprecedented, and far beyond either his expectation or his desert. It has left him only the sincere regret, that his performance is not more worthy of the cordial support it has received.

MIDDLESEX STREET,  
SOMER'S TOWN.

*James, 15, Cannon Street, London, E.C. 4.*

# AN ORATION,

&c. &c.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I consider the nature of the task which I have this evening undertaken, its difficulty at once perplexes and confounds me, since it is a subject that might well demand the ablest exertions of a more intelligent mind, and a more learned and eloquent speaker. I feel it necessary, therefore, while I claim of this respectable assembly their patient attention, to entreat, also, what I fear I shall but too frequently require, their usual candour and forbearance.

Amidst the numerous vicissitudes of human affairs, and the ever varying influence of public opinion, there is, perhaps, no event that hath been generally considered as more apparently critical, or more truly interesting, than the late resignation of the President of America.

To suffer a circumstance so momentous and replete with such important consequences to the interests of the political world to pass unnoticed, would tend to encourage a torpid and criminal indifference to all that concerns human nature, and to lose the favourable opportunity of paying a just and merited tribute to extraordinary talents and exemplary virtue.

It may, perhaps, be said, that the life or death, the fame or reputation, the virtues or vices, of a single individual, are of no material consequence to the community at large. I am, however, of a different opinion. I think that, when the most transcendent abilities, the most extraordinary talents, and the most disinterested patriotism are united together in the same character, and exerted for the welfare and happiness of society, a whole nation may well mourn the loss of such a man, since a whole nation can scarcely produce the like again.

In times and seasons of national peace and prosperity; when all around is tranquil and secure, the active exertions of a solitary individual may be easily over-looked or forgotten. His merits, however conspicuous, are too often suffered to languish in silent obscurity, and his abilities and his virtues are neglected and despised. But when the awful crisis of political fermentation, and the rude shock of popular commotion convulse and distract the state, rendering advice seasonable and immediate interposition necessary, his former instructions are quickly remembered, and his assistance is eagerly sought. Unbounded confidence takes place of unmerited suspicion; the warm impulse of generous affection is substituted for the cold deliberations of distrust and jealousy; and the universal cry of a people in distress, is, "Save us quickly, save us from the impending ruin that awaits us, and we will publicly honour, esteem and reward you!"

Tum pietate gravem ac meritis si fortè virum quem  
 Conspectre, silent: arrectisque auribus adstant:  
 Ille regit dictis animos, et pectora mulcet.

VIRGIL.

Happy the man, who, truly awake to the glorious calls of patriotism and ever mindful of the interests of his country, shall be found ready and willing on any sudden or extraordinary emergency to assert its liberties and protect its rights! Happy the people, who, at a critical period of difficulty and danger, can select with discernment the man of superior merit and distinguished worth! While solid principles ought ever to be considered as the fixed and sacred guides to human action, yet, men alone are the living vehicles by which they can be promoted; and where the individual and the principle are alike congenial and consistent, their utility is obvious, and they will never fail to receive what they always merit, our admiration and our applause.

To the subject that is, at present, before us, these preliminary observations are justly applicable, since America hath fully proved herself the favoured country, and George Washington, the fortunate man.

'Twas when the vast western horizon was overclouded with the heavy gloom of threatened war—when tyranny, like a sweeping whirlwind, scattered ruin and desolation around—when corruption, like a poisonous miasma, infected the atmosphere and spread its contaminating



influence over the land; that a bright sun appeared, lord of the ascendant, to illumine the political hemisphere, and diffuse abroad the genial influence of light and animation! Then Washington appeared, great in arts and arms,—nature's chief ornament,—his country's pride and glory! Qualified to govern, by the superior wisdom of his plans and the incorruptible integrity of his mind, he, nevertheless, refused to accept of power, until previously obtained and merited by tried services and established reputation.

Great in the cabinet, yet still greater in the field: in him were united the rare and often opposite qualities of an intrepid warrior, an able negotiator, and a profound politician. In war, he practised the active duties of a soldier, in peace, the milder virtues of philosophy. Fitted at once to counsel and to decide, for him alone it was reserved to unsheathe the flaming sword of public vengeance, and lead a nation on to deeds of fame. His noble spirit was not formed to submit to the lawless usurpations of tyranny, nor stoop to practise the treacherous arts of court profligacy or selfish intrigue. Superior almost to the common frailties and imperfections of our nature, he scarcely needed any limitations to circumscribe his authority, or rule to regulate his conduct. His best and most efficient restraint was the sober influence of reason, his law, the chartered rights of millions.

How shall I retrace the singular events that distinguished the career of this extraordinary man; or what felicitous choice of words or expressions can I adopt to recount his memorable exploits? To hold up the aggregate features of a character so exalted, would overpower by its dazzling lustre: to annalize the varied incidents of his life, would be to exhibit only an inexhaustible fund of moral excellence and exemplary virtue. Would we look for the happy consequences resulting from his combined efforts in the glorious cause of liberty and humanity, we shall find them fixed and permanent as the polar star—resplendent as the mid-day sun—wide and extensive as the accumulated waters of the ocean which penetrate and diffuse themselves even to the remotest corners of the globe!

From the complete and unequivocal success of Washington, in securing the liberty and independence of America, we are enabled to trace the origin, progress, and

future establishment of universal freedom and general tranquillity throughout the civilized world. To assert with matchless intrepidity the sacred cause of freedom against the encroachments of tyranny; to awaken a people to the just perception and rouse them to a manly defence of their native rights and privileges; to preserve unshackled the liberty of the press and the toleration of opinion; to shew the practicability and even the superior excellence of a popular form of government over absolute authority and regal establishments;—*these* are thy first of merits, Washington: these are the never-fading laurels that adorn thy brow, and which, while they perpetuate thy well-earned fame, shall furnish to the admiring nations of the earth a glorious incitement and a splendid example!

If we minutely trace the separate incidents of his early life, we shall find them to have been always distinguished by the same uniform tenor of conduct, and by the same disinterested love of his country. At an age when indulgence seems almost reasonable, Washington entered into the service of the army, and there mingled the military ardour of a warrior with the polished refinement of a scholar. At twenty years of age he was appointed a major in the colonial troops employed in an expedition against Carthagenia. At one and twenty, he was appointed by Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie to inquire into certain encroachments which were reported to have been made by the French from Canada, on the western territories of the British colonies, and to negotiate a treaty with the savages. At two and twenty, he was appointed colonel of a regiment raised by the colony of Virginia for the defence of their frontiers.

In a severe engagement with an enemy of superior numbers, when the commander in chief fell a fatal sacrifice to successful stratagem, and almost every officer around him was either wounded or destroyed; Washington, alone, remained unhurt and undismayed, preserved the line of battle unbroken, and by his singular management and intrepidity, conducted the little remnant of his army to a secure shelter and an honourable retreat.\*

\* It was in this engagement that General Braddock lost his life in attempting to extricate his troops from the fatal ambuscade into which they had been drawn by the French. Braddock had several horses shot under him, and there was not an officer on horseback that day (General Washington alone excepted), who was not either killed or wounded.

A conduct like this could scarcely fail of approbation, and Washington was, accordingly, honoured and promoted. Chosen to negotiate a solemn treaty, he acquitted himself with so much ability, that his efforts were crowned with success, and he procured for himself an increased reputation, for his country, a valuable peace.

In the year 1758, Washington commanded the van brigade of General Forbes's army in the capture of Fort Quesne. In the year 1759, after a just and faithful discharge of his duties, he resigned his military appointment; but, although he quitted the fatigues of the army, for which he became disqualified by extreme ill health,\* he did not retire from the active service of his country. The ruder occupations of war, were only exchanged for the gentle arts of peace, and he successively became a member of assembly, a magistrate of the county, a delegate to congress, and a judge of the court.

But the period at length arrived, when all that Washington had hitherto performed, was comparatively as nothing: when his admirable qualifications were to be exerted and applied to one grand and important purpose; and when he was to be invested with the solemn and magnificent character of saviour and defender of his country. Modern policy may suggest, that it is neither delicate nor prudent to expatiate on the nature or propriety of the original dispute between England and her revolted colonies; but we may, surely, be allowed to reflect with pride and exultation upon the glorious principles that gave birth to the contest, and upon the beneficial consequences that have resulted from its successful termination.

Stung with her numerous wrongs, and maddened with repeated insults, America, shook off her deadly trance, awoke to the cries of indignant virtue, and called aloud to her chosen sons to defend their sacred freedom and assert their native rights. A gallant band obey the martial summons. They rise—they arm—they take the field—aloft they rear their shining standard. Liberty sits waving on their plumes. They put on the breast-plate of manly courage: the seven-fold ægis of conscious integrity is their chief protection: independence is the general watch-word: their counter-sign, the rights of man!

\* An inveterate pulmonary complaint.

How the heart warms with generous emotion, and vibrates with increased pulsation, at the remembrance of the glorious scene!

Methinks the dreadful conflict is present to my imagination: I see the embattled hosts in terrible array. I hear the loud shouts of the victor's triumph, and the hollow groans of vanquished slaves. On one side, I behold the proud satellites of tyranny: the friends of liberty and independence, on the other. The charge is given—they advance—the battle rages—suspence hangs doubtful o'er the issue. At length, the vast superiority of virtuous energy prevails. The cohorts of despotism give way—their ranks are broken: see! they retreat—they fly—they call for quarter. Hark! the brazen trumpet sounds the merry note of triumph: the patriot soldier rends the air with joyful acclamations, Victory! victory is ours—America is free!

*Then, Washington, thy genius first was proved! Amidst the doubtful shock of hostile arms, thy glory shone refulgent as the radiant orb of day, when from behind a watery cloud it pierces forth in full meridian splendour. Not that alone in works of death and slaughter thou wert always seen, but oft with skilful policy and calm deliberation, 'twas thine to circumvent and not destroy. Thy laurels often bloomed without one sanguinary stain; and a bloodless victory, obtained by the capture of a whole army\* who surrendered themselves prisoners of war, shall crown thy conquests and secure thy fame!*

And, here, while thus with heart-felt satisfaction we recount the great and glorious deeds of Washington, the mind recurs to past events, and recalls to her painful recollection the memory of one, who, also, nobly fought, a volunteer in freedom's cause. Does not the swelling tear suffuse the tender eye of pity? Does not the anxious sigh of friendly sympathy escape each heaving bosom? Does not the crimson blush of indignation rise in each manly cheek, while slowly I repeat the name of the brave La Fayette? With Washington, he fought—

\* On the 19th October, 1781, the British army, being completely hemmed in and surrounded by the American forces, General Cornwallis was compelled to surrender with the whole of his army. I would fain spare the recital of an event so humiliating to the pride and honour of my native country, but the sacred obligations of truth are paramount to every other consideration, and must not be sacrificed to local policy, or existing times and circumstances.

With Washington, he bled—with Washington, he conquered. The glorious principles for which he struggled, he carried back again, and his own native country might justly confess her heavy weight of obligations.\*

Now left to pine in sad and hopeless misery, behold him covered with chains, a prisoner within the dark and dreary dungeons of Olmutz, and in want even of the bare necessities of life. His wife, the dear and faithful partner of his woes, compelled to take this dreadful choice, this cursed alternative—either to be for ever parted from him, or with him to share perpetual bondage! She chose the latter!

Glorious woman! she deemed it far better to be buried alive amidst the gloom and horrors of a prison, than to walk abroad in the fair face of day, while her husband was deprived of the inestimable blessings of liberty and light!

The independence of America, once felt and acknowledged, peace followed as an immediate consequence. Although the form of government, afterwards adopted, might not, perhaps, be that which the disinterested patriot would prefer, or the enlightened philosopher entirely approve; yet, no one differed respecting the person to whom the executive power should be entrusted. He who so well had fought his country's battles, and so essentially contributed to establish her independence, was deservedly estimated as the most proper to guide her councils and enforce her laws. The constitution, such as it was, was presented, ratified and accepted; and Washington was unanimously chosen to fill the high and important office of President of America.

It became necessary to inform him of the determination of the country, and to solicit his free acceptance. Unac-

\* After the lapse of nearly half a century, this heroic veteran has been received in the United States with a grateful enthusiasm that must afford the liveliest satisfaction to every friend of rational freedom. A liberal pension and a portion of land have been unanimously voted to him by the American government; and he can now in his declining years, quietly enjoy his own home and dignitary, and retasso those innumerable states to which he owes so eminently distinguished himself, and of which he may justly exclaim, with the Trojan exile, *Quorum pars magna fui.*

The American independence was acknowledged by Holland on the 20th of April, 1782; by Great Britain on the 30th of November; by Sweden on the 5th of February, 1783; by Denmark, on the 25th of February; by Spain, in March; and by Russia, in July, 1783. It is worthy of observation, that Holland was the first and Russia the last, to acknowledge American freedom.

quainted with this high distinction, and unambitious of farther honours, he, like the Roman Cincinnatus, had quietly retired, covered with glory, to exercise the humble occupations of husbandry and agriculture. They sought — they found him at his peaceful farm, and drew him, reluctant from his calm retreat. A sympathetic tear of mild benevolence, chastened with anxious solicitude for his country's welfare, stole down his manly cheek, as he modestly accepted the solemn and important office. The admiring people, as he past, thronged around in busy crowds to hail their great deliverer. The oath was administered; he took the chair amidst the acclamations of millions, and a whole nation saluted him with loud and reiterated cries of "Long live George Washington, the father and defender of his country!"

How ably he has discharged the solemn trust reposed in him, let the present convulsed and harrassed state of Europe, and the calm, undisturbed tranquillity of America declare. He needs no brazen trumpet to sound his honest fame. His merits are recorded within the generous bosoms of the good and wise. His actions are open and conspicuous as the fair firmament of heaven. Surrounding nations shall be proud to emulate his virtues, and infants yet unborn shall lisp their feeble praise, and bless the honoured name of Washington!

In reviewing the character and conduct of Washington during the period of his administration, it might be deemed essentially necessary for me to advert to recent circumstances connected with the policy and government of this country. Whatever fears may on this account be entertained by the timid or the prudent, they will fortunately be relieved from such an apprehension, by considering the general nature and tendency of the present subject, and by recollecting that the relative situation and political consequence of Great Britain, whatever formerly they might have been, are now no longer the objects either of our close investigation, or our critical research. Of this country, therefore, nothing will be said, and such observations and opinions as relate to the general laws and regulations of nations, and accord with the present subject are exclusively intended for no particular state or kingdom, but apply indiscriminately to all, without limitation and without reserve.

At that awful period when France awakening from the long and gloomy sleep of despotism arose like Lazarus

from the tomb, to a glorious resurrection, burst asunder the iron bands of slavery, razed to the ground the lofty battlements of tyranny and superstition, and claimed for herself a proud pre-eminence over the surrounding nations of the earth—when kings trembled for their thrones—priests for their mitres—and tyrants for their guilty lives—when those who should have warmly supported, confederated against her growing freedom, and all Europe agitated with fearful apprehensions and alarm was convulsed and shaken with internal discord and external warfare—America, alone, unmoved and undismayed, amidst the raging shock of adverse nations, stood aloof from the furious havoc; with mingled pity and concern surveyed the dreadful scene, and secure in her own remote distance, and in the virtuous integrity of a mild and equitable administration, preserved, at once, her dignity, her independence, and her peace.

For Washington himself had experienced the multiplied and complicated horrors of war. He had witnessed its destructive effects, even when undertaken from the purest motives, and proceeding from the most honourable cause. He had carefully estimated the probable, and, perhaps, the certain consequences of rashly committing to a hasty and uncertain issue the safety and prosperity of the infant republic; and he but too well knew how far easier it was to unsheathe the fatal sword of slaughter, than to return the peaceful scabbard to the sword.

Blest land of social liberty and equal laws! Methinks it seems as though the benevolent hand of Almighty providence had interposed the vast Atlantic Ocean as an immense barrier against the destructive influence of European politics, to preserve this happy country uncontaminated from the follies and vices of foreign courts and kingdoms, that the new world might become both an example and a reproach to the old, and furnish to the wretched and persecuted of all nations a comfortable asylum and a safe retreat!

France had formerly assisted America in her struggle for independence. From motives of policy, gratitude or affection it might have been expected that America would return the obligation. But France needed not the assistance of any foreign power; secure in her own inherent strength, and the impotence of her enemies, she asked no other aid than the principles for which she contended, and the valour which they alone can inspire. She fought,

she conquered, and a revolution at once the admiration and terror of all surrounding kingdoms was established in the very heart and centre of Europe. Yet although Washington could neither wholly countenance nor approve the mischief which attended, or the wild excesses which distinguished the progress and termination of that revolution; nevertheless he could not but applaud the glorious principles on which it was undertaken; and heartily wish success to so meritorious a cause. A vessel was, therefore, promptly dispatched to carry over the warm assurances of his friendship and esteem.

The messenger departed with the credentials of peace and amity. The American standard was unfurled in the Hall of the Convention amidst the acclamations of the national assembly, and the *thirteen stripes* of the United States proudly waved in friendly concert and union with the *tri-coloured* flag of France. So may they long continue the fair and happy emblems of everlasting peace and tranquillity. Alas! why on a calm and impartial retrospect of these transactions doth memory call to mind what might *not* have been the situation of *other* countries and what dreadful consequences might have been averted had the pacific conduct of Washington been imitated and pursued. The soul sickens with horror at the frightful picture that is presented to its view, and turns with eager anxiety from the fruitless contemplation! Strange is the policy that urges kings and statesmen in defiance of the solid maxims of prudence and philosophy to involve the liberties and safety of their country in irretrievable ruin and disgrace; that renders it expedient for their interests and preservation to continue on the world's wide theatre to play the desperate game of warfare, and sport the blood and treasure of a whole nation against the authority of a single individual, and the dominion of a paltry crown. Do they vainly seek to proscribe the free exercise of thought and the liberty of speech, lest fondly gazing on the ample tree of knowledge, their subjects should pluck the forbidden fruit, and thenceforward be enabled to distinguish good from evil, and discover the essential difference between wise and foolish governments!

War is a game, which, were their subjects wise, Monarchs would never play at.

But we come now to an event which while it must



excite the most painful regret, challenges universal and unqualified admiration and applause.

After a long and virtuous life employed in the active service of his country; after having with honour and integrity filled the high and distinguished office of President of the United States, to which important situation he had been twice unanimously chosen, without his interposition, and almost contrary to his wishes; after, in fine, contributing for nearly five and forty years to the welfare, the happiness, and the prosperity of America; GEORGE WASHINGTON at length retires from the fatigues of public duty to enjoy in private that calm repose and tranquillity which his age and his infirmities so reasonably demand. \* Yes, now at length I feel the force and application of that just, yet much neglected truth, that the real value of a good and exalted character is discovered only from its irreparable loss. For although I entertain not so mean and contemptible an opinion of the present situation of America as falsely to suppose that she is sunk so low in the scale of national existence as to be capable of producing one man, only, who can guide her councils and proclaim her will; yet too well I know that when the angry billows drive with resistless fury the shattered bark against the threatening rocks, we rather prefer to trust the experienced mariner than the adventurous novice, to steer the leaking vessel, and safely guide her through the raging storm.

Haud minus ac jussi faciunt primusque rudentem

Contorsit lævas proram Palinurus ad undas,

Lævam cuncta, cohors remis ventisque petivit.

VIRGIL.

Washington has resigned not from motives of resentment or disgust, of ungratified wishes, or disappointed expectations; but because he deems it proper to intrust the infant republic to its own inherent stability, and commit it to the care and protection of the people. He quits his official situation as he acquired it, with the most disinterested patriotism and the purest virtue. He carries not with him one single shilling of the public treasury. He retires without seeking the exchange of a place, or the reward of a pension. He asks not as a return for his services the titled honour of a peerage, or THE BLUE

\* See his last and affectionate Farewell Letter to the people of America.

RIBAND OF APOSTACY.\* No! the President of the United States is content to return to the mass of that people by whom he was elected, and from whom he originally sprang, and to receive once more the plain and simple appellation of GEORGE WASHINGTON the proprietor of a Virginian Farm. Hear this, ye ministers and statesmen, who daily riot on the public plunder, and sacrifice your honour and your consistency to acquire and preserve your official stations. Hear this, ye proud and *avaricious* monarchs,† who extort from an oppressed and suffering people the hard earnings of their honest industry to swell your loaded coffers, and who, too often, consider the prayers and remonstrances of an enslaved and injured nation as beneath your notice and regard!

But Washington carries with him what is far more valuable than all the gems of Golconda—or the rich mines of Potosi—or the yellow gold of Peru. He bears within him the “*mens conscia recti*”—the “*murus aeneus*”—the “*nil conscire sibi, nulla pallescere culpa*”—the proud testimony of an undisturbed conscience—a pure and an unblemished character—a virtuous reputation. Go, Washington, and take with thee what so well thou hast deserved, and what a grateful people can and will bestow: a nation’s blessings, and a nation’s tears!

But that I know thy splendid merits far transcend my feeble efforts, and soar above my eager contemplation; else would I call on the congregated winds to bear across the wide Atlantic, the willing tribute of my humble praise, and make even “*echo hoarse*” with loud and frequent repetitions of thy well-earned fame. Go, happy man, and rest assured that virtue cannot long be unrewarded, and that exalted worth like thine will never be forgotten!

————— *Non omnis moriaris*  
Sed tua magnam opera partemque sepulchro tutebunt.

—————  
Thou shalt not wholly die, thy works shall save  
The greater portion from the mould’ring grave.

\* This allusion to the late Duke of Portland (who was rewarded with the blue riband in consequence of his having deserted the whig interest and joined the Pitt administration,) drew forth from the audience loud and repeated plaudits. It is with one exception, the only allusion to existing circumstances, and may be pardoned, especially when it is recollected that this honour was originally intended and (I believe) actually promised to the gallant Lord Howe for his memorable victory over the French fleet, on the 1st June, 1791.

† This apostrophe was also interrupted with loud and long-continued applause, but wherefore, or to whom it alluded, I must leave it to the reflecting reader to discover.

Already hath the voice of public approbation proclaimed throughout the world thy meritorious deeds. Thy name, oh! Washington, is inscribed upon the hearts and in the memories of the present, and shall be faithfully transmitted with undiminished lustre as a splendid example to future generations. The laurel and the olive shall, with rival energy, entwine around thy aged brows; the milder virtues shall attend to smooth thy declining years; and as thou sleepest upon thy midnight couch, thou shalt be watched by tutelary angels, to guard thy slumbers and protect thy life!

How the soul fires with such a glorious theme, and longs to share in fame so honestly acquired. I joy to hail the meritorious deeds of such a character, and think my time and talents well bestowed on such a noble undertaking!

Why, oh! why, are we yet so far beneath the glorious standard of perfection? Why are there in the world so few like Washington with kindred minds, who bravely dare like him to vindicate their country's rights, and dedicate their lives and fortunes to its service?

Much as I delight in holding up the patriot and the philanthropist to general admiration, the task would quickly weary in my hands, did I not fondly cherish the pleasing hope, that even the bare contemplation of such a picture, will rouse and animate some youthful patriot, and make his bosom glow with generous ardour.

In vain do virtuous characters arise among mankind and spread abroad the genial light of truth—in vain do struggling martyrs fall a sacrifice in freedom's sacred cause—in vain do legislators teach or sages write, if we for whom these great and splendid actions daily are performed, neglect to cultivate their useful virtues, and emulate their bright example.

*Stat sua cuique dies, breve et irreparabile tempus  
Omnibus est vitæ: sed famam extendere factis,  
Hoc virtutis opus.*

VIRGIL.

To urge the mind to serious contemplation—to point the path where solid fame and real honour lie—to awaken the slumbering energies of human nature—to unfold the mighty power and dignity of man—to prove by what has once been done what may hereafter be achieved—in short, to yield to merit its appropriate due, and to assert the incontestible superiority of virtue over vice; are the

cause and the motives of this weak attempt. If, in its execution, I have failed, the misfortune and the disgrace are all my own: but, if I triumph, and but one solitary individual be weaned from the trifling pursuits of folly, and added to the glorious list of great and worthy names; the consciousness of such a blest event will lighten all my future labours, and prove an apology for a thousand faults.

And now, if it please you, a word or two at parting. May the abilities and virtues here faintly delineated, while they challenge the approbation, excite, also, the earnest attention of every liberal and reflecting mind; and if, on any other spot of earth, the same causes that occasioned these events should call for similar exertions, may there be always found a Washington in every country!

J. G. JONES.