

**AN**  
**ORATION,**

**PRONOUNCED**

**BY**

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**ON THE**

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# AN ORATION.



**H**AIL natal anniversary of the Independence of Columbia! Thy *blessings* are diffusive as air, thy *utility* commensurate with Time, thy *glory* with Eternity!

*Fourth of July, 1776*;—blest epoch, sacred Day, which did concentrate the genius and patriotism of Columbia's Congress:—be sacred to the memory of those worthies, till the last trump shall announce the catastrophe of nature, and time immerse in the ocean of eternity!!

The *radiance* of this auspicious morn, and genius of *freedom*, disdain pitiful apology: Let it be ceded to the *cringing* courtier, and *designing* minister of the phantom of a king. Our souls inflamed with devotion to God, and gratitude to the brave martyrs who fell in defence of their country's cause,—contemplate the Temple of Freedom raised upon the downfall of British tyranny in this western world. Within its hallowed walls no hissing serpent, no incarnate demon, marked with the leaden pale of fell despair shall ever enter. In the area of this sacred dome, there grows the tree of liberty, defended by Omnipotence like the tree of life, from the unhal-

lowed touch of the *liberty blasting hand of execrable toryism!*

Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children,—and their children another generation. A prophet divinely inspired, breaks out into this exclamation: an exclamation happily adapted to the present occasion, and calculated to perpetuate the recollection of that event, which sure is written on every Columbian heart,—every lover of his country.

*This* eventful day, which gave Columbia a dignified rank among the nations of the world, and raised the United States to the zenith of political glory; this admired, but envied æra in the historic page, presents a pleasing opportunity to the astonished mind, to retrograde to that fearful day when our venerable fathers disembarked on Plymouth's inhospitable shore! Behind them the Atlantic rolled its dreary waves, the hollow murmurs of which reminded them of the nameless hazards, hardships and sufferings they underwent in crossing this world of water! Heaven's high arch was alone the covering of these houseless persecuted christian strangers; while December's chilling blast, and winter's pelting storms, seemed to sport with the sufferings of our venerable sires, and the elements to reïne upon their misery! Before them lay the extensive forests of Columbia swarming with beasts of prey, and men more fierce and savage far than they! their natures broken and their spirits fainting---death's approach was that of a friend—and in a few months the greater part of their number was consigned to the cold grave where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest! Omnipotence surveyed the direful scene, and eternal mercy said of the brave founders of our freedom and our glory:

“ Ephraim is my dear son—he is a pleasant child ; by bowels are moved for him. I will surely have mercy on him, saith the Lord ! ! ”

The hope of Israel changed the dread night to day ; shut the mouths of the prowling tenants of the wood ; disposed savage men to be at peace with the founders of this rising empire, and the very stones of the field to be in their league !—This handful of corn, nurtured by the immutable Patron of *liberty, science* and *virtue* round the world ; this friend of the persecuted and tormented, soon filled the land !—The jealousy of the aborigines increased in ratio to the population of our country, and furious wars with this most formidable people ensued. At length a contest between England and France, respecting their claims upon Canada was announced, and Columbia, for her *tyrant mother*, raised five regiments upon her own bottom, and lavished her blood and treasure, without remuneration, to establish the pretended claim of Britain !

To pass by an affront is the glory of man : but to lavish life and hard earned fortune in defence of a persecuting tyrant, who drove them from the country that gave them birth, by the execution ax—is a trait of benevolence the history of the world never before portrayed ! Encouraged by thus giving the cloak, agreeably to the christian system, the British tyrant and pirate issued a decree for *stamps, a port bill*, and, as if *power gave right*, set up the haughty claim to tax Columbia, in all cases, without her consent !

These unparalled impositions, a species of tyranny before unknown, were borne, not with patience, nor resented with that indignation which the original investiture of nature eternally warrants !

Instead of flying to arms, a whole climacter was employed in offering to the British tyrant and court, the most humble petitions, enforced with every plea which our infant state, our eloquence, and remaining regard for the mother country could afford. All these were answered with insults, always attendant on despotism ?

In the name of God—in the name of eternal right—in the name of natural justice—what business had the tyrant king of the piratical island of Great Britain with these colonies ? We fled to this howling wilderness for life, like the weary dove to the ark : we fled from the accursed hierarchy of England ;—from the high commissioned court and star-chamber ;—from the faggot and execution ax ; in fine, from all the nameless horrors concentrated in that infernal vortex of human sufferings, the dungeon of the inquisition !!!

Our glory rises from the sacred dust of those *worthies*, (our fathers) planted here by British cruelty and murder !—Peace to their dust ; we shall meet them in that serene country, where the hated persecutor can never come,—and where a distinguished crown of unfading glory awaits them !

The tempest now thunders nigh ! behold the Atlantic whitened by the British tyrant's hostile fleet !—Our ports are blocked up !—blood thirsty murderers disembark their legions ; the trumpet gives the signal for attack,—the burst of cannon rends the sky, and *poor astonished. innocent and defenceless* Columbians' blood manures the late peaceful field—!!

Republicans—the resistless ardor of *indigent recollection*, will, I presume, retrogradé to 1775 !—an *epoch this*, which will stamp the name of *Britain* with infamy, till the last shock of time shall bury the empires of the world in ruin !—

But the *fire* of a seraph,—the *energy* of numbers; and *omnipotence* of rhetoric, will fail in an attempt to describe Columbia's fearful condition! In military arts untaught; not veiled in camps, nor disciplined in blood: no leading chief—and horror depicted on every face: destitute of ordnance and warlike stores; in fine, no hope of human aid from any point of Heaven! In this day of our extremity, God Almighty arose from his throne encircled by the hope inspiring rainbow: all heaven was wrapt in silent, but adoring attention, till the eternal pronounced the tyrant crushing mandate: then the angel of liberty bent his way to earth, and on Washington's marshal brow bound the wreath of freedom, and stamped with the seal of Omnipotence the independence of bleeding Columbia! The combined wisdom of the Sages of the world, hath never been able to reduce to system the phenomena of nature; nor can our grateful country scan the methods of *that* providence which gave us freedom, and calculate the ten thousand glories it embraces for millions yet unborn!

Fourth of July! hail auspicious day! Columbia emancipated, the United States regenerated, and this western world blessed with *Freedom, Sovereignty* and *Independence*.

Still our country was overspread with the tempest of war; a night of darkness that might be felt; a baleful period which will live in the dread recollection of the actors in the bloody drama, till liberty shall slumber forever: amid the hardships and perils of the camp; scorched by the dog-day's heat, and chilled with December's frost; our souls anguished with the dying groans of *Fathers, Brothers, Friends*; the trumpet sounding to battle, and the view of garments rolled in blood; in

this time which tried men's souls, it pleased the *almighty man of war*; in 1776, to streak our horizon with lines of sacred effulgence: Columbia still bleeding at every pore, yet confiding in the eternal God, patron of liberty, like the venerable oak reared her head in air, and with a firmness to the world unknown before, named her *Independence*!!

“ Well hast thou done, the Almighty Father spoke ;  
 “ Well hast thou done, the exalted Jesus cried ;  
 “ Well hast thou done, all heaven the euge took,  
 “ And saints and angels in their songs replied !”

Then, then we broke the galling chains of slavery; threw off the English tyrant's yoke, and with a voice the echo of which will be heard, until the Angel of God shall sound the resurrection trump, denounced the infamous phantom of a king, and acknowledged no sovereign but JEHOVAH.—Then, oh! Fourth of July; then arose the sun of Columbia's democratical glory, and like a giant rejoicing in his strength, heightened the raptures of creation!

But our joys are too ecstatic, our pleasures too refined, and our republican glory too divine, to admit of the horrors of recurring in thought, to the execrable conduct of the eternally infamous tory party!!—“ Is there no secret curse, no hidden thunder in the stores of heaven, red with uncommon wrath, to blast the man, who owes his greatness to his country's ruin”?

This infernal clan did more towards the butchery of fathers, brothers and friends, than George the third, with hell for an auxiliary, could have done without them!—If the patriot scarce is saved, where will the denounced federal tory appear? Our blessed Saviour's words, with a change only in name, apply to these monsters in nature: “it

shall be more tolerable for Sodom, in the day of Judgment, than for an old tory, in the livery of a federalist !

But to divert from this scene of horror, which Cicconian eloquence - can never adequately picture, let us recur to the name, the virtue and the patriotism of those brave Columbian Soldiers, who fell that freedom might rise, and thought it a pity that they could die but once to serve their Country!—Ghosts of departed heroes, angels were your escort, and through the wheeling ranks of heaven, an open pass was given, to the eternal throne of God.

Liberty which from heaven had bowed, to watch the scale of fight ; when these brave heroes fell, who loved and who adored her cause so well, retired behind a crimson cloud !

Our Temple of independence was reared upon the slaughtered carcasses of many brave Columbian soldiers. O God !—we enter this temple with the recollection of our most solemn oath, to defend the cause for which they bled, and may all the curses that were ever poured on perjured heads o'erwhelm us if we break it.

When balmy peace returned to our country, like the dove to the ark ; when that brave patriot, Washington, filled the first chair of state ; when our admired and envied constitution was framed, and our republican government organized, Columbia was venerable as a Roman Senate, and terrible as an Alexander at the head of his victorious legions of Macedon. Through the whole of this administration the constitution was the political compass ; Washington, the pilot of the republican bark, and peace, wealth, and honor kept pace with the progress of time. Columbia took



rank of all nations under heaven, and became the envy and wonder of the world.

Our country was a band of brothers, uniting the name of soldier and friend, and with Washington at their head, roused in a moment to arms, in case of invasion.

Then, there needed not the incalculable expense of a navy, to wring from industry its food ;—no : Rome, once mistress of three fourths of the globe, would have faded in remembrance on comparison with Columbia : yea, the firm soul of the enterprising Cesar, would have revolted with dismay, from the impious thought of an invasion. Washington's republican soul was a stranger to despotic measures, nor had he learned the aristocratic method of calculating the superiority of claims one man is supposed to possess above another ! Millions were therefore saved from the public burthens ; nor was a standing army deemed necessary, to protect congress, or enforce her decrees.—The integrity of our first president, saved the trouble of a sedition law, to prevent the investigation of his conduct. This brave patriot loved the country for which he fought ; its soil manured by our citizens' blood, he proffered as an asylum to all the persecuted from the old world. An alien-bill tis true, was conceived in his administration—but the haggard fetus, though nourished by the aliment of foreign influence, could never see the light, till Washington, like Marlborough, retired to think of eternity !

The reign of terror next succeeded ! Let not God regard it from on high, nor let it come into the number of the months ! This event is ushered in, like the reign of all preceding despots—with burst of cannon, beat of drum, gag act, imprisonment of republican printers, standing army to pro-

fect Congress and enforce her decrees ; an alien bill, a navy, that, like piratical England whose spirit pervaded this reign, carnage, rapine and slaughter might be carried through peaceful nations beyond the seas ; a house tax, and stamp act, impositions we scorned to receive from Britain : in fine, a nobility in a hole, and the Devil come down in great wrath, knowing that he had but a short time !!

In this reign of terror, which a lover of his country can never name but with execration ; all the diabolical arts, black intrigues, and monarchical vengeance of the tory party, were concentrated, and every energy brought to bear in one desperate attempt against nature's God, the rights of man, and the liberty of this country, earned by blood and treasure. But the convolving clouds which darkened our political hemisphere, were instantly scattered at the resurrection of JEFFERSON, that sun of democratic glory : nor was the conquest of Michael over the Dragon, recorded in ancient story, more complete than the triumph of Columbia over pre-concerted despotism, when our incomparable Jefferson was, amidst the acclamations of this western world, conducted to the first chair of state. This auspicious reign was commenced with the demolition of judiciary systems, a repeal of former tyrannic decrees ; a lopping off of the excrescences of the reign of terror, and a saving of more than a million of dollars from the public burthen ! In ratio to these savings, which resulted from the discharge of needless salary men, the hated trappings of monarchy, our foreign debt was cancelled—Columbia's credit restored, and our western world again inhaled the pure air of liberty !

With the philosopher, the statesman, the patriot

Jefferson at helm, our country assumed an attitude which the angels of God surveyed with approbation, and which excited the rancor of the enemies of freedom! Old tory dust, fructified by the influence of British agents, and of British gold, produced a noxious race of terrific monsters, who like their father, the devil, circumambulate the United States, seeking whom they may devour! *Jefferson* is the *mark* for the shafts of *priest* and *tory* vengeance now, as was *Jesus* for that of *priest* and *ruler* before! He, like the venerable oak, stands firm, fixed deep in earth, and fastened by his weight;—and views the enemies of his administration *innocuous*, like the little insect,—who is said to die, in shooting his sting!—While philosophy, patriotism, policy, and universal science, demand the veneration of mortals,—the *magi* of the world will wheel their mystic dance, like satellites of less effulgence, round this luminous planet.

#### EMBARGO !!!

This is the burden of the song with federal tories; and, therefore, it is necessary to detail the causes which operated to the laying of the embargo, and the objects proposed thereby: And the causes and reasons for the embargo were, 1. The savage impressment of our brave seamen; contrary to the law of nations, the law of nature, and the law of nature's God! These generous tars, seized on the high seas by pirates, (English pirates in particular,) were with more than brutal ferocity confined in the hold, starved, tortured and threatened, and with death, unless they would enlist in the service of the tyrant George the 3d, to fight against fathers, brothers, and country!! 2. The incalculable loss of our property, by the capture of our vessels, the infamous *mock* trials,

and condemnation of both ships and cargoes, as lawful prize! 3. The impossibility of trading with either France or England, in safety, while those powers were at war. But what emboldened these powers, thus to insult our rights, and commit depredations upon our commerce? The answer is ready: the unparalleled falsehoods, pouring like a torrent from the *federal* papers, against our *executive*, and the present administration: this substantiated the fact of *internal* division; enervated government, and exhibited to Europe, our cabinet as a *pandæmonium*; and our constituted authorities, as self-created tyrants!

The *clergy*, mouthing in favor of British motherly affection, and all the federal papers stuffed with panegyrics of the outrages committed by English pirates! These two great guns of presbyterian toryism, are continually exploding curses against France, and alarming the fears of the ill-informed vulgar, with the certainty of invasion!

This execrable conduct, emboldened his sacred majestys subjects to murder our brave seamen in our own waters, and that non-compos tyrant and his court to avow the right of search; the rifling of our papers, and impressment of our crews on the high seas!

Britain thus encouraged, and France enraged, our neutrality was considered as an invitation to outrage by England, and an insult by France.—Thus it is indisputably true, that the embargo became necessary only on account of the internal division of this country, announced by the slanders and falsehoods uttered against government by the tories.

But what were the objects of the embargo? To convince the world that the decrees of our congress are not passed in fermenting blood, and that

the neutrality of these States, is not to be violated by foreign bribes nor foreign menace.

To teach *transatlantic* powers, that we have a right to demand remuneration for the robberies they have committed upon us ; or, while it is in our power, we close to every of them, a market of consumption, and a market of supply. To claim a discharge from the most cruel bondage, of the thousands of our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons, holden in inglorious chains of servitude by Great Britain, that horde of robbers and murderers.

To prevent further loss of property and seamen : This must follow while Britain rides master of the seas, and remains a piratical league breaker, destitute of national honor, and defier of the law of nations.

Lastly, while France and England are at war, to attempt commercial dealing with one, to the exclusion of the other, is to provoke war with all its nameless horrors : to attempt to trade with both, is a temerity which will be repaid with loss of life, liberty and property.

Who now deserves the curses of the people, those monsters in our land, whose turbulent and disappointed spirits, uttering the foulest falshoods against our government, and sinking our late peaceful nation to contempt with the European world ; or the congress, who found it necessary, in consequence of this conduct, to lay the embargo ?

The devil when he gets on his white coat, and turns *orthodox*, is most dangerous : ~~to the tory~~ faction, assuming the softer name of ~~federalists~~, become as great incendiaries in these states, as Cataline was in Rome. Had it not ~~been~~ or their black ingratitude ~~to the government~~

which protects them; and their infamous falsehoods uttered against the present administration, an embargo would have been unnecessary, so long as there should have remained water enough in the Atlantic to float a canoe!

What in the name of God, would the federal clergy, and the little prim Justices be at? We have fifteen states decidedly democratic! and but two federal; and these are under almighty regenerating republican grace, and will soon be converted! Would they invert the order of nature, and destroy steady habits which have always determined that the issue of the question should be with the majority? Why their objects are, a limited monarchy; hereditary succession in office; lords temporal, and spiritual; nobility out of the hole; salaries for spiritual lords drawn from the national chest; union of church with state, and the common man, obliged to toil all day, in the service of my LORD DUKE, or the *right reverend Father in God*, for the great reward of *a sheep's head and pluck!* But mercy must perish from its source; God the immutable patron of *liberty, science and virtue* must slumber, or be absent on a journey,—ere the hopes and wishes just described, can be realized.

*The Columbian Fair*, in gratitude, demand our notice. Republican matrons, and beauteous daughters of the United States; when the tempest of war thundered nigh, the inspiration that roused us to arms in our country's cause came from you!

The charms of your persons, the elevation of your souls,—the satellites of graces which played round you; and a reflection that the brave deserved the fair, determined us to be free, or perish, and we met the blaze of British ordnance unflinching. The dog-day's burning heat we bore

without a murmur ; and December's frost was unnoticed by the youthful hero, thirsting for glory. When the trumpet sounded, and the alarm ran through the line, we thought of the *mother*, whose arms had protected us, and of the *fair daughters* of Columbia, whose soft affections we hoped to merit when covered over with glory !—The horrid burst of cannon, and bloody field, covered with the dead bodies of our fellows, could not obliterate from our souls the recollection of your divine charms, and the fond hope of sitting with you, under our vines and fig-trees !!

Through two Olympiads, you made up the clothing for our Army ; you toiled in the field to procure us provisions ; and your delicate hands moved the earth ; while your soft bosoms were strangers to any sigh, but that for fathers, brothers, lovers, absent in the field of battle.

*Ladies*, you merit our thanks : Your inspiration secured our Independence, and all the countless blessings of freedom, for millions yet unborn !

*Fourth of July* !—Auspicious and eventful day ! let us close it with pious gratitude to God, and fraternal affections to each other : let us look beyond this scene, where human affairs are subject to great variety of changes, and hail, in anticipation, a day far more glorious ! A day which will burst with eternal effulgence on the boundless empire of God. There we meet departed heroes and friends, and there the sun never sets.