

AN
ORATION,

DELIVERED AT AMENIA 4539

IN

~~Amenia~~ Union Society,

July 4, 1812,

TO AN ASSEMBLY OF

CITIZENS,

**MET TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH-DAY OF
OUR REPUBLIC.**

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BY JOHN BARNET, A. M.
Minister of said Society.

Published at the request of the Audience.

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1812.

TO THE PUBLIC.

AT a meeting of a number of respectable inhabitants of the town of **Amenia**, in **Union Society**, the subscribers were appointed to wait on the **Rev. JOHN BARNET**, and request a copy of his oration, delivered on the 4th day of **July**, 1812, for publication. It affords us much pleasure to find that all who heard it cordially join in the request. Our solicitations have been successful, and our request granted.

Mr. BARNET was a **Chaplain** in the **Revolutionary Army**, and received particular attention and respect from the **Commander in Chief**, the illustrious **WASHINGTON**. His services while there have been confessed. He was personally acquainted with many things which took place in the time of the war, which some of us only historically know. His discourse breathed such a spirit of union, patriotism, and gratitude to **God**, for his many providential protections; for success in the glorious struggle for liberty and independence; and for all blessings we have experienced, and do now enjoy, that, in our opinion, a perusal of it must excite those feelings, in some degree, in the breast of all who may read it.

We therefore recommend it to the impartial perusal of a generous public.

THOMAS HITCHCOCK, Jun.
WILLIAM YOUNG,
ISAAC OSBORN,
THOMAS BARLOW.

Amenia, July 3, 1812.

ORATION.

THROUGH the goodness of our great Creator and kind Preserver, we have lived to see another anniversary of the declaration of American Independence. We are assembled to celebrate the day, in memorial of that important political event. This declaration was made by Congress on the fourth of July, 1776. In order that it might be fresh in our minds, this day, it has been read. It is expressed in such language—such steadfastness, resolution and patriotism appear in it—it contains such a reliance upon the Supreme Being, such a solemn appeal to him for the justice of our cause—It being a transaction of so great importance, and so happy in its consequences—that it must, at this day, inspire every American with joy, who is not either very ignorant, or exceeding insensible and stupid.

The practice of observing anniversary days, in commemoration of important events, has prevailed much in the world. There is, undoubtedly, propriety in the practice, if those days are observed in a proper and becoming manner. To spend the time set apart for the commemoration of great and important events in profanity and excess, in reveling and riot, is not only unjustifiable, but an affront to Heaven, and exceedingly displeasing to Him who is in every place, beholding the evil and the good. This practice, it is believed, is warranted from Scripture. The Israelites celebrated their glorious deliverance from slavery in Egypt, and the destruction of their enemies on the bank

of the Red Sea. The deliverance granted to the Israelites, through the instrumentality of Deborah and Barak, was celebrated. Were it necessary, many other instances might be mentioned. They celebrated deliverances, were directed to bear them in mind, and hand them down to posterity. They were commanded to erect monuments in commemoration of these deliverances and events, the design of which was to be explained to their children. The Passover was instituted as a memorial. The Sacramental Supper attended upon by the Christian Church is a memorial: "This do," said the institutor of it, "in remembrance of me."

Great deliverances and events ought to be thankfully recognized by us, as well as by them. They ought also to be handed down to posterity by us, as well as by them. The reason of the thing operates alike in both cases. The declaration of independence is a transaction never to be forgotten by Americans; but ought ever to be commemorated by them, till empires, kingdoms and republics shall be known no more. A decent, orderly, and proper celebration, tends to cherish the remembrance of it—to cherish patriotic feelings—to unite us—to lead to a consideration of the greatness of our advantages and privileges, and the obligations we are under to make a wise improvement.

Discourses ought ever to be adapted to the occasion. A discourse may be elegantly composed, eloquently delivered, but yet not applicable to the occasion. It would be altogether improper for the speaker, on the present occasion, to deliver a polemical discourse upon the controverted points in divinity. The citizens have met, this day, pro-

fessedly for union; to celebrate, unitedly, the declaration of our independence. It would be exceedingly wrong for the speaker to deliver a discourse calculated to interrupt harmony and promote discord. On an occasion like the present, in my humble opinion, certain things ought ever to be brought up to the view of the audience, by the public speaker. There ought to be made a representation of the situation of our country, before and at the time of the declaration of independence; of the circumstances which led to the event, and those which led to an acknowledgement of it by other nations. A consideration of these things is indispensable, in order to a right observance of this anniversary day. Many who are now present were then unborn. Many who are now present were so young as to have but little political knowledge—but a feeble sense of the situation of the country, and of the importance of the transactions of that day. Those who were then knowing, and active, need to advert to the things mentioned, in order to refresh their memories, enliven the feelings of patriotism and gratitude, and prepare them for the business of the day.

While we are assembled to celebrate the birthday of our nation—while we are reaping many of the happy fruits of independence—while we are surrounded with innumerable blessings, temporal, political and spiritual—let our hearts glow with gratitude to the Giver of every good and perfect gift. We ought to rejoice in our separation from that nation who tyrannized over and cruelly oppressed us. We ought to congratulate one another on account of our escape from the iron yoke of ty-

ranny, and also on account of the privileges and blessings which we enjoy. Innumerable are our privileges, and countless our favours. Our country is a land of liberty, civil and religious. Our constitution and form of government are, perhaps, the best in the world. Our population has been rapid, and general prosperity (notwithstanding the evils we have suffered) has attended us, from the close of the revolutionary war. Heaven, indeed, may be said to have smiled upon our country, from its first settlement down to the present gloomy day.

The Supreme Governor of the Universe hath done great things for us, whereof we ought to be glad. We ought to rejoice in all our privileges and blessings, not with a selfish, but with a rational, serene, temperate and benevolent joy. When we consider all our privileges, our liberty and independency, and realize the goodness of God towards our country, we may with propriety adopt the language of Scripture, and say, *He hath not dealt so with any nation.* These words of the Psalmist have reference to the Jewish nation. They were highly favoured, and greatly privileged. They were separated from the surrounding nations, and chosen as a peculiar people. They were favoured with instructions and directions immediately from Heaven. When they were reduced to slavery in Egypt, and groaned under the most cruel bondage, their God granted them deliverance, and brought them forth with a mighty hand and outstretched arm. At the Red Sea a miraculous deliverance was experienced. They came to the sea in a valley, on each side of which was a mountain, with a garrison of troops. The sea was before them; the

Egyptians, determined on their destruction, were pressing on behind, and they seemed to be threatened with inevitable ruin. But the sea parted, and stood in walls on each side, to make a safe passage for the Israelites, while the proud tyrant, and his mighty host, were involved in ruin. They were safely conducted through the wilderness, and introduced into the possession of the Promised Land. What was said was literally true—God had not dealt so with any other nation. But since the commencement of the New-Testament dispensation, many nations have enjoyed greater advantages than the Jews. This is thought to be the case respecting America. Our country contains all which is most sacred and dear to man. The blessings of Heaven have been showered down upon it, and call for our remembrance and gratitude.

The divine dispensations respecting this country, from its first settlement, have been a series of remarkable events. Let us reflect upon the situation of our ancestors, when they first landed upon the American shore. Persecuted and oppressed in their native country, they fled to this, which was then a howling wilderness, inhabited by savage beasts, and the more savage natives in the shape of men. In the year 1620, they landed at Plymouth on the 25th of December. When we consider their situation—the unfavourable and inclement season of the year—their scantiness of provision—the many dangers to which they were exposed, and difficulties to be surmounted—we are compelled to acknowledge the extraordinary care and protection of Heaven. In this situation, to what could their preservation be owing, but to the

over-ruling providence of God? They were enabled to surmount difficulties and distresses almost innumerable. The rage of the natives was restrained, and they were kept from falling an easy prey to the savage tribes. The same care and kindness were continued; their population was rapid and prosperity general.

The rapidity of population, extent and fertility of our country, rendered it probable, if not certain, that at some future period it would of itself be sufficient to constitute a grand and independent nation. Sensible of this, the king and parliament of Great Britain viewed the Americans with the same jealous eye with which the Egyptian tyrant did the Israelites, and pursued not a very different plan to keep us in subjection. The Lord of Hosts frustrated the plans of the haughty, tyrannical monarch, and brought his people forth with a mighty hand.

In the beginning of the revolutionary contest, we made an appeal to the same Almighty Being for the justice of our cause, and experienced signal deliverance and protection. This ought, at that time, to have inspired us with gratitude, and confidence that he would still deliver, protect and establish our liberty and independence upon a permanent basis.

The time will not permit me to be very particular. I shall mention, in a very summary way, events which took place in the course of the war, and ought, this day, to be recollected by us with joy and gratitude to the God of armies.

Here, for a moment, let us reflect upon the amazing contrast in situation between America and

Britain. We were then a dependent colony, in an infantine state; destitute of experienced generals and a disciplined army; destitute of a navy, and in a great measure of arms, ammunition, and money to support an army. On the other part, Britain, for a long time, had been prosperous and victorious, both by sea and land. Her military fame had spread through the world, and her fleet rode mistress of the ocean. They had arrived to such a degree of haughtiness and self-dependence as to think themselves vastly superior to any nation on the globe. They had arrived to such a degree of self-importance, as to imagine that only the sound of the British name would awe every nation into peace and subjection. In this situation, what could inspire the Americans with courage to oppose the mighty power of Britain? All circumstances considered, our union was surprising, which prevailed almost instantaneously through this extensive country, inhabited by people of different manners and customs, and under different forms of civil government. This union continued and increased, notwithstanding the many attempts, by the enemies of liberty, to introduce discord and disunion. A martial spirit pervaded the country, and animated every friend of liberty. The progress of the enemy was slow and lingering, until we were considerably prepared to make a defence. When we consider these things, we ought to acknowledge the superintendency of a kind Providence, and be thankful to that being who hath the hearts of all in his hands, and is able to turn them as the rivers of water are turned; who is able to inspire the weak with courage, and to intimidate the mighty. A Gene-

ral was chosen to command our troops, whose character and military abilities are too well known to need a single encomium. We experienced the goodness of the God of armies in detecting the plots and disappointing the hopes of our enemies, and in granting us signal success. Incensed at their own disappointments, and our success, the British used the dishonourable weapons of cruelty and inhumanity to a very great degree.

In this situation, surrounded by fleets and armies, both British and mercenary, exposed to cruelty and threatened with destruction, our humble petitions being rejected and treated with contempt, self-preservation, which is the *First Law of Nature*, dictated the declaration of independence. The unreasonable and impolitic conduct of the British tended to break off our attachment to the nation, and introduce this important event. In the course of the war, many times, our affairs wore a very gloomy aspect; but soon success was granted, clouds were dispelled, and our prosperity brightened.

Many things must necessarily be omitted which ought to be remembered with joy and gratitude. It is important that we all should become acquainted with the history of the American war. Every family, whose circumstances will permit, ought to possess of a well-written history of it. I will call to remembrance that melancholy period, when the British, having obtained possession of the capital, and a considerable part of this state, and part of New-Jersey, directed their course for Philadelphia. The time of service of a considerable part of our troops had expired, and our army

was very small at that time. To all the friends of liberty, who had arrived at the age of understanding, this was a gloomy, melancholy day. To view the remainder of our army retreating in the front of the enemy—to see desolation and misery in their rear, was trying and distressing to every friend of liberty. An historical account of their cruelty and barbarity, of their insults and savage treatment of the aged and infirm, of their plunder of the defenceless, of the virgin's violated chastity, and of the compulsion of the friends of liberty to bow and submit to the standard of tyranny, gives us, at this day, but a faint idea of the horrid scenes.

Some of you will doubtless recollect an account which was published, of what took place after the British were gone, when General Washington was passing through the places where those barbarities had been committed. One part of the account I will mention. A large number of females met the General, in a body, to return thanks to him for his wisdom and exertions in delivering them from the power and savage abuse of their brutal and horrid foes. Their thanks, their tears, their representations, affected him to such a degree, that he who was undaunted in the field of battle, unmoved and intrepid when exposed to the greatest dangers, wept like a child! Many of you doubtless recollect our feelings, at this gloomy time, and the feelings of others, as they were manifested. Intoxicated with past success, and animated with the hope of soon defeating our army, they considered the subjugation of America as almost completed. But at this critical moment, through the smiles of Providence, the instrumentality of good general-

ship, and the bravery of our troops, we gained the important victories at Trenton and Princeton, which stopped their career, disappointed their hopes, and caused them to retire into quarters at Brunswick.

Here we may reflect upon the wisdom of God, who often humbles his people and brings them low, that when deliverance is granted his goodness may be more sensibly felt and gratefully acknowledged. Another gloomy period was just before that important victory gained over General Burgoyne. By the unexpected evacuation of Ticonderoga, a door seemed to be unlocked and opened, through which not only the British but the savage tribes would pour in upon us and effect our ruin. The British took possession of our fortress and stores, and prompted by success, pursued our troops with animation and vigour. But the triumphing of the wicked was short. Pride was soon to have a fall, and tyranny a check. Soon, to their utter astonishment and confusion, they found themselves stopped in their career, their expectations blasted, their retreat cut off, and their proud general, who had a little before ostentatiously offered royal protections, reduced to the disagreeable necessity of surrendering himself and his whole army prisoners of war. The capture of this army, in an open country, by troops of but little discipline, was exceedingly mortifying to the pride of the army, to the general, and to the nation. This victory was influential in producing another important event. Soon after it, an alliance was formed between America and France. Their fleet was sent to oppose the British and protect our coasts, and army to co-operate with ours in the

field, the advantage of which we experienced, in a most sensible manner.

We ought this day gratefully to recognize the goodness of God, in all interpositions of his Providence in our favour, but particularly in that of detecting the infernal conspiracy of Arnold, the traitor. I think it not to be profanity to call it infernal. From its horrid nature we may suppose that it originated among the infernals. According to Scripture, they work powerfully in the minds of the children of disobedience; and that Arnold was a child of this description we have ample proof. This plot was secret, deep laid, ripe for execution, but was detected in such a manner as clearly to manifest the overruling Providence of God. This all will acknowledge, who are not atheistical, who are acquainted with the plan of the conspiracy, and the circumstances of its detection. In this we ought to acknowledge the goodness of God, in preserving us from evils of which we were totally ignorant. Had it been carried into execution, the consequences would have been awful.

The capture of Lord Cornwallis and his army was another splendid victory and important event. Although he had been considerably successful in the southern states; although he ravaged, plundered, and spread desolation, cruelty and destruction wherever he went; although it was supposed at the British court that those parts were totally conquered; yet soon he found himself and army fatally hemmed in by the united forces of France and America, and obliged to capitulate. This was a fatal blow, and pretty much the finishing stroke of the war. In 1783 our army was disbanded. A

cruel and unnatural war, which had raged for several years, was brought to a close, and we blessed with an advantageous peace. That our independence was acknowledged, and a peace established, so honourable and advantageous to America, was owing to His goodness, whose Kingdom is over all, and who is perfectly able to abase the haughty and exalt the humble.

Innumerable are the blessings we have enjoyed since this happy event. Our liberty and independence, it is hoped, are established upon a permanent foundation. We are favoured with a constitution and form of government well adapted to secure liberty, with order and the equal rights of the people as citizens and men. Our population has been amazing: our country is extensive and fertile. Notwithstanding the checks and embarrassments with which we have met, we have increased in wealth and national importance. In the course of divine Providence men have been raised up eminently qualified to fill public stations, and to lead in our public affairs; men who have been firm friends to liberty, and firm friends to the rights of man. Innumerable are our advantages and privileges. Our advantages arising from mechanical arts, from commerce and agriculture, have been many and great. We have, for a number of years, enjoyed peace, while other nations have been experiencing the horrors of war. Our religious advantages are too many to be enumerated, at this time. We are favoured with Divine Revelation, and the means of grace. It is true that we have experienced many evils in consequence of the agitations and wars among other nations. Other na-

tion have interrupted our neutrality, and have not treated us with friendship and justice. Other nations have been jealous of America, particularly England and France. Each nation has been fearful of our favouring the other more than itself. This jealousy, it is thought, has been productive of many evils, and perhaps will be of more in time to come. But notwithstanding the evils we have experienced in consequence of the injustice of other nations, yet the advantages and privileges, blessings and favours we have enjoyed, and do still enjoy, are innumerable.

A gloom has been spread over all our affairs by political discord and party dissention. We, my friends, are under the highest obligations to be united, and to live as brethren. We ought unitedly to receive the blessings which God confers, and unitedly to improve them to the general good. It is hoped that the present crisis will tend to union. It is hoped that the inhabitants of our Republic will realize the truth and importance of that which we are taught in Scripture, viz. that *a house divided against itself cannot stand*. There are two things which excite my fears more than any thing else. The one is the thoughtlessness, stupidity, viciousness, of a very great part of the inhabitants of this land; their not appearing to feel their dependence upon God, and not appearing to look to him for his protection and blessing; their not learning righteousness when his judgments are abroad in the earth. The other is our divided state, our political dissentions and animosities. I must confess that I tremble at these things. Were we truly virtuous and firmly united, we need not fear. My

own feelings and wishes I will express in the following words :

May the arm which shall be lifted against the Liberty and Independence our country, be palsied or withered up, like Jeroboam's: May the tongue which shall knowingly and designedly speak against them cleave to the roof of the mouth of the speaker: May counsels (if any such there are, or shall be,) which are opposed to these object, be turned, like Ahithophel's, into foolishness, and fail of hurting: May laws (if any such there are, or shall be,) which are opposed to our Liberty and Independence, be frustrated, and fail of being carried into execution: May all parties be united, as one man, self-love be kept within proper bounds, by patriotism and love of country: May the inhabitants of our country unitedly and firmly oppose the inroads of tyranny from every quarter; unitedly defend our liberty, and hand it down to posterity: May America flourish as a Republic until the general dissolution shall take place, and the world and its works be burnt up! These are my wishes and desires, so help me God!

On this day of rejoicing let us, with thankful hearts, endeavour to realize the greatness of our advantages and privileges. Let us be patriotic and determined to defend our rights by every lawful exertion. Let us be determined never to submit, or become tributary to any other nation. Let this be our motto—"Millions for defence, but not one cent for tribute!" Let us be attached to our country, love liberty, and hate and oppose tyranny in every shape. Many things unite in inspiring an attachment to our country. The soil of it contains, as a sacred deposit, the ashes of our forefathers, the first settlers, and the ashes of many of

our kindred and friends. It holds in its cold bosom the remains of many heroes, both officers and soldiers, who fought, bled and died in the cause of liberty and independence. Their memory ought ever to be dear to us, and ever to be cherished by us. While we rejoice on account of our privileges, let us drop a tear to their memory, and mourn their melancholy fate. They laboured and we have entered into their labours. Struggling for independence they lost their lives, but we live to enjoy it. In our country, also, are the dearest charities of life which can possibly bind man to man. Our domestic connexions; our fertile soil; our Religion, which animates us with the noblest hopes and prospects; our laws, which secure to us our enjoyments—all strengthen the virtue of attachment to our country. Where is the American who would wish to exchange his country for any other spot on the globe? Hopes of gain may induce some to leave their country for a time, or for life. This, however, would be attended with reluctance, and the whole time with a melancholy remembrance of their country. Where is the American who would wish to become a subject of Britain, France, or any other nation? If any are destitute of attachment to their country, and wish for another, let them go. Such inhabitants we do not desire.

Let us rejoice in our prosperity, and be unfeignedly thankful to the Author of all good. Let us be virtuous and religious, for without religion all our blessings will, in the end, become curses. They will rise up in judgment and condemn us. Let us celebrate this day with social joy, decency and regularity. Let every species of irregularity and

excess be banished. Among the people assembled may there be no profane swearing, quarreling, excess, or extravagance of any kind. May all things be done with decency and order. Let us not affront Heaven by celebrating the day in a loose, vain and vicious manner. May the God of our fathers be our God and protector. May he build us up, and not pull us down; scatter light and not darkness in our paths. May he continue to us our rights and privileges inviolate to the latest generation. May he bless us in all our interests and concerns. May he bless us in our basket and in our store, in the labour of our hands and the fruit of our bodies. Let us express our desires in the words of the Psalmist; may he grant *“That our sons may be as plants, grown up in their youth: that our daughters may be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: That our graners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and tens of thousands in our streets: That our oxen may be strong to labour: that there be no breaking in nor going out: That there be no complaining in our streets. Happy,”* said he, *“is the people that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord.”* May He who sways the sceptre of the universe, govern and bring us into subjection to the laws of his kingdom; be a wall of fire round about us, a glory in the midst of us, and upon the glory create a defence. May he smile upon and protect America, until the time shall come when nature will be dissolved, this globe be lost in undistinguished ruin, and empires rise and fall no more.

A few words, by way of caution and advice,

will now close the discourse. The events of the last year (included between the two anniversaries) are made known, but the events of the year to come are unknown. Have we enjoyed health the year past? it is by no means certain that we shall enjoy the same blessing through the present. If we have heretofore been prosperous in our temporal concerns, it is not certain that our prosperity will continue. It is not probable that all who are now present will live to see another similar anniversary. But if we do, it is not known by us whether prosperity or adversity will be our lot. If our friends and near connexions have enjoyed health and prosperity the year past, for ought we know we shall soon follow some or all of them to the grave, the house appointed for all the living. This is a fluctuating, changing, disappointing world. Its enjoyments are uncertain as to their continuance, and unsatisfying while in possession. Are we now rich? we may soon be poor. Are we honoured and respected? we may soon be neglected and despised. Should some of those who now profess warm friendship for us, in the course of another year become our bitter enemies, it would be nothing new under the sun. It would be no more than what has often happened. Should our political rights in some way or other soon be lost, it would be nothing more than what has happened before. Should we soon lose our liberty, and be brought to feel the iron grasp of tyranny, it would be no more than what has happened to other nations, once free, powerful and wise. We must not boast of to-morrow, or presume on future prosperity, as individuals, or collectively in a national capacity. We know not what a day or a year may

bring forth. God ruleth in the kingdoms of men. Hesitteth up and pulleth down at pleasure. Clouds and darkness are round about him, although righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. It is as wrong for nations to boast and presume on future national prosperity, as for individuals. Nations are made up of individuals. No course which an individual can take will certainly insure him a continuance of life, health and prosperity. *“The race is not always gained by the swift, nor the battle by the strong, nor riches by men of skill; but time and chance happen to all men.”* Individuals and nations are entitled to blessings upon the footing of merit. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Should all temporal blessings be taken from individuals and nations, the throne of God would be pure, and his character unimpeachable. This world is not our home; it is not our rest and abiding place. The world and its works will come to an end. Let none think this to be too serious discourse for the present occasion. Had I believed that the design of the present meeting was to exclude seriousness and banish solemnity, I should not have consented to attend. We ought to rejoice with trembling. Let us endeavour to maintain a just view of this world and its enjoyments. Let us realize the uncertainty and unsatisfying nature of temporal things, and the necessity of an interest more durable and satisfying than this world is able to afford. While we rejoice on account of our temporal advantages and privileges, while we labour for the meat which perisheth, let us ultimately labour for that which will endure for ever. While we are patriotically endeavouring and seeking to promote the good of

our country, let us be ultimately and supremely seeking another and a better. In one point of view our country is as good as we need ; but in another, and more important point of view, we need a better. While we are diligently and faithfully endeavouring to promote our individual good, and the good of our country, let us ultimately and supremely seek another and a better country, even an heavenly. Let us be continually desiring to become subjects of that kingdom which will never be removed: let us supremely seek a city which has permanent foundations, whose builder and maker is God. For a number of years past things have been unfavourable and continually growing more and more gloomy. The present is a critical time, and the day is a day of gloom and darkness. Some powerful nations do not appear to be disposed to do us justice, but to injure, tyrannize over, and oppress us. They have trampled upon our neutrality, and spoliated our property upon the seas to a very great amount. We have suffered long, and at length war is declared against one of the nations. War is horrible, but it is to be preferred to subjugation and slavery. Every patriot will be in favour of it, if our liberties cannot be maintained without it. It is not certainly known, what the fate of our country will be : whether we shall be able to maintain our liberty and independency or not. It is, however, wrong to give way to despondency. Our exertions ought to be as great, as if we knew that by them we should certainly obtain success. We ought to be united. Every one, I think, who really loves his country, will endeavour, by all possible means, to promote union. A three-fold cord is not easily broken ; speaking after the manner

of men; union and patriotism, will do great things. Let us look at the Spaniards, and consider the importance of union and perseverance. But a little while ago, we all supposed that they must soon fail, and fall into the hands of the aggressing tyrant. At present, their prospects are much more favourable, and strong hopes are entertained that they will finally succeed in maintaining their liberty. Notwithstanding our exertions, we ought not to trust independently to ourselves, or an arm of flesh, but to him, who ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and sitteth up and pulleth down at pleasure. Our fathers trusted in him, and were delivered and protected. The interpositions of Providence have been remarkable in favour of our country from its first settlement, down to the present gloomy day. Notwithstanding the evils we have already experienced, and those we fear, the generality of the inhabitants of this land are stupid and thoughtless to an amazing degree. When God's judgments are abroad in the earth, the inhabitants ought to learn righteousness. We ought, as individuals, and as a nation, to be humble under providential favour, and to look to Almighty God, for his protection and blessing. Let us all pray fervently to him for the prosperity of our country, and for the conservation of our privileges. May we, and all the inhabitants of our Republic, mourn for individual and for national sins. Let us think on our way, and turn our feet unto the divine testimonies. Let us be humble, thankful and obedient. Let us confide in the divine perfection and government. Let us leave all our concerns in the hands of God, and by following his directions, prepare for the future world.