

GOD is to be praised for the GLORY of his
MAJESTY, and for his mighty WORKS.

A
S E R M O N

DELIVERED AT NORTH-HAVEN,

DECEMBER 11, 1733.

The day appointed by the UNITED-STATES

F O R A

GENERAL THANKSGIVING
O N

Account of the PEACE

Concluded with GREAT-BRITAIN.

BY BENJAMIN TRUMBULL, A.M.
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN NORTH-HAVEN.

“ I will sing unto the LORD for he hath triumphed gloriously.”
MOSES.

“ The LORD hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.
“ His right hand, and his holy arm hath gotten him the victory.”
The PSALMIST.

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PRAISE HIM for his mighty Acts : praise
HIM according to his excellent GREAT-
NESS.

IN the late years of our distress and treading down we had great and frequent occasions of assembling before the LORD with fasting and sackcloths, and of pouring out our souls before him. When we were unskilled in arms, unprovided for war, unknown among foreign nations, and when we had made no alliances with the powers of this world, Britain poured upon us all the thunder of her arms, the strength of battle and war. A formidable fleet distressed us by sea, ravaging our coasts for more than a thousand miles in length. An army of near fifty thousand veterans *, *British* and *foreign mercenaries*, in one quarter and another, with numerous *negroes* and *savages* were either laying waste our frontiers, or the interior parts of the country. With merciless fury our towns and cities were laid in ashes, our hardy and faithful citizens either slain in battle or murdered in

* The number of regular troops which arrived in Canada, May 1776, was computed at 13,000. The army under gen. Howe, at New-York was estimated, when all the parts of it were collected, at 35,000, 48,000 in the whole. There were not less than two or three thousand more in Halifax, Canada, St. Augustine and other British posts on, or near our frontiers, who, with their savage allies, were acting against us. In 1777 not less than 3,000 *Canadians* and *Tories*, with a multitude of *Indians* joined them in the north, and a large number of *Tories* also joined general Howe at New-York.

Hist. of war in America.

in cruel captivity. We trembled for our substance, for our wives and children, for our liberties and lives. Every thing which could be dear to us, either as men, or christians, was at stake. We knew not, when men thus rose up against us, but that they would have swallowed us up quick ; But that our country and our all would have been lost : or at best, but that we and our children should have been hewers of wood and drawers of water to them who hated us.

INDEED, “ had it not been the LORD who was on our
 “ side, the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had
 “ gone over our soul. Blessed be the LORD, who hath
 “ not given us a prey to their teeth. Our soul is es-
 “ caped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers : the
 “ snare is broken and we are escaped. Our help is in
 “ the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth*,”
 “ He hath turned” our “ mourning for ” us “ into
 “ dancing : He hath put off” our “ sackcloth and
 “ girded ” us “ with gladness ; To the end that ” our
 “ glory may sing praise to him and not be silent,” that
 we may “ give thanks unto ” him “ for ever†.”

Upon this solemn day he is, in his providence, and by the voice of our rulers, inviting the millions of the American Republic into his presence with thanksgiving, to celebrate with lively joy and overflowing gratitude his marvellous power, wisdom and goodness displayed not only in the bounties of his providence in general, and in the current year in particular, but especially in this great and glorious event ; that he hath stilled the tempest of war, caused our SOVEREIGNTY and INDEPENDENCE to be acknowledged among the nations and given us the blessings of PEACE. Impressed with an exalted sense of his goodness, from whom these blessings are derived, it becomes them with one heart and voice
 “ to sing forth the honour of his name and to make
 “ his praise glorious ”‡.

But

* Psalm 124.

† Psalm 30, 11, 12.

‡ Psalm 66. 2.

But for what, and how shall we praise Him upon so great an occasion ? Our text furnisheth a summary answer. He is to be praised for his excellent and infinite MAJESTY. When it is commanded, Praise Him according to his excellent GREATNESS, it is required that we should praise God for what he is in himself ; for the essential, infinite, immutable, and eternal glories of his nature. These primarily, and chiefly, demand the love and praise of his creatures. It is also required that the greatness and ardour of our love, praise and thanksgiving, should, as far as possible, be proportionate to the excellency and glory of the GODHEAD.

He is also to be praised for his wonderful works ; For his works of wisdom, power and goodness, comprised in the text under the general name of his mighty acts. Praise Him for his mighty ACTS. In this view of the words it will be natural

I. To say something of the excellent greatness and mighty acts of God, for which he is to be praised. Among these such as relate to the AMERICAN REVOLUTION demand special notice.

II. To show, very concisely, what is implied in praising God, in a right manner, for his greatness and glorious works.

I. I am to say something of the excellent greatness and mighty acts of God, for which he is to be praised.

By the excellent greatness of God, I apprehend, the psalmist intended the essential and infinite glory of the divine MAJESTY, including all his perfections natural and moral. His spirituality, absolute eternity, unchangeableness, infinity and almighty power ; his infinite wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness and truth. God is infinite in his being ; without measure or limits. Behold,
heaven,

heaven, and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him;* He fills heaven and earth with his glory. He is present operating in every place, in all worlds, in all creatures, in time and through eternity. His infiniteness belongs to each of his perfections, as well as to his being. His understanding is infinite. “Great is our LORD, and of great power, his understanding is infinite”†. There is none holy as the LORD‡. He only is holy§. There is none good but one, that is God||. He only is essentially, independently, infinitely, immutably and eternally great, powerful, wise, holy, just and blessed. He “is the blessed and only potent, the KING of kings and LORD of lords”¶. He inhabiteth eternity, is the possessor of heaven and earth. “Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory and the victory and the majesty : for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine ; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all”**§. In this view, he is the infinite *comprehension* of all greatness, the PERFECTION OF BEAUTY. All the greatness, wisdom and goodness of the creatures, in heaven and earth, when compared with his, is nothing and less than nothing and vanity. All this collectively is but finite : and what comparison can there be between finite and infinite ? Collect the greatness, beauty and goodness of the angels, of the whole hierarchy of heaven, of the millions of the redeemed, all created or acquired greatness and glory in the universe, in time and through eternity, it would all be less than a spark to the sun, than a drop to the ocean, when compared with the essential infinite glories of HIM “whose name alone is JEHOVAH the Most High over all the earth”***. With what propriety is it written, his angels He chargeth with folly : yea, the heavens

* 2 Chron. 6. 18. † Psalm 147. 5. ‡ 1 Sam. 2. 2. § Rev 15. 4.
 || Matth. 10. 17. ¶ 1 Tim. 6. 15. ** 1 Chron. 29. 11.
 *** Psalm. 83. 12.

vens are not clean in his sight *. “ Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the ALMIGHTY unto perfection” †. Here is every thing to challenge and invite our love, to awake our praise, to make us completely and for ever blessed.

THE greatness and glory of the Divine Majesty, discover themselves in his works and in his word. By these only does God make himself known to men. His works of creation and providence make an admirable display of that greatness for which he is to be praised. These now deserve our special attention. Praise HIM for his mighty acts. By these the psalmist, probably, intended his works universally. The work of creation, and his works of providence, in his government of the natural and moral world.

THE work of creation is to be reckoned among the mighty acts of the LORD. His spreading abroad the heavens as a curtain, laying the foundations of the earth and hanging it upon nothing, lighting up the sun, filling the moon with her borrowed and golden lustre, marshalling the stars, and adorning the azure canopy with so many twinkling gems, pouring out the waters of the sea, giving life and breath to every creature which moveth upon the earth, flieth in the open heavens, or passeth through the paths of the deep; his giving existence to every thing which is in heaven and in earth, visible or invisible. In this the astonishing greatness, power and wisdom of God shine forth with a most conspicuous commanding lustre and evidence. Especially in that it was done with the greatest facility, only by a word without any pre-existent materials. “ By the word of the LORD were the
“ heavens made; and all the hosts of them by the breath
“ of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea to-
“ gether as an heap: He layeth up the depths in store
“ houses. He spake and it was done; he commanded
“ and it stood fast ‡.” This mighty and glorious work
B of

* Job 4. 18, and 15. 15.

† Job 11. 7. ‡ Psalm 124. 6, 7, 9.

of God demands perpetual and universal praise. “The morning stars,” struck with the magnificence and glory of it “sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.”* Well may we, in view of it adopt, the language of the poet and sing,

“These are thy glorious works, PARENT of good,
 “Almighty, thine this universal frame,
 “Thus wondrous fair : thyself how wondrous then”†!

His works of providence no less proclaim his greatness and demand our praise. His upholding all things by the word of His power ; continuing the heavens and the earth ; causing the celestial bodies, those immense orbs which he hath fixed to keep their respective places, and those which move, regularly to perform their several revolutions, according to his commandment :—giving food to all flesh, supporting and governing the endless variety of creatures in earth and heaven, agreeably to their various natures, and directing them all, with unerring foresight to their several ends. Omnipotent and glorious is the arm upon which rests universal nature ! Large and bountiful is the hand which openeth itself and supplieth the wants of every living thing ! Rich and good, beyond all parallel is the FATHER, from whom is derived every good and every perfect gift !

THE marvellous revolutions he hath made in the world, in planting and plucking up, in increasing and diminishing the nations, as it hath pleased him, are among his mighty acts.

PARTICULARLY, the erection, preservation and government of the church. The redemption of it by JESUS CHRIST is among the greatest and most glorious of the divine works. His finding out a way in which he can be just and yet justify the ungodly, his giving his own equal, eternal Son, out of his bosom to save a fallen world ;

* Job 38. 7. † Milton, Book V. P. 128.

world ; the union of the divine and human nature, the FORM of GOD and the SEED of ABRAHAM, two distinct natures, in the one glorious person of our LORD JESUS CHRIST ; his death in our nature and law-place, his resurrection and exaltation to be head over all things to the Church, are the wonderful works of GOD.

THE preservation, progress and government of it before, and after the giving of the Law, under the Jewish and Christian dispensation are wonderful.

MIGHTY and glorious was the arm which delivered Noah and his family from the deluge, Lot out of Sodom, and Israel out of Egypt :—which conducted them thro' the sea, as upon dry land ; which gave them bread from heaven, and water out of the rock ; supported them forty years in the wilderness, and planted them in Canaan. Marvellous were the things wrought for them in their own land, in their captivities, in gathering them from among the nations, and resettling them in the land of Israel, after their various dispersions ; in giving them the divine oracles, the types, prophecies and promises of the MESSIAH. These are much celebrated in the sacred books, especially in the psalms. It is the business of the 107, 135, 136, and of the six last psalms, which are songs of praise, to celebrate these mighty works of GOD, and every creature and thing are commanded to praise HIM for them. These, no doubt, are principally intended by his mighty acts in our text.

THE things wrought for the christian church are not less glorious. Especially, in the astonishing gifts and furniture bestowed on the apostles and primitive ministers of the gospel ; in the conversion of the nations to JESUS, by their preaching, though the lusts, prejudices and powers of the world were against them ; in the preservations granted to the church in those terrible persecutions raised against her, from age to age ; in continuing to her the sacred Oracles, causing her to emerge out

of that horrible night of papal darkness which well nigh overspread the earth in the dark ages, in defending the protestant church, directing and governing all things in the natural and moral world for his glory and the good of his chosen, and in bringing many sons unto glory by JESUS CHRIST, the captain of our salvation.

HEAVEN will, with pleasing wonder, for ever view and celebrate, in the Song of Moses and of the LAMB, these works of power and grace. Indeed God has commanded his church to glorify him for all the salvations which he is pleased to grant unto her. “ I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me ” *.

WHILE therefore we contemplate and rejoice in the works of creation and providence in general, let us now turn our attention more particularly to the MIGHTY Acts of GOD towards this American Israel ; that we may acknowledge his greatness in them, and praise him for them. To plant the nations, to appoint the bounds of their habitations, and the times before ordained, in which they are to exist and rise into national importance, with the various steps leading to these events, are the mighty works of God. “ And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it ” †. “ And made of one blood all nations of men, for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation ” ‡. He hath elevated the AMERICAN STATES to the importance of a *free, sovereign, independent* nation, among the kingdoms of men. It is marvellous in our eyes, and in the eyes of all the nations. He hath effected it by a series of mighty acts. His power and wisdom formed this great, healthful, well-watered and fertile country, abounding with every thing necessary to make a nation great and happy, and reserved it from the foundation

* Psalm 124. 8. † Jer. 18. 2. ‡ Acts 17. 26.

foundation of the world, to be an assylum for our fathers, where they might rest from the persecutions of their native country, and worship God agreeably to the dictates of their consciences. He disposed them to follow the LORD into the wilderness, a land not sown, planted them in it, cast out the heathen before them, increased them even to astonishment, and defended them from the united plots of savage and papal powers, so that no weapon formed against them, or against their posterity, hath ever been suffered to prosper.

To the same agency must we ascribe it, that our worthy ancestors made such provision, by the early institution of schools and colleges, for the general diffusion of knowledge among the people, and for the propagation and perpetuation of a true spirit of liberty among their posterity ; by which means the rights of men and of conscience were as well understood, perhaps, by them, as by any people upon earth. This may be considered as a very leading and important step to this great event. These were mighty acts, demanding our united and perpetual praise.

EQUALLY illustrious have been the exertions of providence in behalf of America, from the very commencement of the late war to this day. To these only may it be ascribed, that the designs and plots of our enemies were so seasonably and providentially made known to us, from time to time, in the first stages of the war, to our great advantage : That the enemy suffered such uncommon slaughter in some of the first battles*, which damped their

* In the first which began at Lexington, April 19, 1775, the British loss, in killed, wounded and prisoners, was 273, of which 65 were killed. In the battle at Bunker's Hill, June 17, there were killed and wounded 1054 of the enemy. 226 were killed ; of these 19 were commissioned officers, including a lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors, and 7 captains : 70 other officers were wounded. Says a British historian, " The Battle of Quebec in the late war, with all its glory, " and

their spirits, and kept them in a measure inactive the rest of the year, and gave time for the country to make more effectual provision for her own defence :—That a spirit of union and resistance flew instantly, like a stream of electric fire, through the continent :—That the union increased and grew up into an happy establishment, in spite of all the art and opposition either of our open or secret enemies :—that General WASHINGTON, that prodigy of a man, was appointed to command the confederate armies ; and that we were furnished with arms, ammunition and implements of war, even from our enemies, when we were in the greatest need of them, and the most important enterprises must have failed had it not been for those providential supplies *. A watchful providence was no less conspicuous in secreting, in a very remarkable manner, from our enemies, at particular times, our want of ammunition and our great weakness, which had they been known, we might at once have been wholly ruined : in that spirit of magnanimity and suffering patience which sustained us in the dark years of seventeen

“ and the vastness of the consequences of which it was productive, was not so destructive to our officers, as this affair of a retrenchment cast up in a few hours.” History of American War, printed in London.

* At Chamblee were taken, October 18th, 1775, 124 barrels of powder, 6 tons, with a great quantity of military stores, which enabled general Montgomery to effect the reduction of St. John's and Montreal. At Ticonderoga, St. John's and Chamblee, there were taken above 200 pieces of ordnance. There was afterwards taken a great quantity of arms and ammunition, with all manner of tools, utensils and machines necessary for camps, in the famous ordnance ship from Woolwich. She had also on board a large mortar upon a new construction, and a number of fine brass cannon. This capture was of the greatest service to the army before Boston, enabling general Washington to carry his offensive operations against the royal army into immediate effect. He opened his first battery on the night of the 2d of March, on the 4th he took possession of Dorchester-Neck, on the 17th the enemy evacuated the town, and he entered it in triumph.

seventeen hundred seventy six, and seventy seven. We were now pressed with an army of towards sixty thousand men, aided by more than twenty thousand seamen in eighty men of war, with a still greater number of privateers, gallies and gun-boats, which were not less mischievous and distressing than their capital ships*. This tremendous military force, sufficient to have alarmed and spread terror through any kingdom upon earth, was commanded by the most accomplished generals and admirals Great-Britain could furnish from all Europe. If we may credit their own historians, this army was furnished with the finest and most numerous train of artillery, with which any one, of that number, ever was supplied in the known world ; and this was served by the most experienced and approved engineers which Europe could produce.

WHAT but the mighty operations of providence inspired us with magnanimity and resolution to declare ourselves INDEPENDENT, and by one capital stroke to found the AMERICAN REPUBLIC, at the very time when the enemy with their mighty armaments spread our coasts, poured in their troops upon us, and shook the continent with their thunder ? When the enemy were in full force, and at the highest tide of victory, our army was next to nothing. In face of this mighty force, it was to be raised, armed and disciplined. We feared, and our enemies were positive, that it never could be done. How did the excellent greatness and goodness of God appear in supporting us in this *dreadful crisis* ? What else

* When general Howe left Boston with his army, the fleet in which they sailed consisted of 150 sail ; at New-York, after lord Howe arrived, it amounted to 300. The British historian speaking of it the next year calls the number infinite. Hill. of American war.

The fleet which transported the royal army to Quebec, could not consist of less than 100 sail more : so that not less than 400 sail of shipping, besides a very great number of privateers and armed boats were employed in the war against the States. Such a naval force was, probably, never sent against any other people.

else could have influenced the surprizing movements, and given the memorable victories of TRENTON and PRINCETON*, which snatched us from the jaws of destruction ; I had almost said, raised us from the dead, giving life and joy to all America ? The victory of Bennington, the defeat of the enemy at fort Stanwix, the capture of Burgoyne and the British army, at Saratoga, and the giving us a powerful and generous ally in one of the capital powers of Europe ; the detection of Arnold's horrid conspiracy, the splendid victories, the judicious and almost incredible marches and efforts of General GREENE, by which the Carolinas were recovered to the States, and the glorious victory over the Earl Cornwallis, in Virginia, are among the mighty acts of HIM, who is excellent in greatness and wonderful in working.

THE

* The victory at Trenton was obtained December 26th, 1776. Colonel Rall who commanded the Hessians was mortally wounded : about 40 more of the enemy were killed, or wounded, and 918 made prisoners. The victory at Princeton was on the 3d of January 1777. The loss of the British in killed, wounded and taken, was about 300. The Bennington victory was on the 16th of August 1777. Colonel Baum, who commanded the enemy, was wounded and taken prisoner. The enemy lost in killed, wounded and prisoners about 600. Four brass field pieces were also taken. August 22d, the siege of fort Stanwix (now fort Schuyler) was raised and the enemy fled with precipitation. September 19th, the first battle was fought between General Gates and Burgoyne. On the 7th of October Gen. Gates obtained a complete victory over the royal army, and on the 17th the Convention of Saratoga was completed : when 5,752 of the enemy laid down their arms. 528 were taken in the hospitals. It was computed that the loss of the British, in deserters, killed, wounded and taken, from July 6th, to the time of the Convention, besides those already mentioned, amounted to 3,820. The whole amounting to 10,000. About 40 pieces of fine brass ordnance were taken at Bennington and Saratoga.

The capitulation, at York, was on the 18th of October 1781. On the 19th, Cornwallis and his army, consisting of more than 7,000 men surrendered themselves. More than an 100 pieces of iron and brass cannon, a 44 gun ship, two frigates, 60 square rigged vessels, and 1500 seamen were taken, with a prodigious quantity of war-like stores. (Travels of the Abbe Robin.)

THE combining of so many circumstances and great events, as united their influence in the ever memorable victory of York, displayed the greatness, wisdom and almighty power of the supreme Ruler. To nothing but the divine wisdom can we ascribe the joint counsels of a WASHINGTON and ROCHAMBEAU, in that singular effort of generalship, which deceived and astonished the British generals, and at once transplanted the confederate armies from the banks of the Hudson to York. None but HE, who sits king upon the floods, and holdeth the winds in his fists, could have so ordered the arrival and movements of the French fleet, as to defeat the British, and co-operate with the combined armies in the reduction of our enemies. Who, but the Being that holds a sovereign influence over the hearts of men, could inspire armies and generals of different nations with such union and magnanimity, as though all had been animated with one soul, to effect the glorious work before them? This quieted the southern States, afforded rest to many thousands of our brethren, who before lay down and rose up in fear and distress; gave strength and honour to America at home, friends, favour and glory in the kingdoms of Europe; dispirited our enemies and gave a finishing stroke to the war.

To the same watchful, all-governing providence must it be ascribed, that under all the gloomy aspects of the war, when allured by royal promises, the charms of gold, lands, titles, and even nobility, there have been in the capital characters among us, in Congress, in our assemblies, armies and embassadors, in foreign Courts, such uncorruptness, such firmness, such fidelity and invincible attachment to the just rights and liberties of our country: That such union, wisdom and perseverance have attended our counsels and enterprises in general; and that there have been so few apostacies, and so rare instances of treachery among us. Whence hath it been

that generals and officers of the greatest fame, have fought laurels in the fields of America, fought by our sides, like a band of faithful brethren, and mingled their blood with ours ! Whence was it that our armies have been sustained ? That our counsellors, citizens, soldiers and brave seamen have so generally chosen all sufferings and dangers, the horrors of prisons and of death, rather than rewards, honours and life, in fighting against their injured and dear country ? Whence hath it been that the complicated interests of nations were so balanced, and that the potentates of the European kingdoms were so directed, as to produce such mighty motives and decided efforts in favour of America ? Whence hath it been, that we have obtained so advantageous, so honourable a PEACE ? That France, Holland, Spain, and even haughty Britain hath acknowledged our SOVEREIGNTY and INDEPENDENCE ? That France, Holland and Sweden have entered into treaties of amity and commerce with us, and that the nations in general court our trade and friendship ? Surely it is the LORD, who hath done these great things for us, whereof we are glad. “ He maketh wars
 “ to cease unto the end of the earth ; he breaketh the
 “ bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder : he burneth the
 “ chariot in the fire ”*. He maketh peace in his high places†. He hath given us favour and made us high in greatness and renown among the nations. Shall we not then rejoice in the LORD, and rehearse, with the voice of Thanksgiving, his righteous acts towards the inhabitants of our villages ? Can we contemplate these wonderful things and not adopt the language of our text ? “ Praise
 “ Him for his mighty acts : praise HIM according to
 “ his excellent greatness.”

THESE are some of the mighty exertions and effects of a wonder working providence, by which the ALMIGHTY hath rescued us from the depths of fear, danger and distress,

* Psalm 46. 9.

† Job 15. 2.

tress, given us peace and a name among the nations. This great AMERICAN REVOLUTION will be contemplated as a capital event in the history of man, in the revolutions of ages. O my soul, O America, how dost thou rejoice in it? How do the gladness and festivity of this day, which with the voice of thanksgiving spread through this great republic, proclaim *thee* most welcome? Hail sweet, auspicious, glorious DAY of PEACE! Thou hast shut the sluices of human blood, stilled the thunder and quenched the flames of war; given rest to the harrassed, weary millions of America, quietness to Europe, and joy to the world. O welcome, welcome, thrice welcome PEACE! Thou hast unlocked the doleful prisons, and restored our captivated sons to the bosom of their country, to the arms of parents and brethren, of faithful wives and children. Thou hast discharged our brave and hardy countrymen from the fatigues and dangers of war, and returned them to the sweets of domestic enjoyment and of public tranquillity. Thou hast restored our exiled brethren and citizens, from the four quarters of the land and of the earth, to their cities and dwellings; collected our churches, scattered by the fury of war, and united them to day in the praises of their glorious Deliverer. Thou hast confirmed to us our SOVEREIGNTY, FREEDOM and INDEPENDENCE, and one of the finest countries upon which the sun ever shone. Thou hast removed our enemies from our coasts and borders; opened our ports to all nations, and laid a foundation for the communication of commerce, literature, liberty and religion to the ends of the earth. How hast thou opened an assylum, a last and most happy retreat for all the oppressed of the earth, whither they may flee from oppression and tyranny, and taste the blessings of freedom? O, my brethren, how do we rejoice in these blessings of peace! Do not our breasts expand with the most pleasing sensations, and our eyes brighten with a lively joy,

joy, while our brave officers and soldiers, our captivated countrymen, and those who had fled from their habitations, are restored to the blessings of peace? While scattered families and neighbours are collecting, and fathers and sons, brethren, sisters and friends are, with tears of joy, clasping each other in the friendly embrace? How do we rejoice not only with each other, but with our sister States, with all America, in the great things which God hath done for us?—Rejoice that after a total blockade, and most horrible scene of slaughter, burning, devastation and distress, for more than seven years*, the State of New-York enjoy their capital, and have their ports opened?—That our frontiers are delivered from the savage yell and murderous depredations of those whose tender mercies are cruelty?

On these great events suffer me, with the most heartfelt joy, to congratulate my country and friends, in general, and you, my generous auditors, in particular. I rejoice and give thanks to God that I have lived to see this auspicious joyful day. I rejoice exceedingly, that you have been delivered in so many dangers and live with me, to bless the name of the Lord, and to bear a part in the joys and thanksgivings which we now prefer to the Most High. O benign peace! How great, how numerous are thy blessings! How ravishing thy charms! Great nurse of science, commerce, wealth and public good, come, spread thine olive branch over us and hold us in thine embrace for ever. Under thy nurturing wing let our cities be rebuilt, our depopulated tracts

* Admiral Shuldham arrived with general Howe and the British army at the Hook the latter end of June 1776. July 3d, the army was landed on Staten Island. August 27th, the advanced part of our army, on Long-Island, was defeated, and on the 29th the whole army retreated from the Island. September 25th, the enemy took the city of New-York. November 25th, 1783, the city was evacuated by general Carleton, and the British troops, and general Washington and the citizens took possession: three years and two months from the day the city was taken.

tracts resettled, our stately groves converted into potent fleets, our wilderness turned into fields, gardens and pleasant habitations, our commerce extend to the four quarters of the globe, and our glory exceed that of all the kingdoms of the east. Here let literature, liberty and religion reign, in their greatest perfection, 'till the sun and moon shall be no more.

THE peace we celebrate to day, with religious joy, is the more important and happy, in that it brings so much good to us, and has such favourable aspects upon mankind in general. It confirms to us all the United States, with every town and city within their limits. Not one is conquered and left in the power of the enemy to damp the fulneis of our joys. It grants to us a vast extent of country, sufficient for the greatest empire in the world*, abounding with groves, rivers, lakes, mines, minerals and every thing necessary to make us great and formidable both by land and sea. It secures to us the most extensive right of fishing, and the dominion of the seas, on the American coast. In a word, it confirms to us, agreeably to our several constitutions, not only the greatest civil, but religious liberty, perfectly securing the rights of

* It is somewhat difficult, in the present imperfect state of our best maps, very precisely to measure this great tract of country : but after some particular attention to the subject, and an examination of different modern maps, it will, I think, upon a liberal mensuration, contain 834,600 square miles. No kingdom in Europe, excepting that of the empress of Russia, is of equal extent. Great-Britain, France and Ireland altogether contain but a little more than one quarter of the area of the United States ; their contents being only 209,411 square miles. The state of Connecticut contains about 4560 square miles, which is less than an hundred and eightieth part of the United States. The number of inhabitants which it now contains, may be estimated at about 220,000. Were the whole of the United States therefore as populous as Connecticut, they would contain 39,600,000 inhabitants ; nearly double to the number of inhabitants in any of the European kingdoms. Should the states double their numbers once in 25 years, it would, in less than 120 years, amount to 39,600,000. The country we possess is doubtless capable of supporting twice this number.

of conscience, beyond what is enjoyed, perhaps, in any part of the known world.

THIS has not only the happiest aspect upon us, at present, but upon the countless millions of our posterity yet unborn. It is friendly to the kingdom of Jesus, has a tendency to promote the divine glories, to increase the present and future happiness of the human race. It opens to us the most extensive scope for trade and commerce, which, perhaps, ever opened to any people ; and lays a foundation for our being one of the greatest and happiest nations in the world.

FRIENDLY is the aspect which it hath on mankind in general, as it opens a retreat for the oppressed of all nations, where they may enjoy civil and religious liberty in the greatest perfection. It will furnish princes with an instructive lesson not to oppress their subjects, and will exhibit such motives to them, as they have never before had, to govern them with justice and moderation, and even to extend their liberties ; otherwise they will flee their tyranny and transplant their arts, wealth and power to these more friendly regions of liberty and peace. As the nations make themselves acquainted with our wisdom, liberty and happiness they will more and more aspire after and adopt them into their own systems, and so it will tend to diffuse knowledge, liberty, religion and happiness through the earth, and to prepare mankind for the universal REIGN of the SON of GOD, in the glories of the latter day.

ALREADY hath the American contest done great good to mankind ; it hath reduced the overgrown power of Great-Britain, and made her less able to oppress the nations. This may be a great good to her, as well as to Europe and the world in general, as it may serve to keep her in greater peace at home, and prevent her embroiling other kingdoms. When an empire becomes overgrown in power, it will not commonly suffer itself or
neighbouring

neighbouring nations to be long in peace. Highly important is it, that the powers of this world be equally balanced to preserve the peace, and prevent the destruction of the human race. The emancipation of America hath already given freedom to Ireland, even without the shedding of blood. It may also continue, and even revive, the liberties of England. Our contest hath engaged the attention of nations ; a spirit of liberty seems to be enkindling, and the light of it dawning in the kingdoms of Europe. The effects of our noble conflict may be still much greater in our peace and establishment.

THESE views aggrandise our ideas, and proclaim the immense greatness and glories of the divine MAJESTY, serve to swell our joys and engage us to praise Him, for his mighty acts.

WHILE we give Him only the honours of this great revolution, it will not be improper to take an honourable notice of those whom He hath used as the chief instruments of its accomplishment.

WE return our thanks, and the thanks of our country, to the grand SENATE of America, and to our respective assemblies and legislatures, for their wise, faithful, persevering counsels, spirited and manly exertions for the public weal. Nor will we withhold our grateful acknowledgments from those illustrious characters, FRANKLIN, ADAMS and JAY, the able, firm, faithful negotiators of the present honourable peace, for the singular national services they have done us. To those illustrious generals, WASHINGTON, GREENE, ROCHAMBEAU, GATES, LINCOLN, LA FAYETTE, and to the other worthy Generals and Officers, we present our grateful acknowledgments. We gratefully recognize the important services, the heroism, fidelity and perseverance of our soldiers and seamen. May the names of our heroes and benefactors be long dear to their country, and transmitted with honour to the latest generations.

BUT,

BUT, O WASHINGTON, what thanks do we, what thanks does America owe to thy illustrious name ! Born to bless and save thy country. Great in the cabinet, heroic and glorious in the field. Not less skilled in human nature, than in the arts of war. Thou hast harmonized the armies of thirteen STATES, the armies of FRANCE and AMERICA. Through nine successive campaigns hast thou led the confederate armies, enjoyed their hearts, shared the honours and confidence of thy country, and made thyself great on both sides the Atlantic, while the boasted generals of Britain have been successively vanquished and have sunk into contempt. How shall present and future bards and historians embalm thy name, and publish thy virtues, thy heroic deeds, thy growing fame, to the most distant times and nations ? Retire *illustrious beloved man*, from the toils, tumult and dangers of war, loaded with the honours and thanks of thy country, amply to share the blessings of liberty and peace, with all the pleasures of domestic life. Many and happy be thy days on earth, full and endless be thy joys in the world of glory.

LONG, O GREENE, shall the Carolinas publish thy fame, and celebrate *thee*, as their deliverer. To America thy name shall ever be dear, while the faithful page of history shall place *thee* among her heroes and proclaim thine honours to the world 'till the sun and stars shall lose their lustre.

THE magnanimity and royal goodness of that illustrious PRINCE, the MONARCH of FRANCE, the seasonable and powerful aids he hath given us, may never, never be forgotten. The heroism of the enterprising Count D'Estaing, who fought and bled in the cause of America, the faithful, victorious conduct of the Count de Grasse, with the important services done ~~us~~ by the Gallic fleet, merit our gratitude and applause.

WHILE we thus honourably notice the living, we may
by

by no means forget the dead, whose invincible attachment to their country, whose zeal and heroism in her defence, equally merit her thanks, and to be celebrated with immortal honours. Eight generals, WARREN, MONTGOMERY, MERCER, WOOSTER, HARKIMER, NASH, PULAWSKI, and baron de KALBE have been slain, or mortally wounded in battle*. General THOMAS died of sickness, De Coudry, a French general, was drowned in the Schuylkill through his eagerness to join the Americans before the battle of Brandywine. A great number of other brave officers and men have perished. Upon a moderate computation not less than sixty or seventy thousand men have been lost to the country, in battle, in sickness, in doleful prisons and captivity, in the late
D *dreadful*

* General Warren was slain June 17th, 1775, at the battle of Bunker-Hill. Montgomery in the attack at Quebec, December 31, 1775. Mercer January 3d, 1777, at Princeton. Wooster was mortally wounded, April 27th, 1777, at Ridgfield, died May 2d, at Danbury. Harkimer was killed on his way to the relief of fort Stanwix, August 6th, 1777. Nash at the battle at Germantown, October 4th, 1777. Pulawski, a Polish Knight, was mortally wounded in the attack on Savannah, October, 1779. Baron de Kalbe was killed at the battle near Camden August 16th, 1780.

GENERAL WOOSTER was born in Stratford in Connecticut, March 2d, 1710-11; was graduated at Yale-College 1738. In 1739 he served as a Lieutenant in the war against Spain, and was soon made Captain of a sloop employed by Connecticut as a guarda-coast. In 1745 he had a Captaincy in the expedition against Louisbourg, and was appointed to the same rank on the British establishment under Sir William Pepperel. In the French war 1755, he was promoted to the rank of a Colonel, and made Commandant of a brigade. In 1775 he was appointed to the chief command of the troops in the service of Connecticut, and made a Brigadier-General in the Continental service. In 1776, he was appointed the first Major-General of the militia in this State. He was a gentleman of real worth, of approved abilities, true courage, and great experience in the arts of war. His personal appearance was good, grand and soldier-like: He was active and cheerful, and retained his activity, cheerfulness and powers remarkably, till he fell in the cause of his country.

dreadful war *. One third of this number, at least, have perished in captivity.

HAD they survived the dreadful conflict, how would they have rejoiced in this day ? What fulness and brilliancy would they have given to our assemblies upon this joyful occasion ? But alas ! alas ! they are no more. They sacrificed their ease, their blood, their lives to their country. Can we, can America ever forget them ? Do we not see them falling, bleeding and pouring out their lives, at a thousand wounds, upon the high places ? Or pining, languishing and dying, with hunger, nakedness, oppression, cold and sickness, in murderous prisons and captivity ! See, my brethren, see your countrymen, your neighbours, your sons in their blood, in the paleness and silence of death ! See their widows in sackcloth leading their fatherless train, and venerable fathers bowed to the earth with sorrows, and pour out your tears with them. O, my soul, how art thou distressed ? How dost thou bleed for them ? Come, ye desolate widows, ye tender mothers, come, all ye daughters of sorrow and weep over them. O weep, weep, weep—for the slain of the daughter of thy people. Alas ! “ Remembring” our “ affliction” and misery, the wormwood and the gall ;” our “ soul” hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled” within us†. May the God of all grace and consolation heal our breaches and restore comforts to our mourners.

O
 * The loss of men slain by the town of New-Haven, out of the Continental line, from among the militia, seamen and other inhabitants, is estimated at 210. New-Haven is about a twenty-fourth part of this State ; reckoning the same proportion of loss therefore to the whole State, the number lost will amount to 5,040. Connecticut is esteemed about a twelfth part of the American States ; reckoning the same proportion of loss therefore to the whole, the total amount will be 60,480 ; but New-York, New-Jersey, and the southern States have doubtless suffered a greater loss in proportion to their numbers than Connecticut. It is therefore probable that the whole loss of lives is not less than 70,000. The loss to Great-Britain, as it appears from parliamentary, and other accounts, is more than 100,000 men.

O "let" our "widows trust in" Him, and "leave" their "fatherless children" that He may "preserve them "alive"*,

While we lament our thousands and ten thousands slain, we must contemplate as a great national blessing that long and uncommon series of health enjoyed thro'out the United States. The plentiful increase of the field during the years of our distress, when our fishery was prohibited, our foreign trade annihilated, and when our enemies were burning and laying waste our cities, stores and fruitful tracts, demonstrates the greatness and goodness of God. How should we praise Him, that to the distresses of war there were not added the horrors of pestilence and famine ! He gave us not merely a competency, but in general a great abundance of the fruits of the earth ; so that we have had both food in our dwellings and supplies for our armies in the field.

AMIDST our countless national mercies, we may not forget those which more particularly respect this state and town, our families and our selves. How have we seen the excellent greatness and mighty acts of the LORD, in that general protection and quietness which we have enjoyed, while other states have been trodden down of armies, ravaged and almost ruined :-- In that we have enjoyed a GOVERNOR, in the late years of perplexity and danger, so happily qualified for such a day ; capable of transacting business with such uncommon dispatch, with such advantage to the state, and with such honour both to that and himself : and that his important life, and the lives of our chief and most experienced rulers, have been preserved through the storm, till they have conducted us safely into port.

As this state hath honoured His EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR TRUMBULL with public trust and confidence, for about half a century, so he hath not only done it great
and

and essential services, but singular honour, at home, in the army, in congress, throughout America, and even in Europe. He stands high in the list of the great political CHARACTERS of the present age. Indeed men who have zealously espoused and watched over the liberties of their country, served it with such ability, integrity and perseverance, in all circumstances, through a long period of time, serving God and their generation according to his will, are singular blessings to the world, ornaments to human nature, and their characters ought ever to be contemplated with a peculiar respect and veneration.

WE wish his EXCELLENCY a happy recess from public labours, a comfortable old-age, and a glorious IMMORTALITY.

THE preservation of this ancient, pleasant and important town, from a general conflagration, when in the utmost danger ; the smiles of Providence on the labours of the husbandman, the present year, and the general plenty with which the country abounds, proclaim the riches of the divine Goodness. The revival of religion in some parts of the country, the seriousness and reformation which have been in the college, exhibit arguments of praise.

OUR domestic and personal enjoyments, the deliverances we have experienced in the day of battle, in sickness, and in the various dangers and distresses of the late war, the continuation of our lives, reason and limbs, the enjoyment of health, food, raiment, friends, the unspeakable blessings of the gospel, and such an almost endless variety of good things, demand our highest praise. They exhibit the excellent greatness and goodness of our God.

HAVING thus laid before you some of the mighty acts of our most gracious Benefactor, to rouse and enkindle your joy, the full tide of which I wish to turn wholly into a pious channel, that God in all things may be glorified, I proceed

II. To

II. To show, very concisely indeed, what is implied in praising God in a right manner for his greatness and glorious works.

This implies that we believe his universal providence, that "his kingdom" indeed "ruleth over all": That he planteth the nations and plucketh them up, and truly saith, "I form the light and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil. I the LORD do all these things"*. We must be sensible that every good and perfect gift is from him. If we do not believe his being, and that the wonderful works which take place, in the world, are his mighty acts, we never can praise him for them.

It implies also that we love him supremely, as most great and glorious in himself, that we think most honourably of him, rejoice in his supreme dominion, infinite glory and blessedness, in his word and works; that we desire to be like him, to honour and enjoy him for ever. It implies that we trust in him, and not only desire to praise him ourselves, but that all people, all creatures in heaven and earth, should praise him. God is principally honoured and praised by the love, holy affections and desires of his people: by their giving him their hearts. Indeed without this, men do not truly praise him at all.

This also compriseth in it a proclaiming of the divine honours with our lips; the making of a profession of the christian religion, and the acknowledgment of God as our God: speaking most honourably of his names, ordinances, word and works. We must bless his glorious name, pray to and praise him, in the closet, in the family, and in his house, upon all proper occasions, singing his praises with glad hearts, animated with the noble principles of faith and love.

Praising God also implies our living, as well as speaking, his praise. That we have respect unto all his commandments,

* *Isaiah 45. 7.*

commandments, and honour him in all the ways of his appointment. It implies true repentance for sin, breaking it off by righteousness and our iniquities by turning to the LORD. “The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance”*. Faith, love and gratitude purify the heart and are productive of holy living. If, like Israel of old, we sing the praises of God and soon forget his works, we shall by no means honour, but greatly dishonour him. When men live in a course of sin they despise rather than praise God.

PRAISING HIM according to his excellent GREATNESS, and for his mighty ACTS, supposeth that we obtain a lively sense of the greatness and glory of his MAJESTY, of his worthiness of the love and praise of earth and heaven, and that we recollect as far as possible the wonderful things which HE hath done for us. If we have not some practical sense of his greatness and of his innumerable mercies, we cannot praise HIM for them. It also implies, that we praise HIM in the highest manner possible, with all the heart. “Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised†”. It is impossible to praise HIM strictly according to his excellent greatness : for he is exalted above all blessing and praise. But creatures should praise him to the utmost of their capacities. “Bless the LORD, O my soul ; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits”‡. In this noble duty we should be continually employed, at all times, in all places and circumstances. “I will bless the LORD at all times, his praise shall continually be in my mouth”§.

I have now briefly sketched out to you the GREATNESS and mighty ACTS of the LORD, especially as they have been displayed in the wonderful things which he hath done for us and our fathers, and have suggested our obligations thence arising to praise HIM for those glorious

* Rom. 2. 4. † Psalm 48. 1. ‡ Psalm 103. 1, 2. § Psalm 34. 1.

ous works, and in some measure according to his excellent GREATNESS.

To this, with all our powers, we are now to address and stir up ourselves, by some application of the subject.

Is God infinitely great, the comprehension of all perfection and blessedness, hath he done such wonderful things for the church, for our fathers and for us, we are taught to love and fear HIM supremely. Whom should we love with all our heart, but HIM, who is the PERFECTION OF BEAUTY? Whom should we fear but the KING of nations, who planted the heavens, and hath made the sea and the fountains of water? With what propriety is it written, "Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of HIM"*. With what profound and holy reverence should we rejoice before HIM to-day? Love HIM, and rejoice in HIM, and in his goodness with all our hearts?

Our subject teacheth us, that HE is a most glorious object of our trust and worship; worthy to be praised, worthy of our entire confidence. That to HIM we may safely commit our country, the church, our souls and all our dear interests, in time, and through eternity.

AGAIN, our subject proclaims the infinite worth of his favour; the blessedness of that people, of that man whose God is the LORD. "His favour is life." If God "be for us, who can be against us"†?

CLEARLY also are we taught the dreadfulfulness of his wrath, and the tremendous condition of those, who by their impenitence, unbelief and ingratitude, make him their eternal enemy. Alas! for them, when HE who created the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth; HE who builds and plucks up the nations, at his pleasure, shall rise up against them?

FURTHER, does he perform all the mighty acts of creation and providence, are all things of, and through him, then

* Psalm 145. 3.

† Rom. 8. 31.

then surely to him only is due all honour, thanksgiving and praise, both for his essential greatness and glory, and for his “wonderful works to the children of men”. We owe him our whole selves, all that we have or can be. We owe him a great, an endless tribute of love, thanksgiving, praise and obedience. We owe him all the honour of saving us, in our low estate, of causing us to rise into the importance of FREE, SOVEREIGN and INDEPENDENT States, and of the blessings of an honourable PEACE. To HIM is due all the glory of CREATION, of the PRESERVATION of all things, of the glorious work of REDEMPTION, of the salvation of the church in all ages and places; of planting, increasing and defending it in America; of all the blessings bestowed upon our worthy ancestors and upon us their posterity; nay, the glory of all the good in the universe, in heaven, in earth, in time and through eternity. To HIM, who is infinite in perfection, who performeth all things, is all glory due.

In these views every thing unites its influence to wake us up, to wake up all the inhabitants of the United States to ascribe all blessing, and thanksgiving, and praise to his glorious name.—To engage them to repent, believe the gospel, and to become indeed reconciled to God through JESUS CHRIST, that so a foundation may be laid for their praising him for his mighty ACTS and according to his excellent GREATNESS, both now and for ever.

These views of God also, while our hearts overflow with gratitude, and our lips proclaim his praises, naturally excite us, with the greatest earnestness, to seek of him the pardon of all our offences, and his blessing upon this independent, rising Republic:—That he would
 “give wisdom and unanimity to our public councils,—
 “cement all our citizens in the bonds of affection,—
 “inspire them with an earnest regard for the national
 “honour and interest,—enable them to improve the
 “days

“ days of prosperity by every good work, and to be
 “ lovers of peace and tranquillity,”—That he would
 “ comfort all ” our “ waste places, and make ” our “ wil-
 “ derness like Eden, and ” our “ desert like the garden of
 “ the LORD,” cause “ a little one ” to “ become a thou-
 “ sand, and a small one a great nation ; ”—That He,
 who planteth the nations, and “ maketh peace in his
 “ high places,” would grant us his continual smiles and
 almighty guardianship, giving us everlasting peace.

We are now separated from Great-Britain, and be-
 come a distinct and independent republic. She hath for
 ever renounced all right and claim to the thirteen Unit-
 ed States. O Britain, the pleasant land of our forefa-
 ther's sepulchres, how strong was the affection, how
 great the loyalty which once united us to thee ! How
 have we rejoiced in thy happiness and glory !—In thy
 patriot kings and growing empire ! How have we prayed
 for thy prosperity ! Prayed that thine heart might be to-
 wards us, and that, united to thee, we might sit for ever
 under thy shadow ! But thou hast spurned us from thee.
 Thou hast deluged our country in blood ; thou hast
 cast fire into our sanctuaries*, turned our pleasant places
E into

* As the royal army began the war with murder, burning and ra-
 pine, in their expedition to Lexington and Concord, so they con-
 tinued it ; marking their route, in every state, with barbarity and
 savage devastation. In the State of Massachusetts they burnt
 Charlestown, June 17th, 1775. It was large, handsome and well
 built, both with respect to its public and private edifices ; contain-
 ed 400 dwelling houses, with a great many other valuable buildings.
 The next October, (October 18,) they burnt Falmouth ; consisting
 of about 130 dwelling houses, 273 stores and warehouses, having a
 large new church, a new elegant court house, and public library.
 Besides these buildings which were burnt, many others were damaged.

On new year's day, January 1, 1776, Dunmore, with his troops,
 burnt the city Norfolk, in Virginia ; the annual rent of the build-
 ings, which were reduced to ashes, was estimated at 10,000 pounds,
 and the whole loss sustained by this conflagration, was computed to
 be 300,000 pounds. The burning, plundering, barbarity and de-
 vastation

into a wilderness, and filled our country with widows and fatherless children†. Thy madness and the will of heaven have forbidden our union. We now therefore bid

vastation of Prevost, Cornwallis, and Arnold afterwards, in the southern States, were almost incredible. It has been thought that, first and last, they plundered those States of a million and an half of property.

In 1777, March 23d, the enemy burnt Peek's Kills, April 27th, Danbury, and October 25th, Elipus. They spread desolation the same year through the whole county of West-Chester, and through many places in New-Jersey. The committee appointed by Congress to enquire into the conduct of the enemy in 1777, in their report say, "The whole tract of the British army is marked with desolation, and a wanton destruction of property, particularly through West-Chester county in the State of New-York, the towns of Newark, Elizabeth-Town, Woodbridge, Brunswick, Kingston, Princeton and Trenton, in New-Jersey." At this time, and afterwards, besides private dwellings, the meeting house, court house and barracks were burnt at Elizabeth-Town; and Springfield and Westfield were also burnt.

In Connecticut, the enemy plundered New-Haven, July 5, 1779, burning a number of dwelling houses and stores; on the 9th, they plundered and burnt Fairfield, and on the 12th, Norwalk underwent the same fiery destruction. September 1781, New-London was partly burnt. Bedford, in R. Island, Susquehannah; and the towns and settlements in Tryon county, in the State of New-York, have been subjected to the same destruction. About 13 or 14 houses of public worship, I suppose, have been burnt, and others have been greatly damaged and

† In the town of Groton 55 widows were made, in one day, by Arnold's horrid massacre. About 60 have been made in New-Haven, by the war: reckoning the same proportion to the whole state, the number will amount to 2,040. If we reckon a proportionate number to all the States in the union, the whole amount will be 21,480 widows. Estimating three children to a widow, the number of fatherless children will amount to 73,440. Where I have been able to get the exact number of fatherless children, there have been about four children to a widow, at a medium. Upon this estimation, the number of fatherless children made by the war would be 97,920. The widows and fatherless are more numerous in the southern States than in this. Twenty or thirty are sometimes to be found in a small village. How dreadful are the ravages and desolation of war! What animated thanksgivings do we owe to God for the blessing of peace!

bid thee a solemn, an éternal adieu. After all our wrongs we wish thee not to be extirpated from among the nations. May heaven give thee repentance, wash thee from blood-guiltiness, and blot out thy crimes. We love mankind, we love the friends of liberty and of human nature, especially our brethren in CHRIST Jesus, wherever they dwell. While America therefore enjoys peace with all other nations and seeks their good, may she have peace with thee and seek thine also.

BRING

and treated with the utmost contempt. The committee of Congress say in their report, " Places and things, which from their public
" nature and general utility should have been spared, by a civilized
" people, have been destroyed or plundered, or both. But above all
" places of worship, ministers and other religious persons of some
" particular Protestant denominations, seem to have been treated
" with the most rancorous hatred, and at the same time with the
" highest contempt." They not only murdered our captives, by suffering them to starve, freeze, and endure every distress in their prisons and prison-ships, but they murdered our inhabitants who fell into their hands, in cool blood. The committee above mentioned say, " Officers wounded and disabled, some of them of the first rank,
" have been barbarously mangled, or put to death. A minister of
" the gospel at Trenton, who neither was nor had been in arms,
" was massacred in cool blood, though humbly supplicating for mercy." The minister referred to, was Mr. Roseburgh, of the Forks of Delaware.

Had it not been for some very kind and most sensible interpositions of Providence, their cruelty and depredations would, probably, have been much greater than they were. It was reported, and the general opinion of the people, before the battle at Princeton, that the enemy designed to give no quarter; but the defeat of their troops, and the making a number of them captives, induced them to treat the Americans, in captivity, with less barbarity. The diversion made by the attack on Stony-Point, which was carried with the most singular heroism, sword in hand, by the Americans, July 16th. 1779, and the critical state of Penobscot at that juncture, doubtless, prevented the further plundering and burning of the towns in this state.

What a miserable people should we have been, had such an enemy finally prevailed! How should this consideration serve to increase our gratitude to the great Author of good, and engage us to live to his glory!

BEING now a separate, independant nation, it becomes us with one heart and soul to build it up ;—To cultivate union and harmony among ourselves, to strengthen the hands of government ; punctually to perform our public contracts, to promote industry, frugality and all social virtues ;—To discountenance and put away all sin, and to practise universal righteousness and goodness.

These are the things which will build us up, make us great and honourable. “ Righteousness exalteth a nation”*.

PENETRATED with a sense of the infinite glories of the divine MAJESTY, and with a sense of his mighty ACTS, especially towards us, let us summon all our powers, and with one most animated, great and united effort arise to praise and bless his name for all his goodness. Praise HIM in your hearts, by loving HIM supremely, constantly and for ever. Praise HIM with your lips, blessing his name “ at all times,” singing unto HIM, speaking “ of the glory of his kingdom,” talking “ of his power and “ of all his wondrous works”†. Praise HIM in your lives, by a conscientious, uniform, persevering obedience to his whole will. O praise HIM who is the uncreated, immutable, infinite source of all perfection, beauty and blessedness. Praise HIM for his mighty ACTS, and according to his excellent GREATNESS. Praise HIM, who spread abroad the heavens and laid the foundation of the earth ;—who formed this mighty continent, and in the days of eternity appointed it to be the inheritance of our fathers and of their posterity. Praise HIM who hath protected them, and us, from their first settlement unto this day ;—who “ disappointeth the devices of the crafty, “ so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise ;” “ taketh” them “ in their own craftiness,” and carrieth “ the counsel of the froward headlong”‡. Praise HIM who hath slain mighty men, delivered great generals and armies

* Prov. 11. 3. 1. 2. 22. 23. 1. & 105. 2. & 145. 11. § Job 5. 12. 13.

armies into our power, made us a nation, and given us the present glorious PEACE. O give thanks unto HIM, who hath given us all the blessings of life ; the public, private, spiritual and temporal blessings of the present year, and of this joyful day.

LET all the glory and goodness of God, in creation, and providence, in the work of redemption, in the salvation of America, and in the whole course of our lives, as far as possible, be brought into view to kindle up our love, and to awake in us the highest sense of gratitude, thanksgiving and praise. Can we contemplate all this greatness, glory and goodness, and not feel our obligations to be an holy people ? And not love the LORD our God, and cleave unto HIM with all our hearts and with all our souls ? Can America be guiltless if, under the enjoyment of all this mercy, she lives in unthankfulness and impenitence ? Be it our concern therefore to render according to the mercies which we have received. O let our souls bless the LORD, and all that is within us “bless his holy name.” “Bless the LORD, O” our souls, “and forget not all his benefits”*. O America, praise the LORD. Praise HIM all ye people : “praise ye HIM, all his angels : praise ye HIM all his hosts. Praise HIM sun and moon : praise HIM all ye stars of light”†.

“On earth join all ye creatures to extol

“HIM first, HIM last, HIM midst, and without end.”

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD : Praise ye the LORD”‡. A M E N.

* Psalm 103. 1, 2.

† Psalm 148. 2, 3.

‡ Psalm 150. 6.





E R R A T A.

Page 5, line 9 from the top for destressed read distressed.

P. 26, line 19 from the top for we read ye.

P. 29, 2d line from the bottom for loving read living.

Other smaler mistakes will easily be corrected by the reader.

