

AN

**ORATION,**

**PRONOUNCED AT DRACUT, 1st. PARISH,**

**ON THE 4TH OF JULY, 1818,**

***IN COMMEMORATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.***

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town and Chelmsford.**

## ORATION.

THE propriety of commemorating great and momentous events, has been established, by the usages of mankind, in almost every age.

Again are we assembled to celebrate another anniversary of our nation's nativity : in the full possession, and enjoyment of the numerous and inestimable blessings, which have resulted from that glorious event. The occasion, then, is admirably adapted to excite in us the liveliest emotions of joy and gratitude. Forty two years, only, have rolled down the current of time, since the commencement of our national existence, and America is elevated to the first rank among the nations of the earth. Independent, powerful, wealthy, enlightened and virtuous, she commands the respectful consideration of the world.

But, by our civil and religious privileges, we are peculiarly distinguished from every other nation. Among the choicest favours which indulgent heaven bestows on mankind, may be reckoned the enjoyment of personal safety, the acquisition and protection of property, and the liberty of doing whatever is promotive of their own happiness, and does not militate against the rights of others. Such, however, are the passions and propensities, the wants and weaknesses of men, that in order to secure these blessings, they are necessitated to enter into associations, and unite in a system of government, by which the strength of the community may, on any emergency be concentrated ; every individual constrained to yield obedience, and equal protection extended to all.

Genuine social liberty requires the support and protection of just and equitable laws. Without that restraint which is imposed on the passions of men by salutary laws, they have nothing left them but that inordinate, pernicious freedom, which characterizes the rude uncultivated savage, or the inhabitant of Arabia's burning deserts, who, uncontrolled by any legal authority, looks upon himself as the rightful judge and avenger of the wrongs and injuries done him, and not unfrequently commits, with impunity, the most flagrant acts of cru-

erty and injustice. Such licentious freedom is more to be deprecated than despotism itself.

Under no other form of government, however, are the best interests of the people secured, than that which is chosen and established by themselves; and administered by those who are elected by them, are dependent on them for the tenure of office, and amenable to them for their trust. It is true indeed that some considerable privileges *may* be extended to them under a *despotic* government; but if the government exist independent of the people, they have not that security for the few privileges they possess, which depends on their acknowledged rights; but on the will of those who rule over them; and knowing that the continuance, even of those few, is extremely uncertain, their enjoyment of them is proportionably diminished.

We have the peculiar felicity of living under that happy form of government which is best calculated to secure the dearest privileges of the people. While most governments have owed their origin to usurpation, or have been framed by chance in popular assemblies, or in conquered countries by despotic authority; ours has been taken up on primary principles, is the result of deliberative wisdom, and has been sanctioned and legitimated by the voice of the people. It equally guarantees the blessings of Liberty in the highest perfection of which they are susceptible, to all ranks of our fellow citizens: to the chief Magistrate of the nation, and to the humblest individual. It wisely guards against anarchy and confusion on the one hand, and tyranny and oppression on the other: while it prevents the evils of natural licentiousness, it presents the corrected sweets of *rational* liberty. That liberty, which is so much desired by an enlightened soul; which constitutes our highest happiness and gives life its charms.

Could we traverse the globe, and see the situation of its inhabitants; how many nations should we find groaning under the yoke of despotism, doomed to drink the bitter dregs of servitude, dependent for life, property and every thing dear to them on the will of unfeeling tyrants! But where could we behold a nation so highly favoured as the people of America? None is there to be found. Liberty expelled from the east has taken refuge in the west, and here only is she enjoyed.

Oh Liberty, thou goddess heavenly bright,  
 Profuse of bliss, and pregnant with delight !  
 Eternal pleasures in thy presence reign,  
 And smiling plenty leads thy wanton train ;  
 Eas'd of her load subjection grows more light,  
 And poverty looks cheerful in thy sight :  
 Thou mak'st the gloomy face of nature gay,  
 Giv'st beauty to the sun, and pleasure to the day.

While we felicitate ourselves, on this joyful day, at the prosperous and happy condition of our country ; our thoughts are naturally carried back on the various and interesting scenes, through which we have heretofore passed. The history of other nations is chiefly occupied in narrating the exploits of ambitious, unfeeling conquerors, the cruelties of tyrants, and the miseries and crimes of their oppressed, and degraded subjects ; while the annals of our own country exhibit a series of events, the contemplation of which cannot but give rise to exulting emotions.

It is a source of proud satisfaction, that we can trace our descent from a race of men, who were actuated by the purest principles of virtue and morality. Men who had too much piety to dissemble their religious sentiments, and were too independent to submit to ecclesiastical tyranny. The motives, which influenced our ancestors to leave the land of their nativity, brave the dangers of a trackless and wide-spreading ocean, and settle in an inhospitable wilderness ; the fortitude and magnanimity with which they bore the complicated dangers, difficulties and hardships to which they were exposed ; their political and religious principles, and love of literature ; their habits of industry and economy : their uprightness, circumspection and judicious policy, in relation to the barbarous natives, who, thirsting for human blood, watched every opportunity to involve them in the horrors of savage warfare ; the firmness and intrepidity with which they resisted and overcame the combined arms of the cruel French and Indians, who leagued together for the purpose of exterminating them from this since happy land ; the patience and perseverance, with which they surmounted the numerous obstacles which opposed their progress till they became a people of wealth and importance, are themes peculiarly pleasing, interesting, and profitable to every real American.

But with what increasing lustre, did the character of our fathers shine forth, when that memorable period arrived, at which it became necessary to take up arms against the parent state. Great Britain, observing the rapid growth of her colonies in America, and jealous of their rising glory and prosperity, resolved to rivet a yoke upon their necks, while yet in their infancy, before they should acquire the vigor of manhood, and strength to resist. But she had yet to learn that, though young, their strength was beyond their years, and that the sons of free-men, who breathed the same liberal air as their venerable fathers, and inherited their unconquerable love of liberty, were not to be enslaved.

The conduct of Britain, in relation to the colonies, being now stamped with the odious features of tyranny, against her oppressive measures they humbly petitioned, remonstrated, and supplicated. But all in vain. She being blind to her own interest, deaf to the calls of justice, and determined to reduce our fellow-citizens to a state of vassalage; the only remaining alternative was slavery for themselves and posterity, or an awful contest with the most potent nation on earth. And their ardent love of liberty, and deep-rooted hatred of tyranny, immediately determined their choice.

The tremendous conflict now began. Our coasts were infested with formidable fleets; our shores were invaded by veteran armies; the blood of our countrymen was shed by the enemy! But their resolution was still unshaken. Though they were untutored in military tactics, and destitute of the materials and weapons of defence, liberty or death was their motto, and appealing to heaven for the rectitude of their cause, they undismayed met the invading foe. The ethereal fire of patriotism was enkindled in every breast, and pervaded all ranks of our countrymen. The fair sex were not strangers to the same generous flame, and by their moving eloquence and patriotic zeal, increased the ardour of their husbands, brothers, and lovers, in the defence of their country.

At this time of public tranquillity, it is difficult to conceive the tone of heroism, to which the souls of freemen were exalted, at that perilous juncture. All were animated by a divine enthusiasm, which influenced them to sacrifice every private and personal consideration to the salvation of their country; the implements

of husbandry were thrown aside for those of war; our councils were filled by men of wisdom and the sublimest patriotism, and on the fourth of July, 1776, they pronounced us Independent. On that day a nation was born. That eventful, that auspicious day, opened the door of happiness to the United States.

Great, however, were the exertions and sacrifices, by which our independence was supported. To detail the exploits of our revolutionary heroes, many of whom have long since, we trust, been translated to the mansions of immortal freedom and bliss, would be superfluous. For a knowledge of them we may recur to the historian's page. The struggle was arduous and protracted; during seven years, our fields bristled with the implements of war, and were moistened with the blood of the slain. Our towns were set on fire by the enemy; they marched through our territories, laid waste some parts of our country, desolated our dwellings, and sometimes dispersed our unarmed, undisciplined troops. But, though dispersed, they were not conquered; they would again rally and engage, and gather fresh strength from fresh opposition. Those in the cabinet, and those in the field were animated by an inextinguishable love of liberty and their country. The illustrious WASHINGTON led the battle, and it terminated in victory and the highest honour to America; and in disgrace and mortification to Britain.

The doubtful and long protracted contest which had thrown a blaze of glory around our infant country, being now happily ended; our Independence acknowledged by Great Britain, and the other powers of Europe, and relations of amity established between them and the United States, the public attention was naturally turned to our internal situation. Our provisional government which, like the tabernacle in the wilderness, had been erected during our revolutionary march, was found insufficient to secure the great interests of the nation. In order, therefore, to raise and support public credit, to strengthen the union of the States, and give dignity to the national character, it became necessary to form a new constitution. Delegates were accordingly chosen by the different states, who met in convention for this purpose. And after mature deliberation, and duly weighing all the circumstances connected with an object

of such vast importance, they agreed, in the most essential articles of our present excellent constitution. It was then submitted to the examination of the respective states, by them approved and accepted, and thus became the supreme law of the land.

Our national and state constitutions being established, and our late magnanimous chief called by the unanimous voice of his countrymen to fill the presidential chair, and the sun of liberty shining in meridian splendour upon us, animating and cheering were our prospects. And indeed happy days were assigned us. We enjoyed uninterrupted peace, new incentives were given to industry and laudable enterprise, the lucrative channels of commerce were opened, and our increase in wealth and population was unparalleled. Commerce, through a series of years, was kept in a most flourishing state, and though occasionally much embarrassed, by the aggression of foreign nations, went on increasing; our vessels covered the ocean; they visited every port, and conveyed to our shores the productions, necessaries and delicacies of every nation and every clime; our revenue was immense, and wealth flowed in upon us in abundant profusion. But such a happy state of things could not be expected to last always. An uninterrupted course of prosperity has never been the lot of any nation. Our country was destined to experience a reverse of fortune. The rival belligerents of Europe made their depredations; they seized our commerce: plundered our seamen; and confiscated and burned vessels. An embargo and various restrictions were consequently laid, by government, on our vessels, to preserve them from their grasp, and commerce was swept from the ocean; our revenue was lost. A stagnation of business necessarily ensued; many of our wealthy, enterprising fellow-citizens were reduced to indigence; others, whose occupations afforded them a competency, were thrown out of employ; the price of our surplus produce was diminished, while that of imported articles was increased; and our country, especially this eastern section of it, was impoverished.

Such was our situation, when, the clouds which had obscured our political horizon gathering to a storm, war again, in 1812 broke out between the United States, and Great Britain. Much greater evils and privations

could not now but be experienced. Our northern frontier was seen in some places wrapt in flames, and the defenceless inhabitants flying before an exasperated foe ; our extensive and unfortified sea-coast was invested with the hostile fleets of the enemy ; our shores were invaded, some of our towns were plundered or destroyed : the capital of our nation, being in a defenceless state, was a short time in possession of the enemy ; many millions were expended ; thousands of lives were lost in the contest, and many widows and orphans were left the weeping monuments of their departure.

But though the effects of the late war were very distressing in some parts of our country, and are yet sensibly felt, still we may reflect with pleasure and delight, on the valour and bravery, which were in many instances displayed by our countrymen, and by which the high character of our nation has been maintained. The conduct of our naval heroes has reflected much honor on **their** country, and secured to **themselves** imperishable fame. The enemy, whose superiority in naval prowess had so long been acknowledged, was alarmed and astonished at their gallant achievements. They have, to use the language of an eloquent speaker, fixed the stars of our flag in the heavens, as a new and brilliant constellation in this western hemisphere ; a sign in which we conquer ; our heavenly guide to victory. The brave Jackson and our other heroes, for their glorious exploits, will ever live in the affections of a grateful people. Our militia, when called upon to march in defence of our invaded or threatened soil, promptly obeyed the call, and when opportunity offered, valiantly met the foe. They evinced the same spirit of patriotism, which actuated the heroes of '76, and are justly entitled to the applause and gratitude of their country.

More than three years has now elapsed since peace returned to bless our land. Our fellow-citizens, who were compelled by a state of war, to abandon their usual avocations, have resumed their habits of peaceful industry, so conducive to their own, and the public interest. We have an extensive commerce, affording a large and increasing revenue : public credit has attained a respectable elevation ; the arts and sciences are flourishing among us ; and agriculture and manufactures are improving. In view of these things we have abundant



reason to rejoice. But how is our joy increased, when these are viewed in connexion with our political and religious liberties. These are the joy, the pride and glory of America. And of what infinite moment is it, that we pay due attention to those things, which are connected with their preservation.

The free, but impotent, states of Holland and Switzerland, lying contiguous to more powerful nations, could not resist their overwhelming armies; their liberties were wrested from them. But with us the case is different. Never was the natural or local situation of any country more favourable for national happiness and security than that of ours. It is of vast extent and fertility; our climate is temperate; our atmosphere pure and salubrious; and the various productions of our soil may with facility, be conveyed to almost any part of our territory, by the numerous and navigable rivers which, in different directions intersect it. The spacious Atlantic, which forms our eastern boundary, and places us at an immense distance from the powerful nations of Europe, constitutes a strong barrier against invasion.

Aside from these advantages, we possess the amplest means of national defence. We have a well organized militia, under good discipline, well armed and equipped, composed of a large proportion of the citizens of the United States, who taste the joys of freedom, are strongly attached to the soil they cultivate, and would willingly risk their lives in its defence. Should an augmentation of our navy be deemed expedient, we have the means in our own hands, and every material, requisite for carrying on war, may be furnished in plenty by ourselves. When we contrast our present situation, with what it was in the glorious contest for our independence, it must be admitted, that we have little to fear from any external foe. It is true, there are many evils inseparable from a state of war, from which in case of future hostility we could not be exempt. But such are the resources of the United States, that, if they be cordially united in their own defence, the world in arms would be unable to penetrate the fortress of our Independence.

The only dangers, then, which we have to apprehend, must arise from internal causes, or the abuse of our privileges. From this cause the most distinguished republics have lost their freedom. It remains with our-

selves whether we shall maintain the elevated and happy station to which we have risen, or, by pursuing similar courses with other republican nations, which have gone before us, involve ourselves in the same calamities, which befel them. Of those republics, which make such a conspicuous figure in history, and which, when in their prosperity were undoubtedly expected to last to the end time, we can only say, they once were. Not a vestige of them remains. Ours is the only one which now exists. And the experiment is now making, whether the people of America have wisdom and virtue sufficient to support a free elective government. The experiment could never be made on fairer grounds, or with better prospects. And should it be unsuccessful in this instance, as in has in every other,—should America be added to the mournful catalogue of fallen republics, it would cast a dark shade on the common cause of mankind! Should such an event take place, the idea of equal liberty must be relinquished for ever! Abused by mankind in every country, Liberty would bid adieu to the earth, and take her flight to Heaven! Despotism might then spread her sable wings over each continent, and fix her talons in the vitals of every nation! Posterity, with the keenest anguish, would look back on the conduct of preceding generations, and, in accents of grief, lament the mistakes, the faults and crimes, which conspired to rob them of their rich inheritance, and left them destitute and wretched!!

Should we judge of future events from a knowledge of those which are past, we should have reason to fear that these evils, which are so much to be deprecated, would here be realized. But we hope better things. In reviewing the scenes, through which we have passed, we cannot but recognise the interpositions of the Divine hand; and may we not indulge the hope, that God will not suffer his own work to be destroyed? Indeed, when we consider the singular and peculiar advantages which we possess, that we have the experience of past ages to point out to us the course which ought to be pursued, to develop the sources of mischief, and warn us of the dangers with which we may be threatened; may we not rationally expect, that the glory of American Independence will never be extinguished; that the fair tree of Liberty, which has been so carefully planted, will always

flourish, in this western hemisphere, and millions yet unborn enjoy its refreshing shade. From those nations which have fallen from distinguished heights of glory and happiness, we may receive instruction; and the faithful page of history, which informs us of the means by which they fell, stands as a beacon to admonish us of the rocks and shoals on which a free people is liable to be cast.

That a republican government may be supported, and liberty enjoyed, it is necessary that there should be a general diffusion of correct information among the people. By being correctly informed, they are enabled to understand and duly appreciate their rights and privileges; the ways in which, and enemies by whom they are most likely to be assailed; and the means best calculated to preserve them. It is obvious, that the more ignorant any are, the less capable are they of governing themselves. Were we to take a survey of those dark regions of slavery and despotism, where the wretched inhabitants submit, with the utmost tameness, to the rule of lordly tyrants; we should find their ignorance in proportion to their wretchedness. Indeed, were they so enlightened as to act on any rational system to recover their freedom, they could not be kept in subjection. But the means of information are withheld, by those who rule over them, and every ray of political light is shut out.

Ample provision should be made for the instruction of children and youth. Our literary institutions should be sedulously cherished and supported; and a sufficient number of free-schools should be maintained, at the public expense, that the children of all ranks of our citizens may have an opportunity to acquire a useful education. Much indeed has already been done to promote this object, in this part of our country, but still more may and ought to be done. The distinguished sages and philosophers of ancient and modern time have been deeply sensible, that the freedom and happiness of the people depended essentially on the education given to youth. Solon and Lycurgus, the celebrated legislators of Athens and Sparta, bestowed on this object unwearied attention. Young minds are susceptible of the most lasting impressions. It is, therefore, necessary that their education should be prudently and judiciously conducted. Hannibal, one of the most renowned heroes of

antiquity, was led to the altar by his father, at nine years of age, and took the oath of perpetual enmity to the Romans. His mind was deeply impressed with the solemnity of the transaction, which probably influenced his conduct towards that nation ever afterwards.

Temperance, industry, economy and patriotism are some of the republican virtues which are intimately connected with the support of a free government; and among others should be inculcated on the minds of youth. The nature and value of our rights and liberties, and the principles of our constitutions of government, should be well understood; and it would perhaps be of real utility, should they be generally taught in our common schools.

The public papers are the common medium of our political information, and by them public opinion is, in a great degree governed. Hence it is obvious, that they should be conducted by men of ability, and of the strictest integrity and veracity. If the sources of public information be poisoned by unprincipled, designing men, and newspapers become the vehicles of falsehood, slander, and defamation, the people will consequently be misled. Bewildered amidst the foul mists of scandal and calumny, they are liable to mistake their friends for their foes, and reproach and even execrate the most patriotic and meritorious men, while they repose the fullest confidence in those who employ every artifice to delude them. The people of free states, through the intrigues and misrepresentations of those who pretended to be their friends, have not unfrequently been led to requite their best benefactors with shameful ingratitude. History furnishes many instances of this kind. In perusing the annals of Grecian and Roman republics, we find that many of their wisest and most irreproachable statesmen; their ablest and bravest generals, and their purest patriots; by being traduced and calumniated by artful men, who envied their greatness, and aspired to supplant them; became the objects of popular jealousy; received the ingratitude and execrations of the very people, whom their patriotic exertions had rescued from slavery and ruin, and in whose service they had employed their brilliant talents, and spent their lives: and were condemned, by the public voice, to suffer confiscation of estate, imprisonment, exile, or even death!!

The American republic cannot be acquitted of the charge of ingratitude towards some of the greatest and best men. Even Washington, whose extraordinary labours in the field and in the council so eminently contributed to the acquisition and support of our freedom and independence; and the prosperity and glory of his country; did not escape the arrows of envy and slander. The outcry which was made against him is probably within the recollection of many present. Such was the ingratitude he received, that the following words, relative to the calumnies against him, were drawn from his own lips: "For the result, as it respects myself, I care not. I have a consolation within, of which no earthly effort can deprive me; and that is, that neither ambitious nor interested motives have influenced my conduct. The arrows of malevolence, therefore, however barbed and pointed, can never reach my most valuable part; though whilst I am up as a mark, they will be continually aimed at me." Such ingratitude deeply stings the soul of man. Many instances of a similar nature might, if the occasion required, be mentioned. How many men of distinguished worth, who have occupied exalted public stations in our country, have had the misfortune to receive the keenest censure and reproach. But, whenever a people become so infatuated, or misinformed as to abuse and discard their best friends, and confide in artful sycophants, who study to deceive them in order to despoil them;—whenever low cunning, impudence, falsehood and violence, prevail over wisdom, modesty, veracity and honesty, it requires no great sagacity to perceive, that their liberties are not very secure.

There is nothing perhaps more indispensably necessary to the security of their liberties, than union and harmony among the people. A spirit of party and disunion has a direct tendency to the subversion of a free government. Acting under its pernicious influence, men frequently lose sight of whatever is calculated to promote the welfare of the community, and secure their dearest interests. Amidst their party contentions, and the fervour of altercation, so eager are they to carry a favourite point, or put to silence their opponents, that their most important privileges are neglected or abused, and consequently much endangered. When indeed their party prejudices, jealousies and animosities become

inveterate and extreme, they are more willing even to sacrifice their freedom, and invest some leader of their own party with absolute power, than to have their opposers predominate.

As the prevalence of party spirit is exceedingly favourable to the views of ambitious men, by whose arts popular governments have usually been overthrown, they are ever on the watch to keep it alive. They make every exertion to foment the jealousies of the people against the most deserving characters, and by flattery and hypocritical professions of friendship, usually succeed in attaching a party to themselves. Having divided the people, and stirred up their passions, they frequently avail themselves of the party strifes and confusion, which ensue; find means to seize on their liberties, and leave them nothing about which to contend. The Romans, while they were united, enjoyed their freedom. Victory almost invariably attended their arms, and they were deemed invincible. But after extending their conquests over almost the whole of the then known world, and enriching themselves with the spoils of vanquished nations; a violent spirit of party at length prevailed among them. And after exhausting themselves, by intestine struggles and commotions; Cæsar was enabled to bend their once proud and lordly necks, and their immense commonwealth sunk into an universal despotism.

Should the prejudices and jealousies of the American States ever proceed to such a length, as to lead them in pursuit of separate objects, without regard to the general interest; or induce any of them to withdraw from the federal union; what would be the consequences? Our constitution would be disannulled. We should no longer be one people, but broken into separate confederacies, among which would probably arise the keenest rivalships and animosities, fomented by the insidious intrigues of foreign nations, till the flames of horrid war would be enkindled. Hostilities once commenced, the rival confederacies, bordering on each other, would not readily be reconciled. There is, perhaps, much reason to believe, that, like the ancient Hebrews and Greeks, they would carry on incessant and implacable wars against each other, till their energies were exhausted, by their mutual incursions and ravages: when, it is

not improbable, that they would fall under the dominion of foreign powers, or some modern Philip or Alexander would be able to make himself master of the whole; and thus erect a despotism on the ruins of our lost republic !!

One of the most important privileges of a free people, and one by which they are peculiarly distinguished, is, the right of suffrage, or election. It is therefore, highly necessary that this right should be carefully and properly exercised. But this privilege is undoubtedly very liable to abuse. When men, who are seeking and panting for the honour and emolument of office; who are totally destitute of real merit: are elected merely because they belong to, and are zealous supporters of a particular party; when the people are influenced in their choice by passion and prejudice; when they give their suffrages for undeserving candidates, who employ every infamous intrigue in their power, for their own promotion; whilst honourable, capable, and honest men, who are above the low business of office-seeking, are set aside; it will be admitted, that the right of election is then abused. Public stations become filled by corrupt designing men, and the rights and liberties of the people are endangered. How important it is, then, that in exercising this invaluable right, we carefully guard against abusing it. That we suffer no party feeling, no motive foreign to the public weal, to influence our elections; that they be perfectly free and unbiassed; and that we use our best endeavours to bring into the government, men of approved abilities, of sound integrity, and genuine patriotism; who will not aim to aggrandize themselves and families, or promote the interests of a party merely; but the happiness and welfare of the whole community.

Religion is one of the main pillars on which a free government rests. It is the basis of morality and virtue, without which liberty cannot be supported. When a people cease to be virtuous they will soon cease to be free. Remove from their minds the salutary restraints of religious principle; or their belief in the moral government of Deity, and a future state of retribution, and they will no longer be peaceable citizens; virtue and vice will be confounded; their unruly passions will be let loose; and they will soon find themselves afloat on the boisterous sea of licentious liberty, continually ex-

posed to imminent danger, till they reach the dreary and inhospitable shores of despotism.

In France, the experiment was made to establish liberty with atheism. The regal government was abolished: a commonwealth was proclaimed; and the king was beheaded. And what were the consequences? For years, that ill fated country became a prey to all the horrors of the most rancorous civil war; thousands and thousands of its inhabitants fell victims to popular phrensy and jacobinic ferocity; and after the most tragic scenes had been acted, and re-acted, the aspiring blood-stained Napoleon, by intrigue and violence, overturned that constitution he had sworn to preserve, and established a military despotism, which, at once, swept away every vestige of liberty, not only from France, but from the continent of Europe.

That we may preserve our liberties unimpaired, we must cultivate those virtues, which characterized our venerable ancestors, and discourage the opposite vices. Luxury, effeminacy and disunion being the well known enemies of freedom, and the usual harbingers of its loss, should ever be discountenanced by all.

Fellow-citizens, we all undoubtedly feel a lively interest in the welfare of our country; and it is ardently to be wished that we might be agreed in the means best suited to promote this grand object. We are all Americans, all firmly attached to our republican system. Let us consider, that our best interests are exposed, by discord and disunion; and cultivate a spirit of harmony, and exercise charity and good will towards each other. Let us rejoice that party spirit has, in a great measure, subsided in our country; and whatever remains of it may be lurking among us, let us bury them in oblivion, and act with a single and steady view to the prosperity and glory of America. Let us cherish an attachment to our federal union, as the ground pillar of our political safety. Let us consider the value, and remember the price of our Independence; and should our country's cause ever invoke our aid, let us resolve that we will show ourselves worthy of the precious privileges, which were so dearly purchased by sages and heroes, and bequeathed to us with their dying breath; and that we ever defend them, at whatever hazard, against any foreign or domestic foe.

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My female friends, how peculiarly happy is your situation. Permit me to congratulate you, that you have been born in a land of liberty, and are admitted to a full participation in its joys. From the hardships and servitude, which fall to the lot of your sex in a state of barbarism, you are happily exempt; from the horrors of a Turkish seraglio, or the dreary confinement of a monastery you have nothing to fear. You are not, indeed, permitted to vote in the councils of our nation, nor does the delicacy of your frames admit of your wielding the sword of war; but you are not without opportunity and ability to be eminently useful to your country. Your influence is every where, where man is civilized, but greatest where the hearts of freemen do you homage. The soft eloquence of the female tongue has a powerful effect on every feeling heart; and from you the opening infant mind receives its earliest impressions. We trust, then, you will let the charms of your persons be ever associated with your country's love; that you will cherish the same spirit of patriotism, which signalized our revolutionary matrons, as one of the brightest virtues which adorn the female character; and let the patriotic exertions of our countrymen to promote the welfare of our rising republic, never fail to receive the pleasing tribute of your approbation and applause.

Fellow-citizens, by a due attention to these things:— by the general spread of correct information among the people; by the prevalence of virtue, and a spirit of union and patriotism, our liberties may be perpetuated, and transmitted, with unfaded lustre, to the latest posterity. And we may anticipate the happiness of that period, when all nations, being taught by our example, that mankind are capable of governing themselves; that monarchical governments are degrading and a reproach to human nature; will cause the thrones of despots to shake from under them, and beautiful temples of liberty to be erected on their ruins. Then will an emancipated world hail the Anniversary of American Independence, and consecrate it as an universal jubilee.

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