

AN

ORATION,

PRONOUNCED

AT LEXINGTON, JULY 4th, 1809,

BEING THE

ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

.....
By *BENJ. GREENE*, Esq.
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BOSTON,

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NO. 4 CORNHILL,

1809.

Lexington, July 4, 1809.

SIR,

THE undersigned, in behalf of the inhabitants of the town of Lexington, and at their request, present you their thanks for the oration you have this day pronounced, and request a copy for the press.

ISAAC HASTINGS,
JOHN MULLIKEN,
NATHAN CHANDLER,

} Committee of
Arrangem'ts.

Lexington, July 4, 1809.

GENTLEMEN,

DEEPLY affected by this fresh proof of the friendly disposition of the good people, in whose name you apply, and anxious at all times to comply with their wishes, you will herewith receive the copy you request, and believe me to be, with sentiments of great respect,

Gentlemen, your friend and obedient servant,

BENJAMIN GREENE.

To the Committee of Arrangements.

ORATION.

MY FATHERS, FRIENDS, AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,

WHEN I cast my eye over this large, respectable, and brilliant assembly ; when I consider the purposes for which, and the place where we have assembled ; I feel my mind impressed with a solemn awe, a thrill of veneration pervades my heart, and methinks I hear the voice of that Glory, which proclaimed from the burning bush, on Horeb's awful mount, " Put thy shoes from off thy feet ; for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

The revolving seasons as they pass, carry with them the remembrance of many events, which were once interesting to the mind. But there are occurrences which devouring time can never obliterate from the tables of human recollection. The fond parent needs no record to remind him of the birth of his darling child ; and the true patriot, always inspired with a holy zeal in his country's cause, will not only recollect, but must feel the return of that glorious anniversary, when she was emancipated from the galling chains of tyranny and oppression, and assumed the all commanding attitude of a free, sovereign, and independent nation.

If there ever was a time when it might be more than ordinarily the duty of posterity to recount the wonderful achievements, and to call to mind the insurmountable fortitude and perseverance of their ancestors ; and if there ever was a place peculiarly appropriate to this

important purpose, surely this is the time, this is the place. For here the thunder of British oppression, which had been accumulating for years, like the fulminating bolt from the dark and condensed tempest, burst its barriers, disgorging its direful effects upon the innocent victims of its cruel and relentless rage ; and here the soil of freedom was first moistened with the blood of her sons ; the horrid clangour reverberated among those hills and mountains now within our view, and at this moment it returns with freezing horror upon our minds. Yonder monument bears the names, the sainted names, of the first martyrs to the freedom and independence of their country ; of those victims who bled at its feet, and nobly died in defence of their unalienable rights. Methinks their bleeding, breathless bodies are still in view ; for it was on this sacred spot they fell. We might hear their last faint adieu, the last soft sigh which escaped their lips, in which they committed their departing spirits to the mercy of their God, and the honour and independence of their country to the guardianship of Heaven, and to the virtue and patriotick valour of their fellow citizens.

That frail monument shall moulder to the dust, and be mingled with the corporeal parts of those, whose names it is designed to perpetuate. But their names shall be remembered and repeated by the last of freedom's race. By their blood they have consecrated this place ; and on the wings of their fame have they borne the name of Lexington thro' every region of the globe.

Cold and unfeeling must be his heart, who could perform unmoved the task which you have assigned your speaker ; and were his talents equal to the ardour

of his wishes, in recounting the sufferings and the perils, the exertions and the privations endured by our ancestors, before they could secure themselves in the possession of the fair inheritance they have bequeathed to us, he would portray such scenes of patient endurance and heroick fortitude on the one hand, and oppressive cupidity and infernal barbarity on the other, as should rouse the torpid insensibility of the most unfeeling, and eradicate from the minds of all who heard him every sentiment, and every motive, which have not for their end and aim the glory and independence of their country : As would confirm the patriot in heroick virtue, and would compel even the coward to be brave : As would consign the miscreant to his native infamy ; and induce a general, an universal belief, that true patriotism can never temporise with our country's deadly foe, deliberate on terms humiliating to her character, or barter her honour and independence for wealth and place.

So long as there shall be a distinction between right and wrong, between virtue and vice, between justice and oppression ; so long will the characters of nations, as well as of men, be distinguished. There is not perhaps in the sacred canon a declaration, the truth of which has been more amply illustrated, than that while "righteousness exalteth a nation, sin is a reproach to any people." Hence, through every period of the world, from the first association of man to the present time, some nations have deservedly acquired a reputation for sound wisdom, inviolable faith, and inflexible integrity ; while other nations, regardless of those sacred, mutual obligations which alone bind societies together, unawed and uninfluenced by the principles of eternal truth,

have justly incurred an opposite character—and may be styled banditti of merciless marauders, with more propriety than nations under legal restraint.

The history of man, as far as we can trace it, presents us with a melancholy representation of the oppression of some, and of the sufferings of others. We cannot proceed far in our examination into the habits and policies of any nation, without having our keenest resentment awakened by the ambition, cruelty, and avarice, which obtrude upon our senses. And although it is an humiliating consideration, yet the fact cannot be denied, that, of all the nations of whom we have been able to procure any correct information, from those who associated themselves under Nimrod the hunter, through all successive generations, down to the miserable slaves of Bonaparte the tyrant, there has been none more perfidious, cruel, and unjust, than that from which we ourselves derived our birth. To speak of our ancestors in terms of disrespect generally argues a want of gratitude in ourselves. It is much more natural, and certainly much more pleasant for us, to enumerate the great and good qualities of our progenitors, than to speak of their vices, or blush at their enormities. But when the parent (as is sometimes unhappily the case) becomes so depraved as to lose all natural affection for his offspring, and to practise upon them every species of cruelty and oppression, he dissolves all those obligations which nature imposes, and compels those, who would have been the strength of his arm, and the support of his constitution, to become his enemies; and, in vindication of their own fair fame, to expose the infamy of his. And when parent states become so lost to their

own honour and dignity, so regardless of their own true interest as to violate their faith most solemnly pledged to their colonies, and, prompted by motives of avarice and ambition, to wrest from them their unalienable rights, to impose upon them requisitions the most grievous and oppressive ; in fact, to degrade them from the station and character of sons, to the situation of the most abject slaves : it then becomes the duty of the colonists to throw off their allegiance, resist unwarrantable aggressions, and vindicate their insulted honour. If, in doing this, they blast the reputation, or even effect the destruction of the parent country, Heaven will approve, and the world must applaud them.

The United States are, and, I trust in God, will forever remain a monument of the folly and madness of that proud aspiring nation, from which they have been severed by a series of the most wanton and unprovoked barbarity on the part of the mother country ; and furnish an animating example to all nations, whose rights, as freemen, are now, or may hereafter be invaded by lawless ambition or usurped power.

That chosen *band*, though small in number, to whose credit must be carried the peopling of these states, whom we proudly call our forefathers, while we cannot suppress the regret, that we are obliged to trace our origin, through their loins, to those from whom themselves descended, were denied, in the house of their fathers, even the privilege of worshipping their God, agreeably to the dictates of their own consciences. They were driven from coast to coast by the bloody scourge of religious bigotry ; and, like Noah's dove, could find no rest for the soles of their feet, until they

settled upon this then inhospitable shore. Here were they from necessity subjected to all that variety of wretchedness incident to their forlorn condition; unsheltered from the inclemencies of the warring elements, a barren wilderness before them, the gaping ocean in their rear, over which they had just made their escape from the persecutions of their countrymen, more barbarous than the monsters of either: they appeared to have been preserved as a demonstration to future ages, that there are no dangers which may not be encountered, and no hardships which may not be overcome by human fortitude when inspired by religious zeal. They appeared to grow and thrive by the fruit of those afflictions whereon they were doomed to feed. The forests fell beneath the strokes of their arms; the cavern and the cot soon gave place to well constructed edifices; their flocks and herds bleated upon their mountains; and their wilderness literally blossomed like the rose. They increased and multiplied, and soon began to have a name and a standing among the nations by whom they had been abandoned and despised. But no sooner had they, with infinite toil and at infinite risk, procured for themselves the necessaries, the comforts, and some of the conveniences of life, than those harpies, who had before driven them from their tables, were hovering around them, eager to snatch the scanty morsel from their parched lips. No sooner was it known in England, that these hardy sons of enterprise and bold adventure had progressed one remove above starvation, than that perfidious nation, that faithless government put their infernal policy to the rack to devise some means, under some pretence, by which they could secure to themselves the produce of

their industry, whom they had basely defrauded of their birthright, and driven from their domicils to cultivate the soil in these then barbarous climes.

The history of the conduct of the British government towards their American colonies, from 1765 to 1773, contain such a series of worse than brutal outrage upon patient endurance, as must torture the feelings of every man who can peruse it. But in order that we never may be betrayed by the wiles of that artful, treacherous nation to experience those evils, which those who have gone before us have suffered from them, it is our duty, upon occasions like the present, to notice some part of it. For of this we may be assured, that the present generation of Britons are the children of those parents, who would have basely murdered ours. Their policy they approve, and if ever they shall have the power, their deeds they will do. For however wonderful and almost incredible it may appear to those who have not had leisure and opportunity carefully to examine their measures, yet to those who have, they furnish "confirmation strong as proof of holy writ," that the policy of the British government has ever been hostile to the interest and growing greatness of this country. Like a merciless step-dame, they have ever appeared to grudge us our dearly purchased inheritance, and would never be satisfied, unless they could derive to themselves the principal advantage resulting from our industry and commerce. Hence those orders in council, which began by requiring us to contribute to the luxuries of the crown, by paying a duty upon all those different descriptions of paper necessary in the transactions of our concerns.

But to the honour of human nature, unjust propositions of encroachment upon the rights and liberties of this country have ever met zealous and powerful opposition in each branch of the British government. It would be as unjust to involve all in one general denunciation, as the father of the faithful thought it would be to destroy the righteous with the wicked. In Sodom there dwelt a Lot, and he was protected. In the British government there are unquestionably many Lots, and for their sakes we must not pronounce an indiscriminate execration. The bill, usually styled the stamp act, imposing this duty, was resisted in the British parliament by many, whose sense of justice could not submit their consciences to court favour. It was there boldly asserted, that "the Americans fled from tyranny, to a then uncultivated and inhospitable country, where they exposed themselves to almost all the hardships to which human nature is liable; and actuated by principles of true liberty, they met all hardships with pleasure, compared with those they suffered in their own country from those who should have been their friends. "They have nobly taken up arms," said the virtuous Barré, "in your defence, have exerted a valour amidst "their constant and laborious industry for the defence "of a country whose frontier was drenched in blood, "while its interior parts yielded all its little savings to "your emolument. And believe me," said he, "remember I this day told you so, that same spirit of "freedom, which actuated that people at first, will "accompany them still; they are jealous of their liberties, and will defend them should they be violated." This was an animated and prophetick declaration. The

bill however passed ; and how it was received is well remembered. To this succeeded other parliamentary impositions equally obnoxious and more alarming. Laws previously passed, and submitted to without a murmur, had prohibited the Americans from manufacturing for themselves many articles necessary for their domestick convenience, and had confined them exclusively to the use of British merchandise. All these impositions they had acquiesced in, or resisted only by petition and remonstrance. They had consented to pay the British manufacturers for their commodities, and the British merchants for furnishing them. But when a duty upon these articles was granted by a venal British parliament to support the extravagance and luxury of a British crown, the free born spirit of Americans could no longer brook the insult. Honest and generous in their dealings, frugal in their habits, and industrious in the cultivation of their lands, they were willing to pay the mechanick for his wares, and the merchant for his traffick ; but they claimed as their right freely to enjoy what they had fairly purchased, and held in utter aversion and contempt the demand of tribute for the liberty of drinking their beverage, or lighting up their windows. Rather than submit to this demand, they resolved to put their all at risk ; and confiding the justice of their cause to that Almighty Power, who does all things well, they bravely drew their swords, and bid defiance to their haughty foes.

To detail all the horrors of the war which ensued, would be as painful, as at this time and place it must be useless. On this spot it commenced ; and for four and thirty years has the glorious luminary, in his annual

revolutions, lighted upon the tombs of those who fell in its first onset. The prodigies of valour that were exhibited during the bloody conflict, and the many illustrious characters it unfolded, have furnished subjects for so many poets, orators, and historians, and have been so often and so justly celebrated, that they must be familiar to every mind. Suffice it that we say, that the war, unprovoked on the part of the United States, was by them vigorously and undauntedly pursued, until it terminated in a revolution, equally glorious for America, humiliating to Great-Britain, and astonishing to the world. Thus did America purchase her independence at the point of her bayonet. The purchase cost her much treasure, and the blood of many of her most virtuous and renowned citizens; but she obtained a safe and an honourable peace, with all the blessings resulting from a free government and an unshackled commerce.

At the close of the revolution, our country was at peace with all the world, respected and revered by all nations, and had nothing to apprehend, but from the treachery and wickedness of her own citizens. But alas, my friends! from these she has ever been in danger: by these has she been brought to the very brink of destruction. Within her bosom she has cherished a viper, who would have poisoned all her blood, and destroyed her very existence as a free and sovereign state....a restless, ambitious faction, whom nothing can satisfy, but the usurpation of her powers, and the absolute control of her measures.

While the first of heroes and the best of men, who had led the armies of his country to conquest, continued

to preside over her councils, the turbulent spirit of this faction was held in subordination; but no sooner had he ascended to the realms of bliss, and left his country to mourn their irreparable loss, than they began their nefarious operations. The convulsions of Europe were favourable to their views; and by raising a clamour against the administration, and charging them with partiality to one of the belligerents, they hoped to derive some advantage to themselves from an alliance with the other.

There may be some individuals, and perhaps an inconsiderable party in this country, so attached to the interest and aggrandizement of France, as willingly to submit to all the wrongs and injuries she has done us, to bid her tyrant God speed, and wish him universal domination. If so, we must pity their delusions, endeavour by all means to correct their errors, and devoutly pray that their wishes may never be realized. But I must confess, that as yet I have not been furnished with the evidence to produce this belief, or to warrant this conclusion. It certainly cannot be deduced from any measures of the late administration, or from any official documents. The tyrant of France is acknowledged, I believe, by all good men, and by none more fully than by the late and present administration, to be a most severe scourge upon the earth, as the expression of the righteous indignation of heaven upon a guilty world; and woe be to that nation or people who may repose confidence in him, or on whom his rod may fall.

But that there is a *faction* in this country, who are (at least in their own opinion, great and powerful) extremely partial to the government of Great-Britain, and strongly attached to the interest and aggrandizement of

that nation, is a fact that I should think no modest man would deny. And this faction are no strangers among us. It is not a novel thing to meet them in our publick walks : they harangue in our streets ; they haunt our courts ; and crowd our presses. They have always favoured us with their company, and obtruded their councils and admonitions upon us from the moment we dared to imagine that we ought to be freed from the British yoke. From that time they have never forsaken us ; excepting, indeed, for a short period during the violence of our contest with their favourite nation, when they appeared to be greatly frightened at the sound of our arms, and the glitter of our steel, and absconded until the avenging sword was at sleep in its scabbard. That we should have such a faction in our country, is greatly to be lamented ; but that they should have it in their power to impose upon and mislead so many of our honest and well disposed citizens is still more to be lamented. That there should be opposite *parties* in a free government, is not to be wondered at, or perhaps to be regretted, while kept within the bounds of moderation ; they are harmless, and perhaps necessary to keep awake that vigilance on which the life of a republican government greatly depends. But it is the faction operating upon this party that I am at war with. It is the defective tooth that I would extract, in order that the head may be at ease ; it is the secret, subtle poison, pervading the whole mass ; the *Essex Junto* I would extirpate, that the body politick may not die in convulsions.

The different parties in our country at this time are both entitled to respect ; they may perhaps on the whole be equally correct ; and in some things both may err.

It is therefore the duty, and must certainly be the inclination of every honest man, of every true friend to his country, to endeavour to reconcile these parties to each other, and to promote mutual confidence and friendly intercourse between them. But he must be factitious to an extreme, who, while he professes a desire that the asperity of party may be melted down, will wantonly throw into the crucible those acid ingredients which must forever prevent an amalgamation. Good men of all parties, animated by the spirit of true patriotism, however they may differ in their opinions respecting particular men or measures, will always be actuated by the same love of country; will turn, with equal detestation and abhorrence, from the idea of committing the honour and independence of their nation the moment in may be suggested. They are therefore intitled to mutual confidence and esteem. They are united in interest, and bound together by the strongest ties in society; by their attachment to their common rights and privileges, as fellow citizens, and fellow men. Designing knaves, the sycophants of power, may endeavour to divide them; and sometimes fatally succeed in their attempts to excite mutual jealousy and distrust against each other, against their legitimate government. But it is to be hoped, nay, it cannot be doubted, but that, among a people so patriotick and enlightened as are the great body of the citizens of these United States, these delusions must be momentary. They must vanish with the pressure of those particular circumstances, out of which they have been extracted; and recoil upon the heads of those who have excited and propagated them. Were it not for this consideration, the present situation of the opposite and contending parties in this

country would be truly alarming. But truth is great, and will ultimately prevail. As soon therefore as the people shall have time and opportunity to examine for themselves, I have no apprehensions but that their decision will be correct. Do all, or even a major part of those who are, for distinction sake, styled federalists, wish to see their country involved in a war with France, and in alliance with Great-Britain? No, my friends, even those few who do wish it, cannot believe it. And have those, who are styled republicans, if their rights can be otherwise secured, a desire to meet in mortal combat the government of Great-Britain, and to enter into a league with the tyrant of France? No, my friends, even those who charge them with such a preposterous inclination know that they pronounce a libel. Neither of these suggestions are founded in truth; they are the groundless suggestions of designing sycophants, of base hirelings, and impious traitors, who should be avoided and despised as pests in society. They are the insinuations of unprincipled demagogues and office-seekers, who would destroy all the confidence of the people in their constituted authorities, and turn the world upside down, in hopes of collecting something from the spoil, with which they might gratify their ambition or their avarice. The truth of these observations every man will have the candour to acknowledge, who will call to mind the exertions of this faction in our country, since the induction of the late administration to power, and consider for a moment the effects they have produced. It began with misrepresentations of the executive; charging it with imbecility and want of energy to adopt any measures that might be necessary for the preservation of our liberties, and the protection of our independence: thus

inviting and encouraging foreign aggression. The two great belligerent powers in Europe were taught from our own publick papers to despise our government as weak and pusillanimous. Hence our property was captured and condemned, our vessels burnt, and our citizens immured in prisons, in violation of the most solemn treaties by one of them : and hence the dignity of our nation insulted, our territory invaded, and our fellow subjects murdered upon our own coasts, and in our own harbours by the other. When the administration of our government, in a spirit of just resentment, demanded satisfaction for these outrages, and resorted to measures most likely to obtain them, our publick prints teemed with apologies for the conduct of those miscreants of the British crown, whose vile conduct their own vile government dare not avow. While the President of the United States, and the heads of department were accused of partiality to France, although our minister to that nation had remonstrated against its injustice, in language more bold and daring than had ever before been used in a tyrant's court. And by whom has this apology for the one, and complaints against the other, been made? By those, who, knowing all the insults and cruelties which had been practised upon us by that perfidious court, could coolly say, "Great-Britain has done us no essential injury ;" and by those who could solemnly call upon their fellow-citizens, in the legislature of this Commonwealth, "to unfurl the American banner against the imperial standard, and to form an alliance with Great-Britain."

Gracious God ! Can I believe my senses ? Has this ever been the language of American citizens ? of any

who are in the confidence of the American people, and who have been elected by them to offices of great responsibility ? The fact is too humiliating to be readily admitted ; but it will force, it will *burn* its way to the heart of every true American, and carry the mortifying conviction with it, that he has been grossly imposed upon. To render the measures resorted to by the administration in opposition to foreign aggressions unpopular, and to prevent any favourable effects, that might otherwise have speedily resulted from them, every art that ingenuity could invent was practised, and every falsehood propagated, that might have a tendency to mislead the publick mind. The embargo was represented as a wantonly wicked measure, unnecessary in itself, and calculated only to oppress and embarrass the subjects of our own government, without having any unfavourable bearings on those foreign powers, whose piratical decrees and orders had provoked it. The subjects of Great-Britain were represented as being benefitted and gratified by it, and as having no desire to have it removed ; and the British government were encouraged to hold out a little longer under it, and it would have all the effect they could wish, in rendering the administration of our own government unpopular with their constituents, and operate their removal. The late President was accused of unjustifiable obstinacy of standing upon too nice a point of honour with that great and honourable nation, when he insisted upon knowing what reparation they were disposed to make for the insults they had offered, and the murderous outrages they had committed, before he would admit their ships of war to the rights of that hospitality they had so egre-

giously abused. All which, subsequent events have proved to have been as false and groundless, as they were uncandid and unjust. Before the success of the late presidential election could have been known in England, the correspondence of the British minister of foreign affairs, with the minister from the United States, was couched in language of hauteur and contempt. But as soon as that result was known, it assumed the tone of complaisance and accommodation; and that court, lately too proud to listen to any terms of amicable adjustment, although tendered them in England, now condescends to propose the same terms, at the seat of our own government: And what completes the measure of falsehood and absurdity, the same faction, who lately justified the British orders in council, and abused the federal administration for not submitting to them, now arrogate to themselves the credit of being instrumental in procuring their revocation. Trembling lest the people should detect their perfidy, and remember how they calumniated and abused the illustrious sage of Monticello, and his patriotick associates, for adopting and pertinaciously adhering to those measures which have led to such a favourable and honourable result, with an effrontery which nothing but a desperate faction can put on, claim to themselves all the credit and all the honour of a result, which is precisely the opposite to that, which their recommendations must have produced. But the people cannot, they will not, for any length of time, be deceived. They will know, they will acknowledge their friends. The elevation of these false pretenders to patriotism must be momentary, and their disgrace will be the more conspicuous.

If I ask, my friends, for what our fathers and kindred bled and died, is there a man in this great assembly, whose answer is not ready ? for the honour and independence of our common country, he will reply ; and he will reply truly. Then must he not execrate the man who would surrender that honour and that independence ? who would either through fear or favour surrender one iota, the smallest portion of those sacred rights, which have been so dearly purchased, to any power on earth ; much less to that power who would have robbed us of all our rights, and made us their slaves and vassals ?

But who would submit to foreign power, and betray the honour and independence of their country ? The Federalists, generally speaking, most certainly would not. The Republicans certainly would not. I will tell you, my friends, who would : The Tories of seventy-five, you know, would have done this ; and the evidence from which you derive your knowledge and belief is, that either through fear of the mighty power of Great-Britain, or influenced by the hope and expectation that they might derive some honours and emoluments under a government like theirs, which they could not hope to realize in a government, where talents and integrity are the best recommendations for promotion ; they were willing to submit to her impositions, and to pay the tribute she demanded : And all who in 1808 would have submitted to her orders in council, and would have paid a cent of tribute for a licence to trade, would have surrendered the honour and independence of their country. The principle is precisely the same ; the arguments used in support of it are precisely the same, and must have ultimated

in the same thing. I hesitate not to declare, that if the late encroachments, orders, and aggressions of Great-Britain had been tamely submitted to and acquiesced in, we should not have advanced (in point of free trade) one step from 1773. To the lords of the ocean we must have bowed in humble submission, paid obeisance, and paid tribute for a licence to sell the produce of our farms, or the growth of our forests.

Shall we then for a moment hesitate to determine who are the real friends of their country, and entitled to the confidence and gratitude of their fellow citizens? Whether the late administration, who, by their pacifick but firm and prudent measures, have saved us from the horrors and expenses of a war, (probably with both belligerents) recovered our independence, and saved us from the humiliation of becoming tributaries to that nation, whose future exactions would have been measured by her own necessities ;....or the defamers of that administration, who would have submitted to the British orders in council, and thereby engaged us in a war with France, surrendered our independence as a nation, and in all probability involved us and our posterity in irrecoverable ruin. They would have persuaded us to an alliance with Great-Britain ; and the probable consequences would have been, that our shores would soon have been lined with their thousand ships of *war*, their *press-gangs* would have been patrolling our streets ; and many an anxious mother would be left to mourn the only comfort and support of her age, doomed to serve and to suffer on board her floating hells.

From such alliances, good Lord, deliver us ; and from the influence and rule of such as can recommend them, may the same kind providence protect us.

Thanks to indulgent heaven ; and thanks to the prudent care, unremitting attention, and unshaken perseverance of those to whom has been committed the management of our national concerns, who have faced undauntedly the united exertions of foreign intrigues and domestic factions ; the evils we so lately felt, and the dangers we so greatly feared, it may be presumed are passed away, and we may this day joyfully hail the regeneration of American liberty. May we duly appreciate the blessings we enjoy ; and by past experience taught, may we in future yield a cheerful obedience to the laws, and due respect to those by whom they shall be faithfully administered. May we never be too hasty in the choice of our rulers, nor too jealous of them when chosen. We should spurn from our presence the ambitious disorganizer, who would tempt us to revolt against the constituted authorities of our country, or persuade us to a compliance with any unjust requisitions of a foreign government. To admit such to our society is dangerous ; to our friendship, death. They are the apostles of fraud, the ministers of deceit. They will allure us with all the fascinating charms of virgin innocence ; but no sooner shall they have decoyed us to their purposes, than they will pierce us to the heart with the fangs of a monster ; and let it never be forgotten, that "the tyger always crouches before he bounds upon his prey."

In this cradle of our freedom, upon this hallowed spot, where the genius of America first erected her standard, the true principles of American liberty ever have been, and I trust ever will be cherished. Many in this place, who witnessed the horrors of the ever memorable morning of the 19th of April, 1775, and who saw the

blood of their brethren and townsmen first shed in defence of those principles, are still living, and have a perfect recollection of the solemn and awful transactions of that eventful day; and some of those ancient men, whose lives were then in jeopardy, kind Heaven has mercifully preserved to this time; and by their presence they sanction these publick expressions of our joy. Ye venerable patriots! permit me from the heart, and in the name of your children, to tender you, upon this joyful occasion, our most sincere congratulations. To you, the return of this anniversary must be peculiarly grateful. When you risked your lives upon this ensanguined field, when you exposed your uncovered bosoms to the pointed steel of your adversaries, as a shield for your posterity, we, your children, who this day have the honour and the happiness to address you, had scarcely entered upon the threshold of life. But by your precepts taught, and influenced by your examples, we have always cultivated that love of country, which must inspire us with fortitude sufficient for its defence. You must experience, upon this occasion, that heart felt satisfaction, which results from the belief that your patriotism survives in your children, and that what your valour has won, they with equal valour will maintain. With them you may safely deposit, what you have ever so highly prized. May you live many years to enjoy the happy fruits of your toils and dangers, and to rejoice in the peace and increasing prosperity of your country. But, alas! immortality lies not on this side the grave; many of your companions, both in danger and in triumph, already are no more. That holy man of God, whose place I now occupy, who so often wept over the

graves of his slaughtered parishioners, who so often and so pathetically sympathized with the bereaved relatives of those who had been so suddenly snatched from their fond endearments; affectionately administering the balm of divine consolation to their wounded hearts; sedulously endeavouring, both by exhortation and example, to animate and support the drooping spirits of his countrymen in the darkest hours of their trial; with many of his heroick compatriots, now rests in the silence of the tomb. Equally correct, sincere, and devout in his political and in his religious creed, many of you have witnessed his zeal for his country and his God. You, who were his parishioners, I know will pardon me this short apostrophe. For well I know how dearly you loved him while he lived, and how sincerely you respect his memory, now he is removed from your sight.

My friends, and countrymen, we are now before the altar of our God, who knows the secret motives which govern our conduct, the sincerity of our attachment to his glory, and to the glory of our country. By the blood of those victims, who have here been slain; by the sacred memory of all those heroes and patriots, who have fought, bled, and died in the same righteous cause; by our own rights, as freemen, and the solemn obligations we are under to transmit those rights unviolated and undiminished to our posterity; by the truth and integrity of the virtuous citizen, and by the unsullied honour of the American soldier, we will here, in the presence of the All-seeing Eye, offer our solemn asseverations, that the shades of our illustrious ancestors shall never be insulted, nor the glory of their fame be tarnished by the degeneracy of their sons.