

ORATION,

DELIVERED AT CINCINNATI BEFORE THE

TAMMANY SOCIETY,

OR

COLUMBIAN ORDER.

July 4th, 1814.



BY BROTHER THOS. HERSEY.

Chaplain, U. S. Army.



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1814.

TAMMANY SOCIETY OF
CINCINNATI,

July 7th, 1814.

At a meeting of the *Society* it was resolved that the thanks of the BRETHREN be transmitted to the *Rev. Br. Thomas Hersey*, for the truly *patriotic* and *Republican* ORATION delivered by him before the SOCIETY and the citizens of *Cincinnati* on the 4th inst. and that *Brs. Sayre, Henderson & Windell*, be appointed a committee to communicate this resolve to *Br. Hersey* and to request that he will furnish a copy of the *Oration* in order that it may be printed.

By order of the *Society*,

THO. HENDERSON, Sec'y.



July 15th, 1814.

Brethren,

I have received your communication of the 9th inst.—your approbation of my address, on the anniversary of our independence, constrains me to comply with your request. If its publication can afford any satisfaction to the Brethren or to the community, I shall be highly gratified. With respectful consideration, your friend and Brother in Tammany relation.

THOS. HERSEY.

HISTORICAL & PHILANTHROPIST
SOCIETY

ORATION.

Fathers, Brethren and Friends,

We live to hail the return of another anniversary of our *Freedom and Independence*.—I cordially congratulate you on the the pleasing event. As you have called me to address you on the occasion, I sincerely solicit your most indulgent candor. The presence of so numerous and respectable an audience commands my veneration. This day brings to our recollection the toils, the dangers, and bloody conflicts of our sleeping fathers, whose courage, fortitude, and perseverance, by the good providence of God, secured the inviolable rights and privileges, civil and religious which we now enjoy.

Privations, fatigue and sufferings attended their exertions.—They were patient in tribulation, deliberate and determined in their councils, brave and successful in the field. The balance of war often hung in doubtful & awful suspense over the cradle of freedom; but HE, who rides on the whirlwind and directs the storm of battle, as often interposed in our favor. After a long and arduous struggle, the enemies of liberty were banished from our shores. Imperious Britain reluctantly acknowledged the freedom, independence and sovereignty of the United States.—Too many of the Toryified faction were permitted to remain; and many who had gone over to the enemy were suffered to return. The baneful influence of their principles and examples, are sensibly realised at the present day. When I reflect on this error of republican benevolence; the number and malice of those who wish evil concerning us, I anticipate some bloody scenes.

Europe for a long time has exhibited a melancholy picture of the depravity, madness and ambition of man. Those successive, rapid and unprecedented revolutions,

discover plainly the instability of all human affairs.—To day a man may hold an imperial sceptre, tomorrow he may be reduced to a state of dependence, wretchedness and degradation. The late Emperor Napoleon is a solemn and alarming instance of the precarious tenure of a monarch's Crown.

Would to God that every Despot on earth might speedily share the same fate. Hasten the event, O Lord God Almighty.

The day we celebrate, for many years has brought joy and gladness on its wings : long may it be precious to every good citizen of the United States.—May no shadows, clouds or darkness rest upon it.—A firm *chain of union* is the only mean to dispel the threatening gloom.

We have been compelled to make another appeal to arms, in defence of our rights and privileges as a *Free and Sovereign People*.—Designing Partisans complain that we declared war too soon. Had war been declared, while the decks of the Chesapeake were yet smoking with the blood of our citizens, Canada would now have been in our possession ; and these

snarling curs would not have dared to move their tongues. This remark is intended for none but such as are at heart the enemies of our country.

What must be the feelings of the opponents of the administration at this eventful crisis of the world? Do they rejoice to hear of the dethronement of Bononaparte and the establishment of the ancient Monarchy? Do they rejoice at the prospect of fleets and armies being poured in upon us, like an impetuous tide? would not those who triumph in the restoration of the ancient monarchy of France, rejoice to see the United States restored to their colonial condition, an appendage to the British government? Perhaps they anticipate the day, when protestantism shall submit to papacy, and popery be universally established. Some insinuate that religion and politics have no connection. That religion must be very impolitic, that is unconnected with the politics of the community. Christianity in its nature tends to ameliorate the condition of the human family. It is the basis of distributive and remunerative justice in society. All govern-

ments and laws, contrary in their nature and tendency, to the genius and spirit of christianity, must be of evil origin and pernicious tendency. Christianity dissipates the superstitions, destroys the idolatry, and relieves the barbarities of paganism. It humanizes and moralizes States and empires: makes the best of rulers and the wisest and happiest citizens.

The best policy any nation can adopt is to admit Christianity, to reject it the worst. Notwithstanding christianity and good governments are inseparably connected yet in a free elective government, such as the principles of christianity approve, it would be the worst of policy to require a particular religious test as a qualification for office. It is bad policy among a religious people to suffer their rulers to pervert religion to political purposes, for the oppression of the community.

That man has religion yet to seek, who feels no anxiety for the public weal. Who can be an idle unconcerned spectator of the political storm that is deluging the world? religion seeks after and delights

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in the welfare of all men. **Oppression says Solomon maketh a wise man Mad'.—** Are you as a people prepared for unconditional submission to the Demon of the ocean, the strong bulwark of the religion of Rebels, Traitors and Tories! Do we feel ourselves reduced to this abject situation? No! Forbid it oh my God—forbid it oh my country!—sons of Tammany form an indissoluble chain, fly from your Wigwam—unbury the tomahawk, rally round the standard of your country, seek the post of danger and the field of death in preference to a tyrants yoke. The constitution and laws of our country we will defend, her honor and dignity maintain. May goodness and mercy crown our efforts with abundant success.

You are pointed at as singular, but is it singular to prefer death to slavery, and our country's ruin? If this be true—God grant we may be the most singular men in the universe. Let those affect to reproach and despise our institution, whose unprincipled hearts, sinister designs, malevolence and ignorance, lead them on.

“Bark at the moon ye surley dogs of night,

She neither heeds your howl or shines less bright.”

Brethren, you love freedom, liberty is your life—Dear to your affections as life itself. Your feelings are alive on this momentous occasion—the 4th of July has again returned—There is magic in the name.

It gives a sacred impulse to all the noble energies of the soul. Here, we erect an altar inscribed with *gratitude to god*—Here, we resolve to stand firm like a band of faithful brethren, to stem the tide of usurpation, domination and oppression, until cold death shall chill the genial current of our souls.

The prospects of peace are very precarious.—We have confidence in the magnanimous soul of Alexander—If he was not an Emperor he might be an honest man—Away with all these idle dreams of peace, peace, when an honorable peace cannot be obtained. The Gottenburgh Mission was probably intented by the enemy to gain time to breathe—How long will we suffer ourselves to be deceived! While we wait, and look and long for peace, we will buckle on our armor and prepare for the field of slaughter.

While kings and emperors contend for crowns and Empires, that must perish with themselves, we contend for the unalienable rights of injured humanity, for the liberties of mankind—We appreciate the righteous judgements of Heaven. We recognise the hand of a munificent Father—But these instruments of cruelty, Savages and Britons have been and must be again chastised.

To enter into the subject of our political relations and prospects is remote from my intention. This audience is too much enlightened to be insulted by arguments to convince them of the perfidy and crimes of England, or the righteous cause, for which we have to contend unto blood.

Long may we enjoy our anniversary season, with festive hilarity and elevation of soul. The Washington of the west, our bright occidental star, has set with dignity, may heaven propitious, raise another who shall be equally beloved and equally deserving. Zeal is indispensable. The extremity of our affairs calls imperiously for vigorous exertions. We have confidence in

the wisdom and magnanimity of the nation. Nothing but an honorable peace or energetic war can satisfy the patriot mind—Rather than submission should degrade our favored country, we will hand the sword of our Fathers to our latest posterity reeking in blood.

Kings and emperors are tottering on their thrones. Revolution will succeed to revolution, like wave pursuing wave in the boisterous deep, until tyranny, oppression, the storm of war and rumors of war shall cease. The peaceable kingdom of righteousness shall be established in all the earth, the standard of christain love obtain general ascendancy, and the kingdoms of the world be swallowed up in the universal empire of our glorious Emanuel.