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An Oration Delivered July 4, 1786.  
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AAS copy.

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Mr. *Austin's*

**O R A T I O N .**

AN  
ORATION,

DELIVERED

JULY 4, 1786,

AT THE

REQUEST OF THE INHABITANTS

OF THE

TOWN OF BOSTON,

IN

CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY

OF

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

By JONATHAN L. <sup>oring</sup>AUSTIN, ESQ.

“TANTÆ MOLIS ERAT—CONDERE CENTEM.”

VIRG.

B O S T O N :

PRINTED BY PETER EDES.

[1786]

*At a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Boston, duly qualified and legally warned in public town-meeting assembled at Faneuil-Hall, on Tuesday the fourth day of July, Anno Domini 1786, ten o'clock in the forenoon :*

On Motion---Voted,

**T**HAT the Gentlemen, the Selectmen, be and hereby are appointed a Committee to wait on JONATHAN LORING AUSTIN, Esq; and, in the name of the town, to thank him for his spirited and elegant Oration this day delivered by him, at the request of the town, upon the anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America ; in which, according to the institution of the town, he considered the feelings, manners, and principles, which led to that great national event ; and to request of him a copy thereof for the press.

Attest.                      WILLIAM COOPER, *Town-Clerk.*

GENTLEMEN,

**R**ELYING on that candour which first induced me to comply with your request, I submit the Oration delivered yesterday to the perusal of the public.

JONATHAN L. AUSTIN.

*July 5, 1786.*

A N  
O R A T I O N.

**A** FIRM reliance on your candour, my ever honoured friends and fellow-citizens, encourages me to appear before you on the present occasion ; and, in compliance with your request, to attempt a review of those “ feelings, principles, and measures,” which *fixed* the important æra we now commemorate.——When I behold so many worthy patriots, who, during the late glorious struggle, have shone conspicuous in the cabinet, and in the field,—when I read in each smiling face and placid eye, the happy occasion for joy and ’gratulation ; the transporting subject fires my bosom, and with emotions of pleasure, I congratulate my country on the return of this anniversary—Hail auspicious-day ! an æra, in the American annals, to be ever remembered with *joy*, while as a sovereign and independent nation, these United States can maintain with honour and applause the character they have so gloriously acquired !

No example can be more honourable, none more becoming a grateful people, than to offer their unfeigned thanks to the supreme Governour of the universe on the natal day of their political existence. This is a tribute they owe to him, by whose goodness they have been protected, and to whose gracious interposition they must ultimately ascribe that great event.

A T

