
AN
EULOGY

ON THE

LATE PATRIOT

WASHINGTON,

ADDRESSED TO THE PEOPLE OF

AMERICA,

H B
JANUARY 10, 1800.

WHEN THEY HONoured HIM WITH FUNERAL
SOLEMNITIES.

By HENRY CUMINGS.

AMHERST:

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BILLERICA, JANUARY 21, 1800.

REV'D SIR,


IN compliance with the directions of a Committee, appointed by the Inhabitants of the town, to determine on a proper mode of shewing their respect for the memory of the late Illustrious WASHINGTON, we wait on you to present you the thanks of the town, for your well-adapted Eulogium, pronounced at their request, in honour of that great character; and to solicit a copy for the press.

We are, Sir, with the highest esteem,

Your most respectful humble servants,

EBENEZER PEMBERTON,
OLIVER CROSBY,
JACOB RICHARDSON,
JOSIAH BOWERS,
JOHN PARKER, jun.

Rev. HENRY CUMINGS.



JANUARY 21, 1800.

GENTLEMEN,

THE very obliging assurance, which you have given me, that my performance on the day of solemn obsequies for the Illustrious WASHINGTON, was acceptable to the town, who requested the service, affords me singular gratification. Relying on a congeniality of feelings, I submit a copy to the disposal of the town's Committee.


I am, Gentlemen,

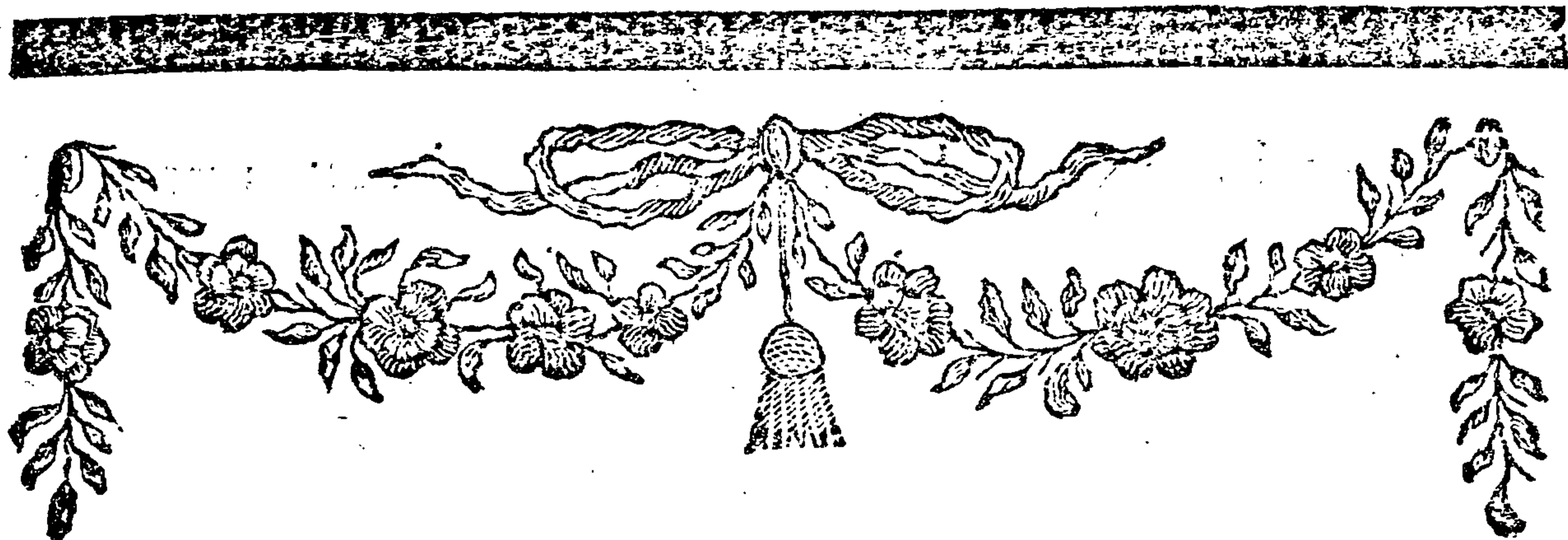
With sentiments of high respect and friendship,

Your most humble servant,

HENRY CUMINGS.

Messrs. EBENEZER PEMBERTON,
OLIVER CROSBY,
JACOB RICHARDSON,
JOSIAH BOWERS,
JOHN PARKER, jun.





FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS !

RELYING on your indulgence and consonance of feelings on this occasion, I shall offer a few thoughts suggested by the melancholy event which we are now solemnizing.



THE Supreme Ruler among the nations, having designed to exalt his American Israel to an high pitch of honour and prosperity, hath often displayed the wonders of his goodness and power, for their support, protection and deliverance, as occasions have required ; successively raising up among them, men of great abilities for important services, whom he hath been pleased to inspire with patriotic zeal and a courageous, enterprising spirit ; and to employ and prosper, in many hazardous undertakings and noble exertions, for defeating the mischievous devices, the secret conspiracies and alarming, open aggressions of their enemies ; and for securing to them the peaceable possession of the good land, together with the innumerable invaluable blessings, social, civil and religious, which he had given them to inherit.

WITHOUT looking further back, should I only attempt an enumeration of those excellent and noble characters, that have deserved well of their country, both during the period and since the close of the late grand revolution, which terminated in the enrolment of America among the empires of the world, I should not know where to begin, nor where to end ; especially, should I also attempt a detail of the jeop-

ardies to which they have severally been exposed, and the many obstacles and difficulties, which they have had to encounter, and which, by persevering resolution, they have bravely surmounted and overcome, in defence of the rights, liberties and sovereignty of their country, against the combined encroachments and hostile machinations of foreign despotism and intrigue, and domestic faction. Their names, together with the names of an illustrious catalogue of renowned worthies, who went before them, will grace the pages of American history, and be transmitted with honour and applause to the latest posterity. But

THE present solemn occasion calls upon us to pay particular honours to the memory of that great and good man, the renowned WASHINGTON, who for a long series of years made a most conspicuous figure in the foremost rank of American worthies, but has lately bid a final adieu to this lower world, and taken his flight to the world of spirits above.

ALAS ! That mighty man of valour, the magnanimous, the heroic, the patriotic WASHINGTON, the boast of his country, and admiration of the age, who, for many years, to the astonishment of a wondering world, exhibited specimens most striking of an uncommon genius for great and noble achievements, is no more !

WITH what affecting pertinence may we apply the language of David concerning the death of Abner, on the present occasion, *There is a prince and a great man fallen this day, in Israel.* In every grateful and generous breast, acquainted with the character and merits of this beneficent patron and champion of his country, what inexpressible sensations of afflictive grief have been excited, by the sad tidings of his death !

ALAS ! The mighty chief of America, the heaven-commissioned guardian angel of his country, whose

successful endeavours to promote our national honour, security and happiness, have so often been celebrated with triumphant songs of joy and gladness, is no more ! While, with the illustrious band of his surviving compatriots, in conjunction with the innumerable virtuous sons and daughters of America, we mingle tears of condolence, and deplore his departure, let us adore the providence of God, and with pious resignation acquiesce in this painful dispensation of the Supreme Disposer.

OUR most hearty thanks are due to the Great Sovereign of the world, for raising up among us a WASHINGTON, furnished with abilities for extraordinary enterprises, at a most critical and eventful period ; and employing him, in the most alarming and trying times, as a principal instrument in working out our political salvation, and giving us our present established national existence ; and also for lengthening out his life and continuing his usefulness to the protracted age of nearly sixty-eight years : While we bless God on these accounts, it behoves us also to pay honourary respects to the memory of this extraordinary minister of his beneficent providence, who hath lately passed into the world of unimbedied spirits. For

THOUGH he hath quitted these sublunary climes, and entered (as we trust) *into the joys of his Lord*, in that world of glory, where amidst gratulating angels, he is supremely happy, in the beatific effects of that divine *Euge, Well done good and faithful servant* ; and where the applauses and panegyrics of his surviving friends and much obliged country cannot reach him ; yet, to refuse an honourary recognition and celebration of his worthy deeds would be an affront to reason, religion and common sense ; and betray the basest ingratitude to the Author of all good, who was pleased, for the greatest part of half a century, to use him, as a most distinguished and extensive blessing to his native land ; especially during the rise and progress,

and since the completion of the glorious revolution
afore said.

IF ever any man merited the title of *saviour* of his country, WASHINGTON deserves that appellation. It being decreed in the councils of Heaven, that America should be free and independent, the Almighty formed this extraordinary personage, and honoured him with a commission for the execution of this high decree. Inspired with wisdom from above ; with martial fire and unusual fortitude of soul ; and supported by the powerful arm of the Lord God of hosts, in the prosecution of the grand enterprise ; this accomplished and patriotic hero, at the head of our armies, magnanimously conducted us through red seas of blood, and a terrible howling wilderness of calamitous war, and finally led us triumphantly into our wished-for Canaan ; the pleasant land of peace, liberty and national independence.

MAY the laurels won by his matchless valour bloom continually, with unfading lustre, around his tomb ; and his well earned praises never cease to swell the trump of fame, till time shall be absorbed in eternity.

AFTER the establishment of our national sovereignty, our beloved WASHINGTON, having accomplished the end of his exalted appointment, was pleased to resign his commission, happy in the reflection, that his well-meant endeavours to defend and advance the important rights and interests of his country, had been crowned with remarkable success, and been also kindly received by his countrymen ; but having given indubitable proofs of superior abilities, and extraordinary elevation of mind ; of integrity, patriotism, firmness and fortitude ; he has been twice (and had he not declined the honour, might have been thrice) promoted to the highest seat of the national government, by the unsolicited and spontaneous suffrages of the constitutional free electors throughout the union ; who, with one accord, and the greatest

alacrity, gave him this universal, unequivocal testimony of their high sense of his worth and merits.

You are witnesses, with what dignity, honour and fidelity, he acquitted himself, while he filled the chair of government. Amidst the greatest perplexities and embarrassments, occasioned by threatening storms of foreign violence, and the dangerous convulsions of domestic heats and animosities, his uniform conduct, while he sustained the office of *supreme executive*, was stamped with such marks of prudence, wisdom, dignity and inviolable regard to the constitution of his country, as met the approbation and acceptance, and commanded the confidence of the multitude of his brethren; who, during his presidency, felt themselves safe and secure, amidst a before unexperienced profusion of blessings.

As a further evidence of discriminating excellence of genius, let me observe, that in the prosecution of the several offices, whether civil or military, which were conferred upon him, he possessed an unexampled equanimity of temper, and had the address, through a long succession of years, even to the close of life, to preserve both his dignity and popularity, among all classes of citizens, whether moving in the higher or lower walks of life; to awe his enemies and confirm his friends, without reproaching the former or flattering the latter; and, in short, under all circumstances, and beyond a parallel instance, to command the respect, veneration and esteem of all parties, who have been ready to join in expressions of affectionate regard for him, on various occasions.

TRUE it is, he had his enemies. Invidious calumny has made several attempts to tarnish the glory of his character and administration; but the lustre thereof, being too bright to be sullied by the breath of groundless slander, such attempts have hitherto been fruitless.

CANDID impartiality, upon a survey of his conduct, through the various scenes of public service, in which he was engaged, must be obliged to acknowledge, that he was actuated by the most generous motives; that, not wealth, not private emolument, not personal aggrandizement, but his country's good, estimated upon the large scale of universal philanthropy, ever lay nearest his heart, occupied his most solicitous thoughts, and roused the noblest energies of his noble soul. If there be any, who, judging by their own feelings, consider selfishness, as the only principle of action, in human nature, it is not expected that they will be pleased with this remark.

It is well known, with what firmness, fortitude and resolution, our beloved WASHINGTON, when President of the United States, supported the sovereignty of our nation, when a foreign minister had the assurance and impudence to insult it, with affrontive menaces.

It must be acknowledged too, that it was greatly owing to his inflexible adherence to the principles of our federal constitution, that it was preserved inviolate during his administration; and that we are still in the enjoyment of the blessings of it, notwithstanding the unwearied endeavours of certain restless disorganizers and factious sons of licentiousness, to overthrow, change or new-model our political systems.

UNDER providence, we have reason also to ascribe it to his profound policy, while intrusted with the reins of government, as well as to his incapability of being allured or frightened by the flatteries or threats of foreign diplomatic agents and ministers, that we have not before now, been drawn into the dreadful vortex of European quarrels.

THIS great and good man, satisfied with honours, and persuaded that his quitting public business would consist with his obligations to his country; wishing also to enjoy the advancing eve of a life of toil and

laborious public service, in the peaceful walks of rural and private retirement : Under these impressions, this great and good man, a little before the time for the last election of a President, declined being considered as a candidate for the future suffrages of his fellow-citizens ; on which occasion he published a most friendly and affectionate valedictory address to his countrymen, replete with noble and important political sentiments and instruction, worthy of the frequent perusal and attentive consideration of every free-born American. This address contains an invaluable legacy of the father of his country, calculated to do essential service to posterity after his decease, by promoting peace and harmony, with all the happy effects of love and union among them, from generation to generation, even to the end of time. But

THOUGH this venerable father of his country had resigned his public offices for the pleasures and frictions of private life ; yet, in the calm retreats of his beloved Mount Vernon, feeling still the warm emotions of that patriotic affection, which always glowed in his generous breast, he preserved a willingness to appear again on the theatre of public action, should any emergence require it ; and accordingly, to the great joy of his countrymen, he was induced once more to accept of an appointment to the command of their armies, next to their constitutional chief, and to hold himself in readiness to encounter the hazards and hardships of war, should providence again call to arms. But

HAVING performed the important services by Heaven assigned him, and accomplished the high errand for which he was sent into the world, the *Most High over all the earth* has been pleased to recal him ; suddenly to recal him, to receive the rewards of immortal glory, in the celestial world, in exchange for those earthly comforts, delights and honours, the relish whereof, according to the lot of humanity, must

have been more or less imbittered continually, by the growing infirmities of age, had his life been lengthened out to a more advanced period.

THE suddenness of his death was indeed calculated to shock our feelings, and it did so ; but being ripe (as we doubt not) for the rewards of a glorious immortality, to him it could be no infelicity.

No one, who lives in constant preparation for his departure, by applying himself to the duties of every day, in the season thereof, has any reason to deprecate a sudden death. Every character thus prepared, by the finishing hand of eternity, will be immediately introduced to the regions of supreme and endless felicity. *Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing.*

BUT though we believe (and may derive solace from the consideration) that our beloved WASHINGTON is now supremely happy, rejoicing, in the climes of bliss, in the society of benevolent spirits, and of thousands of congenial souls of virtuous and heroic patriots, who arrived at paradise before him ; yet we cannot but regret his departure and lament the loss we have sustained. For

THOUGH he was advanced in age, and meant to excuse himself from further public service, unless some extraordinary exigence of his country should again call him from the beloved retreats of private retirement ; yet, in addition to our tears of sensibility, we cannot but feel his death, as a great public loss. For considering, that he had not only ennobled his character and established his fame, by a long series of vigorous and successful exertions in the cause of his country ; but also that he still retained his faculties, in great force and vigor, notwithstanding his advanced age ; the protraction of his life, at the present critical period, might have redounded greatly to the advantage of America ; as his very name would have cast a damp upon our enemies ;

and also because the consideration that such a renowned and mighty patron was still alive, would have given animation and courage to the friends of peace and order, of union, independence, liberty and good government ; whatever threatening clouds of insurrection and revolution might lower in our political horizon.

It is not indeed pretended that the character of our great and beloved WASHINGTON, whose memory will be ever dear to his country, was void of imperfection. The condition of human nature, in this world, does not admit of an entire exemption from error, mistake and failing. One excepted, an immaculate character never appeared in human form. There are spots in the sun. There are also some little obscurities in the brightest characters among men ; scarcely discernible, however, by the eye of candor, but very visible to the magnifying optics of envy, ill nature and personal prejudice.

It would not be strange, if, upon examination, it should be found, that the great, the illustrious, the noble WASHINGTON, was not free from errors and failings. But considering his situation and the multiplicity of business, that continually crowded upon his thoughts, together with the vast designs and enterprises in which he was engaged for many years, which constantly called for the utmost efforts of the whole force of his faculties ; considering also the various arts of hypocrisy, adulation, intimidation, intrigue, chicanery, &c. that were employed from various quarters, to shock his stability, to lead him astray, and seduce him into measures, that would have been inconsistent with true policy and the public good, and left a stain upon his reputation ; considering these things, and how admirably he acquitted himself under these circumstances, and making also proper allowances for the common infirmities and biases incident to the present condition of humanity, I have no doubt but his character will shine with as bright

a lustre as the very brightest, among the most renowned men, that ancient or modern times can boast of, upon the face of the whole earth.

THE calumnies of envy, ill nature and prejudice (the evil passions above named) especially when stimulated by misrepresentations and disappointed ambition, are never to be regarded. These passions always feast, with great delight upon human defects and failings, especially after an high seasoning with great supposed criminality and wickedness. It is the nature of them to depreciate every virtue, and magnify every error and deficiency. When, with eagle eyes, they have spied out any foible or sullage in a fair character, they immediately proclaim the same with exaggeration, and endeavour to spread a cloud no bigger than a man's hand, into such enlargement, that it may cover an whole hemisphere, and hide constellations of virtues in total obscurity. But WASHINGTON's character, shining with dazzling radiance, like the sun in its full strength, will forever baffle all such attempts to eclipse its glory.

By bestowing the above small tribute of eulogy, on the memory of the first worthy of America, lately deceased, I mean not to detract from the merits of any of his contemporary worthies and compatriots (whether numbered among the dead or living) without whose co-operating aids, his solitary exertions must have failed, without a miracle, of raising us to our present height of prosperity and happiness, under established national independence, and a government of our own choice.

WHILE, therefore, amidst the gloom of this solemn day, I participate in the sorrows of it, permit me to observe, as a consolatory reflection, that there are still living, not a few worthy men, of eminent abilities, of proved integrity and patriotism, and of resolute activity in support of the religion, laws, liberties and government of their country ; who still im-

portant offices, in the several departments of authority, power and trust, throughout the United States.

You will be pleased particularly to accept my congratulations, that the national government is, at present, in wise and good hands ; that we have an ADAMS at the head of it, a sage man, of deep penetration and profound political erudition ; who has also merited praise, for a long course of important service rendered to his country, in offices of the highest trust and responsibility ; who like his noble predecessor (whose memory we have this day endeavoured to embalm in everlasting honours) has not only an incomparable capacity for managing the reins of government with skill, but an equal zeal for his country's good ; of both which he hath given incontestable proof, by developing and defeating the intrigues and insidious plots against these States, of that haughty and aspiring nation, which by divine permission, is, at present, the scourge of Europe ; and preserving and bravely maintaining our public tranquility and rights of sovereignty, amidst the most perilous situation of our affairs, in reference to foreign relations.

MAY the Supreme Lord of heaven and earth, to whose sovereign arbitrament all promotion and preferment are to be ascribed, support our worthy President under the burdens of government, and enable him to discharge the momentous trust of his exalted station, with such fidelity, wisdom and sound policy, that he may be a prosperous instrument of advancing the honour and essential interests of his country, and rendering it still more and more respectable to its friends, and formidable to its enemies.

LET us, as becomes *a people professing godliness*, cast our cares upon the Supreme Disposer of events and Governor of futurity ; beseeching him, that when he removes any from among us, who have been great public blessings, he would be pleased always to raise

up others to supply the vacancy, who shall also be eminent ministers of his distinguishing goodness ; that he would ever smile upon our constituted authorities ; direct our national councils, and place such men over us, from time to time, for the management of our important political interests and concerns, as shall be patrons of religion, literature, freedom, good order and good government ; whose virtues and beneficent actions, while they open a prolific source of blessings upon their country, shall entitle them to the just applauses of their fellow-citizens on earth, and in the world of recompences, be rewarded with an unfading crown of glory.

MAY the Great Lord of the universe, whose sovereign prerogative it is to exalt or depress the nations of the earth, and who, having the hearts of all men in his hands, can easily employ them, as his infinite wisdom shall direct, for accomplishing the great designs of his providence, bestow his benediction upon us, and *incline our hearts to fear him, and to keep all his commandments always ; that it may be well with us and our posterity forever.* And let all the people say

A M E N.

