

# AN ORATION,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
CITIZENS OF LENOX

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF

*American Independence,*

1802.

---

BY LEVI GLEZEN, A. B.

---

~~~~~  
*And let me perish, but in CATO's judgment,  
One day, one hour of virtuous Liberty,  
Is worth a whole eternity in Bondage.      ADDISON.*  
~~~~~

---

PITTSFIELD :  
PRINTED BY PHINEAS ALLEN.

*\*\*\*\*\**

REQUEST OF THE COMMITTEE.

---

LENOX, JULY 2, 1802.

SIR,

*At this late hour we are obliged to request you, to prepare and deliver an ORATION, to the Inhabitants of LENOX, &c. on the ensuing Anniversary occasion.*

*We are, Sir,*

*With great esteem and respect,*

*Your Obedient Servants,*

J. GOODWIN,  
A. EGLESTON,  
C. HYDE,  
D. COLLINS,  
J. WILLARD, } Committee of  
Arrangements.

Mr. LEVI GLEZEN.

---

GRATEFUL TRIBUTE.

---

LENOX, JULY 5, 1802.

SIR,

*In behalf of the Audience, we return you many thanks for the well-timed and excellent ORATION delivered this day, in commemoration of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE; and we beg leave to request of you a copy for the Press.*

*We believe the sentiments contained in it will be agreeable to Republicans, friends to order; and are conformable to the principles of the Government under which we live, and are determined to support.*

*We are,*

*With the highest esteem and respect,*

*Your Obedient Servants,*

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

*Decorative flourish*

MR. GLEZEN'S REPLY TO THE COMMITTEE.

---

LENOX, JULY 5, 1802.

GENTLEMEN,

*Accept my acknowledgment for the polite manner, in which you have made known to me the will of the Citizens of LENOX, &c. It would have been agreeable to my feelings, that the imperfections of the Oration, prepared hastily and exhibited this day, should not again have come to the notice of the Public. But by your approbation of its contents, and request that it may be printed, I consent to its publication with a few verbal corrections only. I beg you, however, and all others, into whose hands it may fall, to observe that in stating the claims of Great-Britain upon this Country, I kept in view the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, the Petition to the King, and the Bill of Rights, and have sometimes intentionally made use of the phraseology of those instruments; but as I wrote from memory only, and as those papers are in the hands of all, I found it difficult and think it unnecessary to note the extracted phrases. In the two or three pages, where they appear, all may insert quotations, wherever they please.*

*I am with the warmest esteem,*

*Gentlemen,*

*Your obliged humble servant,*

LEVI GLEZEN.

*The Committee of Arrangement.*



## Oration, &c.



**C**ALLED upon, Fellow-Citizens, by a short notice, to address you on this *Anniversary Occasion*, I do it with a *willing mind* indeed ; but with a *trembling heart*. Having had no time to make rhetorical corrections myself, I leave them to be made by the *candor* of an *ingenuous audience*.— But as I feel the rights, **GOD** forbid that I should not speak the sentiments of an American.

**THE** authors of the *instrument*, called the *Declaration of Independence*, have often been panegyricized for their patriotism and firmness of soul, manifested on the *fourth of July* one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, a day which gave birth to the *United States* as a nation ; a day which will be interesting to all succeeding generations, and call forth their warmest expressions of praise, wonder and adoration. Situated as they were, at that awful moment, nothing could have supported them but an unlimited confidence in their constituents. This confidence was well placed. Many of the American people, then living, had drank large draughts of *British vengeance*, administered by the hands of civil and ecclesiastical tyranny. From the scourge of oppressive cultivation, they had fled to the protection of the wilderness ; from the rod of refined hierarchy to the liberality of savages. From necessity, they were addicted to labor and habituated to industry, economy, frugality and all the virtues of a simple,

rural life. Scattered over an extensive territory, the riches of whose hills and vallies were the gift of the GOD of nature, oppressed by poverty, but sharing equally the munificence of Heaven, they had not yet been infected with dissipation, nor had they been seduced by the arts of corruption. They were simple in their manners, pure in their morality, indued with vigor, firmness and integrity and inspired with patriotism, which at that time blazed throughout the Continent. They had a strong attachment to the *Liberties* of their Country.— To the love of *these* they had been inured by education. Their customs, their manners, their ideas, habits and local circumstances nourished them, and knowledge, experience and trial had ripened and nearly brought them to perfection. LIBERTY is a plant conatural to the American soil, whose roots sink deep and grow firm, and whose branches are terminated only by the bounds of Heaven. All these circumstances from their nature conduced to render the people of these States indignant to any aggression which should be made on their privileges and immunities, and furnished a strong presumption that they would make a firm and united resistance to any power which should have the hardihood to make an attempt against their freedom. But events had then occurred, which made such a resistance patriotic, necessary and inevitable.

THE principal of these was the enormity of the claims recently advanced by *Great-Britain* and resisted by *America*. These claims may all be summed up in one sentence, viz. “*Great-Britain* has ever had and of right ought ever to have full power to bind the Colonies in all cases whatsoever.”— *Great-Britain* had assumed the power, without the consent of her Assemblies, to keep in this Country a *Standing Army*, with a naval armament, and to quarter Soldiers upon the colonists in time of profound peace; professedly for the purpose of protecting them, but in reality with a design to enforce the collection of taxes and to compel them into obedience

ence to her will and pleasure. *America* asserted that these were repugnant to the genius of her free Constitutions ; and that her citizens, the cultivators of the soil, were able and willing to defend themselves. *Great-Britain* claimed a right to make the civil power dependent on and subservient to the military ; in time of peace to increase the power of the *Commander in Chief* and under him of the *Brigadier-Generals*, to render them supreme in all the civil Governments in *America* and to make them the *Governors of Colonies*. *America* maintained that, by the *British Constitution*, the civil power ought ever to be superior to the military. *Great-Britain* claimed the privilege to send hither swarms of officers to eat out our substance and devour our living. *America* preferred officers and rulers of her own choice and attached to her interest. *Great-Britain* had empowered the *Officers of the Customs* to break open and enter houses. *America* said this was against law, unless with the authority of a civil magistrate founded on legal information. *America* claimed that her Judges should have fixed salaries and be independent of either branch of the Legislature. *Great-Britain* had decreed that the Admiralty Courts should receive their salaries and fees from the effects condemned by themselves ; that the Common Law Judges should be dependent on one part of the Legislature for the payment of their salaries and the duration of their commissions. *America* maintained that her citizens, as *British* subjects, were entitled to the privilege of trial by Jury and to be presumed innocent until proved guilty.—*Great-Britain* had decreed by extending the powers of the Admiralty Courts, that the trial by Jury in many civil cases should be abolished ; that in others the burden of the proof of innocence should lie upon the accused ; that the colonists might be tried in *England* for offences, alledged to have been committed in *America* ; and that for certain crimes persons might be indicted and tried in any shire or county within the realm. *America* asserted that the ancient Constitutions and Laws which had descended to her citizens from their ances-

