

# ORATION,

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IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY

OF

*American Independence.*

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AN  
O R A T I O N.

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MY COUNTRYMEN AND FELLOWCITIZENS.

**I**T is with much diffidence I now present myself before you to take so conspicuous a part in the celebration of this day. Prevailed upon by your most urgent importunity, in opposition to my own inclination, I have submitted myself to a service, in which general satisfaction is hard to be obtained. The many embarrassing circumstances under which I am placed, the shortness of the time with which I have been indulged, interrupted as it has been by a variety of avocations, will, I hope lead you to moderate your expectations on this occasion. Knowing that I am now addressing an Assembly, more inclined by their generosity to extenuate error, than to magnify imperfection, I do the more cheerfully approach the theme, which this day directs our meditations. Confiding in your benevolence, I commit myself to your candor.

**M**AN is a being of wonderful capacity and powers. Improved by reason, informed by philosophy, and enlightened by the rays of Divine truth, he makes a near approximation to the state of Angels. On the other hand, sunk in ignorance, bowed down with oppression, and bewildered in superstition, he scarcely emerges from a level with the brutal creation. So vastly extended is the scale of intellect on which the human mind fluctuates, that by a cursory observation of the genius, manners, and customs of different nations, or even of the members of the same community, one might almost be imposed upon to believe, that the species of men were exceedingly various & multiplied. We are, however, better instructed by reason; we are better instructed

by philosophy. Every diligent inquiry into this subject, together with the observation of past ages, does but the more confirm in our minds the belief of this divine truth, that the wise Author of our existence has made 'of one blood' all nations of the earth. All, therefore, are members of the same family, heirs to the same inheritance, have a right to the same immunities, and are equally entitled to all the privileges and prerogatives of man.

SUCH is the character of that being, at whose creation, the morning Stars sang praises. Angels left their bright abodes, that they might contemplate so fair a transcript of the divine Image.

BUT this delineation of the human character, altho so far correct, is still imperfect. As yet we have surveyed only the fair side of the picture. An awful deformity lies deeply concealed within. There is a defection in human nature, a 'root of bitterness,' of austere qualities, which no care can eradicate, and whose growth no diligence can suppress. Hatred and malevolence, violence and injustice, are its fruits. From the mischievous effects of these destructive passions, a man, in a state of nature, has no other security than the prowess of his own mind and the vigor of his own constitution; but feeble barriers against the machinations of evil men.

HENCE was displayed, at an early period, the necessity of government, an institution of the utmost wisdom, without which no society can subsist, and which, rightly understood and properly administered, becomes productive of the greatest blessings to the human race. Each individual, constrained by a sense of his own insecurity, yields up a certain portion of his natural freedom. The aggregate of power thus surrendered constitutes the authority of the law.

SUCH is the institution of every free government. The fundamental principle which it recognizes, is, that 'no citizen shall be governed by any laws, but 'those, to which he, either in person or by his rep-

‘representative, has given his consent.’ This principle, my Countrymen, is the grand basis of political freedom; it is this which characterizes a free government; and it was in support of this, the palladium of civil liberty, that these United States, Colonies of Great Britain, altho in the habilments of youth and incumbered with the swaddling-clothes of infancy, did, nevertheless, bid defiance to the gigantic growth of the British power, entered upon a state of ‘untried being,’ and nobly hazarded their property and their lives in defence of those rights, which, by the God of nature, are dispensed with an equal hand to the whole human race.

LET us my Countrymen, on this auspicious day, let us take a cursory view of those events, by which these United States have been conducted, from the smallest beginnings, thro a long and arduous contest, to a rank among the nations of the earth, and eventually, to a degree of prosperity and happiness, unequalled, in so short a period, by any nation in the annals of time.

NOTWITHSTANDING the equal rights of all men—notwithstanding no one man or body of men can have any absolute property or unbounded power in and over another—notwithstanding government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and that all legitimate authority exercised by one man or body of men over others, must be exercised in virtue of their free consent—notwithstanding all these things, ‘yet such is the prevalence of ambition, such the lust of domination, that man has, time immemorial, invaded the rights of man, assumed prerogatives in defiance of the laws of nature and arrogated a sovereignty over his fellow-men. Hence was laid, at an early period, the foundation of all those revolutions, which during the progress of humanity, have so deranged the features of the social and the political world.’

THE eastern continent has been the theatre on which the greatest oppressions of the human race

have been exhibited. It is there the human mind has suffered its utmost degradation. Persecuted and oppressed in their native country, our Forefathers, inhabitants of the Island of Great Britain, quit the land of their nativity, that they might seek on these shores, a peaceful abode for civil and religious liberty, At the hazard of their property, at the expense of their blood, without the least charge to their parent country, by unceasing labours and an unconquerable spirit, they effected settlements in the distant and then inhospitable wilds of America. At their approach the wilderness was glad and the desert did rejoice and blossom as the rose. One and a half centuries of years rolled away, in which time, the wealth and population of this country had increased to a degree, which excited the wonder and the admiration of the world. Governments had been formed under charters from the crown, by which also was enjoyed the monopoly of our trade as the price of our protection.

BRITAIN at this time held an eminent rank among the nations of the earth. Incumbered, however, with the oppressive glory of a successful war, which had exhausted the resources of the nation, and pressed down with the enormous weight of accumulated debts; at the same time, looking upon the inhabitants of these States as slaves, who owed their existence to her preservation and care, an adventurous ministry, catching at every expedient to support the ponderous burden of the national dignity, now began to form the unjust and tyrannical plan of taxing this country without its consent.

VARIOUS acts were accordingly passed by the Parliament of Great Britain, odious, unjust, and highly oppressive to the Americans. The governments in some of the States were new moddled; Judges and Sheriffs were made dependent on the King and removable at his pleasure; the trial by jury in many civil cases was abolished; murderers of colonists were exempted from legal trial; a standing army was em-

ployed to carry into effect the execution of the laws, and the authority of the commander in chief rendered supreme in all the civil governments in America!

HERE I will pause, my Countrymen, and to you I will appeal, to you my Fathers, who were the immediate actors in those times, which 'tried men's souls,' to you I will appeal for what were the feelings of that day. Slighted, spurned, and rejected by a parent; nay more, trampled upon and scourged. The very nation which should have been the first to have defended you, Britain, a people boasting freedom, was the first to enslave you!

STRONG in their affections towards the parent state, and constant in their allegiance, the inhabitants of this country saw with regret and awful dismay the miseries, which were preparing for them and their posterity. They reasoned, they expostulated, they petitioned, they remonstrated. Tyrants are deaf to reason, unmoved at sufferings, relentless, inexorable. Groaning under the weight of oppression, invaded in their liberties, and bowed down in supplications before the throne, the language of Britain to these devoted Colonies was, Peace, be still!

Quick as an electric shock, the spirit of opposition at once pervaded our land; not excited, however, by a restless levity of temper, unjust impulses of ambition, or by artful suggestions of seditious persons. No, but it was the noble spirit of freemen, which spurns the servile chain, it was a sacred regard for liberty, an abhorrence of degradation, a detestation of tyrants, an attachment to the rights of man,—it was the awful Genius COLUMBIA which stood forth, irresistible as a flood and unshaken as the everlasting hills.

BRITAIN, intent on her purposes of enslaving these Colonies, and stung with resentment at every attempt to resist the chain; Britain, whose name carried terror into remotest countries, whose ambition knew no limits, whose power, no control; Britain, determined to give a different sanction to her laws, poured out the full vials of her indignation, 'let slip

' the dogs of war,' and drenched the land in blood.

Now death ascends his dreary car ; promiscuous fight, wide spreading havoc, and devastation wild, follow in his train. Behold houses desert, whole villages left desolate. See splendid domes and hallowed fanes, the pride of art and the works of years, wrapt in devouring fires.

' See age and sickness — — — — —  
' Creeping from the flames—see babes in torture die,  
' And mothers swoon in agonies of woe.'

UNSHAKEN undismayed, collected within herself, our country stood. ' *Let them be Sovereign States*, said ' a voice from Heaven ; *Let them be Sovereign States*, ' reechoed the colonial Congress.' Nature felt a pang and an EMPIRE came to birth.

WONDER and admiration came upon all the nations of Europe. The eyes of the Universe were fixed upon the scene, while the stripling America, with little more than a sling and stone, engaged the gigantic growth of the British power, that Goliath of strength and Hercules of the world.

THEN were achievements won, which valour itself is proud to own. Then patriots bled, whose names, in the pages of history, shall stand, fair as the Sun, clear as the Moon, and, to all tyrants, terrible as an army with banners. Then Washington rose ; *Washington*, whom all generous hearts will acknowledge, whom all noble minds will admire ; WASHINGTON, and good God ! paralyze the tongue and wither the hand of the wretch, who shall traduce his memory, who shall belie, vilify, and slander so much excellence, such exalted worth. Then WASHINGTON ascended to glory ; WASHINGTON, whose ' head was a senate and whose arm, a host.' Thousands of reanimated freemen flew to the standards of their country. France espoused the cause of oppressed humanity, and our noble veterans led on by the great, the good, and the immortal WASHINGTON, under the auspices of the God of Heaven,



who has his way in the thunder and in the storm, after eight years arduous contest, the eighth and last, confirmed our Independence and heaven-born peace again descended on our land.

Thus terminated a war ~~graceful~~ graceful to Britain, but infinitely glorious to America.

THIS, my Fellowcitizens, is the anniversary of that eventful day, which declared the Independence of UNITED COLUMBIA. This is the day, which made a decisive stand against tyranny. This day the manacles of slavery were broken—the bulwarks of despotism were leveled to the ground. This day was a NATION BORN!

THEN hail the day! ye war-worn VETERANS, ye, who undaunted have stood in the dread hour of battle, ye patriots, ye assertors and bold defenders of the rights of man. This day taste the joys, which your toils have won. Receive the homage of your posterity. Generations yet unborn shall rise up and call you blessed.

HAIL the day! ye Martial Bands, Columbia's pride and boast. Let the same sentiments inspire your hearts, which moved in the breasts of your fathers. This day throw wide the portals of liberty, throng her sacred temple, perform your vows at her altar, and swear eternal fidelity to the laws of nature and the rights of man.

HAIL the day! ye Daughters of Columbia; give it brilliancy by your charms, gladden it with your smiles.

'LET, pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of the continent to the other solemnize the day.' The American Jubilee is come. May yon bright luminary, slowly advancing thro' the high concave of heaven, diffuse his mildest influence and light all nature into smiles, while every heart breaks forth in songs of joy.

'Let this auspicious day be ever sacred,  
'No mourning, no misfortunes happen on it;  
'Let it be marked for triumph and rejoicing,  
'This happy day,'

in which were proclaimed, glad tidings on earth and good will towards men.

Twenty and eight times has the Sun in the progress of his annual revolution diffused his prolific beams over the plains of independent America. Time is too short and your patience must already have been too much exhausted to admit me to pursue in detail those events, which in this short lapse of time, have, in rapid succession been unfolding upon each other. The history of these things is the history of greatness and of human glory. Our country, altho a stripling in years, has already acquired the athletic vigor of manhood and the wisdom of old age. An achievement, but little inferior to that of her arms, has been that of her councils; by the former she has gained her independence, and by the latter, a Constitution, the most free and enlightened in the known world—a constitution, which combines the wisdom of ages—a government, which faithfully and impartially administered, distributes equal justice to every man.

HERE 'science sheds its rich instruction over the mind;' Commerce, arts, and manufactories rise with astonishing rapidity and shower a flood of wealth over all our land. Our Navy, and praise be to those by whom it is that we possess it; our Navy at this moment holds in check the Barbarian States, those nests of pirates, those accursed hords of robbers, the scourge of all civilized nations. Our population is increased to more than Five Millions of people—our territory has been extended to that unmeasured limit, which no eye has seen!—our agriculture feeds the marts of the world. Surely our lot has fallen to us in pleasant places, we have a goodly heritage.

FELLOWCITIZENS! what toil, what labor, what pains, what sufferings, what treasure, what blood, have not been expended in defence of our liberties, in establishing our Independence, and in exalting us to so much glory. And what shame, what remorse, what infamy, what disgrace, what degradation may we not justly suffer, should we by our follies, our vices, our imprudences, our indiscretions, our evil jealousies, blast all the laurels valour has won, and ruin 'the world's best hope.'

If we would prove ourselves worthy of the

blessings we enjoy, if we would prove ourselves worthy of a free, a virtuous, and an enlightened government, if we would prove ourselves the worthy and undegenerated offspring of our ancestors, let us imitate their examples, hearken to their counsels, and cultivate their virtues.

KINGDOMS have had their rising, their meridian and their setting sun. They first appear clothed in the simple garb of industry and frugality; after which, ascending the grades of national importance, their noon-day brightens with all the splendor of munificence. From this period we usually find them degenerating by greater or less visible declensions, until, in their evening or setting sun, when we are presented with a horrid scene of slaughter and devastation. In nations, more especially in republics, when exalted to the giddy pinnacle of glory, vices have many times sprung up, more terrible than an army with banners, and which have more rapidly hastened their decline, than the sword and devastations of a foreign enemy. Under the weight of these, states have groaned, kingdoms sunk, and empires been crushed in ruins.

VIRTUE and public spirit, in opposition to a party one, are the foundations of a free government; the mighty pillars on which the huge fabric of every republic rests; and when these are gone, like a lofty edifice shaken from its foundation by some violent convulsion, that republic must totter and fall to ruin.

THERE are in this Assembly those of different political sentiments. No animadversions will at this time be made on public characters or measures. I will not disturb the repose of parties. We will simply consider some of those principles, by which every man's actions, of whatever sentiment, shall be judged, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

HUMAN nature is so much the same in all ages, that whatever has happened at one time, may, and probably will, under like circumstances, happen at another. Hence history is, in some measure, a book of prophecy, as it respects the destiny of those nations at present on the earth.

GREECE and Rome\* were two famous republics. Where are they now. Gone—swept from the list of nations—no remains of them left but their ruins. Has an earthquake swallowed up one half of the globe, that these nations have no longer an existence? No—but it is virtue, moderation, and justice, which have been swallowed up of intrigue, party, and violence. It was a defection in morals, a corruption in manners, a departure from ancient usages, a restless spirit of levity, it was the loss of virtue in these republics, which were the sources of all their misfortunes, the eventual causes of their ruin.

SHALL we not, therefore, erect the beacons of danger where two such famous republics have been shipwrecked? It is a point of human prudence to guard against the most *probable* events. And believe me, Fellowcitizens, I this day tell you, never shall your rights as free citizens be invaded; no tyrant shall ever presume to aim his dagger at the heart of your country, until the 'sea of liberty' shall first have grown tempestuous; until the boisterous winds of faction and violence shall have blown upon the fair waters of our republic, and have wrought up its elements to a foaming fury.

'UNITED we stand; divided we fall!' If party spirit must take the place of true and undissembled patriotism; if serving bye ends must be the way of serving the republic; if for liberty we must have licentiousness; if affection, prejudice, and party spirit must tyrannize over equity and justice, and the public weal be sacrificed to the caprice of individuals and private fortune; if facts must be disguised, and truth must be shrouded in impenetrable falsehoods; if a 'political intolerance as despotic as it is 'wicked' must be tolerated; if true merit and virtue must be no longer regarded; if party zeal, unseconded by any claim from previous services, must be the only way to places of dignity and trust; then farewell, liberty! farewell, freedom! farewell, independence! farewell, rights of man! farewell, ye boasted prerogatives of our country! farewell, ye bright prof-

\* We might have added, France.

pects of future glory! and come, thou red arm of vengeance—come, ye Vultures of the human race—come, revel on the spoils of freedom—come, fatten on human misery!

TELL it not in Gath; publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the kings of the earth should rejoice—lest the enemies of liberty should triumph.

OH, ye fainted PATRIOTS; Ye who have fought, have bled, have died in your country's cause. (if so we may suppose that your eyes, penetrating the broad expanse of ether, do aught regard things transacted on this dusty ball) Oh, WASHINGTON! God grant, the Sun may be darkened, and the skies be turned into adamant, before that terrible day, that so your eyes may not behold the spoilation of your country—that your hearts may not be pained by the 'agonizing spasms' of expiring liberty!

BUT far from us be that day; rather, may such never be the unhappy destiny of our country. And the better for our security, let all the centinels of liberty be called to their posts. Let us make sure the watch. Let us lay hold of party spirit, that old serpent the Devil, and let us bind him, not for a thousand years, but for ten thousand times ten thousand years. Let us watch over our liberties with a RIGHTEOUS jealousy. Let us guard against every \*demoralizing principle. Let all the ends we aim at be those of our country. Let us be ware of the wolves in sheep's clothing.

ONE of the most important rights of free citizens is that of election. It is not only a privilege, which every free citizen enjoys, but it is also a service, required at his hands of his country. Judgment, candor, and the exercise of truth are necessary in the discharge of it; and the man, who would deliver the government into the hands of unprincipled, unqualified, or dishonest men, altho he may escape the chastisement of the law, is nevertheless a traitor, but little less infamous than he, who would deliver his country

into the hands of a foreign enemy. So soon as corruption shall find its way into our elections, so soon it will find its way into our government; and when both the sources and the fountain become impure, what will the end be?

It is incumbent on us, therefore, to consider well the merits of every candidate to office. Let the first questions with ourselves be, Is he capable? Is he honest? Is he just? In the next place we may enquire, What are his politics? But if any question is allowed to take place of the former—if any consideration is admitted to come in competition with his honesty, his capability, or his justice, then talk of liberty, equality, and love of the people as much as we will—arrange ourselves on the side of order and good government—war with vice and infidelity—still it is not the love of our country by which we are actuated, but it is the love of selfishness—it is that accursed spirit, which, unless restrained, will one day blast all our laurels and rife all our glory.

It is a common saying that a man who talks most of his honesty has the least of it at heart; and I believe the observation may be applied to every thing else in life; and the general practice of mankind, on such occasions, in many instances, demonstrate their conviction of its truth.

If a man talk much of his integrity and his honor, are you the more ready to take his word? If he make uncommon pretensions to sanctity and religion—if he tell you that all his actions are squared by that divine rule, Do as you would be done by—more especially, if he tell you, that in all his dealings, he looks equally to the interest of his neighbor as to that of his own, are you the more ready to commit yourselves to him in a bargain? If a physician tell you of the wonderful secrets he possesses in his art, that to him all diseases are familiar, or if by a thousand little nameless arts of civility he endeavour to gain a prepossession in your mind, to entice you from off your guard or lead you from an examination into his real merit, are you the more ready to trust your

lives in his hands\*? And if you hear a *Patriot* talking much

\* Yes! yes! I say yes! It is a fact however wonderful it may appear to any person of sober reflection, yet it is a fact, that Physicians of this character are the most successful candidates for business. There are certain people, who, in forming their opinions of such men, not only abandon reason, but insult common sense. To be sure, these people will judge correctly enough in some matters. If one, who is a stranger and has not the appearance of being a man of property, come to them, let him boast never so much of the abundance of his riches, yet these people will have the precaution not to trust him with their property. But if a man come to them in the character of a physician, boasting of some extraordinary skill, however ignorant and untaught he may be; tho he may have no pretensions to knowledge, tho his head be as uncultivated as the craggy top *Monadnock*, still they do not hesitate to trust him with their lives! Is this inconsistency, or is it not? I will not myself pretend to decide.

Among physicians of this character, some of them have the prudence and good understanding to consider, that

*\* Poets should never meddle with edge tools.\**

They know and other people know too, that in many instances, Nature, in process of time, will grapple with the disease and of herself effect a cure. Consequently when they are called upon for medical assistance, they will deal out their *peppermints, slippery-cum-tears, cincker-powders*, and the like, and in this way amuse their patient, till such time as Nature, a lazy old hag, may do her own work, or, to cut the business shorter, till Death shall give the patient a passport to the other world. The greatest mischief these men commonly do is, that they stand in the way of those means, which, in the hands of better informed men, would save the lives of thousands of the human race.

Others there are of this character, of more daring minds, who, by a bold stroke, lay both the Disease and Patient submissive at their feet.

Every attempt, however, to convince these people of the folly of thus throwing away their property and their lives, on the ignorant pretender to medical knowledge, so far from having that salutary effect, which might be rationally hoped for, on the contrary, is generally imputed to base and invidious motives. Ignorance and credulity are well known to be *his'let-proof* against reason. In the words of the pious *Dr. WATTS*, therefore, we must be resigned,

*\* Let them take the road to Death,*

*\* 'Tis their own chosen way.\**

Some men make a great fuss and go a round about way to get knowledge; others arrive at it, at a single leap. There are none of whom I know, but who confess, that knowledge is profitable to a physician; but whether this is most likely to be obtained

much of liberty and equality, whose bowels are constantly griped and pained out of sympathy for the people, are you the more ready to commit to him the dear concerns of your country? No, Fellow citizens,

no, obtained at colleges, universities, among books, by constant reading, and with able and experienced instructors, or whether it may with more certainty and with much less time, be picked up by the way-side, in ditches, and among swine, This is the question.

WHAT think ye of those men, who have devoted their lives to study and observation, and of the world of books they have left behind them—knurly, musty, crabbed things, enough to make a man's brains sweat to read them. Who in nature wants to trouble his head with what these men knew—men who are now forgotten and crumbled into dust. *HYPOCRATES, GALEN, BACON, THEMISON, PARACELSUS, VAN HELMOT, HOOK, MAYOW, BOTLE, SYDENHAM, HARVEY, HOFFMAN, HALES, BOERHAAVE, STAL, RUTHERFORD, BARON DE HALLER, CULLER, MACBRIDE, HUNTER, BROWN, DARWIN,* and many others, were all a parcel of *literary Dunces*. It is true these were men of great industry and of unwearied application in their medical pursuits. They read much, studied much, observed much, reflected much, discovered much, wrote much, and published much. They extended their investigations thro the whole system of nature & of life. But still these stupid fellows never knew any thing but what they got by observation, instruction, hard study, and close investigation. It is not so with some of our *modern geniuses*, not only in *Physic*, but also in *Divinity* and *Politics*; THEY discover truth by *smelling at it*, just in the same manner as a dog does the track of a fox. Knowledge with them is a sort of *instinct*. They have no lengths to go, like other men, to obtain it. It is bred up in their bone and in their flesh. They possess it in their childhood, in manhood, and in old age, and in about equal degrees. These are what we call *BRIGHT GENIUSES*. One of these by rambling the woods six or eight months, and snuffing the gales and different odours of plants and flowers, comes out a *full-blooded Physician*. At his approach diseases skulk and hide their heads, like mice before a cat. Death himself, a lusty old bruiser, even Death himself, at his approach, looks paler. By examining the stalks of an elder-bush, he can calculate how all the joints of the human body must be put together, and is wonderfully expert at replacing bones. By smelling at a patient's mouth, like a dog at the burrow of a rabbit, he can scent a canker, tell whether it is out or in; and by looking at an Owl he imagines what an awful looking thing a *Bubo* must be! Great in pretensions and boasting much, the world is in motion after him as if gravity had lost its centre. Diseases rare he can discry, causes to all he knows, and these so hidden, so complicated, and so strange, mankind suppose him wise, and think him wonderfully profound. They admire that one, who a few months since, cultivated the rugged



no. Words are wind; pretensions, a bubble; *actions*, ACTIONS, my countrymen, ACTIONS, are the realities of life. Merit is timorous & diffident, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. It is a low, still voice; and rather than obtrude itself upon public notice, it will languish in obscurity. Let every man's pretensions be supported by his works; and if a man talk to you of his patriotism, or in any way manifest a tender feeling for the interests of his country, let him recount to you the services he has rendered her. Enquire of him where he was when dangers threatened her—the sacrifices he has made her—how many times he has exposed his life in her defence. Let him shew you, in adversity equally as in prosperity, he has stood her firm and unshaken friend, ready with his property and his life to vindicate her cause. Without this catalogue of services, the most boasted pretensions are no better than sounding brass or a tinkling sycambal.

THE unreflecting part of mankind, which is by far the greater portion, imbibe principles and sentiments, just in the same manner as a man, who is unacquainted with medicines, purchases drugs from a medicinal shop. Provided an article be called by a certain name, he is satisfied; it may be that thing, it may

rugged soil, and like them inured his hand to labor, has now become so knowing and so wise, as if a mountain should spring up where yesterday was a fen or a moorish ground.

Diseases long held incurable he tells you he has cured, and that the most refractory are compelled to yield to his art. The breath of mortals is spent in vociferating praises, while their tongues reecho the trophies of life arrested by his skill from the powers of fate.

‘————— *Whatever shapes of death,  
Shook from the bedious chambers of the globe,  
Swarm thro the shuddering air,*

He has power to curb their rage and avert the general bane.

With what facility do mankind suffer imposition! The boasting of a fool is often thought more wise than the discretion of a man of knowledge, the arrogance of a pedant more admired than the modesty of a philosopher, & the ‘whistling of a name’ has often ushered a man into the world with greater eclat, than the most profound science and deep erudition. Such is the wonderful caprice of human nature!

be an adulation of it, or it may be some other thing; he is unable to detect the imposition. Just so, a multitude of sentiments and opinions, in this life, are received or rejected, accordingly as they may be brought forward under the auspices of certain names. Thus, if a political measure be called an infringement of the liberties of the people, if it be called an attempt by those in power to introduce monarchical principles, the law becomes at once unpopular, the people become exasperated with their rulers and burn them in effigy, altho, at the same time, this very law may be the most wisely calculated to preserve the government and to perpetuate that uncorrupted and rational liberty, without which 'life and property are but dreary things.' On the other hand, any principle or sentiment altho it may be a detachment from the kingdom of Satan, yet if it be phrased with liberty, freedom, independence, and like popular names, the infatuated multitude are eager in the embrace of it.

As Gold is the most precious among metals, so is LIBERTY, uncorrupted and rational LIBERTY, among the blessings of this life. But when gold is made the covering of some deadly poison, shall we not caution the unwary against the gilded pill? And when Liberty is made a lullaby in the mouths of demagogues, to lull to repose the suspicions of mankind is it not time, high-time, to awake out of sleep.

CAST an eye over history and will you not find, that in all instances, the too credulous multitude have first been led into a love and veneration of their betrayers. The most horrid intentions have been concealed under the showy outside of the tenderest friendship. How did the serpent beguile Eve? How did Absalom steal the hearts of the people? How did Judas betray his Master? Just in the same way in which hypocrites and knaves, in later times, have practised their deceptions upon mankind—by enticing promises and flattering presentations. The trick which was played upon our good old mother Eve, has been played with equal success upon her posterity in every generation. Every form of friendship

has been assumed by hypocrisy & deceit; the poison of the asp has been concealed beneath the tongue of adulation, and a kiss, that emblem of love, has been prostituted to the vile purpose of treachery!

Let us then my Countrymen, duly appreciate the blessings we enjoy. Let us be constantly on the watch, and let us, by a most cautious and candid procedure endeavour to look beneath the veil of hypocrisy and discover the characters of men as they really exist. Let us cultivate harmony and the social affections, believing that 'a difference of opinion is not always a difference in sentiment.' Let us strengthen the bonds of union. Let us endeavour to heal the lacerated wounds inflicted, by the collision of sentiment, in society. Let us restore the breaches of confidence. Let us keep our minds ever open to the convictions of truth. Let us examine with impartiality, judge with candor, and reason with justice. Let the dear remembrance of those, who have bled in our country's cause animate us to virtue, and may truth and justice be the stability of our times. May we consider our inheritance, sealed by the blood of our fathers and made dear by the lives of our brethren as a rich and an inestimable blessing, which we are bound, by the strongest ties of gratitude and obligation to transmit sacred and inviolate to posterity. And while circling years roll round and empires rise and fall, may America flourish and perpetuate her liberties, until he, whose face is as the sun, descending from Heaven, with one foot upon the sea; and the other upon the land, shall lift his hand and swear that TIME SHALL BE NO LONGER!

END

# TOASTS.



I. **THE FOURTH OF JULY**; while with pride we proclaim the blessings of Liberty, may we never give occasion to its enemies to reproach us with licentiousness.

II. **THE PATRIOTS OF '76**; who in defiance of Great Britain, had the boldness to declare the United States of America *free and independent*.

III. **THE MEMORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON**; the bright Star of America, which shone resplendent in a cloudy hemisphere, and conducted our Countrymen to Independence.

IV. **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES**; may it never be a nose of wax in the hands of intriguing parties.

V. **THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**; may the Lord bless him, as he did Solomon of old, with a wise and understanding heart, to discern between good and evil.

VI. **THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**; may it form one of the brightest Stars in the American Constellation.

VII. **THE GOVERNOR OF THIS COMMONWEALTH**; may his life be as long as it is useful.

VIII. **THE MILITIA**; may it always supersede the necessity of a standing army.

IX. **OUR NAVY**; the young Hercules of America, born under Washington, nursed by Adams; may it be reared to manhood by Jefferson.

X. **THE FLAMES OF THE FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA**; while they proclaim the gallantry of our American Tars, may they ascend unto Heaven to bear witness against Tripolitan barbarity.

XI. **AGRICULTURE**; may it ever be acknowledged as the real fostering Parent, of Learning, of the arts and sciences, and of Commerce.

XII. **OUR COMMERCE**; may it traverse the seas throughout our Globe, to provide real necessities for agriculture its faithful employer; ————— and receive for its own reward the benefits of its own industry.

XIII. **THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC**; may she never drift on the boisterous sea of anarchy, nor sink into the calm of despotism, nor be shipwrecked for want of good Pilots.

XIV. **THE TRUE PATRIOT**; the man whose actions speak louder than his words.

XV. **THE NOISY DEMAGOGUE**; knaves for his friends, and fools for his followers.

XVI. **THE AMERICAN FAIR**; intrenched under the banners of virtue, may their examples deserve to be imitated by their sisters throughout the Globe.

XVII. **THE TOWN OF LEOMINSTER**; may difference in political sentiments never disturb the harmony of social intercourse, nor interrupt the interchange of friendly offices.

NOTE.

• let us guard against every demoralizing principle.

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Of this nature is that Modern Philosophy, which teaches the *absolute Perfection* of human nature.

There are those at the present day, who contend, that there is no *natural* propensity to vice in man. That the human mind being left without control, freely to pursue the bent of its own inclinations, would be perfectly correct in all its principles and dispositions, that it would unfold itself in the most lively displays of virtue, and finally that it would ripen into the most perfect benevolence. And notwithstanding that children will scratch, and fight, and pick out each others eyes—notwithstanding that men will lie, cheat, slander, rob, steal, and oppress their neighbors—notwithstanding the wastes of blood and the inundations of vice, which have in all ages overspread the world, yet they contend that all these rueful passions and evil propensities of men, are superinduced upon human nature by the force of education, by the restraints of law, and by the superstition of religion. They conceive human nature to be similar to plants or trees, which if left freely to extend their branches in the most natural direction grow straight and comely; but if their growth be obstructed by any interposing substance, or if they be bent out of their course, they then become crooked and deformed. Thus they conceive, that Parents, by opposing the inclinations of their children, excite in them the passion of anger, which grows into resentment, hatred, malice, & revenge; the punishments necessarily inflicted by Instructors, in order to enforce an obedience to their regulations, increase the evil; and the restraints imposed by law and by religion, complete the deformity of human nature. Hence their studied opposition to order, regularity, and subordination. Hence they talk of leading mankind back to nature, which, in other words, is leading them back to the service of the Devil, and to the unrestrained indulgence of every inordinate lust.

Such are the outlines of this modern Philosophy; such, when stripped of every deceitful covering, such are its glaring features; such, tho' some may endeavour to conceal it, yet such its own disciples have acknowledged to be the heinous aspect of the beast.

Well may this philosophy be stiled modern, for it is a philosophy, which NEWTON, GALILEO, LOCKE and many other distinguished ornaments of the human race never dreamt of. It is a philosophy—no, we will not call by so endearing a name, that which contradicts directly the clear convictions of every heart, the experience of all ages, of the plain declarations of God himself. Let us rather speak of the foul conspiracy in terms more congenial to the blackness of the design.

It is that accursed engine of Hell, which has been put into operation with a view to batter down religion, law and government. It is a deadly exhalation from the corrupted mass of human depravity—a pestilence that walketh in darkness and destroyeth at noon-day. It is the most stupendous fabric of human pride. It is the Babel of sin, by which human nature aspires to Heaven, to a rank with Angels, and to immortal honor.

Are there no instances of principles like these exhibited in our Country? Is there not a great repugnance, in the minds of many men, to the exercise of those restraints, which, in better times, were thought necessary to curb the licentious passions of mankind? Time was when order was not essential to the well being of a school—when the idle lout and the surly cur were put under the restraint of rules—when rebellion in a school, like rebellion against all other kinds of government was thought a crime—when the insurgent, who persisted in his obstinacy, was thought to be treated with great gentleness and humanity if he were no more than ordered out of doors. And if he refused to accept so easy an accommodation, if he still persisted in his purpose of rebellion, if he declared his intention of maintaining his ground on the floor, in former times, the master would have been justified in using any degree of violence, which might be found necessary, in order to effect his expulsion. But what says the enlightened generation of the present day, when an overgrown mastiff, an idle lout, an impertinent booby, intentionally transgresses the orders of a school; not inconsiderately, but deliberately; not from a boyish propensity to play and mischief, but from a settled purpose of insult; not from any gratification there is to himself, simply in the act of that particular transgression, but with the avowed intention and design of putting the strength and courage of his master to the test. He does not seek to hide his guilt; no, but in the most public manner, at taverns and in retailer's shops, boasts of his folly and glories in his own shame—publishes at every corner and in every street his transgression of the regulations of his school—declares that his only motive is that of insult, that the desire of his soul is disturbance, and swears that the master shall be compelled either to surrender his authority, or submit himself to be kicked out of doors! Not willing, however, to venture himself alone, he joins to his band one or two confederates, who may afford him assistance should he himself prove unequal to the contest.

Behold now this banditti with malice at their hearts, guilt in their countenances, and insult in their demeanor, behold them entering into the school, an institution of our government and under the protection of its authority.

What may we now expect. On the one hand is the master, under the protecting arm of the civil law. He has been selected by the members of the district and put into that place for the purpose of teaching their children, and of forming their minds to habits of order and of virtue. He has established such rules and regulations, as, in his opinion, are best calculated to secure these important ends. On the other hand, is a low, mean, ignorant fellow—a disorderly villain—a paltry knave—a miscreant, who has trampled on the orders of the school, and now appears professedly for the purpose of disputing authority with his master and of kicking him out of doors.

Will the master, at this crisis, will he surrender his authority and expose himself to the contempt of his whole school. Will he, can he do this and be faithful to those, who have committed to him the sacred trust of educating their children, of inspecting their manners, and of forming their minds to habits of order & of virtue: Can he do this and be faithful to that government

which affords him protection—that government, which watches over schools with a truly parental care—that government, which by its laws has provided amply for their support— which regards these little seminaries as the nurseries of virtue, of order, of science and of good principles? Who would not despise a dog, yes, a dog, a brute animal, a dumb beast, which should thus cowardly abandon his trust.

No, it is the duty of the master at all times, more especially under such aggravated circumstances of insult, it is his duty, keenly to call the delinquent to an account for his offence.

What will the raggamuffin now reply?—He confesses the act of which he is accused, acknowledges he knew it to be a transgression of the orders of the school, declares he will not be disciplined for the offence, protests he will commit the same again, when and so often as he pleases, challenges the authority of his master and defies his utmost power.

Thus he adds insult to transgression, and contempt to injury. Every prospect of an easy accommodation being now at an end, after the most shameful violations of order, and the utmost insolence on the part of the offender, the master informs him, that by his impudence and outrageous conduct he has forfeited all right and title to the privileges of the school, that he is no longer a member of it, and orders him immediately to leave the house. The impudent rascal tells him positively he will not, and that he will take his own time to go and come. The master then, with the true spirit of a man, seizes him by the collar, in order to lead him to the door, when behold this bully, this renegade, this budget of slander, rushes upon him with his full strength. The master determined still to effect his purpose and in defence of his own person, which he now finds violently attached, proceeds to blows, not with his hand; no, who would think to beat off a surly mastiff by a box in the ear? But with a cane, staff, or the butt end of a whip, such as any man would use, when attacked by a curly-headed bull. With this he lays him over the head, arms, shoulders, back, in short, 'in almost every place we read of in the *Almanac*;' till the villain finding the house becoming too hot for him, feels disposed to seek the cool air abroad.

Now all this might well be expected of a beggarly, dirty scoundrel. But, be astonished Oh, Heavens! & blush, Oh, shame! when men, or at least beings in the shapes of men, not the abandoned and openly profane only, but even persons of sober deportment & of christian profession, without examination, without evidence, shall espouse the cause of this raggamuffin, shall attach themselves to his person, shall even add fuel to the flame of his passions, and, veiling their eyes to the truth, shall eagerly enter into the great work shop of falsehood and drive a heavy stroke at the trade of slander. Facts, well attested—facts authenticated by the evidence of the whole school they will flatly deny. At their tribunal the master is tried, found guilty, and condemned, silent and unheard! All the curses of heaven are called down upon his head, and because he would not suffer his orders to be trampled upon with impunity—because after offers of the most easy accommodation had been rejected—because then he proceeded to expel an insolent, refractory, insulting, and rebellious puppy from his school, and because in doing this and in defence of his own person, he was obliged to give him some sound

knocks, over his head, altho a single blow did not pursue him, after he ceased resistance—because of all this, they wish that the master had been trodden to the dust, that the offender had succeeded in his purpose—that he had thrashed the master to death there on the spot, and even that he had scattered his brains on the walls of the house!

The Devil himself never shew malice like this; the Devil himself is more of a gentleman; than such a man, the Devil himself would make a more comfortable neighbor.

And these are people who would wish to be considered persons of orderly lives and of sober conversation! Persons, who would be thought to be filled with that wisdom from above, which the Apostle describes as being, *peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, without hypocrisy*\* Yes, they pay tithes of mint, and anise, and cummin—constantly at church, with a long sanctified face, but no sooner are they dismissed from service, than you will see them in the Devil's jack-boots, kicking up a dust in the eyes of unprejudiced and uninformed persons, scattering wide the seeds of strife, fomenting discord, brooding over falshood, hatching cockatrice-eggs; and nursing a lie.

Thus it is, whenever a base and infamous action is committed, every man, whose heart is in league with sin, will declare on the side of the rascal. It is well known that one cur will sympathise with another, and you may as well attack the whole gang as to attack one.

The agitation of stagnant waters always gives forth a stench—many hedious substances and loathsome reptiles, which before lay concealed out of sight are now thrown up to view. Just so it is among men; when the peace and order of society become disturbed, then it is, that the troubles of the times cast up to the surface, that pollution and filth, which make society STINK.

But who are these people, who now set at helm and direct the storm? Are they persons who have been distinguished for the correctness of their judgments and the soundness of their understandings? Are they men to whom those in trouble look for help and assistance? Men, who in difficulty are applied to for counsel & advice? No; What then in the name of God, are they? Why they are spokes in Satan's chariot-wheels, which go round when he drives, and when he stops, they stand still; beings, who were never known to be active to any good, but in evil, quick and sagacious, so that the Devil himself cannot out do them.

It is a principle of civil liberty, that when one man is accused of another, he shall not be judged, till he and his accuser be had face to face; and then that every charge shall be supported by evidence, or it falls to the ground. And when in those difficulties, which sometimes occur between man and man, we see men attaching themselves to one side without any examination into the circumstances, or having any evidence of the facts; when we see this, the best we can say or think of such men is, that they are stupidly ignorant, or abominably vicious. Men of savage hearts, uncultivated minds, revengeful, malicious, devilish—wastful as a Pestilence, filthy as a Murrain, and more to be avoided than a Yellow-Fever.