

AN

**ADDRESS**

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

**SALEM CHARITABLE MECHANIC  
ASSOCIATION,**

*ON THEIR FOURTH ANNIVERSARY,*

JULY 4, 1821,

IN THE NORTH MEETING HOUSE.

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BY JOSEPH E SPRAGUE, Esq.

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Inventive Art can give to marble breath,  
And raise the Patriot's form from shades of death.

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SALEM--1821.

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SALEM, JULY 4, 1821.

At a meeting of the *Salem Charitable Mechanic Association*, this day, Voted unanimously, that the thanks of this Association be presented to JOSEPH E SPRAGUE, Esq. the Orator of the Day, for his able and eloquent Address, particularly for the handsome manner in which he has vindicated the character of our Society; and that a copy be requested for the press

T. NEEDHAM, Secretary.

# ADDRESS.

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## *FELLOW-CITIZENS!*

THE occasion on which we are assembled, the respectable audience whom I address, but above all, the place in which I stand, inspire me with unusual awe and distrust. Who can ascend this sacred desk, whence the oracles of wisdom have so often been delivered from the venerable and sainted lips of departed piety and virtue, without his heart sinking at the thought, that he is standing with unhallowed feet on holy ground? Who but must feel how great is the contrast between his best efforts, and the weekly lessons that are here dispensed, cloathed with every ornament of classic elegance, and enforced and brought home to the heart with resistless eloquence? But patriotism commands us to yield up every selfish feeling, and to meet the comparison, however striking.

Other nations have their regular annual festivals. They celebrate the birth of their Prince, or other events of as little importance, with all the pomp and parade that ingenuity can contrive, or extravagance execute. But Americans, blest above any nation that ever had existence, suffer year after year to pass away without any public acknowledgement or rejoicing. Even the occasional celebration of the Anniversary of our National Independence, requires a great effort. We deem our political blessings, like the great blessings of Heaven, health and competency, too



common to demand particular commemoration. Such ingratitude ought not to exist, and every year, our political birth-day should find us assembled in the temple, to commemorate our blessings, and pour forth our gratitude to their Author.

The story of our Revolution, of the wrongs that led to it, and of the patriotism that achieved it, cannot be too deeply imprinted on our hearts. The name of every hero and statesman of that day should be familiar to us from infancy. It is a theme of which we should never be weary. But the time necessarily limited for a public address, is infinitely too short even for a brief recital. It must be written by the historian, and learnt from the cradle and in the schools. To delineate some of our peculiar privileges, the influence they have on society, and the means by which they should be cherished, will be our utmost aim.

Happy is it for us, happy for our country, that on this occasion all political parties and all religious sects can assemble in one temple to celebrate the deeds of their common fathers, to evince their gratitude for their services, their veneration for their principles, and to renew on the altar of patriotism, their determinations never to sacrifice what was purchased at so great expense of hardship, toil and sufferings.

The past year forms a memorable era in our annals ; in its course two centuries have elapsed, since our hardy progenitors, to enjoy that liberty of conscience which was denied them at home, sought in this Commonwealth an asylum for religious liberty. Following the track explored by the adventurous bark of Columbus, they left behind them the pleasant and cultivated fields of England for the barren shores of Plymouth ; the society of their friends for the abode of the uncultivated child of nature ; the endearments

of home, and the charities which bind us to our country, for an unexplored region. They quitted plenty, health, and all the luxuries of civilized life, and encountered want, disease, and every suffering of a savage state. All these sacrifices were made to enjoy the unalienable right of man, to worship his Creator as his conscience dictates.

A spirit of Liberty, and a restlessness under oppression, had for ages characterized the hardy sons of Great Britain. Whilst the nations on the Continent were acquiescent to the dictates of arbitrary and despotic power, the Barons of England were continually wrestling with royalty, attacking the power of the Crown, and gradually wresting from sovereignty some prerogative, and securing to the people some before unacknowledged right. The writ of Habeas Corpus, and the provisions of the Great Charter, were triumphs of liberty, struggling into existence, over the power of the Crown. Indeed a spirit of Liberty has ever characterized the land of our forefathers, though at times almost smothered by the persecutions of despotism. Of all the persecutions which have darkened the page of history, those which have been carried on under the mask of Religion, have ever been most cruel and relentless. Bigotry and enthusiasm united, have desolated the fairest fields of society, and the mild and benignant spirit of Christianity has been converted into garments of blood and instruments of wrath. The influence of this persecuting spirit banished our ancestors to the unexplored shores of Massachusetts. That the spirit from which they fled, should sometimes have characterized their proceedings here, is not surprising. Liberal principles and enlightened views are not the native plants of any soil, or the growth of a single age. Years of bigotry must roll away, before the seeds of education and habit can be eradicated



from the mind. As the forests in new countries fall before the axe of civilization, and the rays of the sun penetrate into the earth they had shaded, and ameliorate the climate, so the advance of intelligence and liberal principles is gradual and progressive. Men accustomed to oppression, and suddenly relieved from its weight, are naturally but too apt to prove tyrants in their turn, and to use to the full extent their brief authority in inflicting on others the sufferings they have themselves endured. Hence it is not so surprising that our ancestors were guilty of some acts of oppression, as that so few of that character can fairly be laid to their charge.

The Christian Religion, freed from scholastic absurdities, and understood in its purity, is at war with all acts of tyranny and oppression. It teaches that the whole family of man is one family. That every member of this family has equal rights, and that no one from nature can derive the prerogative to tyrannize over his brother. Its principles are equally repugnant to the existence of the Monarchies of the Old World, and to Slavery in the New. It cannot be long understood in its purity, and practised in its simplicity, without subverting the foundations of those principles which declare that governments are for the benefit of the rulers, and not of the people. The operation of its principles in our own country has been, to shake the foundations of all power not exercised for the exclusive benefit of the people. The same spirit that drove our ancestors across the trackless paths of the mighty deep, led to their emancipation from their colonial state, and conducted to that revolution; the manly Declaration of which, on the Fourth day of July, 1776, has this day been read to YOU.

The undaunted firmness, the steady resolution, and the

unyielding opposition of our revolutionary fathers, to the encroachments of the mother country, should ever be recollected with gratitude by those who are now reaping the fruits of that resistance. The valor displayed, and the undismayed courage which marked the whole course of the Revolution, are too honorable traits in our country's character to be suffered to pass into oblivion. The bloody battle of Breed's Hill, at the commencement of our Revolution, taught the British officers, that the men with whom they were to contend, were animated by a spirit which could not be overawed, and induced a procrastination in their subsequent movements most propitious to our ultimate success, and gave to our countrymen a confidence in themselves that they never afterwards lost. Indeed, our independence was fairly achieved and placed beyond a doubt, in this incipient stage of the revolution. The glorious result of that revolution, the memorable deeds which marked its progress, and the names of those heroic spirits who followed the Father of his country in the dark, disastrous and inauspicious hours of the Revolutionary war, should be engraven on the memories of our sons in indelible characters, that they may imbibe the spirit and emulate the virtues of their ancestors.

The most memorable event of our Revolution was its closing scene. Then the war-worn veteran, flushed with victory, voluntarily sought the shades of private life, gave up the employment to which he had become accustomed, and contributed to erect that Constitution and frame of government under whose auspicious influence we have risen to such an unexampled height of prosperity and felicity. The greatest victory that man ever achieves is that over his own ambition and pride. When we see the soldier, crowned with victory, willingly giving up his arms, and seeking in private life, amidst the chilling blasts of poverty, sup-



port for himself and family, he is then entitled to a higher standing and nobler name than that of a soldier, he becomes by fair and legitimate title, a Patriot.

If any nation ever could, without improper pride, felicitate themselves on their situation, surely we are that people. This fact, acknowledged by all the nations of the civilized world, needs no chain of reasoning to demonstrate. We possess every variety of soil and climate, we are surrounded by seas, intersected by rivers; our country abounds with every useful mineral, and our soil smiles on the labor of the husbandman. Our ships navigate every sea; our hardy fishermen pursue the Leviathan of the deep to the confines of the globe; the surplus productions of our soil supply the wants of the world, and our manufactures are increasing with a certain and most rapid progress. We have grown beyond example in wealth and population, and the name of American throughout the world is an epithet of industry, activity and enterprize. But these blessings are not peculiar to us, they are participated by other nations in greater or less degrees. We have those of a distinct and more important character, which no other country enjoys. We are the only nation whose government is in the hands of the whole body of the people, and whose operations are conducted exclusively for their benefit. We are the only people that can worship the Great Creator of the Universe, according to the dictates of our consciences. In all other regions of the earth, which have advanced from the bloody and debasing rites of pagan superstition, an exclusive system prevails. There is no other country in which some political or other disability does not attach to those who do not conform to the established religion. In every other nation, a religious tyranny, either absolute and exclusive, or toleration, tyranny modified, prevails.



In the late war, a war in which we had to contend with the valiant troops of England, elated with the victories they had obtained over the veterans of France ; when, unhappily, great difference of opinion existed as to the expediency of the war, and party spirit prevailed with uncommon rancour ; under these disadvantages, the distinguished valour of our troops, and unparalleled achievements of our navy, astonished Europe, learnt foreign powers to respect our rights, and to tremble at our anger. It taught us to place a proper confidence in our own energies. It added the last and only trial wanted, of the strength and permanency of our constitution and government. It gave demonstration to the world, that a great nation, a numerous and widely diffused population, were capable of self-government. Those who before doubted, are now convinced, that a government constituted like ours is the best and strongest for any people, under any circumstances, who have intelligence enough to understand their rights, and virtue to defend them.

Our distinguished situation, and unparalleled prosperity, have rendered us the object of admiration and envy to the world. As the knowledge of our institutions becomes diffused, and the permanency of them tested, other nations are copying from our example. Already have the people of South America, Spain and Portugal, awakened from the darkness of ages to a knowledge of their rights. The light was breaking out in Naples and ancient Greece, and would have soon pervaded Europe, but for the great military power of the despots of Russia and Austria. The French troops who came to our aid during the war of the Revolution, imbibed on our shores the spirit of Liberty ; this spirit they infused, on their return to their own country, into the bosoms of their countrymen. Thus the American pro-

duced the French Revolution. And France, though again subject to her ancient race of monarchs, now enjoys a degree of liberty never before experienced. The lands which before the Revolution, were engrossed by the Nobility and Clergy, are now divided in small portions among the commonality. And the people of that country, notwithstanding their great exertions, and the bloody revolution they have passed, are in a better situation than they would have been in for a century. Even the despotic power and successful military career of Napoleon, has been instrumental in spreading the knowledge of their rights to the remotest regions of Europe. His powerful hand abolished customs and extirpated deep-rooted prejudices, which one less daring or less powerful could never have accomplished. He gave to the sciences and arts the most liberal encouragement; and to him may fairly be attributed the final overthrow of that instrument of tyranny, the Inquisition, and the suppression of those haunts of superstition, vice and pollution, the nunneries and monasteries.

The attempts of the Holy Alliance to withstand the tide of public opinion, setting so strongly in favour of the rights of man, may serve for a short time to retard the progress of liberty, but it can only be for a short time, for it is a resistless current which no temporary mounds can withstand. The very troops stationed in other countries to keep down the liberties of the people, are themselves in a school where they will be taught lessons that they could not have learnt in their own countries, and on their return home they will carry with them new ideas, ideas fatal to despotism. Thus will the example of our Revolution, and the blessings we this day commemorate, finally operate the emancipation of a world. Every attempt to smother the flame of liberty is but a secret operation in the hands of



providence, to bring within its blaze every relic of despotism. These effects, though not so obvious, are more certain, than the more direct exertions of those heralds who have gone to the remote regions of the earth with the word of life. Wherever knowledge and christianity are diffused, liberty will soon make her abode.

The unworthy use made in South America of their emancipation, the threatening aspect of the Spanish horizon, and the shameful pusillanimity of the Neapolitans, induce us at first to think them unworthy of liberty, and fit only to be the passive instruments of despotic power. But before we condemn them rashly, we ought to consider how far they are behind us in intelligence, and in the knowledge of their rights; that this ignorance is the effect of an iron despotism, under which they have been borne down for ages. Before they can arrive at the full enjoyment of liberty, they must pass through years of suffering and scenes of bloodshed. The gentle breeze that refreshes our climate, would there be unperceived. Nothing but the lightning and tempest can purify an atmosphere surcharged with the putrescent growth of ages.

The past year will be memorable for the Treaty by which we have made the important acquisition of Florida, and terminated our differences with Spain, the only nation with whom we had any serious disputes remaining unadjusted. This treaty is not only important in securing to us a valuable territory, indemnity to our citizens, security and facilities to our southern borders, and a final settlement of long existing difficulties; but there is another point of view in which it is infinitely more important. The immense territory of Louisiana, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Lakes, from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean, a country sufficient to afford subsistence, content-

ment and wealth to an hundred millions of human beings, was wrested from the imbecility of Spain through her fears of the overwhelming power of France, and by her ceded to us. Though our physical title to this country was perfect, our moral one was defective. By the provisions of our treaty, we have the acknowledgement of Spain to the justness of this title; an acknowledgement, worth to a nation that prides herself on her justice, an hundred Floridas. We do not, as has been asserted, give up for the Floridas all the claims of our citizens, and the rich province of Texas. We indeed gain by it not only Florida, but also a perfect title to Louisiana; a title which neither Spain, nor any other country, can hereafter question.

We have been unavoidably led in our survey of our own situation, to a view of the state of Europe and the world. So proud is the eminence on which we stand as a nation, that the future historian of Europe must tell her fate in connexion with that of the new world, from which she is copying, and the American writer cannot do justice to his own country, without describing her influence over the destinies of other nations.

To preserve and perpetuate our institutions, we must support the basis on which they rest. Whilst the people are enlightened and virtuous, their liberties cannot be endangered. Cherish then, and liberally endow, your seminaries of learning, and your common schools, for they are the sure foundation of your liberties. Withhold not the arm of the law from the support of the institutions for moral instruction. To give a people knowledge without morality, is but increasing their capacity to do evil. The main support of our laws and liberties is in the morals of the people. Let their moral principles be subverted, and schools of science become, like our state prisons, nurseries



of vice, where villainy may learn with certainty the means of success. The support of public institutions ought never to be trusted to the voluntary contributions of avarice and cupidity. Were our taxes to be thus levied, our roads would soon become impassable, and our school-houses without instructors. No idea can be more mistaken, than that compulsion to support any institution is inconsistent with religious liberty. Whilst man is left to think and worship as his conscience dictates, his religious liberty cannot be impugned, unless he be religiously scrupulous of paying away money. It is only where there are religious establishments, that there is tyranny and oppression. There is no establishment when every parish can determine for itself the mode of worship. At the same time that we would compel every one to support moral instruction, we would not confine that support to any sect or denomination. Every parish should have equal rights, whether they are Protestant or Catholic, Greek or Jewish. On such foundation we should not hesitate to place our moral institutions, reposing in perfect confidence, that on this broad basis Christianity would most certainly succeed, and that in its success our political rights would ever find their greatest security.

The next thing to be regarded is the selection of your Rulers. Suffer no fatal lethargy to make you regardless of your political rights ; watch over them with unceasing vigilance. Elect none to office who have other aims than the public weal. Where you find men consistent, however ardent may be their feelings, however different their sentiments, you may know that they are actuated by honest and upright motives, and are worthy of your confidence and support. But those who vary with every gale of popularity, who rise and fall as the tide of their interests serves,

ought never to be trusted. They will flatter you at one moment, and trample on you the next. Men who act honestly, will frequently differ in sentiment from their political friends ; but he whose opinions vary with the time and place in which he is acting, has no principle but self-interest.

*GENTLEMEN OF THE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION,*

In selecting the natal day of our country as your anniversary, you have done justice to your patriotism. One of your first duties is that you owe your country, and in the lively interest you feel in her independence, you evince an intelligence of your own rights which will ever prove their greatest security. To no one was our country more indebted at the period of the revolution, than to one of your class ; a great mechanic of our native state, who founded in the city of Philadelphia an institution similar in its principles and designs to your own. To FRANKLIN, the printer and philosopher, the patriot and statesman, America is essentially indebted for her liberties, and the knowledge and vindication of her rights. He who was “an ornament to human nature,” could not be otherwise than an honour to his country. His exertions were not more devoted to the safety of our persons and dwellings, than to the security of our liberties. He wrested from Jupiter his thunderbolt, and the rod of oppression from the monarch of England.

“Eripuit cælo fulmen, Septemque tyrannis.”

The object of the SALEM CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION, is to diffuse the knowledge of their art among its members, by free discussions at the Hall of the Society, and by encouraging the members to exercise the high privilege they enjoy in its valuable and increasing library ; to stimulate the members and their apprentices, by proper



inducements, to a course of honorable conduct and diligent application ; to discountenance all dishonorable and underhand dealings ; to encourage the thrifty members to entertain a fellow feeling for those of their craft whom misfortune or adversity has overtaken, and to extend to the widows and orphans of deceased members such relief as the funds of the society will warrant. What objects can be more laudable or praise worthy ? What that deserves or should receive more public support ? An institution whose plan of benevolence is so extensive, and whose operations are so conducive to the well being of society, ought to receive from wealth and munificence liberal encouragement. What is bestowed on the vagrant, is worse, than thrown away. What is given to any class of poor, except in cases of sickness and imbecility, is of most questionable tendency ; its effect being now generally considered as having a tendency to increase the evil it was meant to remedy. The only true charity, then, is in giving to industry the means of employment, and to inexperience the knowledge of the use of those means. If this principle is admitted, what institution could be selected more worthy of public patronage ? Their objects are necessary and proper ; their measures to attain these objects wise and discreet ; surely then in a place so opulent and wealthy, the most abundant means should be afforded them. The man of capital will find that property best invested which is most useful, and which gives most employment to others. The industrious habits of those about him will enhance the value of his estates, and lessen his poor rates ; and thus in the issue, what is given in charities of this character, will be repaid with interest here, without taking into calculation any accumulating fund hereafter.

It is not only my duty, but it affords me great pleasure,

to vindicate this benevolent institution from unjust aspersions. And surely none can be more cruel or false, than charging them with veiling views of political consequence and power under the garb of charity. Those who have made this charge, must have been ignorant that, by the constitution of the society, all political and theological controversies are strictly inhibited. The members of this institution have its interests too near their hearts, to risque them on any projects which should engender the jealousy of others, and thus endanger their prosperity. In a society which embraces different parties in politics and sects in theology, such combination would be wholly impracticable and absurd. Theological and political feuds are ever most interesting and uncompromising, and the admission of them into any society would most certainly cause its dissolution. He who is able to sustain the public offices of the country with honor, deserves the public thanks for willingly undertaking them; nor is he who feels confident of such ability, to be stigmatized with opprobrious epithets; for no ambition is more honorable than that of distinguishing ourselves in the discharge of public duties, and earning the good opinion of our fellow-citizens. The members of this association are not conscious of any improper ambition. At the same time that they are aware that in this country there is but one class of society, and that every office is open to the humblest citizen, they are fully sensible that previous study and application is as necessary to form a statesman, as is required to qualify a person for the duties of the learned professions, or the exercise of the mechanic arts. Great genius may sometimes overstep common rules, yet it seldom happens that success crowns his efforts, who quits the profession to which he has been bred, and enters on a new one. If he does not by this means lose the earn-



ings of his former industry in unprofitable experiments, he is pretty sure to make shipwreck of his peace of mind. We are the children of habit ; what we are accustomed to, however unpleasant at first, becomes natural and easy, and in the occupations of our youth we experience our highest enjoyments ; but in new pursuits we are lost, we run counter to our nature, and risque our happiness.

To the mechanic arts, man is indebted for all that renders the civilized superior to the savage state. Is our food pleasant to the taste ? It is the mechanic who forms the instruments by which it is prepared and dressed. Are our garments comfortable and convenient ? The loom in which they were woven was the work of mechanics, and other mechanics are required to adapt them to our use. Are our habitations equally a shelter from the scorching rays of a sultry sun, and the inclement blasts of a wintry sky ? Our houses, the instruments with which they are made, the means by which they are heated and cooled, are all the effects of a great variety of mechanical inventions and operations. One mechanic splits the stone from the quarry, another with his chissel, gives it the form of divinity ; one mixes and combines the paint ; a second with these mixtures gives beauty to the hempen web, and to the coarse canvas life and animation. Man, weak, feeble and imbecile, by the aid of the lever can overturn mountains. Mechanical ingenuity can organize an acorn so that it shall have motion almost perpetual, and shall breathe forth notes of music as soft and melodious as the mind can conceive. It can sculpture features, which require microscopic aid to trace. It can open to the human sight new and unexplored worlds. It can dissect every ray of light, and discover to us on our globe, myriads of beings of whose existence we

never should have formed an idea. There is nothing which the power of the mechanic cannot convert to useful purposes ; nothing that he cannot beautify and render more useful. In the enjoyment of the comforts he affords us, we live, and move, and have our being. Without the aid of the mechanic, the hordes of wealth would be useless dross, the enjoyments of life would be few, and its comforts circumscribed. Let us look on which side we will, our eye is filled with his inventions. By his aid we can ascend higher into the heavens, and penetrate deeper into the earth, and to the bottom of the ocean. But for the ship-wright, no path of the ocean could have been explored ; but for the compass, America would have remained an undiscovered wilderness ; but for the invention of letters, and the art of printing, the beautiful fabric of our liberties, the admiration of the world, would never have been seen by human eye, or had existence. The state of the world without the mechanic arts can easily be imagined ; for people have been discovered without ideas of providence, government or society, naked, and living on the roots of the earth and the waters of the brook. To this state all nations would bear a resemblance, without the mechanic arts. In these arts, as in all other things, there is a subordination. Some are of a higher and some of a lower order. Some require greater length of application, and greater force of talents. In the luxurious age of the world, the fine arts, sculpture and painting, were placed at the head. But in a free state, the press is the most powerful instrument, and the business of the printer most important, and his responsibility greater. It is in his power to enlighten or empoison ages and nations. But though there are different orders, yet all are honorable, for in our country he who performs well his



part, however humble that part may be, is entitled to the meed of honor. We are one people; we have no distinction of rank; superior talents and superior conduct form the only legitimate claim to the people's favor. There is no danger of the introduction of the odious distinctions of rank, when one of the first statesmen of any age, one whose office is next in importance to that of the Chief Magistrate, and who we trust will soon conduct the destinies of this country, thinks it no dishonor on this occasion to ascend the rostrum in the capital of our country, and to pronounce an eulogium on those institutions which he has so ably vindicated at home and in Europe.

The freedom of the human mind in our country, and the facility with which the means of support are to be obtained by industry, have proved extremely favorable to the progress of mechanical inventions. The adage that "necessity is the mother of invention," has not proved so sound a maxim here, as that freedom of thought is the parent of improvement. Though in an infant state compared with the nations of Europe, they have already been indebted to us for many of their artists and mechanics. In the construction of Bridges in England, they have employed Americans. Our Card Machine, after being set up in England and France, required American mechanics to give it motion. The great and important invention of navigating without sails against the wind and current, belongs to us. Our countryman invented the Quadrant, and our venerable townsman gave the most important improvement to the Air Pump. At this moment a native mechanic of our country is doing for England, what her sanguinary penal code could never effect, guarding her securely from the attempts of the counterfeiter. Even in the Fine Arts, which have gener-

ally been considered as the peculiar growth of old countries and luxurious ages, Americans have not been less successful. We have given a President to the Royal Academy of Paintings in England, and there are several painters of the present day who promise to rival West, and surpass Copley. Nor has our country been fertile in great Mechanics alone. She has produced Statesmen, Warriors, Philosophers, Mathematicians and Orators, whose fame and talents neither the present or past ages can out-rank. Whatever view we take of our country, should make us feel justly proud that we are Americans, the countrymen of WASHINGTON and FRANKLIN.

To no class of society ought the privileges which distinguish our country to be more dear than to our fair countrywomen. Though it be true that man governs, yet it is equally so, that in civilized and polished society, woman has a most just and powerful influence in its affairs. In proportion as the state of society progresses from a savage to a civilized state, from a licentious to a moral one, is the situation of the female sex advanced from being the mere instrument of man's pleasure, or the slave of his caprice, to that of his companion and friend. The lower we go in civilization, the lower is the condition of the female, until at last she is but one step in advance of the beast of burden, for she is the hewer of wood and drawer of water in the savage state. The thermometer does not indicate the temperature of the air with more certainty, than the condition of the female sex, the degree of civilization and moral feelings of a people. Cherish then, my countrywomen, in the bosoms of your children, patriotic and moral sentiments, a love of their country and its institutions. You can give an effectual currency to your opinions. Whatever fashions



you adopt, we readily imitate. Your hearts are always open to every generous purpose, your hands to every benevolent deed. When you exert your influence in the cause of your country, you are engaged in the holiest act, one most worthy of woman.

NOTE.

We have not paid much attention to the line that divides the Liberal from the mechanic arts, as the Society admits without distinction, artists as well as artizans, members. We have considered sculpture and painting, which belong to the fine arts, as mechanic arts. There seems to be no just reason for the distinction which places them in a different class, as they are exercised with regard to the profit resulting from them ; indeed none of the mechanic arts have proved more profitable. Besides, painting and sculpture cannot be exercised without the aid of some machine or instrument, which is the very essence of the definition of the mechanic arts.

*The Salem Charitable Mechanic Association*

Was instituted in October, A. D. 1817, and consists of two hundred and fourteen members. The members pay two dollars on admission, and a dollar annually. Their invested funds are over a thousand dollars. Their Library contains five hundred volumes, amongst which is Dr. Rees' New Cyclopaedia, presented to the Society by the Hon. BENJAMIN PICKMAN, a gentleman, the steady tide of whose munificence never knows an ebb.

☞ Page 14, for *septremque* read *sceptrumque*.