

# ADDRESS,

DELIVERED

ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, 1801,

BEFORE THE

**Franklin Typographical Association**

OF NEW-YORK,

AND A SELECT COMPANY.



BY JOHN CLOUGH.



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*Published by request of the Association.*

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NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY GEORGE P. HOPKINS,  
WASHINGTON'S HEAD.

*At a special Meeting of the Franklin Typo-  
graphical Association of New-York,*

*July 6th, 1801,*

RESOLVED,

THAT the Vice-President present the Thanks of this ASSOCIATION to Mr. CLOUGH, for preparing and delivering an ADDRESS, in Commemoration of the twenty-sixth Anniversary of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, and likewise request a Copy for Publication.

*(Copy)*

G. BRUCE, *Secretary.*

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# ADDRESS.

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Friends ! Brothers !

**T**WELVE months have now elapsed, since this ASSOCIATION convened, to commemorate the twenty-fifth Anniversary of our Country's Independence. You were then addressed by a worthy Member of this Society\*—a Man, whose literary talent has ever claimed your commendation.

THE honor of addressing you on this occasion, was by me unsought for :—Conscious of my inability, I almost shrink from the responsibility of the undertaking—Yet, relying on your candor, permit me, whilst I acknowledge your respectful compliment, to solicit your attention and indulgence, while I endeavor to discharge the duty you have been pleased to assign me.

ON this auspicious Day, throughout our far-spreading empire, the heart of every *good* American beats high with rapture, in commemoration of that eventful period, which *gave Liberty to our*

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\* Mr. Henry Gird, jun.

*now happy Country, and freed us from the shackles of European Tyranny.*

THROUGHOUT our spacious city, what multitudes are assembled on this joyful occasion!—from the hoary Veteran, who nobly risked his life in defence of our Rights, to the Youth who stands ever ready to avenge his Country's wrongs, all reciprocating each other's joys; and, while the soul, enraptured, views the scene, the bliss is heightened by the smiles of the virtuous Fair.

AND yet, experience teaches us, that there is no happiness without alloy. Amid the full-tide of conviviality, while our hearts are elated by every pleasing hope, and our countenances evidence the satisfaction of our minds, there is a subject, which, if we again contemplate, will awaken our warmest susceptibility, and call forth every emotion of sympathetic grief—*Washington!* the commander of our armies, the father of our country, our friend, our beneficent friend, has long since been numbered with the silent dead.

IN remembrance of his virtuous and patriotic services, let us indulge the tear of filial gratitude. He was the founder of our Republic—our defence in war, and our guide in peace.

WHEN proud oppression, with gigantic force, reared its hideous front, and threatened the exter-

mination of every social blessing—when an usurping power, skilled in all the arts of war, levied its thunders against our dearest rights, WASHINGTON, the illustrious WASHINGTON, was our champion. At that awful crisis, obedient to his country's wish, he assumed the command of its armies—Under his banner have our fathers fought, under his guidance achieved those inestimable privileges, which we, their offspring, so dearly prize.

To pourtray, with justice, the character of our departed hero, were a task for the most glowing pencil—Hundreds, eminently skilled in the paths of literature, have attempted a delineation of his achievements and his virtues—but found language too futile. How inadequate, then, to a theme so dignified, are my poor conceptions. If we retrospect, where shall we find such pre-eminent excellence? where such an assemblage of virtues concentrated in an individual character? All parts of his conduct were consistent, and connected with one general principle; they all cooperated to one final event—*The establishment of the Liberties of his Country.* His disinterested patriotism and valor have excited the admiration of the world!

Is it enough to say, WASHINGTON deserved well *only* of his country? O no! It were to detract from his merit. Our much lamented chief was the benefactor of *universal society*—And I may

venture to pronounce, that were mankind to im-  
bibe and practise the example he has left them,  
“Vice in its high career would stand appall’d,  
and heedless rambling impulse learn to think.”  
Virtue would soar pre-eminent, and the hearts of  
millions become the possessors of its benign in-  
fluence.

SELF-INTEREST was never the actuating princi-  
ple of our departed hero: ambition could never  
find sanctuary in his soul. Possessing the best  
conceptions of rational liberty, and a hatred to  
those measures which stimulated the conduct of  
the enemies of his country, he nobly risked his  
life in its emancipation. Vicissitude and danger  
were ever his attendants; yet his fortitude, his  
heroic fortitude, was still their superior.

Ask the chieftains, the co-partners of his mili-  
tary career, of his valor and his magnanimity!  
Ask of them the motive for the disinterested  
patriotism of their leader! Ask them why, when  
imminent danger awaited their gallant chief—  
when the invading foe, with treble numbers,  
threatened the destruction of his worn-down  
ranks, why, at a moment so big with disastrous  
fate, he did not shrink from a sense of duty, and  
abandon the unequal contest?

WHAT will they reply? Will they tell you, that  
the conduct of WASHINGTON was ever reprehens-  
ible?—If they advert to his valor and to his pru-

dence, will they not say, that the *former* was ever subservient to the *latter*? That, amidst the greatest danger, he was self-collected?—That, “when combating superior and gallant men, aided by powerful fleets, and led by chiefs high in the roll of fame, he stood the bulwark of his country’s safety, undismayed by disaster, unchanged by change of fortune.”

THE establishment of our Independence, he sought with ardor; “he fought and conquered.”

AFTER the great events of the Revolution were happily terminated in favor of his country, our beloved Commander retired to the peaceful shades of Mount Vernon. View him, then, in the enjoyment of domestic tranquillity—possessing “a tear for pity, and a hand open as day to melting charity.” The needy ever found a cheerful welcome to his bounty.

AMERICANS! While you mourn the loss of your departed Hero, do not your bosoms glow with transport, from the recollection that the best and most beloved of men, was your countryman?—Yes, WASHINGTON was an American!—Future generations will revere his inestimable worth, and his memory will live until

“THE cloud-cap’d towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
 “The solemn temples, the great globe itself,  
 “Yea, all that it inhabit, shall *dissolve*;  
 “And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,  
 “Leave not a *rack* behind.”

THIS small tribute to departed virtue, it were meet we now close, and advert to what may more nearly concern our institution.

WHILE afflicted Europe mourns the calamities ever attendant on enthusiastic warfare; while her manufactories no longer afford the bread of comfort to her once industrious manufacturers; while the temple of Janus is kept open, and oppression is the consequence; America, happily exempt from such misfortunes, enjoys an enviable share of national happiness.

THE wisdom of our Legislators, has insured us the blessings of *Peace*. Commerce expands its sails, and the treasures of either India are wafted to our shores. Nature, all bountiful, smiles on the labor of the husbandman, and richly repays his anxious toil. *Our* manufactures are encouraged, and the industrious of all ranks receive an equivalent for their industry.

THE Arts and Sciences receive the patronage of the good and virtuous. Among the former, ranks high the Art of Printing—An Art, the adoption of which has, in some degree, banished baleful superstition from the world, and in its stead reason and philosophy have found sanctuary in the mind of man.

THE productions of the Press open a wide field to the contemplative mind. From an investiga-



tion of the philosophical researches of the great *Newton*, what new ideas burst upon the imagination—What an intellectual feast is afforded, from the sublime effusions of a *Milton*, a *Shakespeare*, and an *Addison*.

As votaries, then, to an Art which is the parent of every other, let us endeavor rightly to appreciate the advantages which may accrue to us as a Society, established, not for the purpose of demanding an extortionate salary for our labor, but with *general philanthropic views*—*For the promotion of harmony among ourselves, and the relieving of our fellow members, when sick, or otherwise distressed.*

SOME of the misfortunes incident to human life, most of us, perhaps, have witnessed, if not experienced. There is no situation, however highly estimated, that is perfectly exempt from the vicissitudes of fortune. And there are periods in the life of every individual, when the assistance of his fellow being would be deemed acceptable.

FROM these considerations, we are led to conclude, that our Society will prove beneficial in its effects—for it embraces for its object, the interest of its members in general.

I FELICITATE myself in being able to assert, that several persons who have recently joined this Association, have reaped advantages from it.

OUR determinate endeavor, to use all our influence to procure a situation for a fellow member who may be unemployed, in preference to another person, may, by some, be deemed arbitrary. If such should be the case, we refer them for a precedent to other institutions—The order of Masonry in particular, where a brother is strictly enjoined to assist his fellow brother, who may, by unforeseen and unavoidable misfortunes, be rendered destitute, or in any wise distressed.

WHEN this Society was in its infancy, our employers (at least many of them) concluded that it was established for the sole purpose of demanding a greater emolument for our labor; and conceiving that their payments were a sufficient compensation for our attention, they refused to give it their sanction—But from our proceedings, they must feel convinced, that we have very different motives; that our intention is, to be guided, not by precipitate inconsideration, but by reasonable procedure.

THE Art of Printing in this city, has risen to a state of perfection hitherto unprecedented—The productions of a *Collins*, an *Oram*, a *Swords*, a *Hopkins*, and others, evince the truth of the assertion.

I CONGRATULATE myself, that, while the *employers* are using every endeavor toward the ad-

vancement of the Typographic Art, the *employed* are not less anxious for its promotion. While we endeavor to prove, by assiduous attention to business, that we are actuated by motives of *mutual* benefit, we shall ever receive the commendation of discerning men.

WHEN a collective body is about to be formed, such laws and regulations as will tend most to its advancement, should be adopted; and such a line of conduct pursued, as will, ultimately, prove beneficial.

OUR *Constitution* points out our mode of procedure—By its dictates we should endeavor implicitly to abide. Of late much satisfaction has pervaded this Society; and that punctual attendance to the business of the Institution, evinced by its members, is a happy presage, and warrants the expectation which I fondly cherish—That a continuation of the same energetic proceedings which we have hitherto witnessed, will, in the end, establish our Society on a respectable footing.

MANY of our employers of this city, have associated themselves for the purpose of printing such books as will be of the greatest utility to seminaries of learning; and, indeed, meritorious productions of every kind:—Hoping thereby to prevent, in some degree, the vast importation of

European books. Such information must necessarily be pleasing to every member of this Society ; and from it we may draw a favorable conclusion.

THE article of Paper, in Europe, has taken a rise, during the last year, of 25 per cent.—consequently, the value of books of every kind, will be enhanced in an equal ratio.

TOWARD the further encouragement, then, of the Typographic Art, much, I conceive, depends on our own exertions—Let us become rivals to each other in the performance of our respective duty—Let us be emulous to obtain the respect of those by whom we are encouraged—Let the general tenor of our conduct evidence the purity of our intentions, and our Society will be respected.

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AT the conclusion of the Address, the Company sat down to an elegant entertainment, prepared by Mr. Becanon ; at the close of which, the following TOASTS were drank :

1. The 26th Anniversary of American Independence—May the principles which gave rise to its celebration, be kept alive in the breast of every American.

2. WASHINGTON——

A Hero, form'd on nature's noblest plan,  
Brave, as a Soldier—Virtuous, as a Man.

While we embalm his memory with tears of sensibility and gratitude, such as his glorious achievements demand, let us feel happy and proud, that he was an American; and, in that character, banished tyranny from his native soil. (3 cheers.)

3. The Constitution of the United States—May those whose duty it is to disseminate its principles, never give the people a *bad impression* of its merits, by going *too far in the pull* for unbounded liberty. (3 cheers.)

4. The Executive of the United States—May those *characters* that *compose* it, faithfully fill their *offices*, and our constitution stand *proof* against the *squabbles* of party. (6 cheers.)

5. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, the pride of our profession——

His *heap* is *off*—his *balls* are *dry*,  
His *press* is *stript*—his *form* in *pye*;  
His *cuse* within the *rack* is plac'd,  
His *gulley's* *warp'd*—his *frame* *unbrac'd*;  
Yet shall the *work* he left behind,  
*Impress* his worth on every mind;  
While each his honor'd Image bears,  
Grav'd on the *Badge* his bosom wears,  
Shall cry, and press it to his heart,  
Behold, "THE PATRON OF OUR ART!" (9 cheers.)

6. Our Fraternity—May it never be disgraced by one whose *mackling* tongue would give *double impressions*, or cast a *stir* upon an absent member.

7. Our brethren of the Art throughout the universe—May their hearts ever *beat* with benevolent sympathy at a *token* of distress.

8. The Printers and Booksellers' Association of New-York—May their well-meant and laud-

able exertions to prevent the vast importation of European books, meet with complete success. (9 cheers.)

9. Our fleet in the Mediterranean—May they, though of a *nonpareil* size, teach the Barbary Powers, that they have a large *font* of *cannon* in store, with which, by *well-distributed balls*, they will maintain our Independence against the “squally looks” of those faithless marauders.— (16 cheers.)

10. Agriculture, the nursery of health and plenty, the mother of arts, and the fountain of national happiness.

11. Peace—May the calamities of war which we witness at a distance with horror, teach us the value of this lovely fugitive, who flies to America for her last refuge. (9 cheers.)

12. The Art of Printing—While we congratulate each other in the profession of an art which has been so essentially instrumental in promoting the Independence of our Country, may our conduct, in conforming to the *rules* of virtue and decorum, *justify* the professions which we make as a society. (9 cheers.)

13. “The Press—May it be free as air, beneficial as light, and as congenial to Liberty, as sunbeams to vegetation.”

14. The memory of those Heroes who fell in defence of our Independence. (Silent applause.)

15. Our fellow-citizens throughout the United States, who are assembled to celebrate this auspicious day.

16. The FAIR, unsullied *sheet* of innocence and beauty—May it be our ambition to give it a most elegant *impression*, that it may be *clear* from the *picks* of calumny, the *monks* of infamy, and the disgusting lightness of a *friar*. (16 cheers.)