

AN

*L. Heywood*

# ORATION,

DELIVERED AT WORCESTER, MASS.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF,

# AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE,

JULY 4th, 1810.

~~BY~~  
By LEVI HEYWOOD, A. B.  
~~OF~~

Let us with courage and confidence, pursue our federal and republican principles; our attachment to union and representative government.

JEFFERSON.

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WORCESTER :

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.....  
1810.

WORCESTER, JULY 4th, 1810.

SIR,

IN behalf of the Company, who have assembled for the commemoration of the Day, which gave Birth to our Nation, we return you their unanimous thanks for the elegant and patriotic ORATION, this day pronounced by you, and request a copy for the Press.

LEVI LINCOLN, Jun. }  
SAML. BRAZER, Jun. } Committee.  
MERRICK RICE, }

LEVI HEYWOOD, Esq.

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WORCESTER, JULY 12th, 1810.

GENTLEMEN,

THE favorable opinion you have expressed of the ORATION, delivered by me on the fourth instant, is among the first pleasures of my heart. In complying with your request, I have listened to the call of my Friends, not to the dictates of my own inclination.

ACCEPT, Gentlemen, for yourselves and for those you represent, the homage of my sincere respect.

LEVI HEYWOOD.

Messrs. LINCOLN, }  
BRAZER, } Committee.  
RICE. }

# ORATION.

**NATIONAL** Rejoicings in commemoration of National Blessings, are sanctioned by the custom of ages. The Jews, the favoured people of God, paid a religious attention to the days that witnessed their deliverance and other interpositions of divine favour. The Grecians, Romans, and other distinguished Nations of antiquity, held splendid festivals to perpetuate the memory of illustrious atchievements. Such too has been the custom of modern times ; and indeed, nothing makes a more sublime impression upon the human mind, than a great community, leaving the ordinary concerns of life, thronging around the altars of their country, and, in the contemplation of exalted privileges, offering to the Parent of the Universe, a tribute of heart-felt gratitude for his protecting goodness. We have assembled, Fellow-Citizens, not as the vassals of the old world to insult Heaven with the mockery of our reluctant thanks for the birth of an infantile oppressor, nor for the protracted life of an imbecile monarch, nor to behold the nuptial ceremonies of a royal pair, uniting for the express purpose of procreating

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a tyrant ; but in grateful remembrance of the day, on which we ascended to that rank among the nations of the earth which nature had destined for a great, virtuous and magnanimous people. To devote to religious gratitude and social pleasures the birth day of our empire, must be delightful to all, in whose veins flows the uncontaminated blood of a revolutionary patriot, or whose souls are fired with the genial flame of liberty. Our theme is noble, and inspires sentiments worthy of the sons of freedom. However dull the address, the subject must arrest our attention. •

THE American Revolution, considered in reference to its origin, progress and termination ; or in reference to its benign effects upon the society of man, is an event unprecedented in the annals of the world. It was one among a series of events, tending to the establishment of a government, different in many important respects from any the world had ever witnessed ; a government which provides for the general safety, protects individuals in the enjoyment of their essential rights, and will, we trust, ultimately rescue the character of human nature from the imputations cast upon it, by the imperfections and wickedness of other governments.

HERE let us observe, that when men undertake in a *virtuous* cause, they know not with what abundant success their labours may be crowned : When the contest first began between the mother country and the colonies, a redress of parliamentary grievances, was all that was generally anticipated : When WASHINGTON took the command of the American army, he probably did not

foresee the glorious consequences which have resulted from so arduous and perilous an undertaking.

ALTHOUGH, at the commencement of the Revolution, the idea of Independence had scarcely entered the mind of an individual, succeeding events soon demonstrated its necessity. On the memorable morning of Lexington Battle, while the ground was encrimsoned with the blood of his Fellow-Citizens, the sagacious ADAMS saw with rapture in the serenity of the Heavens, the happy omen of his country's future glory ; and on the FOURTH OF JULY, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, the Declaration from the pen of our immortal JEFFERSON announced to the world that "the United States are, and of right ought to be, *Free, Sovereign and Independent.*" Preparatory to this important era, *Common Sense*, like a great luminary, burst upon the world.

To force us from the high ground we had taken, England added to her national debt the trifling item of *six hundred millions of dollars*, and consigned to an ignominious grave, *one hundred thousands of her subjects* : but such was the firmness of our councils, such the bravery of our patriotic brethren in arms, that after a long, bloody and sometimes doubtful contest, she was compelled to withdraw her hostile fleets and armies, and *formally* to acknowledge our independence. Here we might pause, and, in solemn silence, contemplate the distressing scene, when to enforce the mandates of an implacable Tyrant, the fierce bloodhounds of war were let loose upon our shores—when our cities, the monuments of our Fathers' industry, ascended in smoaky columns to mingle with the clouds of Heaven—"when the air resounded with

the shrieks of the dying"—and when, "to complete the horrid work of devastation, the merciless Indians were brought upon our defenceless frontiers"—But why should we attempt to give utterance to feelings which no language can express ?

Our leaders in this grand enterprize had no views of conquest ; nor did they encounter the perils and hardships of eight years service, to gratify the malignant passions of a haughty monarch ; but they fought, and bled, and finally triumphed in defence of the freedom they inherited from their hardy and industrious Ancestors—They contended for the recognition of their national rights, the acknowledgement of our Independence ; and, when this was atchieved, they joyfully quitted the troubles and turmoil of the camp, for the tranquil enjoyment of domestic retreats. It was, on our part, a war of sentiment. No one was ambitious of acquiring military fame at the expence of the blood of his fellow creatures. How unlike the wars of Alexander, Cæsar and other royal monsters, that have deluged the earth in blood ! The tears of sympathy will always flow at the recollection of those, who fell a sacrifice upon the altars of their country. But why should we attempt an eulogy upon those, whose matchless deeds are recorded upon the tablets of our memories ? You, my respected hearers, who witnessed their heroic deaths, will inform them when you meet them in the world of bliss, that their descendants are in possession of the boon, purchased at the expence of their lives, and that a grateful country will never be unmindful of their gallant conduct. At this recital, they will experience joys similar to those

experienced by the celestial choir when "the morning-stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." We will now take our leave of the "times that tried men's souls," and, for a few moments, contemplate the situation of our beloved country after the troops of England had retired—When the country was indeed free ; but at the same time involved in difficulties.

THE infancy of a nation, like the infancy of man, is the most precarious portion of its existence. As it requires time to give nerve and muscular strength to the natural body ; so does it require time to give firmness and stability to the body politic of a nation. If either escape the dangers incident to the infantile state, hopes may be entertained of full grown manhood ; nay, of firm and vigorous old age. During the Revolution the views of our citizens were directed to a single point, the acquisition of liberty. "United by common dangers," each individual clearly perceived, that his own safety was involved in that of the whole community. Public spirit gave impulse to individual exertions, and the love of country excluded all other passions. But when the object of union and concert was removed, love of country began to give palce to the selfish passions. Instead of sentiments of union, divisions and jealousies appeared, the bonds of the Old Confederation gave way, and the nation was afloat upon the "tempestuous ocean of unadjusted liberty." Every patriotic bosom beat high with fear, lest the fair prospects of rising *America* should all be destroyed. Enemies at home and enemies abroad exulted in the idea, that we should fall an early prey to intestine commotions, and after drenching our fields in

the blood of thousands, revert to our former state of colonial vassalage, and, as an evidence of remorse, voluntarily kiss the hand of the old oppressor. But "the destroying angel passed by." The Eagle of Liberty still fastened her foot upon our land, and inspired its possessors with new devotions for union, for virtue, for republicanism. He, who now fills the first executive office of the nation, moved for a convention of the respective states to form a constitution that should remedy the then existing evils. From their labors resulted our present Federal Compact. It is with great propriety, considered the most finished specimen of political architecture. In viewing its component parts, the eye, unless dazzled by the splendor of royalty, discovers no disproportion, no want of symmetry.

When the Federal Constitution was first adopted, doubts were entertained, whether it was adapted to the genius of the people, and to the local interests of the States it was intended to unite in one great confederacy.

It is now more than twenty years since this charter of our liberties has been upon the "full tide of successful experiment." In this interim, the unrivalled prosperity of our common country sufficiently evinces the excellency of our federal system. "It is a strong tower into which we may at all times run and be safe," and, when collected within its sacred ramparts, may view with unaffected composure, the insidious arts of domestic faction and foreign aggression.

Thus was formed, upon the pure principles of representative democracy, a government, which has preser-



ved these States in peace, while, in the language of an elegant writer, " Europe has been in one great blaze of war."

REPUBLICAN institutions tend to preserve mankind in peace, and from this circumstance do we derive the consoling hope, that the plains of America will never be fertilized with the blood of our fellow-men.

HAPPILY for us, we are situated at a vast distance from the corrupt governments of Europe. They can annoy our commerce ; but they will never venture their armies upon our shores, while the Union of the States remains unimpaired. While we persevere in our federative system, no cause of civil war can exist. A remedy for all our political evils, is found ; not in arms, the last resort of kings, but in the frequency of our elections. Votes then, not bayonets, are the weapons of our warfare. But should the bonds of our confederacy be burst asunder, should the integrity of the union be violated, then farewell to all our glorious prospects. This disaster cannot, will not happen. Love to man, love to God, yea, and the powerful motives of self-interest and self-preservation, all, all, invite to union. To this end should all our measures of policy and education centre as to a gravitating point. The infant in the cradle should be taught to look on union as the " ark of safety," and to lisp curses and imprecations upon all who attempt to violate its sanctity.

SHOULD you find an individual among the American family, so abandoned as to wish a dismemberment, endeavor to reclaim him. Address yourselves to his

philanthropy by arguing the cause of present and future generations. If in this you are unsuccessful, apply to his prudence, by admonishing him of the folly of attempting to overthrow a system which cannot be shaken. If this have not the desired effect, appeal with the whole force of your eloquence to his fears. Remind him of the awful punishment that will assuredly overtake him. Remind him of the punishment that has already overtaken the **CATALINES** of America.

A **BURR** has attempted a dismemberment in the west—A **PICKERING** in the east. The former is a vagabond—the latter, a prey to the upbraidings of his own guilty conscience ; and in the keen anguish of despair *blasphemes* his God, by placing his “*last hope*” on “*Britain’s fast anchored Isle*” ! !

Does any American feel dissatisfied with the simplicity of our Republican institutions, and long for the pomp, show and pageantry of monarchical government. Let him no longer pollute the air we breathe. Let him cross the Atlantic, and become the subject of the supercilious **GEORGE**, or the vindictive **NAPOLEON**. There is no *embargo* on such outlandish commodities. He may become one of her *Britannic Majesty’s confectioners*, or, if very successful, he may be permitted to kiss the foot of the Empress **MARIA LOUISA**.

WERE we to listen to the mournful ditty of some of our political divines, we should suppose that an end to all our hopes and national prospects was at hand ; that in the vortex of *French* ambition and *French* despo-

ism would soon be devoured all the rights for which our *Franklins* toiled and our *Warrens* fell.

If the least pretence for this declamation existed, instead of repairing to yonder festive board to terminate the joys of this social day, we ought to veil ourselves in sackcloth and ashes, and in the language of Job exclaim, "Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it ; let a cloud dwell upon it ; let the blackness of the day terrify it ;"—but if these fears are the mere creatures of a disordered imagination, or the " suggestions of some goblin of the tombs, some spirit of darkness," we will treat them with the contempt they merit ; and go on to " indulge in mirth and song and social feast, for joy becomes the occasion."

*French* influence and *French* invasion have so long been sounded in our ears, that they cease to excite alarm.

THAT NAPOLEON may, if assisted by England, destroy our foreign commerce, is undoubtedly true ; but that he can reduce to subjection the free and independent Americans, is an idea, against which every one, acquainted with our geographical position, our resources of men, and means of self-defence, will enter his most solemn protest.

It is admitted by all, that the physical strength of the *United States* is such, that they may set at defiance the threat of any potentate, provided they are not first weakened by internal divisions. To maintain the inconsistent ground they have taken, the emissaries of *England* assert that there is an overbearing partiality for *France* ; and that the hand of NAPOLEON is seen in the measures

of our government ; but for these insinuations not the least particle of proof exists.

THE hand of NAPOLEON is as visible in the proscription of the venerable patriots, HANCOCK and ADAMS, as in any of our governmental measures.

It follows *of course*, that the noise of French influence is a mere pretext of the emissaries of England to conceal their own nefarious plots against our Independence. They have succeeded in part—They have succeeded so far as to create division among those who ought all to be united—They have enlisted under their banners, men, whose former services ought, if it were possible, to shield them from the imputation of practices injurious to the best interests of the people—They have, by their incessant clamor, induced us to abandon a measure, but for the repeal of which, millions of *American* property now condemned in the ports of *Europe*, from the *Baltic* to the *Euxine* sea, might be in our own storehouses—They have kept thousands of *American* citizens incarcerated in *British* ships of war—They have compelled *Americans* to pay an ignominious tax for navigating the Ocean, the high-way of nations ; but they have neither overthrown our government, nor brought the present administration into disrepute—They are therefore foiled in their attempts, and the injury they meditated against our peace, recoils with tenfold energy upon their own heads.

PARTIALITY towards any foreign nation ought not to be indulged by the American people. What, nevertheless, is the fact ? Does not the conduct of part of our

citizens evince an entire devotion towards *England*? *England* has taken our ships, impressed our seamen, murdered our citizens, violated a solemn arrangement, and to put the finishing stroke to her outrages upon our sovereignty, has sent a Minister *red-hot* from the burnings of *Copenhagen*, to insult and abuse our government: Yet says the high-priest of Anglo-Federalism, " *England* has done us no essential injury." This Minister too, has been treated with unusual attention by those very men who are perpetually accusing the republicans of partiality to *France*. The Republicans view with equal indignation the conduct of both the Belligerents.

MAY we now approach with reverence the interesting subject of Christianity. The doctrines inculcated in this holy religion are divine, and calculated for our support and comfort thro' this "vale of tears," and, if cordially embraced, sure to conduct us to happiness beyond the grave. The *pious* teachers of this religion are entitled to our respect, and are "Ministers of God for good unto the people." Who would suppose any one of this order of men should so far mistake the duties of his calling, as to convert the ordinances of Christian meekness into engines of political wrath, to blast the reputation of good men, to weaken the confidence the people have in their rulers, to batter down our republican institutions, nay, to overthrow our government? Such, however, is the melancholy fact! Do not however, for a moment, believe these devotees of *England* the followers of the "meek and lowly *JESUS*." No: they are as Anti-Christian as they are Anti-Republican, and if the Saviour of the world were now upon earth, these modern Pharisees

would join in the cry "*crucify, crucify him,*" and Judas-like betray him into the hands of wicked men.

## REPUBLICANS!

THIS anniversary has always been dear to you ; but to-day you have more abundant cause for rejoicing than on any former occasion. The revolving year 1810 has found you in the "full tide of successful experiment." By co-operating with your Brethren in this section of the Union, you have dispelled the dark cloud, that was gathering in our political hemisphere, and portended so much evil to our Republic—you have crushed, ere a regular developement of its features took place, the *Northern Confederacy*, a political monster, begotten by the *Hero* of Lexington upon the *barlot* *Sedition*. You have renovated the government of *Massachusetts*, by discharging from official duties a man, whom you justly suspected to be in the interests of the Old Oppressor, and too ready on every occasion to "*unfurl the Republican Banner.*" You have elevated to the chair of state a patriot of the Revolution, a man whose every thought is American, who, advised and assisted by the great abilities and inflexible virtues of a LINCOLN, will most cordially support the measures of the general government. A success similar to that which attended the *Patriots* in the *Revolution* has attended your labors for the last year. Such, too, will always attend your exertions in the cause of your Country.

To heal the wounds inflicted upon society by political divisions, is an object of immense importance—To restore to social intercourse that "harmony without

which life itself is but a dreary waste," is worthy of every personal sacrifice—To produce an union of sentiment among the American family is the sincere wish of every Republican. But how are these ends to be atchieved? Are the Republicans to surrender into the hands of their political opponents, the administration of government? Are they to subscribe to the doctrine, that the "people are their own worst enemies, and incapable of self government?" To these enquiries your uniform exertions give the most unequivocal reply. Let the Federalists ascend above the ignoble prejudices they have imbibed against us—Let them discard those "*typographical cannibals,*" whose only aliment is the reputation of great and good men—Let them condescend to *speak* well of those who *deserve* well of their Country—Let them cordially unite in support of measures, calculated to promote the best interests of the people—Then will the door of reconciliation be fairly opened—Then will we become "all Republicans, all Federalists." But to relax in our exertions, ere we receive from the opposition pledges for these concessions, would be a species of suicide, of which it is hoped no Republican will ever be guilty.