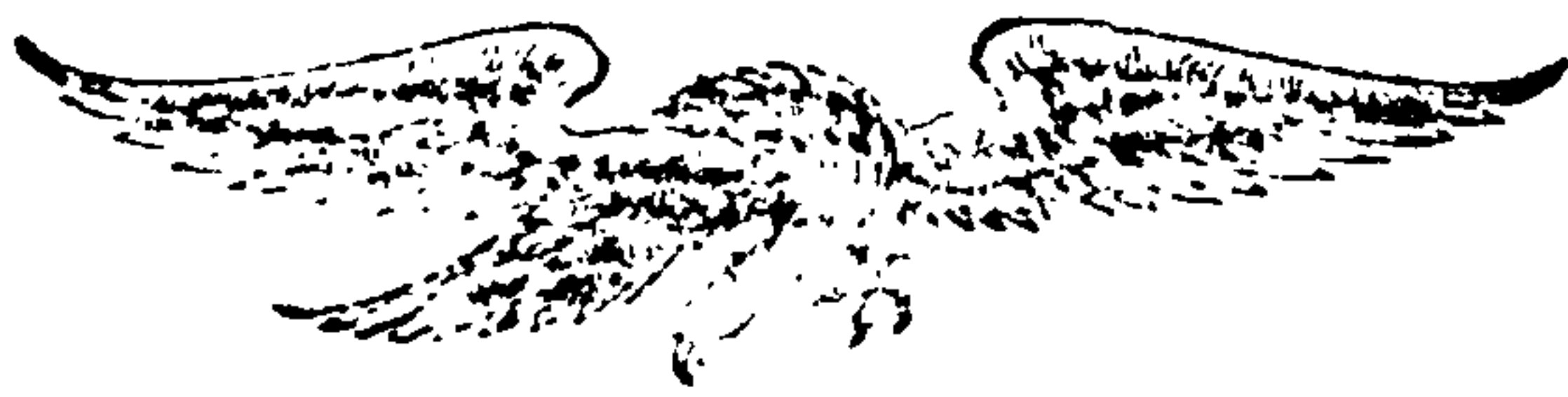


AN AMERICAN
ORATION

PRONOUNCED ON THE
4th DAY OF JULY, 1798.

AT THE REQUEST OF A NUMBER OF THE
INHABITANTS OF
Dedham AND ITS VICINITY,
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
Anniversary of
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

—●●●●●●●●●●—
BY JOHN LATHROP, JUN.



Dedham :

PRINTED AT THE MINERVA PRESS,

1798.



Dedham, July 4, 1798.

ON motion, in the company assembled at Mr. Gay's tavern, to celebrate the Fourth of July, 1776, Voted, That JAMES RICHARDSON, TIMOTHY GAY, jun. GEORGE ASPINWALL, and JOHN S. WILLIAMS, be a committee to wait on JOHN LATHROP, jun. Esq. to thank him for his elegant, federal, patriotic and spirited Oration this day delivered, and to request a copy of it for the press.



GENTLEMEN,

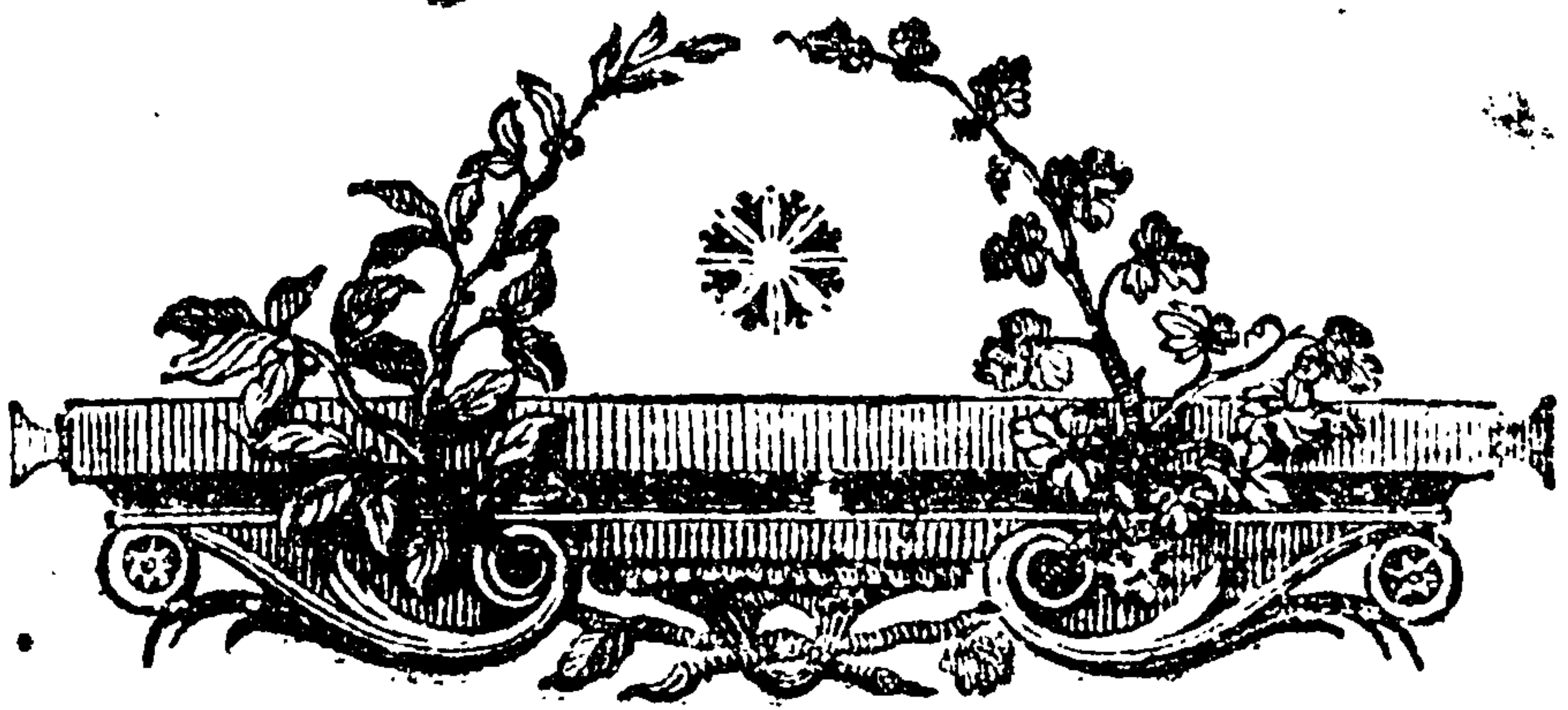
I DESPISE the miserable coquetry, that affects to receive applause with indifference; I glory in my sensibility to every token of the approbation of my fellow-citizens. If the following address possess any merit, it consists in its truth and American federalism. You have declared, unequivocally, your accordance with the sentiments which it contains;—why should I doubt? Why should I ask for what you have so liberally given—your candor? But let me prevail with you to believe, that in presenting the ensuing performance to the public eye, I yield the suggestions of my own judgment to your polite request.

I am, with due respect,

your humble servant,

JOHN LATHROP, jun.





AN O R A T I O N,

FROM the turret-crowned palace of the monarch, to the grove-sheltered cottage of the humble peasant ;—from the elevated sphere of supreme dominion, to the lowliest grade in the family of man, Independence is the blessing most valued and dear. In the cause of Independence, the sages and heroes of our own Columbia and of our own time, waged war against Despotism. They wrenched, from the monster's grasp, the iron sceptre, and bound him in the fetters and chains he had forged for millions of freemen. Then, Liberty, was thy triumph complete ! Independence, majestic and serene, gave to our country her sacred charter, and WASHINGTON swore to defend it.

ON the 4th of July, 1776, a phenomenon in politics appeared, which challenges a parallel in the annals of the world.—A nation by her own *fiat* sprang from chaos and night, into the full vigor of life, and the unbounded splendor of day.—At that awful moment, was foredoomed the downfall of Tyranny. Rock-rooted bastiles were shivered to their lowest dungeons and their deepest foundations. The blood encrimsoned cells of the Inquisition, the Austrian *cemetaries* of living wretches, dead to the recollection of enslaved empires; every purple robed gaoler; the rack, and every infernal instrument and minister of his office, were destined to speedy and irremediable destruction.—Mighty Columbia—such were the miracles which attended thy birth, and thy natal morning beheld thee, like the fabled daughter of Olympian Jove, born with the wisdom and energies of mature and ripened age!

To trace the multiplied causes, and expose the hidden springs of revolutions in states and nations, is the peculiar province of the historian. The speaker, who has the honor of addressing this respectable assembly, and many, who favor him with their attention, on this auspicious anniversary, had, when our political connexion with Great-Britain was dissolved, scarcely stepped upon the threshold of existence. But we have heard with

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