

EQUALITY;

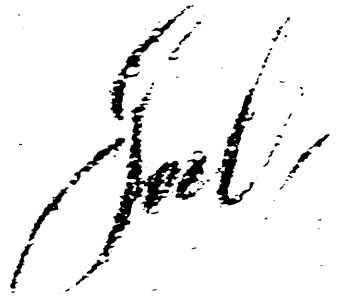
THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF GOVERNMENT
IN THE UNITED STATES,
TRACED TO ITS SOURCE,
AND SOME OF ITS CONSEQUENCES
DELINEATED.

In a discourse delivered at Owego Village

ON THE ANIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

JULY, 1804.

BY HENRY STEWARD.



*We hold this truth to be self evident,
that all men are created EQUAL. DEC. 1776.*

Thou shalt love thy Neighbour as thyself. 1331.

OWEGO. (NY.)

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P R E F A C E.

In a republic, where the people select the Legislators to express the public will—the agents to execute it—and are themselves the supreme Judges of their faithfulness; it is highly necessary that each person should be fully acquainted with the first principles of the community of which he is a member.

Every one should also clearly understand the difference, or rather the total opposition between the two systems, the old and the new...the better to enable him to observe and guard against the continual attempts to mingle and confound them together.

The very existence of the American republic, formed on equality of social rights, and supported by the intelligence and virtue of its members—is a constant tacit reproof...a severe satire on the old system, which is erected on a privation of individual right, & supported by the vices and ignorance it generates.

Every operation of our system of equal rights, and self-government, gives the lie direct to the tenets and doctrines of Fraud necessary to establish the thrones of monarchs. This has excited their most deadly implacable hatred: and their open vengeance or secret malice has been continually exerted to crush or subvert republican institutions. A frequent recurrence to first principles; & a constant practice of the virtue and morality those principles inspire; are the only certain means to preserve them inviolate.

While the enemies of the rights and happiness of Man labor

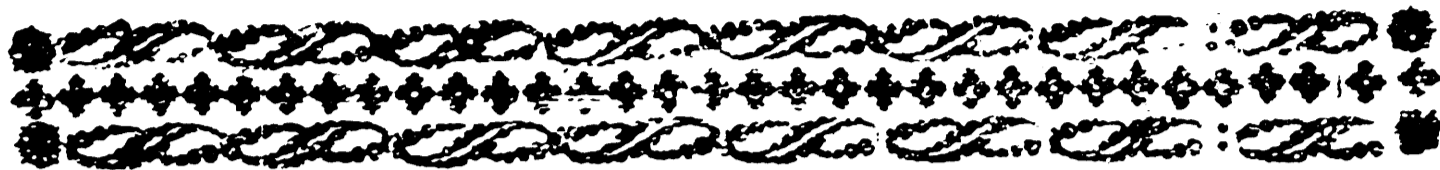
P R E F A C E.

incessantly to erase from the mind every correct sentiment, and to plant error in its place: it requires no less diligence to eradicate Falshood...to dispel the artificial fogs that obscure the rights of nature...and pour the rays of truth on the mental Eye.

These reflections induced the author of the following to throw together a few observations on what he considers the most essential Principles of the new system: He has also ventured to offer opinions on what is yet necessary to be done, & solicited to secure their full operation. — To the Public they are respectfully submitted, in full confidence, that should they not benefit—they will not injure.

Every attempt to render the natural elements of society plain and familiar to every citizen—to correct the sources of infidelity...or to extirpate the cancerous remains of the old system, will doubtless receive an ample share of opprobrium or ridicule from the disciples of the old school. But the smallest usefulness to the public, or the approbation of one good man will over-balance their censure, or satire, and fully compensate the author.

George W. Matthews
Bought March 3^d 1813



EQUALITY &c.

THE Anniversary of our National Independence has again returned with continued and increasing evidence of its salutary effects; and again the American People publicly express their confirmed attachment to the principles of the revolution—Their gratitude to heaven—and their lively sense of present happiness.

How truly rational, and august, is the scene exhibited this day throughout the American Republic!! More than Five millions of people, inhabiting various climes, and scattered over an immense territory,—from the impulse of their own feelings, on this ever memorable day, forget the smaller pursuits of life and spontaneously unite to celebrate their emancipation from civil and mental tyranny!

In other Countries, the deluded multitude are taught to celebrate, with riotous pomp the achievements of despotism—the triumphs of vice—and their own degradation.

HERE we, the people, with serene delight hail the anniversary of that day when Reason & Righteousness, rearing the Standard of Liberty, proclaimed to the Universe the birth of our Republic, and a NEW system of government— with joy we mark its progress in purifying society from the vices created by the old system—and, conscious of the dignity of Human Nature we learn to respect ourselves, and to practice those virtues essential to that dignity.

THIS day is a festival, called into existence by the greatness and lustre of recent events; dedicated to triumph in past victories over despotism, error and prejudice.—To realize our present possession of rational liberty, peace, and unrivalled prosperity—and to anticipate with rapture, the time when despotism and war shall vanish before the light of reason.

It is a festival, consecrated to the rights of man, to reason, to all the moral virtues—and to the birth of the first government on Earth, whose constituent principles are those of EQUITY, and whose object is the equal good of the WHOLE community.

AND it is a festival, sacred to the memory and holy patriotism of our Fathers and Brethren who sacrificed their lives in our defence! and sacred to render our devout acknowledgments of that divine providence which hath made us the happy subjects and agents of such distinguished and glorious events,

On this day of gladness, it will be useful to direct our attention to the peculiar features that characterize the event we celebrate, and its peculiar consequences in which we rejoice.

THE first object that claims our particular attention, is the principle of EQUALITY contained in the declaration of Independence. It says "We hold, this truth to be self evident: THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL"—The same act that announced the existence of our Republic, proclaimed also the principle on which it is erected; a principle essential to every rule of Justice, but never before made the basis of any government.

IN vain do we look for this principle in the structure of ancient Republics, where the citizens were divided into classes with unequal privileges—where the PATRIARCH [a] tyrannised without any control *—or where the peace and rights of all other Nations were continually violated: and in vain do we look for it in Monarchies or Aristocracies whose constituent principles are precisely the reverse of Equality, of Nature and of Justice.

Though indeed the *Equality of all Men in respect to their*

See note iii, at the end etc.

social Rights, is self evident to the unbiased judgment of the man of nature; it is not so to him whose understanding has been from infancy misled by art, and habituated in error. To infuse *wrong* sentiments has been the constant tendency and *design* of the former system. Teach a man from childhood that he is BORN to obey and labor for another, without receiving an equivalent...and he is then fitted for every imposition and every degradation of which human nature is capable: the idea of justice is banished; and the *fear of present or future punishment* alone prevents his commission of crimes, Whereas the principle of EQUAL RIGHTS to the unprejudiced mind, is evident as the light of day; and it naturally suggests the idea, and prompts to the office of *Equal Justice*. The stronger and more universal the sense of this EQUALITY is impressed on the minds of any people—the more will social intercourse conform to equity—the rights of individuals will be respected—and the necessity of *coercive* government will proportionably diminish.

The *old system* of government built on principles of injustice—corrupting mankind by its own example, ORIGINATED and continues the crimes it pretends to correct; and is itself the greatest of all crimes ever committed against God or Man.

As Equality of Rights is the *order of Nature*, confirmed

by the decision of *Reason*; so, it is recognised as the ROOT of ALL MORALITY, and the ESSENCE of that Religion we profess to believe. Hear what the AUTHOR of Christianity answered to the interrogating Lawyer. "Thou shalt LOVE the Lord thy God with all thy Heart, Soul, and Mind: this is the first and great command; and the second is *like unto it*---THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. On these two hang all the law and the prophets." The love of our fellow men *without distinction of rank; or exception of privilege* EQUALY with ourselves, is here enjoined as a duty of the next importance to the love of our Creator.

AGAIN, the same divine ILLUMINATOR directed all human intercourse to be regulated by this unerring Rule-----
"Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them." The *universal practice* of this precept, would annihilate the the old system of Inequality, Vassalage, Slavery and *Subjection* of Man to Man. [2]

PERFECTLY correspondent to this, he gave *his* followers another *Republican* precept. "Ye know that the PRINCES of the gentiles exercise *dominion* over them; and they that are GREAT exercise *authority* upon them: BUT IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU; but whosoever will be great among you let him

be your minister, and whosoever will be chief let him be your servant."

Services rendered was to be the only rule of distinction.

HERE then is seen the source from whence was derived the ELEMENTS of our system of Republican government...from the order of nature—from the dictates of reason—and from the express precepts of holy writ! They are surely of DIVINE origin...eternal as truth...perfect as light...and permanent as the principles of Justice.

THE adoption of this principle of EQUALITY as the foundation and chief corner Stone of the new republic, is what distinguishes the American Revolution, and dignifies it above all revolutions of the world; and the DAY when this was declared as the will of the nation, has consequently become the most important ERA in the history of Man. It is this we admire--this we venerate. It has already received the honorable execration of Tyrants, the plaudits of MAN, and the approbating smiles of Heaven; and it will descend to a grateful posterity through every future age with increasing evidence of its divine excellence.

A SEPARATION from Great Britain--from her endless wars, her vices, and her taxes---was doubtless an object greatly desirable, and worthy a struggle to obtain; but had we established

her system of unequal and unjust privileges among members of the same community, we should have seen all her atrocities, her corruptions, and her burdens accumulating in this country with a strength and rapidity that would appal the boldest patriot. Small consolation would this day arise from the reflection, that we had exchanged European for American tyrants—that we had cut off some branches; but had planted the prolific ROOT of every political and moral evil.

BUT let us rejoice with our whole Heart and Soul and Mind, that the ancient *system of wrong* was rejected.---Let us rejoice with praise and thanksgiving to the AUTHOR OF ALL GOOD, that the long predicted era had come, when HE was to commence a NEW order of things; causing old things to pass away.

THE great and salutary EFFECTS produced by this principle have been equally distinguished and glorious.

To what other cause can be ascribed the wonderful UNANIMITY that obtained among a people composed of emigrants from various nations, and possessed of different habits: a people so unacquainted with each other, and so scattered as was the Americans at the time!!

No less wonderful was the COURAGE inspired in Farmers to face the full mouthed *Dogs of War*, long trained in scenes of

human slaughter—to achieve victories over the best appointed armies, and even to lead them Captive.

ALIKE astonishing was their PERSEVERANCE! Though often defeated---in perils---hunger---nakedness---and sometimes amidst the pestilence walking in darkness. In view of their flaming villages, they did not repine. Witnessing the violation of chastity they were unable to defend; they determined on vengeance. And beholding the murder of Innocence, they fainted not, but swore eternal hatred to tyrants,

‘THESE were the times that tried the principles of mens souls.’ Many of you here present, saw the deadly blast of WAR sweep over the fair face of our country, when its beauty vanished like smoke; and the bones of the soldier, the mother and her infants--the victims of despotism--were left to whiten in the the Sun--uncovered by any friendly hand--unmoistened by a pitying eye. Surely, nothing could have supported you and your fellow patriots in these toils and distresses, but the all-sustaining EQUITY of those principles of righteousness for which you contended, and the guidance of divine providence.

THE recollection of those scenes of horror, those shades of Death through which you passed in your combat with despotism awakens in your bosoms the noble ardors of patriotism that then inspired you. Let not this ardor be lost—infuse it into your sons

---Relate to them, the *oppressions*, the *wars*, the *cruelties*, the *murders* and all the HELL of Monarchy that you have witnessed.—Teach them the principles of EQUALITY; and how to detect, and resist every departure from them,—and command them to tell it to *their* sons, and they to *their children* to the latest generation. [3] So, your venerable Heads, encircled with GLORY, shall rest in peace...So shall you immortalize your labours...and thus shall your Souls be avenged on those enemies that wounded, but could not conquer them—the enemies of God and Man.

AT length victory smiled on the advocates of EQUAL RIGHTS and the horrid howlings of war, were succeeded by the sweet songs of peace. It is no small cause of devout rejoicing that Peace came with her olive leaf *just at that crisis*; ere the exhausted resources of our bleeding country had utterly failed—a crisis on which was suspended the fate of unborn millions!!

WHAT exquisite sensations agitated the hearts of WHIGS at that eventful period!! How their souls stood on tiptoe for the issue!! Heaven seemed to be contained in the assurances of Peace. The MIGHTY BOON, so long and so ardently contended for, was now OBTAINED. The TREE OF LIBERTY planted by the exiled reformers—watered with the sweat and tears of their forefathers—and just nourished with their own blood... they now beheld flourishing like the TREE OF LIFE

In its shadow they rested. Afflicted humanity found an asylum under its branches: and by its congenial influence, all the virtues bloomed in primeval beauty.

THE PROGRESS of the principle of EQUALITY soon produced another event of little less importance or novelty.

It had inspired *Union, Courage, and Perseverance*—it had vanquished external foes; it now triumphed over local deep-rooted prejudice, and clashing interest.

THIS victory was displayed in the voluntary formation of the Federal Constitution, whereby the great principles proclaimed in the declaration of Independence are established...the true sovereignty and equality of the people, is recognized and secured in the elective franchise...and the operation of the Representative form of government is defined and established.

NOTHING less than the operation of this *illuminating* principle could have disposed the American People, wisely to foresee, and prudently to execute a plan so great, and so necessary to ensure their future tranquility. The wiles of *Fraud*, to introduce the seeds of *inequality* were rejected: and by one clause, (a clause dictated by wisdom itself) the errors that might have crept in, and unforeseen exigences not provided for, were left open, to be corrected by future experience: and supplied as ever varying circumstances might at any time require.

To foreigners we exhibited the appearance of a nation of Sages. Theories, that had been long considered perfectly visionary, were now *realized*. A system of government by representation; securing equally to the whole community their Civil and Religious rights; and relying on the intelligence, the virtue, and the patriotism of THE PEOPLE for its stability—was to the Doctors of the *old school*—a prodigy in politics!!

THE natural consequence of that sense of equality which achieved the Revolution, was a habit of acquiring correct information; and of forming just opinions:—and this general habit of just thinking performed the miracles of the Gods!!—the miracle of *self government* by the known rules of EQUITY and REASON!!

THIS affords an additional cause for us this Day to rejoice, & to venerate a system...whose excellence, and whose benefits, are confirmed by daily experience...of whose purity of principle, the consciousness of right & wrong in every breast bears witness.—and whose simple, dignified, and powerful elements are interwoven with the love of happiness, and of life itself.

FOLLOWING the progress of this principle, we find another event, less brilliant to a superficial observer, but not inferior in value, or less salutary in practice. This was exhibited in the late

change of the administration by the *people*, exercising *their rights* according to the rules of the Constitution,

FREE CONSENT and KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH are the pillars of the new system: *Force*, and *Fraud*, are the opposite Engines of the old system. Monarchy men, and all the dealers in despotism use these alternately, or jointly according to circumstances. Force had failed to bow the stiff necks of Whigs to the yoke of Monarchy—Fraud was next applied to *blind* the young Republican Sampson, and makes him grind in the American-built mills of despotism. [5]

Accordingly the operation began at the close of the revolutionary war. A commercial cordon of Foreign agents and their American connections was formed in every port in the Union. These were intended to command the purse-strings of the nation.

Local interests were by them used to excite State jealousies and thereby dissolve the confederation. Good however came out of evil; and a firmer union was seen to be necessary.

WHILE the Constitution was framing, incessant exertions were made to plant in it some root of bitterness...some principle of *inequality* that should eventually corrupt the whole. How far they *expected* success in this point is uncertain---but certain it is that the whole cordon of anti-republican influence were *laid* in its praise. From this circumstance, and by various dis-

guises and arts of *fraud*, many lovers of the old system, (formerly called *Tories*) found means to obtain places of trust and great importance under the new government. They introduced others of the same stamp, and a practical departure from the spirit of the revolution gradually commenced.

To these bolder measures succeeded.

THE *manners* and *vices* of monarchy were closely imitated its favorite systems of policy were copied—republican institutions were ridiculed; and the *EQUALITY* of the citizens was attempted to be broken by the introduction of privileged associations of wealthy individuals.

PROFUSION and *luxury* was encouraged by example, and useless offices were created to extend executive patronage. O-
dious and embarrassing stamp duties were imposed; taxes increased, an intimate connexion was formed with powers warring against the rights of man. Our affairs were embroiled with foreign convulsions, and the warlike energies of the nation were called forth and applied to *useless* or *evil* purposes.

THE tendency, and design of all these measures at length became evident to the people. They raised their elective voice against the authors of these measures, and called men of opposite talents and practices, to perform the trusts betrayed by their
ors.

THIS change is the more worthy of notice for its being operated by principle alone.

THE achievement of the revolution was produced more by necessity—the constitution was adopted for its evident utility which began to be felt by all. But this event was the issue of a conflict between two opposite principles, or the old and new systems, as contrary to each other as darkness and light. A conflict of sentiment, which after long discussion, was decided by the election of a free and enlightened people.

THIS was truly the triumph of *reason*, of *equality*, and an unequivocal proof that republicanism “means something” substantially good; and “something” perfectly practicable by a virtuous people. In this transaction the American people have manifested a watchfulness of their rights; a sagacious discernment of causes and effects; a firmness in executing their duty, and an adherence to just principles, that has done them more honor than to have slain all their enemies with one blow. They have practically demonstrated the excellency of the new system, and have at the same time, furnished the most pleasing presages of its stability. Not all the delusions of fraud itself—not all the united efforts of King-craft, Priest-craft, and Devil-craft, with all their agents in operation at once, could fascinate the great ma-

ajority of the people, or divert them from correcting the evil.

MORE rational cause of rejoicing was never indulged by Heaven to any people on earth!!!

THE present majority rejoice in their success; and the *Republicans* of the minority, from the increasing conviction of evidence, will soon rejoice that *their* opposition was ineffectual.

CLOSELY connected with, and consequent to this change, follows a more splendid transaction, dictated by the genius of equality, and accomplished by the spirit of justice.

“PEACE on earth, and good will to man” is the motto of christianity; the *first principles* of which are also those of our republic. The more these are adhered to in practice, the more will “peace” be cultivated with the whole family of mankind.

HENCE, when the policy and manners of the *late* administration approximated to the old system; our concerns with foreign nations were frequently embroiled for trivial or *fictitious* causes.— and hence we have seen that *even* trespasses on our rights, could not provoke the *present* administration to depart the peaceful path of elevated rectitude... a path marked out by every precept, and every maxim of the *New System*.

INSTEAD of precipitantly hurling the bolt of war

Innocent, together with the guilty agents of infringing the right of our citizens to navigate the Mississippi... a total removal of the evil was effected by PACIFIC, EQUITABLE, and HONORABLE measures; and at the same moment, and by the same means a Territory was acquired more extensive than what we occupied before. — A Territory, yielding to none in the mildness of its Climate -- the luxuriance of its Soil... or in the abundance or variety of its Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral productions.

WHILE this mighty acquisition, by PEACEFUL and JUST means, was the genuine fruit of that system of Benevolence and Equity comprised in the declaration of Independence... it also secured the FUTURE PEACE of our country, by commanding a growing population that would soon become a powerful rival: At the same time, an almost boundless field is opened where our own posterity may extend their agriculture and their happiness without danger of exciting a rival jealousy. Possessing the same ideas of equal rights, their habits of thinking will be similar to ours -- their forms of society will be improvements on those now existing -- and their pursuits, interests, and happiness will be intimately and inseparably blended with ours, without recourse to standing armies, our disciplined Militia will awe to peace any wars that may arise near us on this Continent; and even the war-

madness of the eastern world will not cross the atlantic to meet a certain destruction.

THUS the basis of our national prosperity is made broad and firm as the Continent on which we stand: and its duration will depend on our listening to the admonition of WISDOM, who proclaims that "IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH."

WHAT shall we say to those blind, or base men who labor incessantly to cast odium on this glorious transaction? — Let them know, that its splendour cannot be eclipsed by *their* dark shade: and its millions of benefits are fixed by fate far beyond *their* Power to prevent or interrupt. — Yes, the NAME OF LOUISIANA when and wherever mentioned, will henceforth convey the associated ideas, of the Peaceful -- the Honorable -- and the Equitable policy of our Republic — — The HISTORY of Louisiana, will inscribe on the records of virtuous fame, the Character of Thomas Jefferson, and the other principle agents of the acquisition; and transmit them for the applause and the imitation of distant ages, when their present calumniators shall be forgotten, or remembered only to be execrated — — And the millions of free men that Louisiana will produce in all future ages, on this festival, when tracing the origin and progress of their prosperity shall recognize and venerate the parental character &

the wisdom of this generation exercised for their incalculable benefit.

ENCIRCLED with events so astonishing! which yet we have witnessed; so dignifying to human nature, and achieved by our countrymen; so auspicious to the future happiness of man; the first fruits of which we ourselves are tasting; how must each heart swell with the throng of rapturous emotions that crowd upon it! Which ever way we turn our eyes, we receive them.— If to the past, *experience* points to our beloved country, lately sprung up in the wilderness with toil and sorrow. While yet in childhood, oppressed, beset with surrounding enemies, bleeding, exhausted, but at last victorious. We now behold her clad in beauty, smiling in peace, and nursing her vigorous sons on the lap of domestic felicity.

If we look to the future, *hope* with glowing ardor points to a progression forward of human happiness, increasing with the flight of time; till the whole family of mankind shall like us rejoice, and shall walk in the light whereby we are made free.— Nor shall this hope be vain.

THE steady progression of all things increases this cordial *hope* almost to *assurance*. All nature has exhibited proofs of immutability. Not any visible object remains in the same state forever. *Man* and all nations have progressed from a state of

barbarized state—and some from rudeness to refinement. Government, from utter barbarity, is becoming civilized on principles that ensure its refinement. Heretofore the tendency of its principles and practices were to blind, corrupt, and brutalize man.— Who can calculate the extent of its salutary effects, when its example and influence shall be directed to enlighten, moralize and elevate the human mind, and to call forth its powers that have been concealed or paralyzed. From the short experience we have had of such an influence, the boldest conjectures become probable.

New arts, inventions, and discoveries, occasionally excite our applause and admiration! The latent powers of the mind are daily opening to *usefulness*—to what superior degrees of moral perfection it is capable of attaining, we are yet ignorant.

The “Day spring from on high” has dawned—it has increased like the morning light; the sun of truth is rising, and we can only conjecture what blossoms of righteousness and fruits of peace its meridian *effulgence* will produce: however, it is evident that all things are approximating to a grand result, worthy the character of a BENEVOLENT CREATOR.

ELATED with this high hope, encouraged by the success of our efforts, and invigorated by continual exertion, let us redouble our industry in their labors; and let them continue to be the

ige of the old system of inequality that remains amongst us.

MUCH has been done; and much still remains to do. In addition to the absolute necessity of morality in the great mass of the people, to perpetuate the new system—I shall point your attention to some of those vestiges of inequality that claim your serious notice and unremitting efforts to correct.

THE system of what is styled "*liberal*" education was copied from institutions, formed in ages of darkness, under the all-pervading influence of monarchy. The books, in general use, that treat of morality, society, and civil jurisprudence, were composed by men born in *subjection*; habituated to the system of unequal privileges—and under the awe of power. The ideas of king and subjects; nobles and plebeians; lords and vassals, were familiar to them, and were incorporated into most of their works.

THOSE who read, and especially those who are educated from such books, naturally imbibe the sentiments they convey; and are, accordingly, more or less monarchy men, as this early bias is more or less removed by the conviction of truth from other sources.

HENCE since tenhs of those educated in English law, are in principle, as rank aristocrats as any in Europe.

HENCE we have seen them in every part of the union com-

binig together to obtain power, in order to subvert equality of rights, and establish the opposite system—and

HENCE we having seen great numbers of the *regular* educated clergy depart from the *meek* simplicity of the gospel of peace, and from the most essential principles of our republic, to preach corrupt politics in support of those law-bred advocates of a war system, a standing army (the standing school of vice) and all the pomp of royalty.

MEANS should be devised speedily to correct this mode of vicious education, that must be *unlearned* before its pupils can be *republican* supporters of equal rights. Means should also be adopted to disseminate useful knowledge among ALL the members of society.

EQUAL representation is another important object. The great body of the American people are farmers. The number of representatives from the *agricultural* part of society should be proportionate to *their* numbers,

THOSE educated in the "*old school*," and breathing sentiments hostile to *equality*, cannot represent republican farmers. — They represent *themselves* only. Witness their monopoly of all the branches of government during the late administration, and the "*reign of terror*"—the strides towards Monarchy—and the

attempts to establish privileged orders, that was the consequence! Attention to this object at every election, will correct or prevent the evil.

A third object of individual and national concernment imperiously claims your attention and unremitting efforts to accomplish—this is the **ABOLITION OF SLAVERY!**

THERE is no alternative! either slavery must be eradicated from this land of freedom, or your posterity will become slaves.

I will not interrupt the pleasure of this festival by drawing the odious picture of slavery, its total opposition to equality, and the disgraceful inconsistency of profession and practice while it remains in our country. But the voice of equal justice, the voice of humanity, and the voice of **GOD** calls on you, *republicans*, to let the oppressed go free—to heal the wounds bleeding before you, that were inflicted by the scourges of despotism, and to convince the world and your own consciences, that you really conform to the divine precept of equality, "Do unto others, as you would that others should do unto you."

EVERY principle of the new system of government, by free consent and equity—every precept of your religion, and every impulse of humanity, impels you to this work! The *persevering courage* that emancipated yourselves from bondage—the

wise prudence that established our constitution—and the *correcting watchfulness* to avoid approaching danger, evinced in the late change of our national councils; are fully adequate to accomplish this just, necessary, and glorious enterprize—let this foul blot be wiped from the dishonored brow of your country, by no other hands but yours—acquire for yourselves this superlative honor—complete the full constellation of your glory, by adding to it the divine gem of benevolence of the most unrivalled magnitude—A gem that shall cast on you a lustre, *immortal* as the pillars of justice that support the heavens; and excellent as the throne of mercy. So shall the **REWARD** of righteousness descend on you, and on your posterity, like the dew that descended on the mountains of Zion, where the Lord commanded a blessing.

LET your hands be strong to execute the counsels of wisdom; let your perseverance overcome all difficulties; let your hearts constantly rejoice in the full assurance of *success*;—And may each of us live to celebrate the **JUBILEE** of the total abolition of every vestige of slavery from the purified shores of Columbia.

Then shall arise in majestic columns the commemoratives, adorned with emblems of *justice* and *mercy*, proclaim-

ing "Liberty to the captives," and receiving the incense of an utterable gratitude.—Then shall the animated canvass glow with new images of exalted sentiment, and new expressions of unqualified joy.

THEN shall the triumphant genius of immortal history delight to dwell on the soul-elevating narrative—the tongue of panegyric shall never cease to extol it, in new and still nobler conceptions;—and the muses shall raise it to heaven on their loftiest notes of harmony.

AND then shall humanity, justice and truth proclaim, for the imitation of the universe, this act of yours, as the rich, the god-like fruit of that divine principle of EQUALITY contained in the declaration of independence, and made the basis of society among the American people.

NOTES.

NOTE 1. The two engines of the old system are FORCE and FRAUD. These compel or cheat mankind to perform whatever is required by despotism. The civil power, or the military chief, wields the first, the priesthood the other: the greatest doctors of despotism have always taught, and endeavored to promote a complete union of these two, as the perfection of the system. The cement of this union is corruption. The arm of power, or the law supported by power, takes the property earned by the laborer (always the more in proportion to his industry) and divides a large portion to the *priesthood established by law* a part to the royal butchers of MAN, the army. A part is reserved to corrupt all extraordinary instances of opposing virtue—and the remainder is appropriated to furnish gratification to the pride and debauchery of that collection of vice round the centre of power, commonly called "the court."

The priesthood, in return for their part of the plunder, to quiet all murmurs, tell the people, from divine authority, that this is the appointment of heaven—that they must submit to the powers that be, (that is, whatever power unites with them) that this is certainly the most stupendous fabric of wisdom!—and that they must continue in their steady habits of industry to furnish the means to support this wise, very wise, and very ancient "good order of things, transmitted as an inheritance from their pious forefathers.

This strain is not peculiar to the law-established priesthood of New England; it descended to them in regular succession from the days of Constantine, who first formed a partnership union

with the christian church. However, the doctrine, or practice, was at that time (A.D. 300) no new invention. The Pagan church or law-supported priesthood, had preached and played the same acts of fraud from the beginning of despotism.

All the difference was, at the concubinage of the christian church with Constantine—the old Pagan frauds were refined—new call, and with a new title, were imposed on the world with an effrontery, and corruption, proportioned to the light it had to combat, and the greatness of the despotism it supported and shaded.

Religion is totally a different thing. This legalized priesthood are watchmen, under civil pay, who keep continual guard against innovation in favor of equity. They sing an eternal lullaby to hush the groans of the oppressed, and shake the red of temporal and spiritual wrath over those who would assert the rights of man; and they diligently bind the thick folded hood-wink of superstition on the youthful mind, never to be removed by them or others, if they can prevent it.

NOTE 2d. That these precepts of equality were considered in this light, by the votaries of the old system, is evident from the alarm of the priesthood in every place where they were promulgated, and their unceasing war against the spirit of the gospel from that day to this. Witness the conspiracy of the high priests at Jerusalem against the first preacher of these principles—the persecution of Paul—the uproar at Ephesus—and the civil war of church and state throughout the roman empire for 300 years—Witness the ten persecutions after the adulterous union of the christian church with Constantine—the tortures of the Inquisition—the massacres of the protestants in France, the

James of Smithfield...and the banishment of the puritans, down to the New-England execution of the harmless Quakers - - and witness the seven years war of Britain against the same principles of equal rights and equal justice avowed in the declaration of independence.

Note 3d. Some of the handy works of despotism are recorded in the Declaration of Independence—the solemn reading of which should never be omitted on the anniversary of its nativity, by any who adhere to its principles. Memory of past good and evil was bestowed on Man, that in future he might secure the one, and avoid the other. The declaration is a memorandum of both, and should be annually resorted to for a guide of action.—Nothing marks a monarchy man, or an adherent to the old system more decidedly than his malignity to that instrument, and his wish to bury it in oblivion; an implacable hatred of the — who penned it, is very natural to such men.

Note 5th. That the establishment of Despotism has been the systematical design of the federal leaders, was disbelieved by the honest of that party; but the fact can be no longer doubted by the most incredulous. Their late proposition to dissolve the Union proves it beyond all contradiction. This detestable project develops their dark designs, and renders their former operations intelligible. To invite, or conclude a foreign foe to ravage our country and murder her inhabitants, is not so repulsive with blacked treason, as to create an enemy within, to tear her bowels, to cause American blood to flow in rivers by a brother's hand, and to excite animosities that shall defend from France

