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Bennett, Benjamin, fl. 1802.

Address on American Independence at Middletown,  
July 4, 1802.

New York, 1802.

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*J. Moore*

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# Anniversary Address,

DELIVERED

At Middletown-Point Church, on Monday the fifth of  
July, 1802, to the inhabitants of that place, and  
its vicinity, on the subject of

## AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE,

with inferences from that event.



By the Rev. BENJAMIN BENNETT,

PASTOR OF THE ANABAPTIST CONGREGATION NEAR  
MIDDLETOWN, MONMOUTH COUNTY, N. JERSEY.

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Hail Independence! vast design;  
The efforts of the brave were thine  
When doubtful, all, and dark....  
It was a chaos to explore,  
It seem'd all sea without a shore,  
Nor on that sea an ark.

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NEW-YORK:

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NO. 64, WATER-STREET, NEAR THE OLD-SLIP.

.....  
1802.

## ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS, &amp;c.

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Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

I RISE with peculiar diffidence to discharge the duty you have assigned to me on this day ; but, relying on the plenitude of your candour ; and supported by a conscious rectitude of my own views, I will endeavour to fulfil the appointment in the best manner I am able ; and at the same time take the liberty to remind you of an animated portion of divine truth recorded in the nineteenth chapter of *Revelations* ; verses *sixth* and *seventh* :

“Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him.”

This portion of divine truth I would recommend to your serious attention on this occasion, and will beg your indulgence, while I carry it along with me as the motto of the sentiments I would convey to you, in the address I am to make.

Under the various impressions of joy and sorrow incident to this constantly varying state, the virtuous and reflecting mind finds irresistible motives to gratitude; and a fruitful source of relief, in contemplating the divine government, and its dispensations to man, in particular, as represented to us in the consoling page of inspiration.

In the gloomy day of adversity, when the clouds of impenetrable darkness encompass us on every side, and

the billows of trouble dash impetuously against us, a recollection of the important truth suggested in the words just mentioned, restrains the excesses of grief, and converts the destroying deluge into a harmless stream.

Thus, also, on occasions of extraordinary joy, recognizing the great Jehovah as the fountain of all happiness, and ruler of all worlds, the heart dilates with sentiments of gratitude and affection, and awfully adores the wisdom, power, and beneficence of the Creator. Much, therefore, of that portion of happiness, for which we have any foundation to hope, in the present and future state of things, depends on the established belief in that leading *truth*, the existence and controul of a superintending providence, and a careful observance of the ways of God to man.

