



D'OYLEY'S
ORATION.

1803.

AN
ORATION,

DELIVERED IN
ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
BEFORE THE INHABITANTS OF
CHARLESTON, SOUTH-CAROLINA,

ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, 1803 ;

IN COMEMORATION OF
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE :

By DANIEL D'OYLEY,

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United States,

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AN ORATION, &c.

IT must be evident to you, Fellow Citizens, that my acceptance of this honorable appointment, is in obedience to the requests, and at the solicitations of those of my brother Soldiers, who remain to brighten the ardent affection, that bound us together in our revolutionary struggles; and *not* from a consideration, that I could illustrate this glorious subject, so often and elegantly displayed by Orators, to whom the advantages of liberal education had given powers to celebrate the anniversary of our Independence, in classic language and with glowing eloquence. Although I have often with fear reviewed this task, and sincerely wished that the Gentlemen to whom it had been assigned, would, with their handsome talents and acknowledged abilities, have this day charm-
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ed this most respectable audience ; yet however awful the duty, and solemn the depression on my feelings, the known candor and liberality of my fellow-citizens on all occasions, and more especially shewn towards those, who like myself, must claim a large portion of their kindness, have encouraged the attempt—an attempt, fellow-citizens, in which fully to succeed, requires the most improved knowledge and persuasive faculties, and not suddenly to be expected from one, who was early deprived, by the troubles of his country, from attaining any literary qualifications.

Buoyed by the hope of your indulgence, I will summon my fortitude ; and try, briefly to tell, the cause, the progress, and the grand effect of the illustrious day which we have convened to commemorate.

The glorious termination of the French War, left Great Britain, in 1763, without a rival, in active possession of all her vast energies, and in the full stretch of her high and extensive powers : It was not surprising, thus situated, that

that what she wished she would command; but it was astonishing, that she should wish to introduce such regulations into her Colonies, as rendered them dissatisfied with her proceedings, for no other purpose than to obtain, in a direct manner, an increase of a large Revenue, which was accumulating daily in her coffers, by indirect taxation; and for her rashly to persist in assailing the shadow, when the substance was already in her embrace, was unwise; towards us, unnatural.

The force she relied on to bend our Will, induced the manner in which she attempted to thrust upon us her intemperate dispositions, and that manner offended the feelings of every man, who thereby perceived the constitutional and legal rights of a British subject, invaded; aggression succeeded aggression, until violence in the Boston massacre appeared, and the cruel spirit shewn on that occasion, never ceased to be exhibited in unremitting acts of persecution on the part of Great Britain, while the patient Colonists bore those ills without resentment and in the
attitude

attitude of fond children continued their supplications to her for relief.

Deaf to the voice of affection, and regardless of every event, but such as were to stamp indelible ignominy on us and our posterity, and fix indisputably an authority in the British Parliament, to dispose of our inestimable rights and hard earned property without our consent, in the perverseness of her haughtiness she repeated her oppressions— notwithstanding our faithful and dutiful entreaties and contrary to our sincerest wishes— until America's Sons were reduced to decide the important question, whether, slavery and contempt, were to be preferred to freedom and danger. For the measures of her tyrannical minions had welded them together, united every heart and fortified every hand; a coincidence of circumstances had warned them that this might be the result, from the imperious stubbornness to compel their obedience and from their inflexible firmness not meanly to yield what they prized more than life—this had induced

induced some patriotic measures, more to rouse their holy love of liberty, than to cause a vibration in their allegiance to their Sovereign.

But when a restoration of their rights, from the source to which they had appealed, became unattainable, and armies arrived to rivet their chains, they unsheathed their swords with a determination to procure redress, or to perish : Even then professing themselves, willing to lay down their arms, and return to the peaceable condition of subjects to the crown, whenever the honest terms which they required, should be confirmed : For their attachment was as strong to the government, as their fidelity to their principles was immoveable

Though invaded by a considerable military force ; their charters virtually rescinded, and acts of Parliament passed for the express purpose of severely punishing them : Yet they forbore from every thing like hostilities, and from their public bodies and private assemblies, and individual communications, but one sentiment flowed, and that

that was for the Crown to patronize their allegiance and establish their rights. Was ever the loyal adherence of Men, conspicuous in the practices of Christian virtues, more forcibly displayed? When they knew that the Crown of England had resolved to deprive them of their most precious blessings; to bind them in passive obedience to all its slavish purposes, and had actually lodged an army to reduce them to submission, or ravage their country—they still remained dutiful; and in filial, but dignified language, repeatedly solicited a kind attention to their remonstrances, against the impolitic and rash determinations of their mother country.

Siung, at length, by the grievous insults thrown on their humble petitions, and beholding the prospect of war or slavery—with that firmness of mind, and consciousness of soul attending the dictates of justice, they appealed to Heaven and to their arms to shield and protect them from the miseries prepared, by any impious and unfeeling parent. In this holy
 appeal

appeal Heaven listened to them ; for without the means of providing for a single campaign, or resources to conduct an individual enterprize, she gave them confidence in their cause and nourished them with hope.

Many were the men who believed that the contest would be short—who had seen Great Britain recede from her former rash acts, and who conceived it impossible that the sacred ties of affection and the bonds of great and reciprocal interests would be rent asunder from motives unsound in their inducements and views faithless in their prospects : Led on by these expectations it invigorated their conduct, trusting, that its serious appearance would effect, what supplication had in vain attempted to obtain.

But, opposed to *this*, was the proud power of a King, whose fleets and armies had been habitual in conquest ; who felt the realms of Europe his inferiors and *despised* the weakness of his Colonies : the show of an hostile army was to settle this controversy. What ! could it be supposed by men conversant in Military science,

science, that a band of Militia without the knowledge of arms, unpractised in the field, acting almost at their own discretion, and destitute of the munitions of war, could stand an instant against veteran troops disciplined in all the habits and knowledge which form the soldier, provided with every requisite for comfort or for action, and led on by officers trained in Tactics from their infancy? But *little* did these persons know, what men *inspired* by the sacred flame of liberty could do, and soon were they taught, that their calculations, however excellent for Europeans, were *false* when applied to Americans.

They seemed to have forgotten, the *calamities* under which America had been settled, and the brave efforts she had often made, in conjunction with their regular troops. For enough had been repeatedly shewn, in the establishment and defence of the Colonies, to convince the world, that perseverance under the greatest difficulties, and vivid energy in the most daring enterprizes, were the *peculiar* characteristics of America's

America's Sons—by what combination of events, without the boldest spirit and most inflexible resolution, could America have been peopled and cultivated under every deprivation of human happiness, ? Nay the vigilance necessary against a savage neighbour must have interrupted even the labours of our forefathers, and rendered them precarious. and uncertain: They were neglected by their parent country and persecuted by fanatics, what but the most intrepid spirit, and invincible resolution, could have borne them out, rendered permanent their foundation, and advanced them to prosperity ?

It is a circumstance not now to be doubted, that when our ancestors reached these then wild shores, they gave incontestible proof of what their posterity would be—when their supplies were exhausted, and themselves helpless wanderers in the wilderness of America, it required no prophetic genius to tell, that such men, whether by necessity or habit, thus inured to unspeakable difficulties, and almost insurmountable dangers, who chose with the savage,

climes in their front and the boundless ocean in their rear, to persevere in their attempt, whose only fort was their fortitude and determination to perish or to succeed, and in these great sources to energy and activity reared their progeny that its inheritance would at least be *courage* to meet with *ardour* any invading foe.

Blinded by the arrogance of power, Great Britain scarcely acknowledged a competitor, and disdained our resistance; elevated by her influence and success, in the command of the ocean, with armies at her will, and millions in her Treasury, abounding in every source of war, what competition could she expect in conflict with her infant colonies? Were not boasts made on the floor of the British House of Commons, that a single Regiment could march in triumph throughout our country? But the time of trial was at hand, insult and oppression had too deeply wounded the spirit of Americans, and roused their hearts to action, with the steady temper that results from conviction, they regulated all their proceedings
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in the best manner, that their condition admitted : they had chosen a Congress, whose advice was implicitly obeyed, they formed associations to know their friends, and established a correspondence which rendered intimate their distant connections.

In the first experiment, the British officers found the American militia as brave and steady as the veterans of their own army ; at the affair of Lexington, they forced a superior number of British Regulars to retreat to Boston in much less time than they had advanced—and the great battle of Bunker's Hill drew acknowledgements from their oldest officers, that for the time the fire was sustained, it was the most severe service they had ever seen. On this bloody day fell the illustrious Warren ; his generous spirit had inspired and his glorious example led his countrymen to test the dangers of battle, and fight hand to hand against British warriors ; his blood cemented the union of his infant country—his fate drew forth the praise of his enemies and the pious grief of his fellow-citizens—

fellow-citizens—peace to his ashes, and may gratitude enshrine his doom, with an eternal remembrance, of his courage and his virtues.

These traits of heroism and the compulsory retreat of General Howe from Boston, soon changed the partial opinion long held by most of the Americans of the prowess of British soldiers—and animated by these valorous exploits, our military force began to assume great respectability, and attempt the most daring enterprises.

The *intrepidity* and sufferings, of no men were ever surpassed beyond those of the little army, that marched into Canada and almost snatched Quebec from the Crown of England. Success had flattered them with the reward of conquest to the very gates of that city, possessed of the good will generally of the inhabitants, Montgomery hoped to include another province, among the list of *those*, who were *resisting* Tyranny and *supporting* freedom, and lead captive a British General and his forces—but fate intercepted this Patriot's wishes and arrested his arduous

arduous labours—in the virtues and accomplishments that grace civilized man, Montgomery was perfect; in the *noble views* of the grandeur of human nature, no one excelled him, and in the sacrifices and energies to support the divine cause of liberty, he stood a *hero*: not domestic ease, or opulence restrained him a moment from her service, but he expired under her sacred banner, and her sons shall never forget, that *glorious Death* consecrated his fame in the annals of eternity.

During the period subsequent to the evacuation of Boston to the arrival of General Howe at Staten-Island, every exertion was made by the Americans to bring into the field, as formidable a force as could be collected, and at the unfortunate affair of Flat-Bush, our army was numerous, well armed and disciplined. On the 28th day of June of the same year, Sir Peter Parker in sight of this city was taught by the undaunted Moultrie, to dread the soldiers of freedom; in their tremendous vengeance on the British Fleet they crowned themselves

selves, and their country with illustrious fame, and removed every doubt and confirmed every hope of their admiring countrymen.

It was at this epoch that America, by a singular act of unequalled fortune and magnanimity, created herself a nation. When the hostile legions of her implacable enemy were preparing to overwhelm her with an almost irresistible force, when awful fears and timid uncertainties were wide spreading throughout our land, and more than forty thousand armed men ready to co-operate with our numerous internal enemies : The American Congress, with wisdom scarcely human, with fortitude that exalted her body above ambition's brightest sphere, solemnly declared our country free and independent States, absolved us from all allegiance to the British crown and declared our power, to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, and establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States, may of right do.

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This glorious declaration, fixed the authority of our government, and sanctioned all foreign and domestic proceedings under its conclusions, and *thence* America removed from the obscurity of a satellite struck her own orbit in the *resplendence* of nations. This is the day, fellow-citizens, whose 27th Anniversary we are convened to celebrate : *momentous, eventful day*—auspicious Heaven, who guided the counsels that brightened our hemisphere with this lustre of Liberty, who armed the hearts that shielded and conducted our magnanimous cause to peace and safety, grant that our posterity, may above all things prize this boon, and by their lives, liberty and fortune *swear* as did their forefathers, to maintain, protect, and defend it.

The events and distresses of war must be unknown and are incalculable to those, who want the experience of suffering them. The American army but lately numerous, well accoutred, and in good order, now dwindled from defeats, losses, and the expirations of their time of service, into a mere handful of
men,

men, who could not oppose a strong and victorious enemy—the vale of misery appeared now to be the only alternative for the desponding Americans, and the yoke of slavery, seemed to be preparing for their almost bending necks—amid this gloom of despair, in this hour of horror struck-fate, the soul of the immortal Washington unfolded itself superior to all his former great achievements—his mind bent on the salvation of his country's freedom forsook every other thought ; no private happiness, no private interest for one moment lulled his attention ; in *him* ambition slept, patriotism glowed, and the destinies of his country during the whirlwind of war, reposed calmly in his arms. Defeats, disastrous campaigns, eventuated in glory to him. Though driven from the field, and his few fellow soldiers in their own land suffering from the dreadful inclemency of a torturing winter and with scarcely a necessary of life. Yet they adhered to their beloved General, his conduct was a lesson to the world, and it should ever be remembered that magnanimity suffering in misfortune commands

mands the admiration, and in a great cause, fixes the affection of those who are embarked in the same enterprize? Military skill, would alone have been an useless art to Washington; it was his influence over the hearts of his soldiers that saved his country: for tell me when the world has produced greater magnanimity, under the influence of *truth only*, than the American army invariably exhibited? No *hope* of conquest, no lust of power, no wild enthusiasm led them a moment—but dignified with the hope of establishing Freedom and equal rights throughout their land, they fought against and suffered from a foe, with whose superiority their strength and knowledge bore no comparison, and under circumstances that to be told would now, look like the horrid visions of a Cimmerian's dream.

Thus situated, no one could expect an enterprize should be attempted; yet the eagle eye of Washington *saw* an advantage and he *knew* the necessity of improving it. As the bright orb of day, with the sight of a friendly shore,

cheers some midnight, shipwrecked, wretched crew, so did great Washington by his gallant actions, now illustrate to his dismayed countrymen that, their valour under him would be the *shore* of their salvation. When his enemy believed him paralysed, and that a short period would put him, his army and our country into their hands, he smote them at Trenton and by his masterly manœuvres, with a few brave followers completely out-generalled a vastly superior army and forced them to seek shelter within their own lines ; thus reviving the drooping spirits of his fellow-citizens, at a most critical and awful period, and strengthening his means for future operations.

From this time, except the battle of Brandywine and the capture of Philadelphia, no important affair between these contending armies took place which did not terminate successfully to the Americans, and *one* among them which reared *America's name* even in haughty Europe. *Gates*, thy country's avenger, who taught the sons of the forest to vindicate America's rights and

and brought Briton's great champion, Burgoyne, and his royal army of savages, mercenaries and slaves, to sue to thee for mercy—invertible Fancy could not have figured thy glory, nor Great-Britain, proud spot, pregnant with fortune conceive, that thy arm was to render abortive, her promised tyrant triumph over our young world.

The success of the British arms in the Southern States is well known to us all—many who are now present, remember their dreadful effects; but as had happened in the Eastern and middle States, fortune at length proved unfavorable to them. In no part of the territory of the United States did the war assume a more savage aspect, or was more terrible and unceasing than in South-Carolina: the British never were at any one time, without an armed enemy within its limits, and the brave Sumter and enterprising Marion kept them perpetually alarmed; *but* when Green arrived—a single campaign of this illustrious commander, was sufficient to drive a greatly superior and well appointed

appointed British army, *out* of the field and *under* the shelter of a garrison. In the same glorious year, America's great chief with the generous aid of our magnanimous ally ; by the capture of Britain's best General, and the whole of his army, fixed beyond all future contest the independence of his country.

In this long, terrible, and bloody struggle, not alone for glory but for the happiness and prosperity of millions and of ages—What Heroes arose ? What gallant exploits were performed ? As the celestial arch is spangled o'er with refulgent stars, so did America splendidly shine, where e'er darkness and terror approached her climes. But how many of these great dead have we now to mourn ? How few of those illustrious are living to revere. At the battle of Stono, at Savannah, at the siege of Charleston, at the two battles of Camden, at Guilford and Eutaw, America saw her warrior sons with their dying breath, supplicating heaven to defend and help their country. In every field where the tyrant's ruthless balls, his blooded bayonets

bayonets or his dragoon arms, laid, Liberty, thy
 son's heads low, there sorrow dwelt, and *Godlike*
Virtue through Fame's *broad Trump*, *echoed*,
 the Universe around, with loud applause.

Astonishing as the perseverance and achievements of America's sons appeared, no lustre of their's outshone the brilliancy of her fair daughters, they healed the wounded, they encouraged the brave; as constant to her cause, as beauty is to excellence, so did these, her *fondest Children*, adhere to her, through every trouble and distress. Their heaven born smiles glowed in her fortune; their placid firmness, stood serene and fixed, in her adversity. No victor's arms embraced their lovely hearts—shrouded in their country's grief aloof they stood, till fair Liberty *victorious* ushered in the triumphant return of her sons, to beatify in the Elysium of their charms.

It was when oppression's iron hand had found she could not rule over liberty's soil—that majesty pleased to cease its murders and stay its ravages in our forlorn land—consenting
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to give what she could not withhold, Great Britain after a civil war, in which through eight long years *all* that human nature could endure, was suffered, in which no sacrifice but our breath remained to be made—She negotiated and heavenly peace flew to our longing shores. America who before the Revolution, was scarcely conscious of power, except as to its most beneficent effects; was rapidly hurled before she ought to have expected, much less be prepared, into the abyss of savage war—she had never seen or felt the progressive advances to power, her infancy had not even elapsed, when like Hercules she had to struggle in her cradle *with a serpent*. This gave her temper a tone of revenge, which her age at peace could not readily moderate.

While a cause had existed which drew to its focus every ray of her energies, her mind was employed and no other object interrupted her toils; but when that cause ceased, she negligently reclined on the bosom of ease, without immediately perceiving that a state of national tranquility

tranquility as well requires; order and government, to avoid the dangers of anarchy, as that of war, the use of every faculty to avert its overwhelming events. The confederation, which scarce had used any other authority, than what was requisite to increase and support our resistance against the enemy, easily regulated our conduct towards the attainment of our principal objects, which, every other freeman, was equally desirous as themselves to obtain—they found no difficulty in uniting and directing the whole force of the States, in struggling for their liberty and defending their property; but when the sovereignty, and the interests of the States became without a superior concentrating principle, entangled with their authority, they soon perceived, under the order of the government, the impossibility of controuling the States, or of procuring the regular supplies, which the exigencies of the union required; much less to meet the demands incurred by the war. With their power afloat, and the general opinion that we had gained what we fought for, and the government which carried us through
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the Revolution would be sufficient to conduct us in times of peace, a supine confidence and general inattention to our political condition, was about to introduce a more formidable foe among us, than the vengeance of the British throne.

For our relaxations and negligence had already proved, that as a nation we could not exist, without collecting our salutary efficient powers, in a more close union, by which, the accumulated wisdom, interests and force of the States, would be uniformly displayed in all their corroborative effects. It was then, America again exhibited to the world, a more magnanimous conduct, than tradition or record had placed on the annals of time—the collected from among the first Statesmen, who had planned, and the heroes who had fought the battles, of her Revolution, those whose political knowledge and splendid talents, had gained their country's confidence, in their integrity and wisdom, and directed them to convene in her metropolis: There to deliberate on the
most

most solemn, of all occasions, the formation of a government for their country.

When we contemplate the sources and effects of power, the manner in which it has been obtained and how it has been used, surely no earthly subject, can be so important to man. Whatever is exalted, whatever is valuable, whatever is worthy our acceptance or preservation, or, tends to make man great or happy, worthless or miserable, comes under this most important consideration. Cherish then, my fellow-citizens, hold to your hearts, with the fondness and sincerity that you embrace your own offspring, the result of the labours of these your wisest men—*the Constitution of the United States*—for it blends power with political happiness and mercy, in a more beautiful and illustrious form, than the customs, laws and regulations of any other nation on earth; and will, while it is inviolably preserved, secure to you, and to your posterity, every blessing that can be derived from human powers. If the temple of wisdom could have been approached,

and the petition of guardianship, had been laid on her altar, by innocent, youthful America, so far as mortal ken can ascend, no other, or *better behest* could in her utmost benevolence have been bestowed, or deserved with more awful reverence to have been received. The mortal frame of man, that omniscient work, however youthful, strong or beautiful, must wax in years and decay: The attacks of the king of terrors must at length prevail; but this fabric rightly looks, for endurance with the land over which its wholesome precepts are spread, and while suffered to operate unimpaired by *mad ambition*, must give peace, safety, and happiness to our nation.

In what other state on earth, is the authority of power given, to form a more perfect union of society. establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and to their posterity? Fellow-citizens, what other objects rightly belong to government? If during the

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rude ages of barbarism, when conquest yoked mankind in slavery and ignorance, despotism prevailed, and under that sanction some nations yet are ruled, how rejoiced should we be to know, that liberty founded, reason regulated, and the experience of the world, is, as it were, divinely loaned to us—by which to conduct our public affairs.

Search the earth beside, and ask those of every nation who rule—whence is your right to govern? And they must trace their authority to some Cæsar, some William or some Tamerlane, whose swords erected their thrones—Is this our situation? Or is there a necessity to support our laws, by the means which secure obedience to a tyrant's will—No! Fellow-citizens, no tyrant can reign here one moment, no man cloathed with your confidence, dare insult or injure one of us—it is your power that bestows, it is your power that deprives, any and every man, of the right to dispose of a cent of your property, or an instant of your personal service. Behold the most sublime
spectacle

spectacle on this Globe! The sovereignty of your country resting on yourselves, and see, fate has committed to your own charge, the preservation and defence, of all, that can be dear to man. Washington! name of immortality, who drew thy sword, not for vengeance but for thy country's rights—who through war's daring tempests wielded her mind to follow thee, that for ever justice and order might calmly dwell in thy native land; whose example led the good and forced the unwilling; who at thy country's call again obeyed, and with the reins of legitimate power, conducted her in peace and safety through foreign perils and domestic broils:—Sacred shade! from the abodes of bliss suffer thy celestial spirit, oh! in pity, to look down on thy beloved country, and for her happiness and her honor, awe the dæmon of discord to shame.

Adams! who in council, wise and undismayed in days of yore, who yielded to thy country many a lofty good; to thee too, for this, now let hope appeal. Thou didst save thy country from the
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verge of destruction, and lightly may mishap
fall on thy aged brow. Many, many may be
thy happy days, and long thy well earned
laurels, flourish on thy venerable head.

Thy soul, Jefferson ! which amid surrounding
perils, breathed thy country's will, and ushered
the new born world's voice to foreign shores,
heaven has preserved, to confirm to man, the
felicity of governing himself—thy maxims of
policy in conducting our foreign relations ; thy
precepts of justice and œconomy in administer-
ing our internal interests give to mankind this
lesson of sacred truth, that the peace and prof-
perity of a nation of Republicans is perfectly
consistent with the welfare and happiness of
of every individual, whatever his religion or
condition who inhabits it. Say, fellow-citizens,
what blood, under his auspices, hath defiled
the snow white robes of celestial peace ? whose
happiness has been impaired, whose property
burdened ? It is he who by his illustrious con-
duct, prompts each patriot breast to a more
perfect union of the states, to establish justice,
insure

insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and *secure* the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity : should we not then, fellow-citizens, beseech heaven, to guard, bless and preserve him ?

Go, happy independent American—and if like a youth in the bloom of health, you know not how to estimate what you enjoy ; go, seek Asia's rich and wide domain from Golconda's mines to Persia's luxurious Court ; go study the condition of man—a tyrant or slave is all that you *there* shall find. Reach Afric's dreary wilds, and traverse Nubia's desert land touch on Barbary's coasts and ascend the Table Mountain's top. Throughout nature seems to have degraded man by passion, or by habit—power there reigns without law, and he whose muscles combine the greatest strength, like his fellow Lion, rules. Depart to Europe's climes, where luxury in profusion abounds—where every sense that dignifies or disgraces man, meets its most tempting objects. Go, swill
 try

thy senses with its most enchanting delights to satiety and until no joy is left to repeat. Then calmly look around—if the insolence of rank has oppressed you—American appeal to their tribunals for relief. Go learn the customs of their boasted Empires of wisdom and of riches, discover where power is fixed, or what is royal influence—return then to your native land, and compare what you thence have seen, with what you here possess; with transports of gratitude you will kneel to heaven, and joyfully thank the Almighty Father of the Universe for the peculiar blessings that, in his divine mercy, he has bestowed on Independent America. Forever, Oh! Great protector of the hosts of worlds, may they continue.

F I N I S.