

**AN**  
**ORATION,**

**PRONOUNCED AT SOUTHERIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS,**

**JULY 4th, 1816,**

**IN COMMEMORATION OF**

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.**

---

**BY ELDER ZENAS L. LEONARD, A. M.**

---

**PUBLISHED BY SPECIAL REQUEST,**

---

**WORCESTER :**

**PRINTED BY HENRY ROGERS**

---

**1816.**

# ORATION.

---

FRIENDS & FELLOW-CITIZENS,

I RISE to congratulate you on the return of the fortieth anniversary of American Independence. True patriots hail the day, with renovated joy and delight. The bosom of America burns afresh, with the spirit of independence, and the enthusiasm of liberty. The morning sun, as by a wonderful sympathy, arises with new beauties; the air is softened; and the fields on which we tread enliven their verdure and invigorate their sweets.

This is the joyous festival, and jubilee of Columbia. The celebration of deliverance from the tyranny and oppression of Egypt's unrelenting monarch, was carefully observed by the formal Hebrews, till that nation was overthrown. The providential and hair-breadth escape of the Jews, from the universal destruction, plotted by vile Haman, was long kept in remembrance, by the anniversary of a joyful and a glad day. Special attention to the auspicious era which sundered the galling chains of British

tyranny, ought to expire only with liberty itself. Let the day be hallowed. Let solemn prayers, pious gratitude, devout acknowledgments, and becoming praises rise to the Great Jehovah, the Arbitrer of nations, who has graciously granted to us the inestimable blessings we enjoy.

This day calls us to review the toils, privations and sufferings of our Forefathers. Driven by the hand of persecution from their native soil, and every endearment of civilized life, they sought an asylum in the wilds of the West. Imagination, aided by historical recollection, will paint to you their sorrows and hardships, amid ferocious savages, and beasts of prey. But that God, who is a refuge in distress, and a present help in time of trouble, wonderfully prospered them in their laudable exertions. Britain, like Cain of antediluvian times, saw with a jealous eye the acceptable offering of the Pilgrims, and malignant envy rankled in her bosom. The vigilance and severity of commissioned taskmasters and cruel exactors having failed to check their rising prosperity, she at length reached forth her murderous arm. Maternal friendship was her profession, while martial legions were sent to destroy. Our fathers found it difficult to believe the strange doctrine, that a fond parent delights in the distress and wretchedness of a beloved child. Truth at first obliged them to record her an unfeeling and inveterate enemy. It was no time now to hesitate between vassallage and freedom, tame submission to British tyranny and the hazard of a dreadful conflict in arms. Independence was magnanimously declared, and on the tablet of every patriot's heart was deeply engraved, "liberty or death." With prompt and dauntless step, our gallant warriors marched to the field of battle, as the

great Carmel of decision. The Lord of armies and God of war cast the arrows of indignation on the invading foe, and gave signal triumph to the American arms. Liberty once more unfurled her banners on our blood-stained shore ; peace waved her olive branch ; and glory emblazoned the Eagle of the West. An astonished world gazed on the sublime result, and owned the hand of God,

Hence arose a government of freedom, based on democratic principles. While our Constitution, the offspring of American genius, secures to the citizen his rights, it gives energy and glory to the character of the nation. The state sovereignties, like the Pleiades of Heaven, are calculated to move in endeavoring concert, each one emitting its own light and strength, and yet the whole constituting but one grand constellation.

Here it might be proper to enquire, how it happened that a democratic or republican form of government was deliberately chosen and adopted in America, provided any other form could be more eligible ? Had they been so minded, the revolutionary heroes and statesmen, seconded by the soldiery, might have erected an aristocracy at once. From this to monarchy, the transmigration would have been very easy. Anonymous letters, proposing this very thing, were thrown into the camp, previously to the disbandment of the army. Why then was republicanism alone set in honour ? The reasons are obvious. But one spirit (with some little exception) pervaded the cabinet, the army, and the whole body of the people. From St. Marys to the Canadian boundary, the inhabitants knew both the sweets and the price of freedom. The country was united both to achieve and maintain independence. Aristocracy

and Monarchy, always calculated to enslave many, and ennoble a few, met an indignant and condemnatory frown. As well may the lamb be expected safely to play in innocent gambols around the feet of the wolf and the tyger, as the people to enjoy their rights, after the national prerogative passes into the hands of monarchists.

Furthermore, the heroes and statesmen of those times were honest men and true patriots. They revolted at the idea of sacrificing the rights and privileges of the people at the shrine of their own selfishness and ambition. The tie of moral and social obligation to them was sacred. With utter abhorrence, they viewed the invidious distinctions, sinecure emoluments and exclusive privileges, generally attendant on despotic governments. To behold the American family free and happy, was both their wish and their felicity. To the immortal *Washington* and his illustrious compeers, gold and power had no charms to bribe. Principle frowned into the dust all the labored arguments of Alexander Hamilton, against the adoption of our excellent Constitution.

The choice of a republican form of government did not flow from a want of knowledge in political science. A band of resplendent characters were raised up on the American shores in that age, for genius and wisdom second to none in all the world. These were called forth into active exertion, by the oppressions of monarchy, and the exigencies of the times. Many statesmen and philosophers of Europe have traced and exposed the deformities and machinations of despotism, and were the benefactors of mankind. Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Hume, Stewart and Smith have in their turns administered reproof to tyrants, and hinted at the benign princi-

ples of a free government. But radically to canvass and perspicuously to describe the social compact, and then to systematize the political economy, have honorably fallen to the lot of the wise Statesmen of America. The problem, advanced by Heraclitus, that "the only skill and knowledge of any value, in politics, is that of governing all by all," is in this country no longer left in uncertainty. All the world now beholds a nation governed, and yet free. What pedantic tyro of New-England will presume to come forward and set his own wisdom and knowledge, in militant array, against the profound intelligence and wisdom of *Washington, Franklin, Henry, Jefferson, Adams and Madison!!*

Another reason of the endearment of republicanism to Americans was, the cause of our fathers' flight to these inhospitable shores, still lived in bright remembrance. Religious persecution, the heterogeneous offspring of meretricious and unhallowed union of Church and State, was generally abhorred (except in Massachusetts and Connecticut) equally as the ferocity of the panther, or the poison of the rattlesnake. Inspiration had taught the people the rights of conscience and benevolence to men. Implicit faith in priests and friars, cardinals and bishops, creeds and liturgies, was seriously deemed an absurdity and a crime. The glorious gospel pointed to a bulwark and guide, far distant from the corrupt and persecuting government of England. In the formation of their government, the people of the United States took special care to strangle the serpent in the cradle. The federal constitution has given no sacrilegious touch to the ark of God.

All nations now saw America peaceful and happy, under a free and liberal government. Our popula-

tion increased almost beyond a parallel. The wide spreading forests were changed into fruitful fields. The American canvass was spread in every sea, and bore our commerce to the remotest nations of the globe. Wealth rolled in upon us like a flood. We were happy at home and respected abroad.

Meanwhile, our transatlantic mother felt internally disturbed, and forbore to tender us her congratulations. We had committed crimes too deadly to be forgiven. We had cast off allegiance to her crown, despised her menaces, and conquered her in the field of battle. To add to her mortification, propitious Heaven prospered us by sea and land. Her policy was now intent on a new mode of warfare. The language of her privy councils, like that of Voltaire in another case, was "strike, but conceal the hand." To anglicise the American people, corrupt their republican principles, and re-colonize their character, by the agency of secret schemes, was now the plan. To effect this, means of encouragement were not wanting. Similarity of language, commercial alliance, the freedom of the press, the return of many of the tories after the war, and an overweening fondness among the people for foreign manufactures, seemed to promise success to the clandestine experiment. The artful dissemination of her contaminating principles, through the medium of Porcupine's Gazette, and the vending of her politics by wholesale and retail in her merchandize, were for a considerable time in simultaneous operation. The prejudices, justly imbibed in the revolution, had been insensibly wearing away. Engaged in active business and important enterprizes, we, as a nation, had forgotten to suspect the enemy in ambush. In somnirific nonchalance, we were verging to the vor-

tex of ruin, and saw not our danger. At length Britain, imagining a great portion of the people in the Union had become strongly attached to her interest, thought it might answer to try more bold and overt experiments to deteriorate the American Republic. Our seamen were taken by force from merchant and fishing vessels, and dragged into abject and pestilential confinement on board her ships of war. Loud and strong were the remonstrances of our government, yet no redress could be obtained. Progressing in her infringements and violations, she added barbarity to insult. She shed the blood of our citizens in our own waters in time of peace.... 'Infamous edicts and orders in council next testified, in bold evidence, British friendship towards the United States. What the real design of these oppressive measures was, let Alexander Baring tell.... This writer, as well as others in England, has fairly proved, it was "war in disguise." Soon our property was pillaged to a vast amount, our commerce mutilated, our flag outraged, our rights infringed, and our national honour insulted.

At this memorable period, France engaged in war with her old implacable enemy, also violated our neutral rights, depredated our commerce, and committed outrages against our sovereignty and independence. For these enormities no apology will be rendered. We had sufficient causes of war with both nations. Both had essentially injured us, and either refused or neglected to make indemnity.... Trying was our situation, and awful the dilemma into which we were now thrown. A recourse to arms to obtain redress, was a painful thought to our pacific minds. Moderation and forbearance astonishingly marked the character of our nation.

Britain more especially possessed the power of annoyance. Her thousand ships of war rode triumphant on the ocean. Our maritime interests were peculiarly vulnerable to her gigantic strength, and there was no want of disposition to improve the advantages of her clandestine war. Years had been spent in fruitless negociation. Her long cherished hope brightened from another source, without the limits of her own jurisdiction. Her insidious arts and vile stratagems to divide the American people, in her own calculations, had well succeeded. Much was expected from the aid and co-operation of a certain portion of our citizens, whom parliamentary speakers were pleased to style, "the British party in America." Let my voice be solemn, and let the pulsation of my heart be changed, while I advert to a subject so delicate and so unpleasant. Can it be possible, that any should be found in the American family prepared to justify the repeated aggressions and barbarities of an ancient, unrelenting foe? If it be possible, let it not be told in Dartmoor, nor published in the streets of London, lest the sons and daughters of proud Albion triumph!!!

To divide and then destroy had been the object during many revolving years. One part, alas! was really effected, and the other was hoped soon to follow. This was a period calculated painfully to try the souls of all patriotic and unapostised Americans. To consent to the loss of all that had been won by the hardships, pangs, and blood of our fathers, was impossible. On the other hand, war, with all its direful concomitants and consequences, presented a dismal prospect. Congress, as the last expedient of hope, had recourse to a restrictive system to save our property from the rapacious grasp of the enemy.

and at the same time, if possible, to excite in him, by aiming a blow at his interest, a sense of his unjustifiable wrongs. Our own divisions, however, prevented the desired effect. Baleful clouds lowered over our once happy country, and destruction stared us in the face. A surrender of our Independence, or a bold and magnanimous defence with the glittering sword, were the only alternatives left for us. Every thing had been offered to restore amity and friendly relations, except our sovereignty and national honour. The cup of conciliation was at last completely exhausted, and the regular Constituted Authorities of the nation declared war against Great Britain and her dependencies.

Some present this day, whose heads bear the blossoms of age and honour, no doubt can recollect their contemplations and deep sensibilities at the commencement of the revolution. Language fails to paint them, but retrospective thought can call them forth in review. Fathers, you are led to realize the painful emotions and impressive views of Millions in this country, in the late appeal to arms, for the preservation of our rights and liberties. Fresh in remembrance are the poignant anxieties and sleepless hours of night I experienced, at that momentous period. I most solemnly and uprightly declare, I then thought, and now think, that a resort to the plains of Wars alone could save our fair inheritance of freedom from a total overthrow.

First, our infant gallant navy led on in bold attack, and with undaunted prowess disputed the invincibility of the vaporeing mistress of the ocean. As aggressions and infringements had been committed against us mainly on that element, it seems kind Heaven prospered our naval enterprizes almost to a

miracle. Instead of having the gratification to behold our war-vessels swept from the surface of the Atlantic, in six months, as by one desolating stroke, England had the mortification to behold American bravery and skill gain an unexpected ascendancy.... The early intelligence that the Constitution had, in fair action, riddled, waterlogged, captured and sunk the Guerriere, with scarce any injury to herself, afforded a bitter pill to British taste. This was viewed, by thousands in Europe, a portentous augury of more grievous losses and mortifying defeats, which the sequel of the war proved correct. In the naval department, through the whole of the conflict, achievements and victories pressed on in a general tide of glory. It is true the Chesapeake was lost, but not for want of bravery or skill, but from mere misfortune. Also the President struck her colours, because three British frigates, of equal or superior force, had the surprising magnanimity to attack her. I believe in no one instance where the striped flag was doused to the Herculean strength of Great Britain, was there any honor lost to the American arms. Surrounding nations beheld the wonderful drama with astonishment, and acknowledged the interposing hand of Providence.

On the land, however, in the first campaign, we were not successful. Many in New-England were prompt to assert, that as the tried and distinguished officers of the revolution had mostly returned to the slumbers of the tomb, we could do but little against the invincibles of Europe. Some of this description, who yet survived, were at first entrusted with command. But how did they succeed? Citizens, let the name of Hull, of Detroit memory, who doubtless had seen more of British gold, than British honor or

British arms, this day remind you. It was not till younger men, prompted by national feelings and martial enthusiasm, led the brave sons of freedom to the charge, that victory on the land declared in favor of our just and righteous cause. In the two last campaigns, the army covered itself with unfading laurels, and rose on par with the navy. But while our renowned heroes were in the full career of victorious achievements by sea and land, articles of peace were signed at Ghent. A few days after this, Providence, as if to leave an indelible stamp of its approbation on the American cause, at the closing scene, permitted that most glorious and unparalleled victory to take place under the standard of the immortal Jackson.

The hand of propitious Heaven has been as signally displayed in our behalf in the last, as in the former struggle. Bright evidence of this fact beams on our recollection, from Erie, Thames, Bridgewater, Plattsburg, Baltimore and New-Orleans, and also from the many wonderful triumphs of our flag on the ocean. While ~~we~~ in humble gratitude recognize the interposing arm of the Great Jehovah, it becomes us not to forget those who jeopardized their lives in their country's defence. "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon," was the exordium of an ancient Hebrew song commemorative of victory.

The names of Hull, (of Guerriere memory) Decatur, Bainbridge, Lawrence, Jones, Porter, Burrows, Warrington, Biddle, Perry and Macdonough of the navy; and the names of Harrison, Jackson, Pike, Boyd, Brown, Miller, Ripley, Scott, Coffee and Macomb, of the army, will meritoriously be written in characters of gold. Generations, yet unborn, will associate them with the illustrious names of Washing-

ton, Morgan, Green, Mercer and Montgomery.... These will be endeared to every true American while liberty exists, and the pages of history remain unobliterated.

Those who fell gloriously contending for their Country's rights, will remain embalmed in the memory of patriots and freemen. Laurels encircle their sleeping dust. The weeping willow stands bending over their tombs, and gratefully imparts its mournful shade. Methinks I hear this day a silent language from their darksome urns addressed to us, "for you we fought, for you we bled and died. Never forget the inestimable worth of liberty. Contemn tyranny even in its most specious garb. Choose rather to die in freedom's glorious cause, than live in vassallage to a ruthless despot."

War must be considered a very grievous calamity on any nation, and it never can be just only on the defensive scale. The late war, as it regards America, was, in its design and character, defensive.... When one man is obliged to have recourse to legal coercion to obtain his just due from another, and lays an attachment on property, does he commit an offence or a crime? He was necessitated to take measures apparently offensive, to defend his bona fide interest. Thus has our government been necessitated reluctantly to recur to the only dernier resort, to obtain just recompence for injuries long repeated. Israel's God has deigned to smile on the undertaking. Great Britain has once more succumbed to the United States, and we are permitted to regale under the shadow of the olive.

What have we really gained, is an interesting question? We have won much, and saved every thing dear to an American. The barbarous practice of

the impressment of our seamen, and the piratical seizure of our property in the great highway of nations, have now ceased. The infamous system of paper blockade, so destructive to neutral rights, will doubtless be abandoned. The resources and abilities of America have been developed, to the astonishment of England and all the world. Terror, dismay, and chagrin have been carried to the admiralty and cabinet of the "fast anchored isle." An acknowledgment is frankly made that, in point of generalship, maritime skill, practical science and diplomatic ability, America has scarcely a superior. We have the surest pledge, we can have, against future impositions from foreign governments. Britain has of late made rapid progress in that lesson, she began so many years ago to learn at Bunker's Hill. While she is compelled to fear, she will respect. Our Constitution and liberties are more firmly established than ever. Like the oak on the windbeaten hill, they have gathered strength from every successive shock. The speedy subjugation and pacification of the piratical States of Barbary, were events which grew out of the war. Instead of the ratification of the famous *sine qua non*, Britain has lost the right of trading with the natives in the extended regions of the Northwest.

Faction, which plotted the prostration of the colossal pillars of our Republic, has been wofully balked. At a time, when troubles and difficulties from a foreign quarter rolled upon us like a deluge, this haggard monster lifted in New-England its deformed head. It stood near the plat of ground, once stained with the blood of martyrs, and, with a mouth speaking great swelling words, thus addressed, "It is time the power should be taken out of the hands of the people.

The swinish multitude are their own worst enemies. They have forfeited their right to govern. Now the fact is, Britain has done us no essential injury, and her government, monarchy and all, is far preferable to the government of the United States. Let us contrive a plan to get the New-England States to secede from the Union, notwithstanding all that Washington has said to the contrary, make peace with our good friends at Castine, and enjoy regalement under the reviving shade of Albion's splendid throne. This will give a death-blow to republicanism, and a firm and honorable establishment will soon follow." Hence arose that Cataline conspiracy called the Hartford Convention. Relative to the honours and success of this romantic and unique enterprize, the faithful historian, in fair detail, will transmit a narration to ages and generations long to come. It will be remembered its origin was unpatriotic, and its honours were spurious. It had its birth in Massachusetts, and Connecticut, out of mere hospitality, afforded it a grave. New-Hampshire and Vermont, though strongly requested, refused to visit it in its last agonies, or even drop one sympathetic tear. Rhode-Island being so little interested in its memory, neglected to assume the badge of sorrow. On its monument is inscribed in large capitals—

*Mene, mene, tekel upharsin.*

WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE AND FOUND WANTING.

*Sic transit gloria factionis.*

SO PASSES THE GLORY OF FACTION.

*UPNOS AIONIOS.*

ETERNAL SLUMBER.

To return from digression, let us seriously enquire, has not every attempt to bring a reproach on

the sovereignty of the people, and unhinge the empire of liberty, been completely blasted? The President, elevated to the national chair by popular suffrage, has neither been turned out of office, nor compelled to resign. With the illustrious Madison, the enemy has made a treaty of peace. The old song of French influence is lost in the quiet geographical studies of the Islands of Elba and St. Helena; and yet our national councils move on in their wonted course. We are in peaceable possession of our Meeting-houses, our sacred Bibles, and our Constitution. We are at peace with all nations, and under entangling alliances with none. Blessings flow to us in unnumbered streams. Our uncultivated lands, in the west and south, are settling with unparalleled rapidity. Our fields are clothed in verdant beauty, and our flocks and herds prosperously feed on ten thousand hills. The benign and meliorating influences of the Gospel are extending in triumphs hitherto unequalled. Science and the mechanic arts progress. Bigotry and intolerance are sinking into disrepute, even in their own territories. The tree of liberty is in full bloom, and joy beams in the countenance of Columbia.

In the possession of such immunities and blessings, it is natural to wish their long continuance, and to inquire for the means of their conservation.... Unfeigned gratitude to the divine and munificent Benefactor, a sense of our constant dependence on him, the cultivation of moral and religious principles, and the performance of social obligations, are indispensable prerequisites both to individual and national prosperity. When people abandon themselves to a course of dissipation, they become prepared, like Esau, to sell their birthright for an insignificant reward.

A spirit of philanthropy and mutual forbearance ought to be cherished, as far as the public safety will admit. Truth and error are often embraced with equal sincerity. How ought we to be ready to cast the veil of Charity over each other's foibles, where no injury arises to essential truth. Difference of opinion in this country, even among those who are equally tenacious of the elective franchise, and the fundamental principles of the Constitution, has in some cases unhappily grown into asperity and censoriousness. It is now a proper time for all these animosities to be hushed to peace. To all true Americans *Union* is the rallying word. But those, who are not true Americans, and who wish to sap the foundation of the superb structure, reared by the venerable Washington and his honourable companions, are to be credited only for the frank avowal of their sentiments and designs. Such cannot think it strange, if the people should advance, as an honest opinion, that "the Ethiopian may as soon change his skin, or the Leopard his spots, as for them to become useful, in the exercise of delegated trust, under a government they peremptorily condemn and despise.

A general dissemination of knowledge contributes largely to the perpetuity of our republican institutions. The mind must be informed, before it can consistently choose, or judiciously decide. In our rising youth we behold the stamina of future patriotism and usefulness. Means of information ought not to be neglected. Next after the Bible, may be recommended to their perusal Washington's preeminent *Farewell Address*, the *History of our own Country*, and Cary's *Olive Branch*. The intelligent young American, feeling in his bosom the glow

of liberty, will be led, like the young prince of Carthage, to swear eternal enmity to despotism.

Too great precaution and vigilance cannot exist towards the first dawnings of any attempt to subvert public freedom. According to Polybius, an ancient writer, such a design cannot be expected to spring from the industrious and honest part of the community. It is ambitious pride, and boasted avaricious greatness, that would fondly riot on the spoils of others' labor. The agriculturalists, manufacturers and mechanics of America will cautiously guard their rights, and safely preserve the palladium of their country.

Industry is one of the main pillars of our Republic. To despise this, is foreign from a patriotic American. While some of the wan pedantic metropolitans would cast opprobrium on the enterprising inhabitants of the country, and tauntingly style them the "back woods men," &c. ours shall be the glory to follow the example of him (now slumbering in the shades of Mount Vernon) who deemed it an honor to wield the sickle and direct the plough.

It may not be unprofitable, for us this day, to cast an eye toward the other nations of the globe. In Asia, tyrants rule with absolute dominion. The millions of population there have no voice in government, and are sunk in degradation and imbecility, as under the spell of a general incubus. Ainc's fable sons never saw the star of freedom rise on their extended plains. In the kingdoms of Europe, the inhabitants would fain boast of the name of liberty, while the immunities and blessings of it are far beyond their embrace. Even in England the laboring people by incessant toils gain only a miserable pittance to protract the thread of mortal being.— France groans under the Bourbon yoke and Catholic despotism. In Spain, by the aid of protestant monarchs, the bloody Inquisition, with all its horrors, is revived. Perhaps this very day, many unhappy victims are suffering all the tortures that malice can invent, and savage cruelty inflict; because they presumed to read the Gospel for themselves and obey its sacred dictates. Are not their heart rending sighs and groans borne to the ears of our pained imaginations, by every eastern wind that blows?— O State religion, thou deadly foe of human rights and human bliss!! When will thy barbarous, diabolical reign be passed!!! May propitious Heaven

fulfill the patriots of South America to break the Spanish yoke, and triumphantly rear the standard of Independence.

What kind of pleasure those protestants can enjoy, who were influential in reinstating the Pope and the most sanguinary Inquisition, they alone must determine. While they bore the name of Christianity, they have aided in unsheathing the dagger against its vital interests. Under the counterfeit of religion, tyrants have generally cloaked their nefarious plans. The perversion of that which is the most valuable, is always the most detrimental to society. To this most abominable source, may be traced the greater part of the wars, which have desolated Europe since the Christian era.— How many of the Americans, who have tasted the delicious sweets of liberty and enjoyed the resplendent beams of truth, can indulge a sympathy for the sanguinary church of Rome, when they have so long been praying that Babylon might be overthrown, is a solecism I am unable to solve. Those, who have indulged a spirit of virulence against the only government under Heaven, which was struggling for the support of civil and religious freedom, rejoiced in the triumphs of its enemies and the prospect of its subversion, encouraged, countenanced, and co-operated with the invading foe, and mourned when the glorious cause of liberty brightened and finally became victorious, surely must be deeply in arrears both to their country and their God. Such have advocated a cause which Heaven did not deign to bless, and opposed one which it propitiously smiled. Short of due penitence and return, such cannot appear with very good grace this day in celebrating the Independence and Triumphs of their country.

But ye Patriots of Columbia, ye who have borne the heat and burden of your country's sacred cause, and have undeviatingly rallied around its standard in prosperity and adversity, to you belong the pleasures of an approving conscience, that, even in the darkest moments, you have endeavored to discharge your duty. You emphatically wear the badge of Washingtonian Benevolence written in the heart. You participate in your country's sorrows and delights. Never, since time began, on the ordinary scale has the arm of Almighty God, to whom alone belongs the destiny of empires been made bare more wonderfully in favor of any national enterprise, than it has been in favor of yours. You have beheld the boasting Lords, of transatlantic birth, pollute your soil, with their hostile tread, and seen them fall the sad victims of their own hallucinations and mad ambition. To you belong the cheerful duties and heart felt pleasures of this resplendent day. Should you be called ere long to the peaceful slumbers of the tomb, you have the pleasing reflection of leaving your posterity in a land sacred to the rights of men, and freedom's effulgent reign. I lay the rich blessings you enjoy rest on them and their descendants, and all within our happy Union, till the name of American shall be no more, and empires sleep in everlasting night.