

A
DISCOURSE

DELIVERED IN THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
IN
ALBANY,

The Fourth of July,

A. D. 1801.

AT THE
CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY

OF
American Independence.

By ELIPHALET NOTT, A. M.

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In Common Council,

July 6, 1801.

Resolved, that the Committee appointed by this Board to direct the manner in celebrating the late Anniversary of American Independence in this City, wait on the Reverend Mr. Nott, and thank him in the name of this Board for the Discourse delivered by him on the 4th day of July instant, and that they request a Copy thereof for Publication.

R. Lush, Clk.

THE PROVIDENCE of GOD

TOWARDS AMERICAN ISRAEL.

THE celebration of events, which have been replete with consequences beneficial to mankind, has long been practised among the nations of the world. A sacred festival annually solemnized kept alive in Israel the recollection of their deliverance from Egyptian thralldom, and an altar erected upon the banks of Jordan perpetuated the remembrance of that joyful day, when they passed over it into the promised land.

Hence probably arose the commemorating statues, festivals and anniversaries of the East. But however this may be, such memorials are doubtless rational, *when* instituted to preserve unanimity in a nation, and hand down the knowledge of important eras in its history.

Impressed with the truth of this sentiment, and led by the impulse of their own feelings, the Citizens of America celebrate the Day that gave birth to their Independence.

At the recollection of this event, the pulse of joy beats high in a thousand hearts, and the song of joy sounds loud from a thousand tongues.

The hoary veteran is now ruminating the toils he has endured, and the battles he has fought for his country ; and the matron of seventy-six is rehearsing the long tale of American independence.

The return of this auspicious day brings back the scenes which once were acted, and revives the emotions of former years.

Influenced by one common ardor, the patriots of America are assembling on the East and on the West, on the North and on the South, to review the perils and hardships through which they have struggled, and to celebrate the happiness and glory to which they have attained.

Called to lead your meditations on an occasion like the present, I should do violence to my own feelings, as well as insult the dignity of a Christian Assembly, should I attempt to act *à la partisan*, and thus lead you into the uncertain field of political discussion.

So obvious is the design of this anniversary, that methinks my audience must have already anticipated me in the choice of my subject, and assembled with minds prepared to review the wonders which God hath wrought for our fathers and for us :

With a view to this, I have chosen for my text the

8TH VERSE OF THE III CHAPTER OF EXODUS.

“ And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land, unto a good land and a large ; unto a land flowing with milk and honey.”

TH E S E words were spoken to Moses, at Horeb, out of the midst of the burning bush ; and they contain a declaration of the designs of Providence relative to his suffering people, *then* in Egypt, and a gracious promise of speedy

deliverance. They admit, however, of an application to *American Zion*. For “all these things happened unto them for ensamples ; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

OUR deliverance from foreign domination may be *not inaptly* compared to the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage ; and if we consider the previous difficulties through which we have been carried—our present happy and dignified situation—and the means by which we have been exalted to it, we cannot fail to see, in several particulars, a *striking analogy* between our own history and the history of the Jews.

IN the view of which, we may adopt the language of the psalmist, and say, surely God “hath not dealt so with any nation”—in the view of which, we may reiterate the sentiment of our text and say, *surely the Lord hath been down, and delivered us out of the hand of the Egyptians and bro’t us up out of that land, into a good land and a large ; into a land flowing with milk and honey.*

SEE thus, my hearers, the subjects and scope of the present discourse, subjects interesting to every American and correspondent to the purposes for which we are assembled.

IN retracing the history of our fathers, from the first settlement of our country down to the revolution, we find little else but details of hardship and suffering.

FEW in number, and scattered over an immense territory, the greatest part of which was a howling wilderness, swarming with inhospita-

ble savages, their wants, their perils and their enemies were many.

UNITED to a foreign nation, they were necessarily entangled with her politics, disturbed by her broils, hated by her enemies and distressed by her wars.

GOSHEN soon became an object of contention. France coveted the place assigned for Joseph's brethren to feed their flocks. For more than half a century she strove to obtain it. On the west she encompassed us with a chain of fortresses, and on the east our shores lay defenceless to her carnage. Nothing less was contemplated than the complete extirpation of the Protestants in America, and the establishment of the spiritual jurisdiction of the Romish see.

To accomplish the more effectually this nefarious purpose, they excited the jealousy of the natives against us, put into the hand of their warriors the instruments of death, *designated* the families to be butchered, and even rewarded their cruelty, when they had *butchered them*.

Thus hunted down on the one hand, by hordes of barbarous savages, and pressed on the other by the more barbarous troops of sanguinary papists, *every man's heart fainted, and every man's hands became weak*.

DANGER encircled every dwelling, and death lurked in every path ! Neither age nor sex furnished the least protection. The groans of the widow sadly echoed from the cottage, and the sighs of the infant were wafted in the breeze. The labourer was murdered in the field, the

slumberer was massacred on his pillow, and the worshipper was slain at the Altar of his God.

THESE calamities, tho' great, were but the beginning of sorrow. Hitherto we had received some protection from our parent country.

GEORGE the second was a father to his colonies. How different the character of his successor! May we not say, in the language of scripture, that now "*there arose a new king in Egypt that knew not Joseph.*"

AFTER the accession of George the third to the throne, Great-Britain adopted a policy towards America cruel and oppressive—A policy which, had it been submitted to, must have enslaved these colonies, and put an end to all their chartered privileges.

THE colonists were not insensible of this *selfish* design. They saw with indignation the first encroachment on their liberties. The alarm was instantly sounded. Every citizen awoke to a sense of the common danger, and measures were immediately adopted to ward off the impending blow.

DESIROUS of peace, and loyal to the British crown, they first addressed his majesty in language of humble petitioners.

BUT their petitions, like the groanings of Israel in Egypt, only provoked new grievances and drew down heavier burdens upon them. One exorbitant claim was followed by another. A more numerous herd of task-masters were appointed to superintend our labours. tax our industry and fleece us of our earnings.

DESPAIRING of redress in this way, and finding that insult was only added to injury, and injury to insult, the colonists altered the tone of their address, and assumed the attitude of bold and manly resistance. This, however, instead of discouraging, only strengthened Britain in her resolution to enslave her colonies. To this object all her measures were directed, till at length they terminated in open war.

THE first blood was shed at Lexington. Never did an event give a more general shock. A sudden thrill passed through the heart of every American. In what *manner* this contest was to be decided remained no longer uncertain. *Then* the brave New-Englanders, while the blood streamed from the wounds of their slaughtered brethren, grasped every man his *arms* and flew to their relief. *Then* the patriots of America unsheathed their swords, and appealing to Heaven for the justice of their cause, pledged themselves to each other by every thing dear and sacred, never to sheathe them till their country's wrongs were redressed, and her violated rights restored. Thus the veins which Britain opened, nerved the arm of resistance, and quickened the pulse of independence; and the *first blood* she drew from the hearts of freemen proved the powerful cement of an extensive and indissoluble union.

FORCED into war, vast were the difficulties these infant colonies had to encounter; hard and of long duration were their struggles for liberty. The *host* of our enemies was numerous, their resources great; they were skilled in military discipline, distinguished for prowess, and led by experienced generals. To this *mighty phalanx* we were able to oppose only a

rustic band, collected on the *spur of the occasion* from the yeomanry of our country, destitute of arms and ammunition, unaccustomed to war and “having no resources but their valour, and no general but their God.”

DURING the first years of this unequal contest, how gloomy and ill-boding was the aspect of our affairs ! Our embarrassments were numerous ; our sufferings immense. Our cities were burnt or plundered, our fields covered with dead bodies, and our valleys soaked in blood. Of the flower of our country many fell in battle, many perished in prison-ships, and many became the victims of desolating pestilence. Our frontiers *lay naked* to the stroke of the tomahawk, and our sea-ports *were open* to the thunder of British cannon. Surrounded by enemies, alarm succeeded to alarm, and disaster to disaster. In the mean time a paper currency, daily depreciating in its value, excited mutual distrust, suspended in a great measure private intercourse, and even palsied the *very energies* of government. At this awful crisis ! when solicitude sat on every countenance, and anxiety wrung every heart ; when America, like Israel upon the *brink* of the sea, stood trembling, unable to withstand, and having no refuge from her enemies ; then the Almighty appeared for the deliverance of his suffering people. The arm of Omnipotence *stretched down from heaven*, smote the wave that was overwhelming us : it divided ; and we passed through into a new world, from which our feet were to return no more into the land of oppression.

Now commenced a new era in the history

of America. Her independence was acknowledged by Britain ; her triumphs celebrated through the world. This event, tho' it gave a new aspect to our affairs, did not put an end to our trials or embarrassments. The war left us exhausted by exertion, and oppressed with debt. The insufficiency of the old confederation, "formed in moments of political enthusiasm, whose bonds were a parchment, and whose commands a request,"* now became manifest. A dark cloud *again* overspread the horizon of liberty, and every thing boded evil. Discontent under heavy taxation prevailed among individuals. One state was distracted by insurrection, and each pursued a policy peculiar to itself. On every side were jarring interests and clashing claims. The energies of government, *already too feeble*, were evidently relaxing, the bonds of the union bursting asunder and the whole system tending to dissolution. But he who had led us through the sea did not forsake us in the wilderness. The pillar of divine glory *still rested on his tabernacle*, and the finger of Providence *again* pointed out the way of safety. The patriots of our country once more assembled, when, guided in their counsels by wisdom from above, they originated and matured the American Constitution, that *magnum opus*, which hath proved a *rock of safety*. On which as yet unshaken stands the temple of our liberties, whose top pierces the clouds, and whose turrets reach to heaven.

THE framing and adoption of the constitution were events, than which nothing could be more happy in its consequences to us—to

* Dr. Dwight's Sermon.

man ; nor any thing more expressive of the benevolence of Heaven and the superintendancy of God. This was the consummation of our wishes ; this the answer of our prayers ; This put us in a situation to maintain our independence and defend our liberties.

Thus have we been borne as on eagles' wings and sheltered as in the bellow of the Almighty's hand.

FROM this land of bondage. from which you have escaped ; this sea of affliction, through which you have waded ; this gloomy desert, where once you wandered, and where many of your fathers and brethren perished, turn off your eyes—to fields of plenty and a land of peace. *For the Lord came down and delivered us from bondage, and brought us up to a good land, and a large ; a land similar to that which he gave to his people of old.*

THE Canaan which the Israelites inherited was distinguished for the healthfulness of its climate, the pleasantness of its situation and the fertility of its soil. *It was a goodly land, a land flowing with milk and honey.* Such also is the land which God hath given to our fathers and to us. It partakes of *whatever* is excellent, both with respect to soil and climate. Its surface, like Judea, is beautifully variegated with hills and vallies, watered with numerous rivers fertilizing as Jordan, and in point of luxuriance and capability of culture it is not inferior to the so much celebrated Canaan of the east.

ALL the vegetable productions of Europe flourish in some part of the United States. Here

the labours of the husbandman are *richly* rewarded. The fields *now* bend beneath their annual tribute. The *very cottage* overflows with plenty, and the *peasants'* board is covered with variety.

From our granaries the islands of the sea are supplied ; by our harvests the hungry of many nations are fed.

THE land which the Israelites inherited was not only good, but large, including *the places of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites*. So is united America *large*, extending from the Atlantic to the Mississippi ; from the Irroquois to the St. Mary's. A territory greater in extent than Britain, Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, Germany, Holland, Italy, European Turkey, Hungary, Bohemia, Switzerland and Lithuania. *Thousands* of townships have been peopled, *and millions of acres* cleared, since the revolution. Multitudes are still penetrating the regions of the west, and converting the forest into the fruitful field, and yet there is *room—room* for our own increasing population, and also for the numerous emigrants flocking hither from distant nations.

WAS the land of Judea divided amongst its inhabitants ? So in this favored country--the cultivator is the proprietor of the soil. " No usurping despot here fixes his standard and awes Americans into a state of vassalage. No haughty nobility engrosses the soil, and reduces the people to the necessity of starving or submitting to the drudgery of slaves." No ; " each man is his own master, walks on his own

ground,"* tills his own field, *eats the fruit of his own labour*, and rests beneath the shade of his own *fig-tree*.

DID the Israelites enjoy, in the land whither they were brought, the inestimable privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of their consciences and the precepts of his word ? So do Americans.

IN *defence* of religious liberty many of our ancestors suffered martyrdom. In pursuit of this they left their native country, and fled to the *wilderness*, where after many struggles they obtained it.

IN these United States no civil code binds the conscience ; no assuming pontiff dictates to us our faith. Happy, thrice happy land, where religion stands upon its own basis, where truth is vindicated by its own weapons, and conquers by its own evidence. Here light without a veil emanates from the sun of righteousness, and salvation, *without a mixture*, flows pure and unrestrained from its sacred source—*the gospel*.

SUCH is our situation, and *such* our privileges. " This is indeed the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

Is our present situation *marvellous* ? It will appear *more* so, if we consider the *means* by which we have been exalted to it.

THE *manner* in which these colonies have been preserved from Savage barbarity, from French

* Maxcy's Oration.

usurpation, and finally delivered from British tyranny, is little less than miraculous.

WHILE it was in the power of the natives to have swallowed us up, they were mercifully restrained : *afterwards*, when they attempted it, they were delivered into our hand.

AGAINST the French, God fought for America. In *this warfare* he enlisted the elements, marshalled the thunder, and commissioned the pestilence.

THE fleet which was fitted out in 1746, at vast expence, for the sanguinary purpose of conquering Nova-Scotia, destroying Boston, and ravaging the whole extent of our defenceless coasts, was providentially defeated in its object. After this mighty armament was ready to put to sea, it was shut up for weeks in the ports of France, by an embargo *from heaven*. When crossing the Atlantic, its ships were so tossed by the waves and shattered by the tempests, that *like the chariots of Pharaoh, when the Lord looked upon them through the pillar of fire, they moved heavily*. A part only of this fleet ever reached our shores. The admiral, to whom this work of *death* was committed, disheartened by those disasters, fell into an apoplexy, or drank poison and died. The second in command, struck with sudden terror from the Almighty, put an end to his own life. The third accomplished a landing at Chebucto. But *no sooner* had he pitched his camp than the Angel of the Lord smote it with pestilence, and it became, like the camp of Assyria, *full of dead men*. Thus the Almighty laid his *veto* upon their arms, and compelled them *to return by the way they came, without so much as lifting a spear or*

*shooting an arrow against the cities they were destined to destroy. Our fathers stood still and saw the salvation of God.**

THE *same providential care* was extended to these colonies during the revolutionary war.

AN event so great as the dismemberment of this country from Britain, was not to be accomplished without struggles and contests. The issue was awfully dubious. Human probability declared against the attempt. The decree however, was passed in heaven. In the eighteenth century, America was to shake off the yoke and become free and independent; and already had God prepared the instrument by which this was to be accomplished. Was Moses formed to rescue ancient Israel from bondage? So was Washington, to rescue this western and modern Israel of the Lord.

THE glory of furnishing protectors belongs to God; and who does not see his wisdom and goodness in raising up *such* a character at *such* a crisis? His equal had not existed for ages, and probably will not for ages to come. Like the celebrated leader of Israel, *he was great in the sight of all his people and all their enemies*. Great with respect to the energies of his mind, the resources of his genius, and great with respect to that *divine efficiency* which stamped victory on his arms, and crowned his exertions with success.

HE was *providentially* fitted for the part he was called to act, and providentially introduced upon the theatre of action.

* For a more particular account of these disasters, see Trumbull's history of the last century.

“ His education was such as favored the production of a sound mind and a vigorous body.”* The early habits of his youth prepared him to endure the toils and fatigues of after life.

THE part he acted when the unfortunate Braddock fell, brought his character into view, made him known to his country, and was *justly* considered as a presage of his future greatness.† Thus God prepared his servant, and at length, when matured by age, and furnished with experience, a vast scene opened before him, where all his talents might be displayed, and all his energies exerted.

ALREADY was America invaded. The roar of British cannon was heard from our harbours, and a martial band was parading on our shores. Every thing was in jeopardy. A secret sigh now escaped from the patriot's bosom.‡ The sage *worn out with toils* and bending upon his staff shook his hoary locks and said, “ my sons your cause is good, I wish you success, but I fear your undisciplined valour will be overcome in the unequal contest.” The hearts of many fainted within them, and many said, “ Who is able to go up and fight against this people ? for they be mightier than we.” *At this eventful period* the guardians of our liberty looked round with trembling hopes, to find a man who was *able* to bear his country's shield, and who might be *trusted* to wield her sword.

* Ramsay's history.

† See Davies' sermon, delivered soon after Braddock's defeat.

‡ See Ramsay's account of the doubts entertained in 1775, by many of the truest friends of America, concerning the war with Britain.

Every eye fixed on Washington. The exploits of his youth now rose in grateful recollection. Their choice was unanimous, and the event proved that it was decided by Heaven. He obeyed the mandate of his country, submitted himself to her disposal, and looking up to God for guidance and protection, went forth and stood in the very front of her dangers. Awful was his responsibility—immense his duty; in the discharge of which, no one, since the leader who went before Israel through the wilderness, ever had greater difficulties to encounter, or met them with greater magnanimity.

For every event he was prepared. In battle he was terrible; skilful in retreat. In prosperity he was humble; in adversity unshaken. Not like Saul who flew himself on mount Gilboa. When *he* was unsuccessful, he submitted to the decree of Heaven, and still trusted in the God of battles.

He knew how to brook disappointment. *He* could bear with the murmurings and jealousy of the ignorant. Opposition only increased his firmness, danger strengthened his fortitude, and amid all the perils and disasters of the revolution his steady eye never once lost sight of its object—his country's welfare. At length Heaven interposed, lent him the aids of a foreign army, and led him to victory and glory.

SUCH an instrument of good to mankind, bears on itself the divine impression.

In the achievements of Washington if nothing was miraculous, every thing was providential. The winds and the sea contributed to his victo-

ries,* and the lingering night covered his retreat.†

IN the midst of danger, and in the face of death, his life was protracted to a good old age, “and yet his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.” He led his brethern not only to the borders, but entered with them into the land of peace; and having once saved his country from ruin by his sword, he again saved it by his counsels and influence.

THESE were the objects for which this illustrious personage was raised up. And when these objects were accomplished, God laid this instrument in all its majesty aside, to teach the world, that tho’ he had made use of it he needed it not.

WASHINGTON is no more. This day reminds us of our loss, and mingles anguish with its joy. Ah much loved patriot, while we reap the fruit of thy agony and toil, we remember thy name and thy virtues. Thy name is embalmed in our bosoms, and thy virtues are recorded on the living tablets of our hearts.

LOOK to the sepulchre where he lies and weep. Weep, ye hoary veterans, who *once* marched under his banner, and fought by his side. Weep, ye mothers, for he shielded your babes by his valour, he watched your dwellings while you slept. Weep, Americans, for Washington the father of your country, the defender of your liberties, is no more.

* When Cornwallis was captured.

† From Long-Island.

LET succeeding generations sigh o'er his ashes, and the infants of posterity, lisping his virtues, drop tears of gratitude round his tomb.

IN the view of these things, while you contemplate the former sufferings, the present glory and happiness of your country, and the *means* by which *it* has been exalted to that happiness and glory, can you hesitate to apply to American Israel the sentiment of my text? Who is the author of these mercies? and whence hath this salvation come? Who preserved your fathers from the tomahawk of the savage, from the fang of the papist, and yourselves from the vengeance of Britain? Who raised up Washington to fight your battles and preside over your councils? *Who hath driven out the heathen before you, and set your feet in a broad place?* Who hath established your independence on a sure foundation, *and given you peace from all your enemies round about?* Who hath done all this, yea more than this, who hath shed upon you the light of celestial day, and disclosed to your view the realities of the world to come?

MANIFESTLY *the Lord God of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel.*

THIS is God's kindness to his people. Your fathers *leaned* on God's promises, and walked in the sunshine of his *word*. And now while they rest from their labours, we their children are reaping the fruits of their piety, and receiving the answer to their prayers.

Do you enquire how you may still prosper, and in what way your inheritance may be rendered permanent and secure? I answer, "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be es-

tablished ; believe in his prophets, so shall ye prosper." Is God the author of your independence ? Has he established you in this land of plenty and of peace ? Then have you nothing to seek but his favour ; nothing to dread but his displeasure. Walk then before him and be ye perfect. Let your conversation be such as becometh godliness. Adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour.

ATTEND to the education of your children as a matter of the first importance. If you wish them to be governed by motives, *and not by stripes* ; as free men and *not as slaves* ; you *must* be at pains to furnish their minds with necessary knowledge, *especially* with the knowledge, of religion. You may leave them liberty ; but it is a blessing which they cannot long enjoy, *unless* their understandings are enlightened by science, and their hearts sanctified by grace.

IMITATE then the example of your pious ancestors ; nurture your sons and your daughters in piety ; train up your household in the admonition of the Lord. Early teach them subordination. Let their habits of thinking and acting be formed, not from the camelion pages of a newspaper, whose morality is the interest of a party, and whose precepts change with the result of an election ; *but from the oracles of God*. These teach the truest politics ; these the purest morals. Hence let them learn *to pay tribute cheerfully unto Cæsar, and that to speak evil unjustly of the ruler of God's people is sin*.

GUARD them against, and guard yourselves against visionary notions of government, found-

ed on mistaken ideas of human nature. Consider *that* man an enemy who endeavours to make you believe mankind are not depraved, when God and conscience *both* teach you a contrary doctrine. Such insinuations are at once an incitement to your vanity, and an insult to your understanding. Much is said, at the present day, of the natural rectitude of man, and the moral dignity of human nature ; but these are names without a meaning.

THE *scriptures* contain the only *true* philosophy on this subject. They teach, *that the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.* To doubt the truth of *this doctrine* is to doubt the testimony of our senses. To admit the contrary is at the same time an indignity to God, and an insult to common sense.

FROM this source arises your greatest danger. If you lose your virtue, liberty will be a curse. You feel secure, because the people govern. But if the people become corrupt, where is your security ? The officers of government are taken from among yourselves. And do you believe an impure fountain will send forth pure streams ? The only way to have virtuous rulers is to be virtuous yourselves. If you make yourselves vile, you must expect they will be vile also. You say public officers are your servants, and that you will watch their conduct. But can you believe there will be peace or safety *when corruption only* is left to watch corruption, *and satan to reprove sin ?*

THE government of our country is a government of opinion, rather than of force. More is therefore to be feared from the depravity of

ourselves than of our rulers. If *they* become corrupt, *the sovereign people* can displace *them* ; but if the sovereign people themselves become corrupt, it is an evil without a remedy. While the will of the people is on the side of virtue, we shall remain happy ; but whenever it preponderates to the side of vice, we must be miserable.

ACT then at all times a decided part in favour of religion. On this the safety of your country, as well as the salvation of your souls, depends. Without this no people can long be prosperous and happy. “ This is the cement of society ; this the tie that binds man to man, and man to God.” Without religion the sanctions of an oath have no validity ; contracts cannot be supported ; crimes cannot be investigated ; and courts of justice must cease. Without this, how is your reputation to be secured from the slanderer’s tongue, your property from the robber’s grasp, or your life from the assassin’s dagger ? Imperfect indeed must be that security which results only from the civil law.

REVERE therefore public worship, and sanctify the sabbaths of the Lord. When the public institutions of the gospel are brought into disgrace, private virtue will cease. It is in the *churches of Christ* that men are taught to dread the judgments of heaven, and believe in the providence of God.

Avoid the pollutions, and resist the influence of infidelity. Yield not to its flatteries ; be not deceived by its smiles. It never *approaches* virtue, but that it may pollute her ; it never takes liberty by the hand, but when it designs her a

its victim. Its doctrines are, that all future re-
 surrection is a chimera; that death is an eter-
 nal sleep; and that the end sanctifies the means.
 Doctrines, which put in practice, must revive
 the pollutions of Sodom, and the abominations
 of Gomorrah. Thus by corrupting the heart,
 depraving the morals, and taking off all restraint
 from the wicked, infidelity sunders the *very*
bonds, and undermines the *very foundations of*
society.

INFIDELITY has already converted Europe
 into one vast *Golgotha*. Around its seat the earth
 is covered with bones and soaked in blood. Still
 hungry *as the grave* it shakes its bloody sceptre,
 and grows destruction to the world.

A DEPARTURE from the pure principles of
 religion has been, in *all ages*, and in *every coun-*
try, the sad prelude to destruction. When the
 Jews became hardened in sin, when they re-
 jected the Saviour who died for them, judgment
 came upon them to the uttermost. Their city
 was rased to its foundations, their land given
 unto strangers, and they were driven out from
 Judea and scattered abroad over the face of the
 whole world. In like manner God is now
 scourging the nations of Europe, who have lost
 their first love, and provoked him to anger by
 their disobedience.

With these examples before your eyes, can
 you madly act over the part which they have
 acted, and rush to that destruction to which they
 have rushed?

YOUR fathers were pious. When they landed
 on these shores, they made a covenant with God,
 and solemnly dedicated themselves and their

offspring to the Almighty. For their sakes hitherto, you have been blessed. But can you imagine if you deny the God they worshipped, if you blaspheme the Saviour they trusted, and turn aside from the paths in which they walked, that you will enjoy the protection they enjoyed, and hand down to your posterity the blessings they handed down to you? No ; if there be any truth in God, ye shall not prosper. For he who holds your country's destiny in his hand, hath sworn by himself, that if ye do these things, *wrath shall fall upon you, and judgment from the Almighty shall overtake you. And you shall be cursed in the city and cursed in the field. Cursed shall be your basket and your store. Cursed the fruit of your body and the fruit of your land, the increase of your kine and the flocks of your sheep. Cursed when ye come in and cursed when ye go out.* “ For, saith the Lord, I lift mine hand to heaven, and I live forever. If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.”

God is not a disinterested spectator of the conduct of men. With holy indignation he looks down and beholds the abominations of the earth. He has already come forth out of his place to punish the nations for their sins. *A fire is kindling in his anger, that shall burn to the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.* Hitherto he hath borne with us ; but there is something fearful even in this forbearance. For the longer his mercy spares us, unless we repent, the fuller will be the vials of his wrath, and the more dreadful the day of our visitation.

TURN therefore *from your evil ways ; for why will ye die, O house of Israel.*

CHOOSE *you this day whom you will serve.* This is no time to hesitate. Your country is in jeopardy ; your all is at stake. If immorality, impiety and infidelity prevail, they will plunder you of happiness here, and rob you of Heaven hereafter. Patriots, I adjure *you* by the love of your country ; Christians, I adjure *you* by the love of Emanuel, to unite in your exertions to oppose the common enemies of your peace, your liberty and your salvation. Why will you weaken each others influence by division ? Are you not all brethren ? Is not your interest one ? Are not your dangers the same ? A portion, rich and immense, is put in your possession. Will you cast it from you ? Will you despise the bounty of Heaven, and sport with an inheritance purchased with the toils of your ancestors and the blood of your brethren ? No party interests governed your fathers ; no foreign influence divided *them*. No ; *they* were united ; united in the love of their country ; united in the duties of religion ; united in the worship of their God. *They* have obtained the victory ; *they* have received the crown ; *they* have entered into Heaven. And now, bending from yonder skies, they address you, saying, “ Children of our pilgrimage below, imitate the example we have left you ; be virtuous, be united, be happy. Act worthy of yourselves. Hand down to posterity unimpaired the portion which we left you, and persevering through faith to the end, come up hither.”

YE spirits of our fathers, we hear your voice ; we venerate your counsel. We will obey it.

We will honour the Saviour you honored, revere the religion you revered, defend the liberties you defended, and press toward the glory you have attained. Already do our souls aspire to heaven, and our hearts pant after immortality ; and we trust that the God who led you through this vale of tears will not forsake us ; but that through the grace which hath made you perfect, we *shall be* made perfect also. WHEREFORE OUR HEARTS ARE GLAD, OUR GLORY REJOICETH, AND OUR FLESH SHALL REST IN HOPE. AMEN.