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**Bond, Thomas, 1778-1827.**

**An Oration, Delivered at Hallowell.**

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*Mr. Bond's Oration.*



# ORATION,

DELIVERED AT HELLOWELL,

THE *FIFTH* DAY OF *JULY*, 1802,  
(THE *FOURTH* BEING SUNDAY)

IN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY

OF

*American Independence.*

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BY THOMAS BOND, jun. A. B.

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PRINTED AT AUGUSTA, (DISTRICT OF MAINE)  
BY PETER EDES.

1802.

HALLOWELL, JULY 6th, 1802.

SIR,

PERMIT us to offer our thanks for your compliance with the request of the Gentlemen of Hallowell, in pronouncing an Oration on the 5th instant, commemorative of the birth of our Nation, and to desire a copy of the same for the press.

*In behalf of the Committee of Arrangements of the  
Town of Hallowell,*

NATHAN MOODY.

Mr. THOMAS BOND, jun.



JULY 6, 1802.

SIR

THE Oration, agreeably to the desire of the Committee of Arrangements, is submitted to their disposal, with an impression of its many imperfections. The author entertains a hope, should it ever be read, that it will be regarded with candor and indulgence.

THOMAS BOND, jun.

To Mr. NATHAN MOODY,

*In behalf of the Committee of Arrangements  
of the Town of Hallowell.*

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AN  
ORATION.

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FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,

WE are assembled to celebrate the festival of our liberty ; to commemorate the origin of our nation. Memorable is that day, brilliant in the annals of freedom, when the voice of virtue, indignant at the wrongs she had suffered, announced the emancipation of a world ; the exaltation of a brave people to honor and independence. It is grateful to the just pride of Americans to retrace the steps which led to their revolution, wonderful in progress, in termination glorious and triumphant ; to contemplate the growing prosperity and dignity of their country ; and anticipate its future greatness and felicity. An employment like this, which animates the spirit of patriotism, and impresses on the mind a due estimation of our transcendent blessings, and the means of their preservation, is, on this occasion, peculiarly important and proper.

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The cruel aggressions of the British nation, her illegal and repeated attempts to fill the treasury of avarice, by exhausting the riches of industry, justly alarmed the apprehension and jealousy of her colonies. They remonstrated in language, energetic, but respectful, against the oppressive edicts of parliament. Averse to hazard the unknown consequences of war, unwilling to separate from the parent state, they adopted every mild expedient to secure their natural and civil rights. But expostulation was worse than vain, and argument served only to irritate masters, resolved on the ruin of their faithful subjects. The corrupt and rapacious ministry of England, guided by maxims of savage policy, determined to reduce our countrymen to unconditional servitude. America, fired with indignation, animated with the genuine spirit of liberty, arose in arms to defend her insulted rights.

The robes of peace were exchanged for the garments of war. Preparations for manly resistance were undertaken and prosecuted with energy and expedition. The people were impressed with the importance of repelling the earliest encroachments of despotism, and sensible of the necessity of breaking the chains of slavery, before they were fastened on the necks of a devoted nation. They had contemplated with deliberation all the possible

events of the approaching contest, and beheld nothing in war, terrible as it is, so distressful as abject submission to the domination of their enemies. The British king, in the proud language of an ancient monarch of Asia, commanded the Americans to surrender their arms; they returned the heroic answer of Leonidas, "come and take them." Unawed by the magnificent power of her enemies, undaunted by their threats, America boldly stood forth, resolved to maintain her rights, or perish in the noble cause. She had to contend with the greatest force on earth; with a nation, whose fleet sailed in triumph on the ocean; whose veteran armies inspired with dread the strongest in the old world. Mankind beheld, with a mixture of astonishment and admiration, an infant people opposing the gigantic strength of Britain. The grandeur and novelty of the spectacle was interesting beyond any thing recorded in the history of time. The friends of humanity wished for our success; but success appeared to them impossible. A host was embattled against us; men, correct in discipline, skilled in the art of war, of tried valor; commanded by officers conspicuous for bravery, address and experience. To these were opposed the hale and robust sons of freedom, accustomed to hardship, bold and resolute, firmly attached to the principles

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of civil and religious liberty, and exasperated beyond sufferance by the tyrannic measures of an imperious despot. This illustrious band of heroes was stigmatized with the name of cowards; every epithet of reproach and contempt, which language could furnish, was applied to provoke and insult them. But contemptible as our enemies esteemed them, they humbled in dust the arrogance of the British empire, vanquished the regular armies sent to subdue them, and exhibited this important lesson to the world, that millions are not able to subjugate a gallant people, fighting in the cause of freedom.

Our revolution was a warfare of the rights of man against the will of lawless power; of virtue against iniquity; the issue was the victory of justice over oppression. The flame of enthusiasm, which was kindled on the plains of Lexington, diffused itself with electric velocity, through the continent. A generous ardor to engage in the protection of our country, and every right, that man deems sacred and valuable, warmed and encouraged every virtuous bosom. Too numerous are the signal deeds of bravery, which were achieved in the course of the war, to be rehearsed. The high grounds of Charlestown will testify the undaunted courage, which repulsed the regular attacks of a

formidable enemy, and exalted the troops of America to the character of heroes. But America, though generally successful, was doomed to experience the disappointment and calamities of adverse fate. Before the brilliant exploit at Princeton, a dark cloud of misfortune obscured our hemisphere. Then was the crisis of the revolution. And this great and glorious enterprise, while it reflected high honor on its projector, revived the despondent spirits of our countrymen. It would be an invidious task to make partial mention of those illustrious characters, who fought the battles of the revolution. We remember the renowned heroes, who led our armies to the field of victory, whose blood was nobly shed for the happiness of posterity. And their companions in glory shall never be forgotten. Patriotism has erected monuments to their fame. Virtue has written their blessed names in bright and durable impressions on the affections of our hearts. Liberty has adorned her temple with their godlike figures. The champion of the revolution, the saviour and benefactor of his country, whose ashes are interred in the tomb, and whose divine spirit is translated to taste the bliss of saints, will forever command the applause and veneration of grateful freemen. What

