

AN
ADDRESS,
DELIVERED BEFORE THE
Franklin Typographical Association
OF NEW-YORK,
AND A SELECT COMPANY;
ON THE FIFTH OF JULY, 1802:
IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE,
AND OF THE
THIRD OF THE ASSOCIATION.

—♦—
BY THOMAS RINGWOOD.

Published by request of the Association.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED BY SOUTHWICK AND CROOKER,
NO. 354, WATER-STREET.

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1802.

New-York, July 24, 1802.

SIR,

THE FRANKLIN TYPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW-YORK, tender their sincere thanks for the very satisfactory Address, which you delivered before them, in commemoration of the twenty-seventh Anniversary of American Independence, and of the third of the Association. The obligations they are under will be enhanced, by your granting a copy for publication, agreeable to a resolve of the Society at their last meeting.

We are, Sir,

Your Humble Servants,

HENRY GIRD, Jun.

ELLIOTT HOPKINS,

J. H. WILLIAMS.

MR. THOMAS RINGWOOD.



New-York, July 26, 1802.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE received your communication on behalf of the FRANKLIN TYPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION. The copy requested, I shall with pleasure furnish; and if the same liberality in criticism is experienced from the public, which it met with from the Association, I shall have but little to fear from its publication.

With sentiments of respect,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Humble Servant,

T. RINGWOOD.

HENRY GIRD, JUN. }
ELLIOTT HOPKINS, } Committee.
J. H. WILLIAMS, }

Altho this creation we no dissent to the
then of the church, yet we cannot say
it is distinguished by any peculiarities that
it, to the commendation.

ADDRESS, &c.

Brothers and Fellow-Citizens!

IN obedience to your wishes, I have undertaken to address you on this glorious and ever-memorable day; a task, that should have been the lot of one, possessed of those requisites—the art of composition, and the powers of elocution—of both which, I feel myself destitute.

WHEN I consider the manner in which you were addressed on the two preceding anniversaries, I tremble from a knowledge of my insufficiency, and am almost deterred from putting my feeble abilities in competition with those of my predecessors.* In them, your every wish was gratified; and, could I flatter myself with the idea, that I possessed equal powers, to touch the feelings, and draw forth the pearly evidences of sensibility, I would have no hesitation in proceeding; nay, would esteem this as one of the happiest days that marked the period of my existence. However, being convinced, that liberality of sentiment pervades the breast of every

* Mr. Henry Gisd, jun. 1800; and Mr. John Clough, 1801.

member of our Association, and relying on the candour and generosity of our visiting friends, I am emboldened to solicit your attention, while I endeavour to discharge, to the utmost of my ability, the duty I have been appointed to perform.

THE celebration of so distinguished and heart-gladdening an event, as the declaration of our independence, must call forth from every friend to America, the warmest effusions of gratitude to the Supreme Ruler of all, under whose fostering care our country has been delivered, and, by whose interposing mercy, permitted the enjoyment of those purest blessings, PLENTY, LIBERTY, and PEACE; whilst the plains of poor afflicted Europe have been drenched with human gore; while devastation hath been spreading itself even to the fruitful shores of the Nile; and, while, in Ireland, numbers have experienced all the horrors of famine. O Americans! enjoying such particular marks of favour, *ought* we, *can* we ever forget to pour forth our whole souls in acknowledgments—can we ever be sufficiently grateful?

BETWEEN our happy country, and the dominions of the late contending powers, how vast has been the contrast—the one, blest in the full enjoyment of *all* that man *should* wish for—the others, almost deprived of the common necessaries of life.

THOUGH elate at our own prosperity, we cannot suppress the rising sigh, excited by the sufferings of our fellow-men: but, while our hearts sympathize in their misfortunes, we have reason to rejoice, that our far-spreading country has been, to hundreds of unfortunate emigrants, a safe asylum from the horrors which enveloped their native land.

THE free enjoyment of religious opinions, sanctioned by our constitution, is a *blessing*, highly to be prized. The establishment of a mother-church, to which all others must render tribute and homage, is a grievance under which almost all the countries of Europe have severely suffered; and which, though somewhat abated, particular nations suffer under to this day: What contention it has excited! What a profusion of human blood it has been the cause of shedding!

THRICE happy America! thou art exempt from all those dire oppressions, which has often caused brother to war against brother, and a father to deprive of life his once beloved son. O country, pre-eminently blessed! where the bright sun of domestic happiness beams forth with ineffable splendour;—where the unfortunate fugitive, forced to fly from the horrors of civil warfare, and of martial law, hath found a refuge and a home;—where hordes of armed slaves, kept to trample on the necks of

the wretched inhabitants are unknown ; and where nought but the exertion of honest industry is necessary, to insure the *comforts*, nay, some of the *luxuries* of life :—May thy sons, to the remotest ages, guard thee from a fall, and thy strength increase as time progresses.

REFLECTIONS on our present state, naturally call to mind that period, when America, not yet possessed of those inestimable blessings, groaned beneath the burthens imposed by the *mother-country*, and the industrious, of all classes, toiled to enhance the riches of haughty Britain.

DOES not the breast of every friend to American Independence glow with indignation, at the recollection of the injuries that were heaped on the deliverers of this *then enslaved* and submissive country ? Do not your bosoms burn with enthusiastic ardour, to prevent a repetition of such humiliating slavery, and to watch over, with *Argus-eyes*, those invaluable privileges which were purchased with the best blood of the nation, and which have been entrusted to your care, as a charge more estimable than the brightest gems—the purest sources of national and individual happiness, that were ever in the possession of the sons of men.

OPPRESSION may, for a time, be borne ; and the subject bend at the shrine of tyranny and usurpation ;—taxes may

be imposed, to glut the insatiate avarice of the tools of despotism, and thousands of sanguinary mercenaries kept, to prey on the industrious poor ; yet a *time will arrive*, when the oppressed, grown desperate, from the weight of their galling chains, will call reason to their aid, and, convinced, that *liberty, sweet liberty*, is the rightful inheritance of mankind, will wipe the mist from their eyes—will, Sampson-like, summon up their strength—by one powerful effort burst the fetters that enthrall them, and assert their independence. Of this, our now happy country is a glorious proof.

AMERICA was to Great-Britain, as a faithful servant, till oppression, heaped upon oppression, and injustice upon injustice, roused the indignation of her loyal sons, and stimulated them to seek a just redress of the grievances under which they laboured. They approached the throne of England, praying relief, in the most loyal addresses ; but their petitions were contemptuously rejected, and their peaceful lands infested with thousands of hirelings, armed for destruction, ripe for murder, rape and pillage.

'T WAS THEN, and not till then, that the trumpet of America, lifting its shrill voice, loudly sounded to arms ; and the industrious husbandmen, substituting the implements of war for those of agriculture, rushed undaunted

to the field, and wielded them in defence of their rights and liberties.

A GLORIOUS enthusiasm nerved every arm ; the old, the young, the rich, the poor, alike flew to, and rallied around, the standard of freedom ; even the ties of consanguinity and connubial love were stifled : at their country's call the father urged his son, and the wife the husband of her bosom—to the field of glory.

OH ! FELLOW-CITIZENS, what a time was that ! What innumerable, and almost insurmountable difficulties had the champions of your rights to encounter ! Picture to yourselves—on the one hand a formidable force of well disciplined troops, let loose to act, almost without controul, and guided by no other principle than a desire of plunder, opposed to raw and inexperienced countrymen, whose means of defence were little more than nominal, who were hurried together, just to answer the exigency of the moment, and most of them under no other obligation to serve than that dictated by their noble spirit :—but, roused by repeated injuries, indignation filled every bosom, and they frowned defiance on the embattled lines of their inveterate foe, “ resolved to conquer, or to nobly die.”

NOUGHT was wanting to urge them forward in the glorious cause ; for the conduct of the enemy, gave, every

day, some fresh instigation to revenge : and, although we cannot but lament, that so many of our gallant soldiers fell victims to the sportive cruelty of hired barbarians ; though the heart must still bleed, at the painful recollection, of defenceless women, and innocent children, writhing under the tomahawk of the brutal Indian, rendered more furious by intoxication, and urged on by the abettors of the enemy ; yet were those *barbarities* chief instruments in the attainment of the looked-for prize—a brother fought to revenge a slaughtered brother, and the father was rendered desperate by the loss of a beloved *wife*, or *child*. The dwellings of the inhabitants, blazing in every direction, added largely to the horrors of war, and urged our gallant armies to acts of unexampled valor, in the hope of closing the controversy by the final emancipation of their country ; and the shores of America resounded with the shouts of “ LIBERTY OR DEATH ! ”

AND now, my friends, to whom, next to the Divine Author of all, are we indebted for the blessings we so largely enjoy ? To those illustrious and justly distinguished characters, who stood foremost in the dangers, and partook of all the toils, incidental to a revolutionary war, which in the *then state* of our country, was rendered tenfold arduous.

OUR descendants, for ages yet to come, will bless the names of WASHINGTON, WAYNE, and WARREN, MONR•

GOMERY and MERCER, GREENE and GATES, PUTNAM, and numbers others in the *field*; who, aided by the *talents* of HANCOCK, FRANKLIN, JEFFERSON, SAMUEL and JOHN ADAMS, achieved our *independence*, and emancipated a large portion of the fairest quarter of the globe, from the iron rod of unrelenting tyranny.

FIRMLY believing that Providence would acknowledge the justness of their cause, the yet infant armies of America, linked together as a chain, rushed undaunted on the greatest dangers, patiently enduring all the hardships which daily crossed their path. Exposed to the scorching rays of the noon-day sun, or drenched by pouring torrents, still they pursued their march with unextinguished ardour, still were ever ready to oppose the invaders of their country.

LED on by chiefs fired with patriotic zeal, and rich in personal courage, they every day gave signal proofs of their intrepidity. At *Bunker's-Hill*, that memorable spot, *every man* was a *hero*; and the enemy, though in numbers twenty to one, purchased every inch of ground with torrents of blood, which flowed from the *pride of Britain's army*.

BUT AH! though such numbers of the enemy fell sacrifices to the *ambition* of their *king*, their loss was

small, when compared to that sustained by *our heroic band*—for, alas ! it was there they lost their WARREN!

BUT to enumerate the different battles in which the saviours of our country signalized themselves, would swell this address to a size unprecedented, and I presume unnecessary ; as the breast of every *friend to America* should be, itself, a record, wherein to note, in indelible characters, their glory and their virtues.

BUT can any, on this day, who partake of the blessings resulting from independence, forget THAT MAN, who was HEAVEN'S CHIEF AGENT in guiding us to the wished-for goal ? Is there a bosom which heaves not, with unfeigned sorrow, at the sad remembrance, that the firmest Patriot, the greatest General, the profoundest Statesman, and, to sum up all in one, *America's best Friend*, WASHINGTON, has long been a tenant of the silent tomb ?

“ The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,
 “ The swallow twit'ring from the straw-built shed,
 “ The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn
 “ No more shall rouse” him “ from” his “ lowly bed.”
 Serene he met the awful stroke, when given ;
 And angels, joyful, bore his soul to Heaven ;
 While, cherub-chanted, rung thro' vaulted skies,
 “ WASHINGTON the GOOD, the GREAT, the WISE !”

THE character of this illustrious hero, having been delineated by so many able pens, any further attempt to rank myself among the number of his panegyrists, would serve no other purpose, than, merely to evince my intention of doing justice to his virtues. *Looks* often are more eloquent than *elaborate discourses*—would that *mine* could express the feelings of my heart,—my *pen* is unequal to the task.

WHEN we take a view of the affairs of the old world, since the commencement of the French Revolution, and seriously reflect on the numbers of our fellow-creatures who have fallen beneath the dart of the dread leveller of mankind—we shudder with horror as we contemplate the ravages of war, and our bosoms heave with pity for the sufferings of those numberless families, who, mourning the loss of their dearest relatives, are left a prey to penury and sorrow.

BUT the mind of man, naturally averse to subjects so distressing, quickly recoils from the melancholy retrospect, and lifts itself into a train of ideas infinitely more pleasing—*Admiration*, at the astonishing success of the *strugglers for liberty*, elevates the imagination—it pictures the whole world in a state of *reformation*, and hails all nations as the children of *freedom*.

AND, how grateful to the feelings is the joyful certainty, that “ WHITE-ROBED PEACE ;” that sweet celestial maid, has again resumed her empire, brightening every countenance into smiles of joy.—What rapture must it impart to the anxious bosoms of thousands, in the fond expectation of again straining to their hearts, their long lost husbands, fathers, sons and brothers.

THE soldier, who, while ruthless war still held dominion, panted for nought but glory, now turns joyfully his thoughts on home and friends, enjoying, in his lively fancy, all the bliss of meeting. While yet upon his post, his busy imagination wanders to his family—under the momentary influence of a sweet delusion he clasps in his eager arms the dread instrument of death, and, while the tear of joy rolls down his manly cheek, hugs it, unconscious of his error. Nor wakes he, from this dream of extacy, a prey to disappointment : sweet soothing HOPE, pointing to the reality, leads to peace the emotions of his perturbed bosom, and cheers him through the remaining period of his absence.

O, PEACE ! sweet goddess, thou favourite of the Deity ! long mayest thou continue to bless the world by thy presence, long may we be governed by thy divine influence.

I SHALL now call your attention to the business which materially concerns us, as an Association.

WITH peculiar pleasure do I assert, that our institution is in a much more flourishing state than its warmest friends could have expected. In its infancy it had many difficulties to encounter; but its members, by a persevering spirit, and propriety of conduct, have rendered futile every obstruction opposed to it, in its progress to maturity; and we may now consider it as established, on a basis so firm, as to warrant the most sanguine hopes of its durability.

THE organization of a Society, which has for one of its primary objects, the relief of its members when distressed, will be allowed by all to be a laudable undertaking; as there is no situation in life which secures us from the arrows of adversity:—to-day we may be blessed with the enjoyment of perfect health, to-morrow may be laid on the bed of sickness. Unforeseen events may incapacitate us to meet such a misfortune in a suitable manner, it therefore behoves us to make some provision, as a shield against calamity, and in what way can it be better done, than by associating in the bonds of friendship and brotherly love.

WELL regulated societies, also, have a great tendency to correct and guide the conduct of their members, both

in *moral* and *professional* points of view:—and as justice to our *employers*, as well as to *ourselves*, is the *professional tenet* of our *constitution*; great care should be taken *strictly* to adhere to it, as our Association will thereby support that credit, which it has been gradually attaining since its establishment.

I BELIEVE I may, with truth, affirm, that our conduct has effectually obliterated any evil impressions, which might have been entertained against us *as a society*. We have clearly evinced, that we associated, not for the purpose of extorting extraordinary salaries, but from motives widely different, and it remains with ourselves to maintain the ground we have gained, or deviate from the line of conduct we have hitherto pursued, and fall into discredit.

AT no period since its first introduction into this country, has printing been so liberally encouraged as at present: never has there been so many professors of the typographic art employed in America, as at this time.

FORMERLY the extent of the business carried on in our line went not beyond the daily news-papers, and a few of the lower order of books for the use of schools. Now we not only supply the market with editions of the useful, but with almost all the elegant works; numbers of which

are executed in a style equal to any from Europe, particularly those from the presses of Messrs. Swords, Hopkins, Oram, Collins, Heard, and others in this city; and of Maxwell, Budd and Bartram, Carr, Biorens and others, in Philadelphia.

IT is also a subject of congratulation to us, that the efforts of the associated printers and booksellers have been so far successful as to produce American Editions of several classical works of considerable magnitude, which would not have been otherwise undertaken.

FROM the same truly laudable and patriotic spirit, we are warranted in cherishing the expectation, that the art of printing will shortly arrive to a degree of eminence in America, equal (at least comparatively) to what it has arisen to in Europe. We may look forward with confidence to that period, now not far distant, when the encouragers of literature will no longer examine the *imprints* of the *works* they are about to purchase, except with a view of giving the preference to the produce of American presses. This may, by some, be deemed too great anticipation, but if any are disposed to doubt my assertions, let them examine the work executed by the persons I have named, and they will acknowledge I am far from being lavish of encomium.

THE introduction of a literary fair into the United States, also promises to be a beneficial measure. It will act as an universal stimulus—the industrious and enterprising will find their account in it, and double their exertion—the inactive will have the *all-powerful* inducement of *gain* to urge them forward: in fine, if carried vigorously into effect, it will not only operate to the benefit of the bookseller, printer, bookbinder, &c. it will extend the dissemination of useful knowledge, by giving a more general circulation to all classes of books, and thereby benefit all ranks of people.

I CANNOT, fellow-citizens, close this simple address, without paying a tribute of affection to the memory of our revered PATRON, after whom this Association has the honor to be named, the venerable BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

I AM well aware of my incapacity to do justice to the subject, yet I cannot pass over in silence, a character so distinguished on the roll of Fame, not only for the part he took in the political affairs of this country, but for the exercise of all the moral and social virtues.

MANY are the instances, in the old world, where those praises are bestowed on *titled greatness*, which ought only to be the reward of *virtue* and *talents*—the pagean-

try of *birth*, or the possession of *wealth*, and *influence*, are sufficient inducements to those fawning sycophants, who crowd around *great men*, to blazon their actions, with all the false colouring which expectation of preferment can create: but, though the grossest flattery too often sullies the page of history, *genuine merit* will still continue to be recorded.

THE lives of our eminent men have furnished matter to exercise the pens of several distinguished biographers, and the character of FRANKLIN holds a conspicuous place amongst them.

Born in a state of comparative obscurity, he had nothing to recommend him to notice but his conduct through life;—the greatness he arrived to, was attributable only to himself, and glorious, indeed, is that celebrity purchased by exemplary usefulness and patriotism.

HE was not only admired for the soundness of his judgment on political subjects, but also on those of philosophy, astronomy, theology and logic. To him we are indebted for many solid advantages, and valuable discoveries. He was the father of Science, the patronizer of Arts, the encourager of Literature: He was the poor's universal friend, and an useful companion to all, who had the advantage of his acquaintance.

THE reputation of integrity was a sufficient introduction to his favour, and he never failed of proving a friend to those, whose wants came within his power to relieve; and who were pointed out to him as fit objects of patronage.

THE followers of VIRTUE he sedulously endeavored to encourage, and as eagerly threw allurements in the path of the votaries to VICE, adapted to wean them from their evil habits.

TO his pen we are indebted for many valuable essays on various subjects, all written in a stile of elegant simplicity, truly characteristic of the Author, and calculated to make a lasting impression on the minds of all who peruse them, for they breathe the true spirit of the patriot, the sage, and the christian.

AN enemy to prodigality, he has left us excellent lessons on economy, which, had we fortitude to put in practice, would prove highly advantageous. By following the dictates of that truly philanthropic son of nature, we shall steer as clear of error as rationally can be expected of *man* to do. By adhering to his principles, we shall be *friends* to *ourselves* and all *mankind*, and ultimately gain *characters*, which every one of us should be anxiously ambitious of obtaining.

WE are now, brethren, a numerous society, let us sedulously endeavour to conciliate the esteem of our employers; let us continue to be united as we have heretofore been, and we shall soar above the *malevolent attacks* of any who may, from *principle* or *prejudice*, profess themselves our *enemies*.

FINIS.

