

AN
ORATION,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

AT

POULTNEY,

ON THE 4th OF JULY, 1814.

.....
BY ZEBULON R. SHIPHERD, Esq.
.....

WITH AN

ADDRESS,

UPON READING THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

.....
BY CHAUNCEY LANGDON, A. M.
.....

MIDDLEBURY,
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.....
1814.

Poultney, July 11th, 1816.

HON. ZEBULON R. SHIPHERD, &
CHAUNCEY LANGDON, ESQ.

Gentlemen,

THE Committee of Arrangements, pursuant to the request of the audience in general, return you their most cordial thanks for your excellent anniversary oration, and address, pronounced at Poultney the 4th instant; and request a copy for publication.

Poultney	{ JAMES S. HARRIS,	} <i>Select Committee.</i>
	{ STEPHEN W. DANA,	
Fairhaven	{ ELISHA PARKILL,	
	{ TILLY GILBERT,	
Castleton	{ SELAH GRIDLEY,	
	{ ENOS MERRILL,	

Gentlemen,

THE approbation of the respectable and discerning part of community, is a rich reward for exertion. I therefore assure you, I feel amply compensated for my labours with the commendation of an audience, whose praise any man might be proud to win.

I have only to regret, that the production which, to obey your wishes, I consent should be made public, was not more deserving of the flattering epithets you have been pleased to bestow upon it.

I am Gentlemen,

with every feeling of respect,

your most ob't humble Servant,

Z. R. SHIPHERD

MESSRS. HARRIS, DANA,
PARKILL, GILBERT,
GRIDLEY & MERRILL;

Gentlemen,

THE consent of my Honorable Friend, Mr. Shipherd, to publish his oration has induced me to comply with your request, and submit the whole of the remarks written, as well those, which were delivered, as those were intended to have been made, and were omitted, on account of length, to your disposal. Those parts of the address, contained within the brackets, were omitted on delivery, and are now given to the public,

By their Humble Servant,
CHAUNCEY LANGDON.

AN ADDRESS.

WHEN the son of God came down to deliver us from the slavery of sin and death, the era was announced by an *Angel* with a multitude of the heavenly host, proclaiming, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men!"

A star appeared in the east, as the Herald of the day of Divine light dawning upon the world, "which had lain in darkness and the shadow of death."

The wise men of the east saw the light:—and as representatives of the heathen world, came from a far country to offer gifts and honors to the Son of God dwelling in flesh. These illustrious men commemorated the glorious event; and bore testimony against every nation which regards not the blessing.

Nature, men and Angels concur in the propriety of celebrating the day, which gave moral freedom to man.

The chosen people of God commemorated the day of their deliverance from the house of bondage. They keep the feast of the passover "as an ordinance forever;" by eating a lamb without blemish, with their loins girded, shoes on their feet and staves in their hands.

All nations celebrate the era of important events, which have procured to them the blessings of peace, liberty and Independence.

Shall Americans forget the day of their birth and youthful prosperity and Independence?—God forbid.—But let the days which are past correct the present, and guard the future.

Nations, like men, have their birth, youth, manhood, decrepitude of years, diseases and dissolution. As virtue, temperance

and industry invigorate and perfect the body and mind of man ; so the practice of these will preserve and perfect the body politic.

Men, and nations, enjoying peace and prosperity, with great propriety, rejoice together on the annual return of the day of their birth. But when disordered by vice ; enervated by profligacy and corruption ; swayed from truth and justice by inordinate love or hatred ; oppressed by their rulers, or a dominant party, well may they say—Let the day perish wherein they were born !

The causes and events which gave birth to this day ; and separated us from our mother-country are enumerated in the declaration of Independence, which, at your request, I am about to read. It is the charter of our national sovereignty ; and the declaration of our rights. It was sealed by the blood and treasures of thousands :—and maintained by the united cares and toils of the *Heroes* you, this day, display on the banners of your love, union and gratitude. Their memory you still cherish and delight to honor.—And, thanks to God ! that the *Father* of his country still lives in the hearts of so many of his children ! That our children's children know his worth, and feel the majesty of his virtues. That they glory in rallying around his standard ;—for it is the standard of truth, virtue and patriotism.—It is the standard of defensive war alone ;—and it carries on its folds, *Justice to all nations ;—Alliance with none !—*It has borne the test of time ;—Survived the scoff of *Demagogues*,—and the rancorous tooth of party emulation !

My friends, the friends of *Washington*, hear the evils we once endured :—and while I read, reflect and consider if many of them do not now exist among us.



By this declaration, recorded on the hearts of the American people, you see that the mother once forgot her offspring !—You see that the strides of power crossed the Atlantic to tramp

ple on our liberties ;—to subjugate freemen and chain their peace, prosperity and future destinies to the throne of power !

Free and independent men disdain the laws of usurpation ;—but adore the laws of nature and of nature's God ! Our fathers saw and felt the danger :—And liberty steeled every breast ; nerved every arm ; and kindled her holy fires on the altars of freedom !—They looked up to the great Disposer of events, the God of truth and justice, to protect and vindicate their cause.—The God of truth and justice then lived !—And He lives forever. Tho' " He make darkness his secret place, and thick clouds of the sky his pavilion ; yet righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne."

[Our State and federal constitutions were wisely formed to preserve our peace and Independence. These were not contaminated with the profligacy and corruptions of European governments ; nor the administration of them committed to the dregs of foreign nations. The people were united, virtuous and happy. Under the just and impartial administration of Washington we enjoyed freedom, peace and unparalleled prosperity. Our commerce was extended to almost every part of the globe. It enriched the farmer, mechanic and merchant ; and filled the public treasury without burthening the people. Measures were taken to defend that commerce on the ocean, whenever aggressions should be made. In ninety eight and nine, the effect of these measures was gloriously applied. The thunders of our infant navy boldly proclaimed to the marauding powers of Europe the extent of our commercial rights, and successfully defended them. These measures were unequivocally condemned by the party now in power and, with other things, caused a complete change in the administration of our government.]

To preserve national liberty and Independence, the immortal Washington adopted and pursued a wise, just and impartial administration of our government. In spite of ourselves, and a hord of jacobinic Frenchmen then among us, that great and good man, by his proclamation of neutrality, saved us from the

giddy vortex of atheistic philosophy, frantic revolutions, visionary systems and the bloody and exterminating wars of Europe. Happy, thrice happy it would have been for these United States, if the late administrations had not forsaken that wise, just, impartial and independent course.

It, therefore, becomes the descendants of our fathers, the disciples of Washington ;—and it is our *indispensable duty as freemen*, to watch and guard the vineyard of our *freedom and Independence*, that exotic plants of a strange vine be not implanted in its soil. Their growth will destroy the native vines ; and finally produce the grapes of Sodom and the clusters of Gomorrah !

• Freedom and Independence, without virtue, wisdom and impartiality in the rulers and in the people, are like a ship on the ocean without helm, chart or compass. When natural, or political storms and tempests arise, they will alike become the sport of chance.

No nation can be long free and independent, when her councils are swayed by foreign influence, or by a dominant party in her bosom ;—or diverted from her true interests by love or hatred ;—by prejudice, fear or partiality to others. All her measures ought to be devised from pure motives, and directed by a just and impartial hand. When she departs from these principles, she becomes the tool of others ;—the pity and contempt of the world ! A nation oftener loses her freedom and Independence from an inordinate love or attachment to one belligerent power, or from hatred and prejudice to the other, than by foreign conquest. Whenever a nation from these servile passions, wages an offensive war against one of two belligerent powers, it is a virtual alliance with the other :—This is relatively unjust.—It is sacrificing her sons and daughters to Moloch.

The fate of the nations of Continental Europe ought to have been, to us, a warning voice as from the tomb of Liberty ;—and the grave-stones of their departed governments ought to have been instructive and effectual monitors to have shewed us our danger. These, as in the language of eternal truth, have pro-

claimed to the whole world, that freedom and Independence had no place there !

[The military despot of France, established the most stupendous and degrading system of tyranny the world ever saw. — He stood, like the Colossus of Rhodes, and nation after nation were made to pass between his feet. Italy, Genoa, Holland, Switzerland, and a part of Germany were held in chains as an integral part of his usurped empire. Germany, Austria, Sardinia, Naples, Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, and other smaller states became prostrate at the feet of his power. By unparalleled perfidy and deception he seized the King of Spain and placed his servile brother on the throne. That ill-fated kingdom, and Portugal, were deluged with blood, while they struggled for their national existence and Independence. The wheels of his chariot rolled over the necks of powerful nations, when boasting of freedom and Independence; and their tracks were filled with the blood of innocence. Peace and prosperity fled before; desolation and misery followed after him. He stood and as with a pen of iron, blotted out the nations of Europe from the map of the world. Even the heroic Emperor of all the Russias trembled at his nod, and moved in the sphere of his baneful influence. The fast anchored Isle alone remained free from his grasp and the controul of his power. Despairing of the conquest of England by physical force, or by deception, he artfully introduced his continental system of commercial restrictions, under pretence of securing and defending the rights of the ocean and freedom of the seas. All trade in British manufactures were prohibited; and their goods became fuel for the fire. As fagots of wood have been used to prevent reformation in christianity and the gospel of peace, so millions in value, of British merchandize, have been consumed by fire, or confiscated to excite prejudice and hatred against the British nation and her manufactures. The Berlin, Milan and Rambouillet decrees were component parts of the same system, and became the fundamental laws of his empire.

He justly considered the commerce and manufactories of

Great Britain to be the wealth and life of the nation:—and when these was once destroyed, she would become an easy conquest.

Blinded by hatred and prejudice, and allured by the Syren song of the Napolean system of commercial restrictions, the nations of Europe glided down the stream of deception into the gulph of destruction.

The administration of our government have unfortunately steered the same course, for eight years past. The non-impotation, embargo, non-intercourse acts and commercial restrictions have encompassed us by sea and by land. These, like the locusts of Egypt, have destroyed all our regular commerce, and external revenue, without producing one solitary benefit.

The tyrant of France saw the course we had taken with exultation;—and congratulated his Senate upon our renouncing commerce. Beholding our political ship *heavy* laden, by *ourselves*, with a cargo of *these* commercial restrictions, he loved us; and generously gave us a station with his allies, to defend free trade and sailors' rights on the ocean! Finding our political ship and cargo endangered by *trade-winds* and *tempests*, we began in June, 1812, to defend free trade and sailors' rights on the ocean, by an offensive war on the savages of the wilderness, and on the wilds of Canada.

This war has been *vigorously* pursued by an army of *fifty five thousand men, on paper*, with a *full complement of officers in actual commission and full pay*. These men, well guarded by militia, are enjoying leisure with *modern dignity*:—and *impiously* compare their services with those, which were rendered on the day we now celebrate, under the banner of love to our Country!

When and where this wild career will end, God only knows! —But one thing we now know—that we are no longer in danger of being chained to the charriot of Napoleon; nor ingulphed in the bottemless pit of *his love and friendship!*]

In commemorating the day of our freedom and Independence, to be unmindful of the recent events in Europe would be in-

gratitude to heaven :— He, therefore my intrusion on your patience : for the passing events of the day are replete with instruction.

The only nation on the continent of Europe, which saw and felt the danger of the continental system of the tyrant of France, and dared resist his will, became an *Aceldama* in the defence of national sovereignty and Independence.

The sword of Alexander could rest in its scabbard no longer. The cause of truth and justice, and the freedom of nations drew it forth and ensured victory. The Russian nation rallied her heroes and veterans to defend the dignity and Independence of the Empire. They surrounded the imperial standard ; union and virtue fortified every breast, and justice strengthened every arm.

Infatuated by success and goaded on by ambition, the scourge of nations carried an immense army to the Russian frontiers.— He saw, in his imagination, the fate of all the Russias as sealed :—and was ready to snatch from *Deity*,

—“ The balance and the rod,
“ Rejudge his justice and be god of God !”

The conflict was tremendous !—The carnage dreadful !—The fields of Russia were drenched with the blood of heroes—and enriched with the slain. Her rivers were filled with the implements of war and the mangled corpses of the survivors of the battles of Lodi, Merango, Austerlitz, Jena, Eylau, Wagram, Smolensk, and Boradino ! The ancient and splendid capital of the Empire fell into the hands of the relentless tyrant !—And in a few hours was enveloped in flames !—But the flames of Moscow flashed conviction to the powers of Europe, opened their eyes, and aroused them from their almost fatal lethargy.— They shewed Napoleon the limits of his power and oppression, and melted the chains he had prepared for the world ! *Here* he fell from the pinnacle of his high blown pride and ambition ;—and was taught that

“When our deep laid plots do fail, that it should teach us,
 “There is a divinity, that shapes our ends,
 “Rough hew them how we will.”

Alexander viewed the conflagrated ruins of the lofty towers and battlements of the Kremlin unmoved.

“Unspeakably serene.

“This conscious soul smiled o'er the dreadful scene.”

[The vénéralé Kutusoff, surrounded by his generals, felt the vigour of youth return ! His brave heart beat in unison with those of his soldiers--and the pious emotions of his breast elevated him to heaven !—“Fear not, says he, for heaven will unite with man against the tyrannic troubler of the world. God, whose altars have been insulted by the *very worm* He had raised from the dust, will stretch forth his shield over your ranks ; and with the sword of Michael fight against his enemies. This is the faith, says he, in which I will fight and conquer ! This is the faith in which I would fight and fall ;—and still behold the the final victory with my dying eyes !”

Retributive justice will never let the guilty go unpunished !—Nor did the God of universal nature He inspired the troops with courage and aided them by the storms of Heaven. The tide of victory soon rolled back upon the merciless invaders and they fled from the ruins of Moscow with dismay !—Near half a million perished by famine, or the sword ;—and the frozen regions of the north refused them burial !

Defeat stripped the name of Napoleon of its terrors—and this impious leader fled, like a wretched fugitive, back to his capital !

Tho' the modern Attila of France has been permitted to scourge the nations of Europe for their degeneracy and corruption ; yet the finger of God has pointed out to them the victorious Alexander as their deliverer :—And the ashes of Moscow will proclaim to distant ages the heroic virtues which baffled the destroyer of nations ;—and show to the world that no sacrifice is too great for *Independence* and the right of *Self Government* !

The recital of campaigns and battles produces pain to the human mind :—“ For wars originate in the ambition of princes ! and terminate in the misery of nations.” But the late example of a people, under an absolute monarchy, preferring death to foreign slavery ;—and the benevolence of their conduct, is too sublime and instructive to be passed over in silence.

A man is truly great, when he attains the summit of power ; and then respects the laws and the rights of others ;—discerns merit, receives council, forgives enemies and acquires friends.

Napoleon never had this greatness. Intoxicated with the love of power, the sovereignty of France was too insignificant for his ambition. He attempted to raise France above herself, to make her worthy of his notice. His disordered imagination traced out immortal glory in war, and the destruction of the human race. He reached after the crowns of Europe and universal power in anticipated conquests. These have proved his ruin ;—and the consequent restoration of liberty and peace to France ; and Independence to the nations of Europe, which he had conquered. He never learned the lesson of the Priest of Ceres ; “ That war could not begin too late, nor terminate too speedily.” He ever thought more of spilling the blood of his enemies, than saving the lives of men. He therefore levied another immense army from his slavish allies, and the conscripts of France. “ These conscripts were too young to bear the arms by which they perished.”

The sagacious and intrepid Alexander lost no time in carrying his victories into the heart of Germany. Nation after nation became a willing conquest, and received Independence and the restoration of their former governments from his hands. He acquired, every day, additional strength in his triumphant course of emancipating Europe. New alliances were formed in the glorious cause. At length the contending armies, of near half a million of veteran troops, met at Leipsic from different points. The fate of Europe and the world hung suspended on the event of the day ! The carnage was beyond description !—And the

emendous roar of cannon, and the noise of battle was like "the
reck of matter and the crush of worlds !"

Under the walls of Leipsic the adamantine chains of the con-
federacy of the Rhine were severed from the nations of Europe ;
and the bold and stupendous system of commercial restrictions
vanished away "as the baseless fabric of a vision."

The legions of France, once ~~invincible~~ invincible, were panic-
struck and fled with precipitation. While the astonished multitude
beheld, with admiration, three mighty monarchs on their knees
in humble and pious adoration giving thanks to Almighty God
for their wonderful deliverance !

Now, instead of seeing Frenchmen and the Rhinish confedera-
cy rioting in blood and the spoils of Russia ;—we saw the Rus-
sians and their magnanimous allies in France restoring Peace and
freedom to the people ! Instead of the haughty Corsican at
St. Petersburg exulting in slaughter and conflagration ; the
Imperial Alexander is at Paris receiving the grateful adoration
of the French people—and consoling them with the reflection,
"that the old men may now hope to die before their children !" —
Instead of being surrounded as a prisoner in his own capital, the
people of Paris press forward to touch the proud steed on which
he rode ;—crying out, "long live Alexander, our *Deliverer* !"

Instead of sitting on the throne of Europe, or wielding the
sceptre of universal empire, the military Despot is now dethroned
by his own senate ;—and sent a miserable and pitiless exile
to the little isle of Elba ;—*there* to reflect on the perfidy and
murders he has committed, and the innocent blood he has shed !
He once sat, like Mars, in the car of victory smiling at destruc-
tion in the field of battle—directing the tempest of death through
Europe—"beholding kings casting their crowns at his feet !" —
He is now obliged to wear the badge of a white cockade, which
belonged to the royal family, some of whom he had murdered,
to protect his life among his former slaves !—When he heard
and saw his fate, the tyrant wept !—Yes my friends, he, who
dragged the youth to slaughter ; and saw the tears of children

parents and bereaved widows gush from their eyes unmoved ; and hath filled the world with misery, lamentations and mourning, without remorse ;—and who impiously proclaimed to the Spaniards, “ That God had given him power and he would use it, “ is now hurled from his throne and is receiving the bread of charity from the hands of those he once enslaved, weeping like a child at his fate !—But his tears are not the tears of contrition, but of disappointed ambition. How great the change ?—Astonishing reverse of fortune !—From the fate of this man let the rulers of the earth know that the *stamp of change* is placed on all things below the sun ; and thereby learn to be wise in time. Let them know “ That God is just ! and that our pleasant vices, often make instruments to scourge us.” That His kingdom is over all ;—and “ that He will dash the tyrants of the earth to pieces, like a potter’s vessel.”

When we behold the astonishing events which have taken place in Europe, within two years past, we have reason to congratulate the former friends and patrons of our Independence, that the nations of the continent are restored to freedom and the rights of self government ;—and are now enjoying the blessings of *peace*. With them, we rejoice that the fatal spell of Napoleon policy is completely dissolved ;—and that the Gordian knot which had entangled our commerce and foreign relations was loosened by the flames of Moscow, and finally destroyed under the walls of Leipsic. What effect the fall of the tyrant of France will have on our foreign rights and commerce, or present state of things, remains a doubt ;—But if we had cultivated the friendship, instead of irritating the passions of our declared enemy ; or if we had virtue and wisdom enough to have remained neuter and free from the broils and restrictive systems of Europe ; and treated every nation with strict impartiality, and defended with equal forbearance, the unnecessary aggression on our national rights, we might have now joined in the general joy without alloy.

Though the calamities of war afflict our land, and the bless-

ings of an honorable peace be not within our power, yet we ought to rejoice that so great a part of Europe is freed from its accumulated evils. Should the recent events in Europe facilitate and hasten the establishment of a peace in America, we should have new cause and more occasion of joy and congratulation. But if the ravages of war must still continue to punish us for our rashness and folly, and for the abuse of our national advantages, we must preserve the union, defend our rights, obey the laws, perform the several duties we owe to ourselves and to our God ;—and wait with patience until the people learn wisdom by suffering, and *learn to justly estimate the blessings of peace and Independence.* We must leave our bleeding country and its important concerns with the *great Disposer* of events ;—“ and rejoice that the *Lord God Omnipotent* reigneth :” —“ and that His tender mercies are over all the works of *His hands.*”

AN ORATION, &c.

Fellow Citizens,

A hasty and defective address, for the present important celebration, has been the result of necessity ; and not of indifference to your good opinion.

Happy should I have been if the calls of an arduous profession had afforded me leisure to gratify your wishes, and, if possible, deserved your approbation : But those calls, together with indisposition, have driven me to a very limited opportunity of preparation ; and compels me to solicit a correct judgment upon my performance. Notwithstanding these embarrassments, while encouraged on my right hand by manly dignity and candour, and on my left hand by the charm of beauty, I shall not despond.

No ordinary state of the political world, invites the attention of the reflecting mind.—A new and distinguished *epoch* presents itself to the historic pen, and excites wonder and admiration.

The curtain has been drawn up, and lo !—there burst upon our sight a scene, that fills the mind with astonishment : As though heaven had reserved to the thirteenth and fourteenth year of the present century the exhibition of His master works.—For, after all the convulsions, and struggles of the civilized world, portending dubious results, at length we see one of the greatest and sublimest dramas ever witnessed by man.

All former experience has been beggared ; all calculation mocked and confounded.

The proud oppressor has been beaten down ; his throne which

seemed to defy all power, celestial and terrestrial, has been prostrated in so rapid and unexpected a manner, that, the story seems more like the delusion of romance, than serious reality.

If the birth day of our Independence has become common, and the ardour of the Patriot somewhat cooled, by the repetition of its celebration,—yet the recent events in Europe must banish from our hearts, every lazy feeling, and produce new and active sensations.

It is presumed that the spirit of liberty, benumbed and rendered torpid amidst the collision of party contention, will be regenerated: Will again be clad in the native vestments of Independence, awaken her sons, and command a renewed devotion to the cause of man, to swell in their hearts. The views and feelings, which heretofore were bounded by the shores of our continent, will now bound over the the Atlantic and encircle Europe in the embrace.—Europe did I say?—The world! Man, whether he is scorched with a tropical sun, pursues his game over the polar mountains of ice; or breathes the soft Ausonian Zephyr, is interested—deeply interested in the great events, which we design to mingle in this celebration. Let us, my friends, congratulate ourselves and mankind, and unitedly hail this dawn, as the precursor of a day glorious for its peace and happiness,—a day to be welcomed with tears of joy. At such a prospect, the good heart will throb with delight; bravery itself take off his coat of mail, and mellow down the rugged brow of war.

Europe is again free!—Her chains have been solved with the warm blood of her sons; and she rises from the depth of oppression, glowing with a new and dazzling lustre. The sword of the North, aided by its allies, has foiled the usurping Tyrant of France, smitten off the claws, and broken the teeth of the terrific monster. He has been hunted down, caught, chained, despoiled of his ill-gotten power, and driven to his cage and remains but a melancholy example of a wretch, who dared the justice of Omnipotence, and well may say to all who hereafter attempt

the mad career of unholy ambition—" *Discrete Justiciam moniti non temnere divos.* "

Is there a benevolent being, that does not rejoice at the destruction of that dreadful system of Tyranny, which but lately menaced the ruin of the world ;—which was extending its dire dominion through all christendom, and, in its progress, laid waste every germ of rational liberty ; and erased from the earth the footsteps of piety and even common morality ? Nations shrunk at the blighting approach of its author. He withered and blasted, " like the pestilence that walketh in darkness." Even the arm of defensive war was paralyzed at his touch. Like a demon of darkness, he smiled at woe ; the groan of anguish was recreating to his ear, and with the ruthless exultation of a fiend, rejoiced over the catacombs of death.

If this audience contains a man, that does not rejoice, at the downfall of the monster of iniquity, I cannot fail to offend him ; for I am constrained to pronounce the heart that mourns his fall an enemy of human happiness ; and fitted for the hatching of the vilest crimes. If such a being exist some strange *mania* must reign over his mind and pervert his better judgment.

It swells the generous breast with delight, that Holland once more has raised her beloved Orange,—once more realizes the blessings that were ravished from her, by the revolutionizing hand of France.

After twenty years of slavery cruel and intolerable, the honest Dutchman smokes his pipe in peace, once more floats at his ease on his native canal ; and with a conscious feeling, that he is free, breathes out a thank-offering to that GOOD BEING, who has emancipated his country from the chains of tyranny :—

That Prussia can boast of the valiant deeds of her Frederick without a blush :

That Austria, indignant at the contumelious tone of the husband of her idol, and disdaining to stop at the ties which were formed not of affection but ambition, (unholy ties that ought ever to be blasted ;) joined in the cause of Europe, and strove,

in magnanimous contest, "to pluck up her drowned honour by the locks!"—

That the long oppressed Swiss again, free as air, can bound on the snowy steeps and court the genius of liberty alternately on the top of the glaciers, or in the luxuriant vale. Brave descendant of Tell!—Long, too long hast thou groaned under the weighty burthens imposed by the intolerent hand of power, which like a mighty *avalanche* pressed thee down!—May thy future destinies be gilded with untarnished lustre, and thou enjoy a freedom as unsullied, as thy native mountains!

It is enlivening to the mind, that contemplates great events with admiration, to run over the grand movements of the Russian army, from the flames of Moscow, chasing and hunting the tyrant, and, every step, teaching, by adverse experience, that the day of retribution had arrived; and the movements of the allied army, carrying victory from Liepsick to Paris. I mean not, that the sufferings and deaths of the French soldiers ought, abstractly considered, to afford pleasure. No; if this stood alone, it demands compassion for their pangs. The story of their wrongs, their sufferings and misfortunes will wring the feeling heart, and prompt a wish, that this weighty mass of pain and death could have been saved. Benevolence fain would have cheered the fainting sufferer with food, and fire,—spread a shield before his breast, in the heat of battle,—warmed his stiffened limbs, or closed his dying eyes. But an unrelenting necessity prohibited the generous deed; and kind charity in this, as in all such cases, was constrained to avert her head, and drop the pitying tear. Viewing however the glorious consequences of these dreadful calamities, it is virtuous to feel rejoiced; and when out of the ashes of the dead and the proud throne of Napoleon leveled in dust, we see freedom with renewed beauty arise to bless the world, our lamentations over the tomb of slaughtered millions is merged in the great and happy result. And the more is that result pleasing, as we have much reason to believe the blessings purchased, at so great a price, will be lasting. The fountain of corruption is broken up;—the Tyrant is fallen;—and,

Like the rebel angel, to rise no more. France the former source of abominations, is regenerated, and gives an earnest of future goodness.

What wonders and revolutions two years have produced ! Stupid must be the mind that sleeps regardless of these great events. They not only call for our praise, our warm and grateful commendations to those, who have stepped forth the friends of man but our still higher and devout gratitude to the God of battles, for his beneficent aid in accomplishing the mighty work. Let us remember, that the plans of an Alexander, or of the united wisdom of his allies, executed by a master's hand, would have proved abortive, without the aid and approbation of the Ruler of our destinies. In vain the hoary Kutusoff, invested in the mantle of Suwarrow,—the noble Swede, the intrepid Blucher, would have urged on the destructive engines of war ! In vain would the Washington of Europe, whose steady skill has delivered Spain and Portugal from the talons of the Gallic Harpy, have bent his conquering sword 'in the glorious cause, had not Heaven commanded "go ye up to battle." Feeble would have been every effort ; and still the unvanquished dictator would have widowed France, and made nations tremble at his rod.—Hence we may learn "the race is not to the swift, or battle to the strong."—An unseen, although almighty hand has guided the movements of these great machines. He marked the bounds, beyond which the Tyrant could not pass, and has checked and punished him for his guilty temerity, in the impious attempt.

It was the spirit of Omnipotence that enkindled a valiant enthusiasm in the *fur clad* bosom of the Russian, and prompted him to go forth to battle and victory.

It is pleasing to the pious soul to believe, that nothing happens fortuitously ; that his God appoints and will execute all his designs. With feelings thus tempered, while he wonders at the mighty operations and mutations of states and kingdoms, he bows and adores ; rejoices that "his Father is at the helm ;" and

while the tempest howls and the billows dash, fears not but the happy destined port will be safely gained.

A controuling Providence is most obvious in the wonderful changes in Europe. The Infidel alone can doubt, or refuse to see it. Those great deeds are stamped as peculiarly belonging to a supreme hand, and demand of us, while we bestow the merited commendation upon the brave, to ascribe the glory to a greater and better BEING, and to acknowledge, with pious gratitude His goodness, in rescuing the world from slavery and the christian world from the hands of the Atheist.

From recent, it may be proper to look back to more distant, things,—things which many of us have witnessed. The revolution of our states, the abjuration of the British government, and forming our own seemed to commence that most extraordinary chain of events, which less than forty years have produced.—The world looked on with surprise to behold an empire emerging from obscurity and, with a rapid facility, that knew no parallel, take an high and honourable stand among the nations of the earth.

Scarcely had America silenced the roar of the Lyon, and driven him to his den, when she told the world, she claimed for her destiny, not only to be free, but great, wise, wealthy and renowned. She pointed to a resplendent *halo*, that encircled her brow, as an earnest that future times would teach the nations of the earth, she was not to be rivaled.

It seemed here Eden was acting with such happy imitation, that the observer saw, or fancied he saw, in the charming representation, the delights of the happy region. Here the wanderer, in search of earth's elysium, fancied he found the consummation of his wishes. Here was really experienced that repose and those blessings, which the wars, cruelties and despotism elsewhere had interrupted and destroyed. Here in the mildness and wisdom of our government and laws, could be seen how far short of the best were the celebrated code of the Civilian,—the Republicks of Greece and Rome, or the best of their boasted institutions.

All were captivated that, what in theory they adopted was here exemplified.

This earnest of future greatness increased, and the kind tokens of Heaven's favour became more and more visible.

Notwithstanding the desolations of a war, which was just ended, our rise was so rapid, we scarcely realized its progress amidst surprise. Before we had time to calculate how we could reach the wished for eminence, the deed was done, the mighty structure reared, and we beheld it, enraptured, as the greatest monument of human wisdom.

Our citizens encouraged by what they saw, embarked with avidity in the various employments, that promised wealth and respectability; and as though a Magician was at work, exerting his most potent skill, we had scarcely time to turn round ere our country was experiencing transformation. The hunting ground of the savage soon became the residence of civilization. The forests yielded their empire to the magnificent temple of religious worship, and the elegant dwelling of civilized man.

The plough and ship united their labours,—the former to produce an abundance, and the latter to transport the surplus thereof to a sure and profitable market. Then, blessed with peace and plenty, we had within our reach all the happiness, which was ever intended for man in this world. It was enough and we needed only to be contented.—But alas! we were not so. We drank deep in the cup of bliss; but we were such fools, as with our own hands to adulterate the pure and wholesome beverage with a poisonous mixture.

It must here be remembered, that France, groaning in the chains and lacerated with the scourge of despotism, wrung the sceptre from the hand, and the diadem from the brow of tyranny; and ascending the ruins of the Bastille, proclaimed to the world, that she too was free. I need only appeal to the men of ninety to prove the cordial exultations, which were testified by the American, at the birth of our young sister republick; we fondled and caressed the darling; pressed her to our hearts, with

every token of fondness ; hailed her as an auxiliary in the glorious work of reformation. When she fought, (as we then believed in the cause of Freedom) we wearied Heaven with our prayers, for her success and when victory perched upon her standard, our feelings were never equivocally or indifferently expressed ; but, without disguise, we plainly told the belligerent states, her enemies, it was only in form, that we considered them on the footing of the most favored nations.

For awhile this pleasing infatuation reigned over our minds and hearts. Ere long however the delusion vanished ; the mask and drapery were laid aside ; and we saw the monster naked and deformed, haggard and odious, scowling with the *physiognomy* of a *hell-whelped* fury, and giving signs, not to be mistaken, that her embrace was daggers, poison and death. Before this however too many of our citizens had drunken so freely of the sorceries of the monster, that the change of her shape produced no change in their feelings. Her blasphemies, her awful atheism, that outlawed the GOD OF HEAVEN, the murders, adulteries and abominations, that corrupted this vile region, were insufficient to abate the affections of our deluded citizens. She was beloved and eulogized, as a sister Republick, who was engaged in the freedom of the world ; and, strange to tell, the change from an excess of liberty to despotism did not wean our affections. All that was done by France was agreeable ; all her principles were orthodox. Enchantment seemed to bewilder our people ; and no one has yet been found sufficiently potent to dissolve the spell.

From this scene was derived that cruel spirit which has so long distracted our country and enfeebled the councils, energies and virtues of the nation. Hence that malignant, and incurable propensity, to immolate upon the altar of prejudice every opponent ; and hence undoubtedly may be traced the bloody footsteps of the present foolish and unhappy war.

I venture to assert that affection or fear must have impelled the declaration ; and whether the one or the other, the authors deserve the contempt and indignation of their countrymen. In

vain am I told, "France had no influence in the mind of the American cabinet." It is too evident to be doubted, that the design was hatched in this abominable nest. It cannot be denied, that, not only the embargo, but the war was in perfect coincidence with the Continental system of the Emperor Napoleon, and accorded with his wishes. Who ever heard of any disposition to go to war with England, until after the the thing had been talked over at *St. Cloud*, and the measure proposed to our government.

Besides, every blow we gave England was a blow in favour of France. We were fighting her battles; the effects of an alliance was produced by the war; and, had we been able to have injured the enemy, as our hot-heads supposed we were, the war could have been no other, but to establish more securely and powerfully a dynasty, the most tyrannical and alarming, that ever cursed mankind. With these strong facts before us, it requires more than Christian charity to believe, that the authors of the war had it not in view to identify our cause with that dreadful Power. If these things are all true, who but must discover, that our nation is governed by a set of principles, which, in their tendency, lead to ruin. And here we can easily discover the cause of our sorrows and sufferings. We have abandoned our first love and in the indulgence of desires unholy and meritricious, we have bartered away our comforts, our joys, the bright and happy prospects of ourselves and our children, for that which will blast and ruin our hopes.

Restless and discontented with all the heart ought to desire, and hankering for something new, we wholly disregarded the admonitions of experience, for the privilege of trying some visionary scheme. And in despite of the warning voice from the tomb of the ancient Republics, we would,—we did indulge our guilty curiosity. For many years we have been pursuing phantoms, which we have been warned to avoid; and by so doing have lost, in practice, what promised so handsomely in the theory of our government. The sober maxims of common

sense, practiced by Washington, were too old-fashioned for the illumined philosophers of the country, and the majority of the people, deluded from their duty and interest, and hungering for novelty caught the malignant disease. Our overweening fondness for every thing wrapped in mystery, pervaded the nation; and labouring under the pleasing, yet fatal, delusion, they cheerfully resigned themselves into the hands of the political Empyricks, partook of their nostrums, believed in their charms and spells, until out of reach of mere human scientific skill.

Our soil was too barren, in vice,—in infidelity, to produce with dispatch the principles of the French revolution. Therefore to carry on the great work of reformation, we imported from time to time such, as grew into fashion. And although these principles could not flourish here, as in their native hot-bed, yet it is to be lamented, that they became so inveterately rooted, that nothing short of super-human power can extirpate them.

These principles are the refuge of the culprit, when assailed by reason and religion. He spreads over his conscience the mantle of *D'Lembert*, challenges the wisdom of revelation, and thunders of Omnipotence. Thus armed and arrayed, all ideas of right and wrong are laid aside, and the man is transformed from a moral and accountable agent into a citizen of the world, unfettered by laws human or divine.

I mean not to say that every citizen of this country, who has been bit with the *Virginia Tarantula* is of this description. Thousands no doubt are honest. But the tendency of such principles is ruin, and will sooner or later heap destruction on a country, or individuals who possess them. The licentious prefer men of easy virtue to govern; and preferring, they not only lend their own, but by trick and intrigue they obtain the suffrages of others, until a majority, enjoying the exquisite delight of being cheated, yield an unconscious hand in the work of perdition; and the greatest cheater will, of course, be the greatest favourite with the dupes of his intrigue.

We here clearly see the true origin of the political and moral evils, under which we suffer. We see who are the authors, how those evils have been produced; but to see what will be the final result depends on conjecture alone. That however is sufficient to make us fear and tremble.

But amidst all this gloom, one glorious ray of light beams through the darkness, and cheers the almost desponding heart. The seed bed is turned up, and France will no longer suffer a plant to remain.

With this reason left us to hope, let me exhort you, fellow citizens, to be active in the cause of reform. Reason and expostulate with the deluded; expose the impostor; and unveil his subtle intrigue; and in so doing, at least enjoy the pleasing consciousness, that you have been earning blessings for your country.

In attempting to make converts to sound principles, severe censure often confirms the deluded in error, rather than convinces of truth. It is the dispassionate argument, the friendly expostulation, that make their way to the mind and heart; and charity forbids us to treat, as culprits, those whom we believe defective in head and not in heart. We all abhor intolerance, and therefore must condemn all persecution for opinion's sake. As federalists, we have learned by experience to feel the serpent's tooth in this respect, and therefore, I trust, shall rise superior to the base, dastardly spirit, which proscribes any man, merely because he dares to think for himself.

Do we need incitements to exertion? Behold our lacerated country; witness its bleeding wounds, and then with the eloquence, made pointed by the anguish of groaning freedom, assail the hearts of your infatuated countrymen. Point them to the evils, we suffer, and the still more dreadful evils, that brood over us, with an aspect so threatening, that now it would seem, that nothing short of a miracle can save us. We need a regenerating spirit to pass over the land. Without it, our fortune can easily be told. We shall be prostrated in undistinguished ruins.

The present war is an awful prognostic of destruction. It is managed or mismanaged, by the most miserable, indolent and unskilful collection of officers, that ever disgraced a country ;—a parcel of empty-headed essenced fops :—mere “ *carpet knights* ”—a dancing, ball-room, drawing-room race of gentry, conjured up like ghosts, from the ruthless regions of bankruptcy, —from the pollutions of brothels, from indolence and ignorance, and converted by the magic of a Secretary’s wand, into Alexanders. “ *By their fruits ye may judge them.* ” Those fruits are to disgrace and impoverish the government. We now stagger under a mighty load of debt, to pay which must draw the heart’s blood of the land. Patriotism and good faith seem to be lost in self-interest. In the pertinacious attachment to ridiculous theories and visionary projects, the cabinet is distracted with schism.

With the existence of these evils, the lover of his country will be aroused to exertion ; and, while he clings to the Constitution with one hand, he will use the other to restore it to health, and once more, if possible, see it administered in its purity.

WASHINGTONIANS,

As you profess to venerate the name, adopt the principles of that great and good man. Although dead, let him and his virtues live in your recollection. What though his ashes slumber beneath the cyprus in the shades of Vernon, his great examples are before you on the page of history. They exist in the memories of the men of his time, and constantly admonish us to be virtuous and patriotic ; to devote our best services to our country, and purest devotions to our God.

There is no more certain truth than that “ *righteousness exalteth a nation, and sin is a reproach to any people.* ”

From the morals of men in office, as a general rule, may be known the state of a nation, whether happy or wretched.

Free-thinkers and weak-thinkers, wrong-thinkers and no-thinkers may say what they please, you may as well expect to “ *gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles,* ” as to secure wise and

good laws, and wholesome proceedings from Rulers of departed principles and licentious habits.

It exists in the eternal fitness of things, that happiness should grow from piety and virtue, and, nationally, from a conscientious exercise of power. And there cannot be a more absurd proposition, than that religion and government have no connection.— The saying is a sophism invented and preached by men who have no regard to either. The just man will be just every where, and the honest man, honest. And what makes either justice or honesty, but a sense of moral obligation, a love of our Creator, a delight to yield him obedience ?

My brethren, receive these friendly, though humble remarks ; practise them—keep them and never part with them ; they will make you happy while you live, and cheer you when you die.