

AN

5th June
1805

ORATION,

DELIVERED AT BIDDEFORD,

ON THE

FOURTH OF JULY, 1805.

BY JOSEPH BARTLETT.

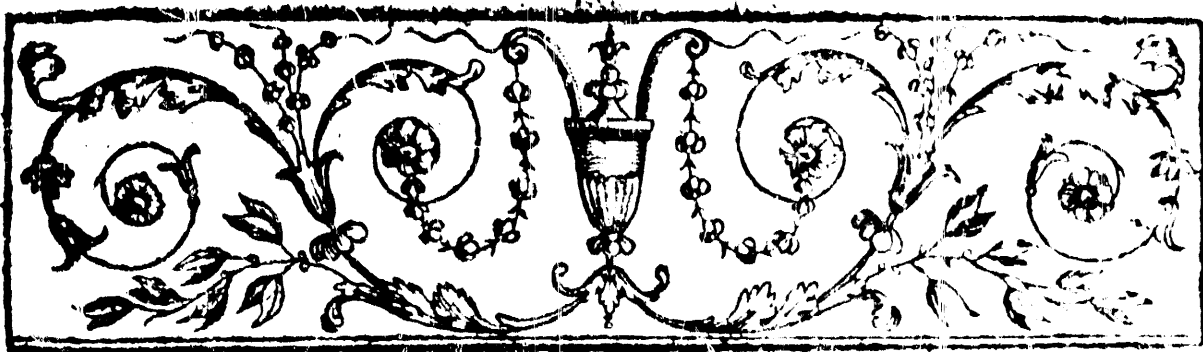
TO CORRECT—NOT TO WOUND.

SACO, (MAINE)

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1805



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AN

ORATION.

KINGDOM after Kingdom, Empire after Empire, Nation after Nation, under whatever form of government they have existed, have had their infancy, their youth, their manhood, and their old age—they have been alternately masters and slaves—at one period their navy whitens the ocean; their armies cover the earth, and pæans to their glory ascend to the skies—the curtain of fate drops on their greatness; they are whelmed in the ocean of time, and of all their grandeur, “not a wreck is left behind.” Where are their magnificent temples? where their costly palaces? where their victorious fleets? and where their numerous armies? buried in the grave of *destiny*; and that part of the globe which “once knew them, will know them no more forever.” The rise,

progress, and destruction of *other nations* will be a forcible lesson to *Americans*, to imitate those virtues which raised them to distinguished honor and glory, and to avoid those vices and measures, which accelerated and completed their ruin.

It is the glory and pride of Americans that they were born free ; that they inherited this blessing from their ancestors, and that by their manly, spirited, and unequalled exertions, are celebrating, on this day, the anniversary of their independence, from one part of the continent to the other. Let joy on this occasion be the *order* of the day. Let there be no *sullen brow*, no *aching heart*, no *party feelings*, no *illiberal invective*, to sour our social intercourse.—“Let us eat our bread with thankfulness, and drink our wine with a merry heart, and praise the **GOD** of our fathers.”

THE dark and gloomy prospects of the ever memorable 1775, will live, until time shall be no more, in the remembrance of Freemen: when England, “feeling power and forgetting right,” refused to her American subjects, those privileges, which as men they had a right to expect, as colonies, they could firmly and righteously demand. Our petitions were considered as meanness and cowardice ; our just complaints were ridiculed ; and our strength and opposition despised. These were times, which tried, and called into action, every slumbering faculty of the soul. The destructive weapon of royalty, was directed at the root of freedom. Principles, cankerous and deadly to Liberty, were speciously and industriously disseminated—Principles, which influenced the minds of the ignorant and the timid—Principles, which, in successful operation, stained the plains of Lexington, and deluged Charlestown’s heights in blood. At this eventful moment, when the horrors and

dreadful ravages of a civil war, threatened us on the one hand, when on the other, *slavery*, with ghastly malicious exultations, extended her chains—when our dearest rights and most sacred privileges were violated, by the hand of violence and lawless oppression ; when our cities were wrapped in flames, and the temples of the Most High were prophaned by the hireling troops of Britain, our wise men saw the star of liberty ! It was a light to their path, it rested on the banks of the Potomack : it guided them to the political saviour of our country, it directed them to WASHINGTON. Until the tide of time shall cease to roll : until “ the stars shall fade away, and the sun himself grow dim with age,” the virtues and greatness of WASHINGTON shall be remembered with gratitude by freemen. At this awful crisis when the body of the nation was sick, when despondence even to lethargy, when despair, even to madness, had seized our citizens, and a smile on the face, passed like the sunbeam on the ocean, which the next undulation of the wave effaces, one great, one collected and desperate effort was necessary ; the gordian knot was severed—the curtain which hid from our sight the temple of liberty was rent asunder—and the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE appeared, stamp’d with the *arms of freedom*. It was the charter of rational liberty, of equal rights and equal laws, to the United States of America. It was a partition wall, between us and the parent country ; it was a cloud of darkness to Great-Britain—it was a pillar of fire to America. The sentiments were written by the hand of a *master* ; by a *man*, so long as the pulsations of the heart beat, towards him they will throb with *gratitude* ; by a MAN, whom our country delights to honor, by JEFFERSON !

CAN it be necessary, fellow-citizens, to mention the names of those illustrious citizens and distinguished heroes, who laid the foundation of this extensive Republic, and cemented it with their blood? The voice of the orator has sounded their praises—the pen of the historian has recorded their worth—and the numbers of the poet have flowed *harmoniously*, to sing their glory; their tombs in future ages will be visited by the lisping infant and the hoary head; their sods have been watered by the tears of the virtuous and the brave, their graves will ever be surrounded by the affectionate sighs of grateful *Freemen*, to guard those flowers which spring around their dust from being seen by the eye, or plucked by the unhallowed hand of tyranny.

WHILE we this day, fellow-citizens, feel the happy consequences of the American Revolution, when we compare the honor, the importance, and the respectability of the United States, with the dependent Colonies of Great-Britain and of France, the contrast gives real dignity to the scene. AMERICANS, our independence cannot be maintained, except by a rigid adherence to the constitution, and to those laws, which are enacted to protect our persons and secure our property. Suffer me, fellow-citizens, to caution you against wishing or aiming for frequent alterations in our national constitution—it ought to be like the ark among the Israelites, never touched with unhallowed hands—it was formed by wise and skilful workmen, by *men* who extended their views to the habits, manners and situation of a great people, an extensive continent. They were men, who were calculated to restore to health and vigor our national debility: the corner stone was placed by a master workman, by a man great in our councils, valiant in the field. “How great glory gat he, when he did lift up his hands, and

stretched out his sword against the enemy." By a man who never *crept* into honors by the mistakes or passions of mankind ; who was ever elected to the first offices in the *Union* by the unsolicited suffrages of all orders, and of all ranks of our citizens.

You know the man, fair FREEDOM'S favorite son,
COLUMBIA'S boast, his name is WASHINGTON.

THIS Constitution is the parent of liberty, the patron of learning, the nurse of heroes, and the dominion of the laws. This constitution is founded on reason—a government of free and equal laws ; effectually secured, and ably defended, against arbitrary will or popular licentiousness, by the admirable texture of the governing powers, controled and controlling each other. In this government is centered the majesty of the people. Tis our duty, like Hannibal at the altar, to join our hands and swear, that we will defend this glorious confederacy, against every encroachment or violation, whether carried on by secret corruption, or open violence. We may congratulate ourselves, my fellow-citizens, that so well informed are the hardy intrepid sons of America, so lately sheathed their swords which have been made drunk with the blood of their slaughtered enemies, and so high a relish have they for the dear delights and advantages of peace and independence, that they will never tamely submit to be "hewers of wood, and drawers of water," to any *Prince, Power or Potentate* under heaven—this will ever be a barrier against tyranny and usurpation, was the constitution weakly guarded.

By the constitution of the United States, every man of virtue and abilities may be a candidate for office. The right of suffrage is the dearest privilege we possess, and on which all free gover

ments rest. A blessing so great, that it was purchased with much treasure, and the charter *guaranteed* to us by the blood of our earliest *revolutionary Patriots*, is wickedly violated by violent partizans at the present day. A few *unprincipled demagogues*, of both *political parties* of our country, think they have a right, which the citizens generally do not possess, to kill and make alive at pleasure. They send forth their mandates, like the edict of a Pope, and cursed is the man, who *dares* to disobey, *think or act* for himself. They consider the citizens like *mere machines*, like *puppets*, that they can make dance to any tune they play; like *clay* in the hands of the potter, whose votes they can fashion, to any mould they please; and if a citizen is hardy enough to assert his independence of mind, or right of action, he is denounced, and his ruin, without a miracle, cannot be prevented. How long, fellow-citizens, will you be deceived with the unmeaning pretensions of noisy partizans? Shall we any longer suffer a few ambitious, unprincipled men, to acquire an improper influence over our elections, in our towns, in our counties, and in our states? Recollect that we are all *free and equal*, and that unless we support the freedom of election in its original purity, this *palladium* of our religious and civil privileges will ere long be broken down, and the tree of liberty, which our fathers planted will wither, and no fruit in favor of *the rights of man*, will ripen on its branches.

THERE are Demagogues of *all nations*, of *all politics*, and of *all parties*; and they are as destructive to every blossom of liberty, as the locusts of Egypt were, to the vegetables of the field; or like the tree of Java, which blasts every thing beneath its shadow. They call themselves "*the friends of the people*"—yet they would

load them with "burthens grievous to be borne, but would not touch them with one of their fingers." They say "*all sovereignty rests in the people ;*" and yet, like the *revolutionary Despot* of Europe, are aiming at the imperial diadem. They talk of "*liberty and equality ;*" yet consider the citizens as *spokes* in the political ladder, by which they may mount to the first offices of government. They inflame the passions of the honest citizens by misrepresentation and direct falsehood, merely that they may rise by the destruction of others. Should these men be borne by the gale of popular applause to an exalted situation in our nation, we should be chastised with scorpions instead of whips, "and the people would mourn because the wicked bear rule."

"Measures, not men," is a sentiment that ought to be *execrated* in all free elective governments. Great God! is virtue and vice synonymous terms? Has the nature and disposition of man changed? Can we expect to gather roses from thorns, or figs from thistles? Can a fountain send forth sweet waters and bitter? When these things take place, then it will be proper only to enquire, to what party does the candidate for office belong? If he will vote *right*, he must be elected, although his soul is formed for treason, murder, stratagems and spoils. "Woe to that nation whose king is a child"—dreadful is the situation of that people, that are so unfortunate to be ruled by men, who neither "fear God, or regard man."

A FEW violent and intemperate of the two great leading political parties of our country, may be considered as a scourge to any nation. The ONE wishes for crowns, mitres and diadems—and foolishly imagine, no heads are worthy to wear them except their own.

The OTHER wishes for the destruction of all governments, hoping during the reign of chaos, anarchy and confusion, they may be able to fill their coffers with treasure, and, like the fortunate *Corsican*, rise to the head of a great Nation—fortunate for our country, we have few of this description ; and when they are discovered, there is good sense and virtue sufficient in the people to reduce them to their primitive nothingness. As all legitimate sovereignty originates from the people, they should be careful, to select wise and good men to preside over them. The citizens of our country will ever do right, if they take time to examine, and judge for themselves.

OUR government is the only republican form on earth—let those, therefore, be elected to rule, who will administer it, in its native purity and simplicity—“ God judgeth the heart,” we, fellow citizens, can only determine from the actions of men. Is that man a REAL REPUBLICAN, who lacerates the bodies of his fellow men ? who acts the tyrant on his own demesnes ? who keeps in perpetual bondage the human race ? and who scarcely suffers them to breath the same air with their *lordly* master : this man, is cloathed in purple and fine linen, faring sumptuously every day, yet scarcely permits his miserable vassals to eat the crumbs which fall from their master’s table—let such a man, be as loud, and as boisterous as he may, in favor of *liberty*, and the *equal rights of man* ; who would give credence to his professions, when his actions are at variance with his words ? “ By their fruit you shall know them.” Is that man a republican, who harrangues in the corners of the streets, in favor of liberty and equality ? who is a Despot in his family, and a Tyrant in sentiment ? Is that man a republican, who

tells the citizens they are oppressed, taxes are too high, and their yoke heavy to be borne, who never had a *tear* for the *miserable*, or a *farthing* for the *distrest*? Your own feelings will give you the answer.

AN attachment to liberty and the love of country, are inseperable from a *real republican*; it “ grows with his growth, and strengthens with his strength.” He views all mankind as his brothers, and the whole human race as belonging to one common family—and was his purse as deep as his sympathy, he would supply all their real wants, and wipe away every tear wrung by misery. He courts no applause but that of his God; he asks no honor or office, except the praise-worthy one of serving his fellow men—he talks of liberty as a blessing which diffuses happiness on all, as an emanation from Heaven; as a principle breathed into the soul by God himself—he supports that government, which has in view the equal rights of men, whose aim it is, to *administer* distributive justice to all—if his country demands his services, he has his reward by obeying their commands, and when he retires from public life, he has the blessings of all the good, the wise, and the just, “ with all his blushing honors thick about him.”

THE UNION of the Federal Association must be preserved; a dissolution of the federal compact, must be deprecated by every man who loves his country. Should a dismemberment between the Southern and Eastern States arise, we should soon resemble the antient republics, which now lie buried in ruin: civil wars, for *conquest*, not for *right*, with all their horrors and devastations, would desolate our common country—who can say to the tide of the ocean, “ hitherto shalt thou come and no farther?”

It is a disgrace, fellow-citizens, to our country, to hear the terms *British influence* or *French influence* in our streets ; we are Americans—we acknowledge no sovereign but our God—we are in subordination to no power on earth, except the constitution and the laws of our country. “What nation on earth is equal to this people ?” No haughty Despot, no sceptered Blockhead shakes his iron scourge over this happy land—no pampered Prelate lords it over our consciences—no bloody Inquisition, racks or fires, deprive us of the free enjoyment of our civil and religious right. The tree of liberty which our fathers have planted, grows and flourishes, forms a refreshing shade ; under whose branches the citizens of our country, are allowed to repose, without any son of violence, “to make them afraid.”

THE liberty of the Press, must be held sacred in all free governments, to check its *licentiousness* will destroy its *freedom*—public opinion will do more than any law of our government. The papers of our country at the present day, are not sources of information to our citizens ; they are too frequently filled with low invective against some of the first characters in our country. Private slander never ought to disgrace the columns of a paper *devoted* to the rights and interests of the people ; the robes of office have been held forth to public view, at which every envenomed assassin has thought fit to shoot his poisoned arrows. “He who steals my purse, steals trash—’twas mine, ’tis his, and has been slave to thousands, but he who filches from me my good name, robs me of that which nought enriches him, yet makes me poor indeed.”

THE existence of our free and independent government, greatly depends on the encouragement of the MILITIA of our country ; in war they saved our nation—in peace they secure us from civil

discord—they guard us against foreign invasion—they keep from our land that scourge of civilization, that curse of Liberty, a permanent Military Establishment, which have, and ever will, wherever maintained, annihilate every free government. The cultivation of the arts of war, are essential to secure the blessings of Peace. A fortress well defended is seldom attacked—weakness exposes to insult—strength repels violence—the sword is seldom aimed, the bow seldom bent, or the cannon directed, against those who are prepared to meet the point, the arrow, or the ball.

AGRICULTURE is the most ancient and honorable of all the arts, who will despise a profession which feeds the human race? It is the most certain resource of wealth to a nation—it is the most sure path to independent competence, and uninterrupted happiness. God himself planted the garden of Eden, and in a state of innocence he placed man. Government should ever guard against those taxes, the burthens of which fall almost exclusively on the cultivators of the soil. Agriculture was the beloved employment of the Consuls and Dictators of imperial Rome—it was the favorite amusement of the first President of the Union, as the cultivated heights of Vernon will witness. Will you permit me, fellow-citizens, to observe, that too little attention is paid in this part of the State, to the cultivation of our farms—this ancient and honorable art, is scarcely known except by name. A rich and luxuriant soil, which with your aid, would bring forth abundantly for the use of man, is suffered to lie in its natural state, on which grow the thistle and the thorn—being industrious, you will ever find an excellent market for the produce of your farms, and only those drones in creation's hive, who deserve to be wiped from the page of existence, will ever say "what shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or

wherewithal shall we be cloathed ?” Happy yeomanry of Massachusetts, no rapacious landlords have claims on your industry—no *task-masters* can wrest from you the hard earning of your farms—you are the only lords of the soil. See, agriculture ever beautiful to our view, invites you to the field—cultivated by you, the fields will be yellow with harvest, and the orchards loaded with fruit—in those places, where formerly sprang the thorn and the nettle, now shall grow the *rose* and the *lilly*—“the mountains shall rejoice and be glad, the little hills shall clap their hands with delight.”

OUR government is the supporter and encourager of Commerce. I wish to see commerce whiten our seas, and the ocean groan with the weight of the American shipping. Commerce causes a free circulation of money—strengthens the bonds of civil society—distributes the gifts of nature to all the world—finds work for the poor—multiplies the number of the rich—brings into our country whatever is wanting, and carries out whatever is superfluous—it makes a country flourishing and prosperous—and it is the duty of the HEAD of any nation, if he wishes its prosperity, to exert himself in favor of so substantial a blessing to the country. Under the protection of government, our ships will in future ride safe in every quarter of the globe, and meet with a friendly reception from every nation, in every clime, and our victorious stripes wave triumphant, in sight of the once terrible, now passive flag of Britain.

To support our Republican Government in its real simplicity, the mechanic arts must be encouraged. This will increase our exports and lessen our imports, and our streets would no longer shine with the party-colored manufactures of foreign climes. To produce more effec-

tually the happy effects arising from our own manufactures, the example of Females, will *ever* deservedly have a happy effect on society. "Nature when unadorned, is adorned the most." Expensive decorations can never make that agreeable, that was once *deformed*, or make a form more *lovely* that was always charming.

OUR national prosperity, my friends, since the adoption of the federal constitution, has been unequalled by any nation under heaven—we have risen from poverty to affluence—from the feeble efforts of the old CONFEDERATION, to the muscular strength of the united FEDERAL ASSOCIATION. Our national character is respected in every European court, and we possess peace and happiness at home—where's the Ingrate, who wishes for an exchange of our happy republican government? if there is any such, let him be expelled from our flourishing shores, take refuge in some other clime more congenial to his nature, where if he is not blasted by the pestiferous breath of oppression, he will languish for the peace and happiness from which he was justly driven.

HAPPY—thrice happy Americans! you on this day experience the reward of the blood which has been shed—of the treasure expended, and of the toils endured. Nature, the beneficent liberal parent, has with a generous profuseness, distributed her favors on this part of the world—fertility of soil, temperature of climate, and large extensive navigable rivers.—America, when contrasted with the other quarters of the earth, is like Benjamin in the House of the Egyptian lord, whose portion was five times as much as his brethren. Let us all my friends and fellow citizens, unite in preserving those advantages which we possess, those blessings which have so copiously flowed from our Independence, and the constitu-

tion and government under which we live : may we never forget the arts of war, or the social habits of peace, and ever be subservient to the laws of the land—let us banish luxury from our boards, and cultivate economy and industry within our houses—sloth and poverty ever meet together ; industry and affluence embrace each other.

ALTHOUGH Europe be deluged with blood, and each man's sword is unsheathed against his brother—America shall remain in peace and happiness, though the European world is left a prey to all the horrors of infuriate man, who have unfurled the standard of civil discord in the bosom of their country, converting happiness to misery—spreading on every side destruction and despair—Americans shall possess those rich blessings which peace, rational liberty, and a good government can bestow : and the United States, be an asylum for the *persecuted*, the *oppressed*, and *enslaved*. *Astonished Nations, shall wonder, gaze, and admire, that Constitution, those EQUAL RIGHTS, and EQUAL LAWS, from which America has realized a POLITICAL MILLENNIUM.*

F I N I S.