

AN

# ORATION

*DELIVERED IN ROXBURY, N. J.*

ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, 1807.



*By* JOHN D. GARDINER, *Esq.*

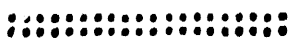


*“ 'Tis LIBERTY alone that gives the flow'r  
“ Of fleeting life its lustre and perfume,  
“ And we are weeds without it. All constraint,  
“ Except what wisdom lays on evil men,  
“ Is evil....hurts the faculties....impedes  
“ Their progress in the road of science....blinds  
“ The eye-sight of discovery, and begets  
“ In those that suffer it, a sordid mind  
“ Bestial....a meagre intellect, unfit  
“ To be the tenant of man's noble form.”*

---

MORRIS-TOWN:

PRINTED BY JACOB MANN.



1807.

E. 286  
JR 84  
1807  
Office

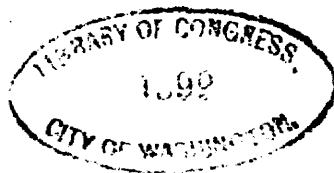
## Advertisement.

—♦—  
31599

WHEN *this Oration was written and delivered, I had no design of committing it to the public by the press. A wish to comply with the solicitations of my friends and acquaintance, joined to a desire of aiding the cause of REPUBLICAN VIRTUE, is the only apology for its publication. I believe the sentiments expressed in it, will accord with those of every friend to American liberty and independence, and hope the Critic will pass over its defects with an eye of lenity.*

JOHN. D. GARDINER.

CHESTER, JULY 24, 1807.



# AN ORATION, &c.



FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,

IN compliance with your request, I appear before you on the present occasion. I feel a diffidence arising from a sense of my inability to do justice to the part which this day devolves upon me. 'Though you cannot expect that grace of oratory, and fire of eloquence, which have been exhibited by some who have addressed you on similar occasions, yet I can assure you, with a sincerity equal to theirs, I feel the strongest attachment to my country.

When I consider the good nature and candor of this assembly, I am animated in the task before me, and hope every defect in language and composition, will pass without censure.

What, fellow-citizens, is the object for which we have this day assembled? Is it to prostrate ourselves before a worthless *tyrant*, or celebrate the birth-day of a *king* or *emperor*?....Is it to offer sacrifice at the shrine of *slavery*, or pour incense on the altar of *despotism*?....Is it

to do homage to some *noble lord* of our persons and property, or pay *tithes* to *priests* and *bishops* ?

No! this is not the object for which we have this day convened:....We have met to celebrate the BIRTH-DAY of the country in which we live....we have met to celebrate the *anniversary* of our NATIONAL DELIVERANCE !!!....A day, which every friend to his country will hail with the warmest emotions of joy and exultation...A day, on which America boldly declared her freedom, and placed her name on the list of independent nations...A day, so highly interesting to Americans, and one connected with such glorious and happy consequences, none will doubt the propriety of devoting a few moments to its commemoration.

While we commemorate the illustrious æra of our freedom, let us not forget the once flourishing nations of antiquity.

Though the ancient people of Greece and Rome are sleeping in the dust, and their countries buried in ignorance and ruins, their histories afford us important lessons of instruction. In the histories of these nations, we see the origin, progress, and effects of liberty.... Here the principle was first planted....it grew and flourished....it aroused man from the state of lethargy, in which he had slept for ages. The elastic powers of the mind received a

spring, and expanded with the growth of freedom. The arts and sciences advanced to perfection, with a rapidity truly astonishing. It excited a spirit of emulation among the people. At the sound of the Grecian and Roman name, the surrounding nations were filled with terror. Their generals have ever been admired for their patriotism and courage.... Their philosophers and statesmen have ever been considered as prodigies of genius and learning. But these nations are no more; their glory and splendor could not resist the invincible fate of empires.

DISCORD and LUXURY, *the bane of republican governments*, chased away every vestige of patriotic virtue.... sapped the pillars of liberty and destroyed it forever.

VICE and FOLLY usurping the thrones of *virtue* and *wisdom*, have hurled the most renowned nations of the earth from their summits of grandeur, and laid them in promiscuous ruins.

After the fall of the Grecian and Roman republics, freedom left the world. From the sixth, to the fifteenth century, we find nothing in the history of man, but ignorance, superstition and contention. The whole face of nature was veiled in an impervious gloom. The germ of liberty found no soil congenial to its nature in this period of barbarism and darkness.

If we take a survey of mankind since the revival of learning, nothing in the old world presents itself to our view, but a scene of tyranny, ambition and war.

However conspicuous the nations of Europe may be, on the catalogue of *literary fame*, they have never enjoyed that LIBERTY, which is the great basis of human happiness.

That man was made to enjoy his liberty, is a plain and undeniable truth. Although he was created free, the most abject slavery, with few exceptions, has ever been his portion. The many have ever been subject to the few, and the strong governed by the weak.

Whence is it, that man has ever been thus degraded below the dignity of his nature ?.... Whence is it, that in every age he has been the sport and derision of his fellow-men ? Has he always been forgetful of his chief good ?.... Has eternal slavery been his voluntary choice ? or has some infernal dæmon, by the force of magic, or fascination, lulled him into senseless stupidity. Whatever may be the cause of slavery, it has ever been the lot of the human race.

Ask yourselves, my fellow-citizens, what brought our ancestors to this western country?.... What compelled them to leave their homes, families and friends, to encounter the perils of a boisterous ocean, and the dangers

of a savage wilderness?... What forced them to leave a society of civilized men, for that of untutored savages? Was it the gold and silver that glittered on the hills or mountains of this western world?... Was it a thirst for fame and conquest? No! it was a love of liberty and a detestation of slavery, that impelled them to the uncultured regions of the American woods. Hunted down by the bloody hand of persecution, in their native land, they roamed from place to place, like Noah's dove, seeking rest, and finding none.

In settling on the rude face of nature, they had every thing to experience, that could exercise their patience, or try their fortitude.... Hunger, cold, disease and death, were their constant companions. In this condition, instead of friends to extend the healing balm of consolation, they were surrounded by a savage foe, thirsting for the blood of man, woman and child. At dead of night their slumbers were broken by the screeches of dying friends, or the horrid yells of Indian joy.

Fired with religion and liberty, they supported every trial, with an unparalelléd resolution. A prospect of exemption from the slavish shackles of despotic tyrants, plucked the sting from every pain, and diminished every danger. They viewed the splendor of kings....the pride and pomp of bishops, and

church hierarchy, as opposed to the pure and simple spirit of religion. Their religious sufferings at home, led them to believe, that tyranny in church and state, was contrary to justice, reason and nature. The enjoyment of civil and religious liberty, they considered an ample compensation for every trial... With these views our ancestors left their native shores.

Here they found no lordly master to wrest from them the small earnings of industry... no superstitious clergy to hold their minds in bondage; but free from that civil and ecclesiastical tyranny, which, for centuries, had fettered the world, they enjoyed the fruits of their own labor, without any to make them afraid. Having resumed their native rights, and original dignity, the odious titles of master and slave, they left behind them.

In a country so congenial to the moral and phisical constitution of man, there was a rapid increase of wealth and population. Here exiled freedom found her only refuge. The oppressed and poor of every nation flocked to America... Here they found an assylum... Here the genial rays of science began to dawn upon the mind, and dispel the mist of ignorance, superstition and prejudice... Reason and free enquiry began to chase from society, religious and political error.



America, thus rapidly encreasing in freedom and wealth, population and science, excited in the breast of Britain, the malignant spirit of envy....She beheld, with an eye of jealousy, the growing greatness of America....She could not stand unmoved at the sight of *her* happiness....She intended to reduce the people of this country to a state of unlimited subjugation: she did not intend to affect this at once, she knew it to be impossible, and therefore impolitic; but she designed, by gradual and imperceptible means, to reduce Americans to a condition of the most absolute dependance and slavery....She used every method to eclipse the rising glory of America, cramp the genius of her sons, and keep them in a state of constant inferiority.

The numerous wars Britain had ever carried on with her neighboring nations, involved her in an amazing debt, of hundreds of millions. While the English ministry were degesting plans to diminish this debt, to support their pomp, follies and crimes, they conceived an idea of raising a substantial revenue in America: For the purpose of raising the contemplated revenue, an accursed act was passed, by parliament, called the stamp-act.

The eyes of Americans were now opened, to see the blow which struck their liberties at

the root.... They now saw the inconsistency of taxation without representation.... They viewed the stamp-act with the contempt it deserved.... They knew that nations, as well as individuals, have a strong propensity to impose on others, when they can do it with impunity, and at the same time with advantage to themselves. Americans believed they had a right to tax themselves, and therefore exhibited every mark of opposition to foreign taxation.... The infamous conduct of Britain, to establish a revenue in America, was the cause of the bloody war that severed the United States from their mother country.

The possessions of Britain, in every quarter of the globe, were an empire insufficient for the domination of despotism.... Her ambition, insatiable as death, has, with relentless fury, marched over the earth, in quest of prey.

She crossed the ocean, and with her host of mercenary ruffians, invaded the free-born sons of America.... She shook her sordid chains of slavery over this free and happy country; but, thank heaven, she shook them in vain! The hostile fleets and armies of Britain, did not frighten the undisciplined troops of America. No, the thundering legions of British veterans did not damp the patriotic ardor that glowed in the bosoms of Columbia's sons. They met, without dismay, the combined for-

ces of a nation whose navy whitened the ocean, and spread terror and conquest through the world.

Animated with an instinctive love of liberty, the American Israel left the soft endearments of domestic life, and marched to the field of war....Here commenced the most glorious struggle recorded in the annals of the world.

To see a mother lifting the sword of vengeance against her innocent and obedient children, must have roused the indignation of man, and excited the astonishment of a world. Could angels weep, such an inhuman spectacle must have wrung tears from their eyes.... Nature herself must have frowned, stood aghast, and turned pale at the sight.

This was the time that tried men's souls.... This was the time to determine, whether America should be governed by kings or people.... This was the all-important crisis that must decide, forever, the fate of America.... This was the time that must determine whether Americans should be freemen or slaves, forever. They fought...they bled...they died for freedom. Bunker's awful hill, drenched in the blood of slaughtered Americans, will stand an eternal monument to the truth of this assertion. Here the illustrious and ever memorable WARREN, fired with the love of

his country, poured out his life, to satiate the accursed ambition of British tyrants.

Here was the opening scene of royal cruelty in the United States....It marched with hasty strides...Our populous cities were wrapped in flames...our fields laid waste...our houses plundered, and desolation and death spread over every part of inhabited America. Our ears were stunned with the roar of cannon, and the din of arms...they were wounded with the groans of murdered friends. How often did heaven witness fields covered with the bodies, and stained with the blood of Columbia's sons !...How often did it witness widows drowned in tears, for the death of their only companions ?...How often did the cries and groans of orphans ascend as a memorial before God ?...How often was the innocence of the fair virgin exposed to the insatiate lust of rapacious soldiery ?

But, fellow-citizens, let us pause for a moment, and ask who were the authors of this misery and distress. Was it France, or Spain, or the savages of the wilderness ? No, it was neither France, nor Spain, nor the savages of the woods. It was Britain....It was our *Mother Country*...It was the troops of his *CHRISTIAN MAJESTY, GEORGE III.*

While these tragic scenes were passing, in quick succession, the representatives of the

United States, in Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the universe for the rectitude of their intentions, solemnly published the declaration of freedom and independence, the anniversary of which we now commemorate.

This day, thirty-one years ago, ushered in the glorious morn of liberty in the United States. View the condition of our country at that perilous and eventful period...war or slavery were the only alternatives....The voice of nature seemed to say unto Americans, choose you, this day, whom you will serve. Ask the grey-headed patriot of '76 what were his feelings at the important period when our revolution commenced. The mingled emotions of three millions of people, at a time when slavery or death hung hovering on every side, surpass description, and baffle the boldest conception of the imagination. They flew to arms, and after a bloody contest of eight years, gained the liberty we now enjoy.

No day, fellow-citizens, since the declaration of independence, ever presented more rational grounds of joy, than the present. We meet under auspices peculiarly favorable to the friends of liberty. While the nations of Europe are in a state of constant collision and warfare, and tyrants wading through blood and slaughter, to gratify their insatiable thirst

for fame and conquest, we are basking in the beams of peace.

While the oppressed people of France have struggled, in vain, for liberty ; and have been subjected, for years, to the caprice of an ambitious tyrant, we have been free and happy. While England...Spain...Portugal...Denmark...Sweden...Prussia, and Poland, are governed by hereditary despots, whether *knaves* or *fools*, we govern ourselves.... While these nations are groaning under the yoke of arbitrary power ; where life, liberty, and property are the sport of ambition...where man, the noblest work of God, is sunk below the brutes, we live under a government that yields us protection, and secures our liberty...gives dignity to man, and makes him feel his importance among those around him.

When we compare the situation of America, with that of any nation on earth, in every point of view, the difference is very striking. To behold the present smiling aspect of our nation, must excite the strongest emotions of joy in the breast of every friend to his country's happiness.

Neither pestilence, war nor famine, the scourge of man, now spread their desolating effects on the shores of America ; but health, peace, and plenty, with their smiling train, scatter around us their choicest blessings....

Not a single cloud obscures our political horizon; but all is clear, serene and peaceful as the morning.

America, the brightest star in the constellation of nations, is viewed, by a surrounding world, with wonder and admiration.

AGRICULTURE, the great support of a nation...the only source of wealth...the main spring of commerce...the great art of all arts, is an object of the first attention among the people of the United States. In a country so mild and luxuriant, the laborious husbandman may look forward, with scarcely a fear of disappointment, to the time when he will receive the reward of his toils, in reaping a plentiful harvest.

To behold fields waving with grain...orchards loaded with fruit...meadows cloathed in grass, where, but late, the forest grew, and the savage dwelt, is the strongest mark of improvement, wealth and independence....Such a prospect, the eye of man beholds with delight, while it diffuses joy and pleasure thro' all his senses.

Our COMMERCE is flourishing. No country on earth unites so many advantages for foreign and domestic commerce, as the United States....Bounded on the east by a sea-coast, vast in extent...indented with innumerable bays and harbors...checkered with the noblest

rivers, leading into the heart of a fertile and boundless country, settling with rapid progression, and yielding every article of internal or external commerce.

The facility of communication between the states, enables them to supply each other with the necessaries and conveniences of life, and opens the door for a flourishing domestic traffic.

America, thus united...thus linked together, appears destined, by Providence, for a theatre of trade, and the mart of nations.

Our vessels navigate every sea, and the produce of our country is carried to every quarter of the globe....Our commerce spreads her canvas to every gale, and the "eagle of America soars aloft over every ocean."

**OUR MANUFACTURES flourish.** America has her share of mechanical ingenuity....No nation on earth, of equal age, can vie with America in mechanical arts....Many of our enterprising and patriotic citizens have established manufactories in different parts of the country; and it is hoped, the time is not far distant, when they will receive the most liberal patronage of our government, and become a prime object of national attention...when all classes of people will be emulous to cherish every art that will render us more independent of foreign nations.



KNOWLEDGE flourishes. No people in the world are so enlightened as the people of the United States.

When we consider that INTELLIGENCE is the *life of liberty* the *soul of our government* ...that *ignorance* is the *mother of slavery*... the *strong-hold of tyrants*, TOO MUCH cannot be said in favor of *knowledge*. An enlightened people can never be made slaves...they will feel their own importance in the scale of being...they will see their own rights, and defend them with their blood...they will be governed by reason, and not by force...they will ever be jealous of their liberties, and watch with an eagle-eye, over the conduct of their rulers.

IGNORANCE is the *hot-bed of tyrants*...it is their only lurking place ; despel *that*, and the host of despots, who have so long enslaved the world, will fly from society, as owls to the desert, at the approach of day...it is *ignorance* that has chained the old world in eternal bondage...that has sunk man below the level of the beasts of the forest.

When we reflect that the stupendous fabric of our freedom is erected on the basis of knowledge, and will stand or fall with *that*, how loudly are we called upon, as citizens... as patriots, and as men, to be active in the cause of education.

While colleges...academies, and schools, are rapidly multiplying, in every part of the union, let us not stand idle spectators, but be forward in contributing our mite to the aid of such a glorious cause...Do we love our country, our patriotism cannot be better manifested, than in the promotion of knowledge...it cannot be directed to a more important object than that of education.

When a people neglect the education of children, their rights and liberties will be equally neglected...will be unthought of...will be forgotten. While knowledge flourished in Greece and Rome, so long did their liberties and republics flourish; but no sooner was it neglected, than they began to decay, and all expired together. How loudly, then, fellow-citizens, does the voice of our country...our liberty, and our children call on us, this day, to be earnestly engaged in the cause of education.

RELIGION flourishes. The people of the United States have made the happy discovery, that the *true religion* will flourish BEST where it stands on its own immutable basis, unsupported by the civil power.

The affairs of church and state, are not here, as in most other countries, united and blended together...we have in this country, no church and state union...our constitution

recognises no one religious denomination, in preference to another...all receive an equal support and protection of government...We have no established religion, to the articles of which, a man must subscribe, whether he believe them or not, before he is eligible to a civil office...No religious tenets, are here a bar to places of honor, trust and profit...they are equally open to all ; yet our public offices are usually filled by men of abilities and integrity ; and if we find they are not, we put them again into the mass of common citizens, and choose better in their stead.\*

We are not more disturbed than other nations, with religious dissensions...our malefactors are not more numerous : on the contrary, our harmony is unparalleled ; which can be ascribed to nothing but our unlimited toleration.

All, thus worshipping God according to the dictates of reason and conscience, if not more agreeable to truth, is certainly more consistent with sincerity. Though the shepherds, here, are not so highly fed, as in countries that have an established religion, yet, I believe their respective flocks are usually served with much more sumptuous fare.

Thus the illustrious example of the Uni-

---

\* The glorious privilege of Freemen.

ted States, is a convincing proof, that the *true religion* will best support itself...flourish without the aid of government, and triumph over all opposition.

These, fellow-citizens, are some of the innumerable blessings, resulting from the mild and equitable principles of our *republican government*.

Let the enemies of our country ridicule the *weakness* and *instability* of POPULAR GOVERNMENTS....Let tyrants declare, that man cannot be governed but by a *rod of iron*; the government of the United States, in *thirty-one years successful operation*, gives the LIE to their assertions, and demonstrates, to the world, that an enlightened people *can best govern themselves*. Let our enemies eulogise the ENGLISH GOVERNMENT, and hold it up as the *model of perfection*...as the *most stupendous fabric of human wisdom*; yet I will venture to say, that an interval of thirty-one years peace cannot be found in the history of that nation, since the commencement of the thirteenth century....Britain has been eternally at war...every quarter of the earth has experienced the ravages of British cruelty...the East and the West-Indies, and the United States, have been made so many fields of blood...even the ocean itself has swelled with the blood of slaughtered man...thousands, and tens of thousands,

have bled and died, to determine on whose head the *crown* should be placed.

How often has the island of Great-Britain been stained with the blood of her own children? Scarcely a page in the annals of that nation, but is crimsoned with the blood of battles.... These are the blessings of *kingly governments*...this is *energy*...this is *stability*, for you, fellow-citizens...these are the *happy effects*, HAPPY EFFECTS, indeed! of a government held up by the enemies of American liberty, as the *model of perfection*...as the *fabric of wisdom*. This is a government for the *best-born*...for *kings* and *nobles*, and not for COMMON PEOPLE.

The great object of political government, is the happiness of the greater number; but here, the design of political establishments is wholly reversed, and instead of the *happiness*, the *misery* and *wretchedness* of the common people seems to be the object.

I am sorry to say, that we have many men, in our country, who love...extol...admire, and wish for this sort of government; and who use every method to make you believe it would be best for you.... They tell you, that republican governments have ever been convulsed by broils and factions; and that they are not sufficiently energetic to curb the passions, and preserve that order in society, which is the ob-

ject of civil government...they tell you, that all popular governments have decayed, and fallen into ruins; and in the full spirit of prophecy, declare, that ours, ere long, will experience the same fate. Is it a love to our country, and to its government, that prompts these men to talk in this manner? or is it an attachment to a different order of things, than that which exists in the United States? I leave you to judge. But is any form of government sufficiently energetic to restrain the human passions, and preserve *perfect peace*, in societies, and nations? Does history inform us that kingly governments are exempt from war and civil commotions; and that they are more favorable to the peace and happiness of man, than republics? A comparison between the people of the United States, and those of Great-Britian, or any other monarchy of Europe, for the last thirty years, will give a complete answer to this question...it will shew what kind of government is most congenial to the happiness of man, and the peace and harmony of society. Such a comparison will be more conclusive than a volume of arguments on the *abstract merits* of the two governments. Men, who are incessantly alarming your fears, with the cry, that *our government is short lived*...that the fate of ancient republics, is now at the door, are its

greatest enemies...are using the most insidious means to bring on its dissolution. Such men do not believe their own predictions; and nothing but a *disaffection to our government* has given rise to these species of PROPHETS.

Our government, like all others, will undoubtedly have an end...like all things in nature, it will one day fall into ruins; but shall a man, when, with much labor and toil, he has erected a house, begin immediately to pull it down, because it is destined to fall before the ravages of time?... Shall the master, in fair weather, run his vessel on shore, because some future storm may dash her in pieces against hidden rocks?... Shall we mourn, and howl, and weep, all our days; nay, shall we cut our own throats, because some time or other, we must die? No, but as the time of our departure hence is wisely concealed, from the eye of mortals, it is as much our duty to preserve life and health, as though we were certain of living to an antediluvian age.

Our republic is now in its youthful vigor... no symptoms of disease... no marks of decay, are discoverable in its CONSTITUTION: we need not, therefore, fear its premature death, so long as we are united, to preserve its health and soundness.

Another striking characteristic of the enemies of our government, is, that they view the

common people with a smile of indifference and contempt.... They say the people are their *own worst enemies*, unable to govern themselves; and that *they* are their *best* friends, and can rule them *easier, cheaper* and *better* than they can rule themselves.

Fellow-citizens, do you believe these men? ... Do you feel as if you were your own *worst enemies*, and unfit to govern yourselves?... Do you not wish for men to rule you, who say, they love you better than you love yourselves; and can govern you easier, and cheaper than you can govern yourselves?

I tell you, men who talk in this manner are *your worst enemies*... are seeking for power, and meditating the overthrow of our government: Be cautious, therefore, how you commit your rights to them; they will certainly betray you. They talk as though they were a higher grade of beings... made of better materials; and say, that distinctions in society are necessary... They think themselves born to govern, and you and I to be governed; and were it in their power, they would tread upon our necks.

These enemies of liberty and the rights of man, who talk so much about *energy, dignity* and *national honor*, wish for a *navy* as the foolish Israelites did for a king, that they might be like other nations. Are our revenues suf-



ficient to gratify these gentlemen in their ridiculous navy schemes?

Do you wish to have your houses, lands and every necessary and convenience of life, laid under the heaviest taxes, to make a show upon the ocean, to gain the respect of the monarchies of Europe?...do you wish to exchange your abodes of peace and quiet, for a station on board a ship of war, where, enveloped in fire and smoke, you would be eternally in the midst of death and thunder? Besides, we have a sea-coast fifteen hundred miles in extent, and to establish a naval force equal to guard it against the most petty power of Europe, would bankrupt, and enslave the country...all the navies of Europe united, would be unable to do it.

But, suppose we had one hundred ships of the line, how are these ships to be manned; do these navy advocates wish *themselves*, or their *sons*, to become sailors...go on board this navy...expose their limbs and lives to defend the bubble called NATIONAL HONOR? No, they wish the common people to build their navy, then fight their battles, while they and their sons are safe on shore, reaping the laurels of victory. How have the common people of England been benefited by their navy? I will tell you....Their masters, claiming the empire of the ocean, have driven them on board, as

you would sheep to market, and there compelled them to fight, and spill their blood to support *their dignity and honor*.

Were these high-toned fellows, who are so clamorous about a navy...who are so full of war and fighting, compelled, Uriah like, to stand in the front of battle, and dance to the music of bullets, they would soon be whist as mice...they would be chap-fallen. Were this the case, wars and navies would scarcely have an existance...the world would be at peace: it is such men that have kept it in eternal war.

These enemies of our freedom, not only advocate the navy system, but a host of other measures, equally foolish and ruinous.... They tell you that a national debt, is a national blessing\*...they talk highly of standing armies... heavy taxes...alien and sedition laws...stamp acts...eight per cent loans...funding systems... excises, &c. &c. &c. too tedious to mention. These are the ensigns of royalty...are the splendid marks of slavery and national wretchedness.

Do you wish to behold the effects of this *system of energy*, turn your eyes to England and Ireland; there you may see thousands of industrious fathers and mothers, cloathed in tatters, going supperless to a bed of straw;

---

\* How blessed must England be with a debt of six hundred millions.

their children feeding on the scanty pittance of a potatoe, or a barley cake, while their supporters of *energy* riot upon their labors, and roll in pomp and splendor.

Similar causes, in the moral, as well as natural world, will ever produce similar effects. A system of government that produces misery, wretchedness and starvation in these devoted islands, if established in America, would be connected with the same consequences. Do you wish, fellow-citizens, to labor, toil, and sweat like beasts of burden, to support a swarm of tyrannical masters, who say you are fit for nothing, "but to plough, hoe and go to meeting"...Do you wish for the adoption of a set of measures that will grind you in the dust, and chain you in eternal thralldom?...that will extinguish every ray of happiness, and shroud your liberties in endless night? If you wish for this state of things, only choose men who love this *system of energy*, to rule over you, and the work is done. This would be worse than signing your *own* death warrants...it would seal the destruction of millions...it would stab your freedom to the heart, and consign it to the tomb of oblivion.

But should you thus conduct...should you thus throw away your hard-earned liberty, the slumbering ashes of your ancestors would awake to reprove you...the spirits of our revo-

lutionary martyrs, from their celestial abodes, would look down upon you with scorn and indignation...your children would tread with contempt upon the sod that covers you, and posterity heap endless curses upon your memories.

If you wish to estimate the value of liberty, only take a view of the eastern nations, groaning under the yoke of despotic power. Remember our freedom was not purchased with silver and gold, but with the blood and lives of America's noblest sons. Ask the old American soldier, whose locks are bleached in the storms of war...whose limbs are checkered with the scars of battles; he can tell you the price of liberty. If you wish for the prosperity of the country which gave you birth, and contains every thing dear to you in life...if you wish to possess the blessings of freedom, and transmit the glorious inheritance to posterity, let the miseries of servitude, and the enchanting picture of your deliverance be placed constantly before your eyes. When your children come to years of moral instruction, let it be the care of every parent, to instil into their opening minds, the noble principles of virtue and freedom. Let us all remember that we are children of the same common country...embarked in the same ship, and should she split on the rocks of division, our ruin will be

inevitable. Let the CONSTITUTION, that bulwark of our freedom...the MAGNA CHARTA of our rights...the sacred PALLADIUM of our liberty, be the pole-star of our political conduct.

A house divided against itself cannot stand... a country divided will fall in ruins. As members of the same great family, let us be united like a band of brothers...let the hallowed flame of liberty and patriotism glow within our bosoms; then shall we have nothing to fear from without or within...then will America flourish like the garden of Eden, and become a name and praise in the whole earth...then will the glorious inheritance of freedom descend to posterity, and unborn millions rise up and call us blessed.

.....

*FINIS.*

.....