

MR. LINCOLN'S ORATION.

AN

ORATION,

PRONOUNCED AT BOSTON,

ON THE FOURTH DAY OF JULY, 1810,

BEFORE THE

“BUNKER-HILL ASSOCIATION”

AND

IN PRESENCE OF THE

SUPREME EXECUTIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

By DANIEL WALDO LINCOLN,

COUNSELLOR AT LAW.

BOSTON:

PRINTED FOR ISAAC MUNROE,

1810.

D. W. LINCOLN, Esq.

SIR,

In obedience to a Vote of the Bunker Hill Association, we wait upon you in their behalf, to return their thanks for the elegant Oration this day delivered at their request, and to solicit from you a copy for the press.

In the discharge of this duty, we derive great pleasure from the opportunity it affords us personally of declaring the high satisfaction we experienced from the performance above alluded to.

*We have the honour to be,
with respect and esteem,
yours respectfully,*

ROBERT GARDNER,
JOHN BRAZER,
BENJAMIN AUSTIN,
NATHANIEL NOYES,
DAVID GOODWIN, } Committee.

Charlestown, July 4, 1810.

GENTLEMEN,

Boston, July 4, 1810.

My inclination is servant to the will of the "Bunker Hill Association." The performance which they have honoured with their approbation is at their disposal. Be pleased Gentlemen to receive, individually, assurances of the respectful consideration of

Yours, &c.

D. W. LINCOLN.

Messrs. ROBERT GARDNER,
JOHN BRAZER,
BENJAMIN AUSTIN,
NATHANIEL NOYES,
DAVID GOODWIN, } Committee.

ORATION.

TYRANT beware ! Dare not to invade the sacred rights, chartered to Nature's children by Nature's God ! Dare not to provoke the vengeance of valor, the indignation of virtue, the anathema of Heaven ! Restrain the savage myrmidons of thy power from the sacrilegious violation of peace, the prostration of law, the destruction of estate, and the sacrifice of life !

Such were the dictates of reason, ere usurping pride trampled on the prerogatives and immunities of freemen. Such were the arguments of justice, ere legislative voracity wrested from the stubborn hand of labor the wages of toilsome industry. Such were the petitions of loyalty ere wanton cruelty had curdled the mantling blood of kindred affec-

tion ; or annulled the hallowed obligation of filial submission. Such were the intreaties of humanity, ere the ministers of royal barbarity were unleashed, ere ruin revelled at his harvest home, or death celebrated his carnival.

Was man ordained the enemy of man, the spoiler of his fellow ? Was it enjoined by the eternal fiat of the Creator, that the parent should become filicide ? Was it appointed by the universal legislator's edict, that the immolation of her offspring be the mother's glory ?——England ! Be thy unnatural policy accursed ! Thy protection of thy western colonies was the oppression of Tyranny. The exactions of rapacity were thy fiscal resources, the subjection of thy government was the debasement of slavery. When patience was exhausted by repeated acquiescence in reiterated aggression ; when complaint was answered by insult, and superadded wrongs replied to remonstrance ; when endurance became degradation and submission meanness, our gallant sires dared to vindicate their rights and resist the tyrant's power. But though injury had cancelled the connexion, and outrage had severed the tie of loyal relation, filial attach-

ment continued still dear, and separation was painful, as the parting of love.

Dark and portentous as the thunder cloud, fearful and fatal, the Stygian wave of royal vengeance rolled hitherward. The shores of America recoiled at its approach. The hills trembled with dismay, the forest shades darkened into night, the echoes shrunk to their caves, all nature shuddered at the monstrous ruin.

The story of the events of the revolution need not be recited. You remember, for you have beheld your streets blush with British barbarity. You have seen the mangled victims of the fifth of March sacrificed to the furies by ruffian violence. You have heard the groans, and watched the lingering decay of the martyred Monk. You were beguiled of your arms by insidious treachery, and betrayed to the insolence of a licentious soldiery. Pestilence entered your dwellings, danger encountered you abroad, famine scowled in the market place, and despair haunted your solitude. The thunder of Bunker's heights pealed on the startled ear of apprehension, the knell of vanquished liber-

ty. To your affrighted vision, Charlestown flamed the funeral pile of freedom. You gazed with horror, as the curling smoke of her ruins ascended, in awful grandeur to the skies, and bore the accusation of a nation's wrongs to the footstool of eternal justice. You witnessed your warriors' fate, and lamented the death of your heroes! Mourn not for them! They fell untimely, but they fell like stars of the firmament, and marked their radiant course with glory! Victory's captive banners wave around the sepulchral monument. The laurel luxuriates on the soldier's grave. Fame will publish and genius chronicle their illustrious achievements. The measured period of revolving centuries will not limit their renown. The splendour of their names will endure, till the last cycle of concluding time shall close the memory of human greatness.

While sensibility writhes in the recollected anguish of those wounds, aimed at freedom in the patriots' breast, while memory in mournful retrospect reviews the terrors, perils and sufferings of that dread conflict, which emancipated millions from the oppressor's yoke; gratitude will conse-

crate the votive wreath, and bind it blooming on the conqueror's brow.

On this auspicious day, valor plucked its most precious gem from Britain's diadem, and brake the despot's sceptre. On this sacred morn, liberty prevailed, and despised, oppressed, and injured colonies became free, sovereign, and independent states. Hallowed be the anniversary of Columbia's glory ! Let the huzzas of victory greet its matin ray ; let the acclamations of triumph salute its western beam ! Let the shores resound with the song of gladness, and the borders echo the peal of joy : for on this day, America was absolved from the curse of British connexion.

The fate of Proserpine was Caledonia's destiny. The sword of England died the flowers of Lothian with the blood of her chieftains. The fleeces of Tweeddale were chased by the winds, and vultures and ravens gorged on the mountain tops. Ruin usurped the Cheviot hills, and famine lorded on Lammar Muir, the foedary of British connexion.

Freedom loved to rove on Snowdon's heights,

or loiter in the shades of Penmanmawr, for Cambria was her Paphos.

—————"Hic illius arma,
"Hic currus fuit."

At Llewelin's fall liberty and science fled. The bard struck his mournful harp, and raised the 'song of grief. The weapon, reeking with his prince's blood, pierced the heart, where melody had birth, and hushed the voice of tuneful inspiration. British connexion

"Made huge Plinlimmon bow his cloud capp'd head."

* British connexion has blasted the green fields of Erin, and borne the torch of direst ruin to the cabin of her peasantry. It has strangled Genius in its cradle, and hunted virtue and valor to the tomb. British connexion has desolated the delightful plains of Indostan, has crimsoned the wave of the Ganges with gore, and choaked the Burrampooter with the remains of slaughtered inhabitants. But the awful hour of retribution will arise, when India's wrongs shall be avenged; when the Shamrock shall flourish fair, when the monumental mar-

* Whether copying a sentence, from a former essay of the Author, be plagiarism, is submitted to the decision of criticism.

ble shall record Fitzgerald's virtues, and the epitaph of Emmett be inscribed by a freeman's hand; when the denunciation of Merlin shall be accomplished and Taliessin's prophecy fulfilled; when Scotia's hills shall wanton in native luxuriance.

The collected wisdom of a ransomed land "ordained and established" a constitution of government, a magna charta of American liberties, which secured by equal laws, the enjoyment of equal rights to every Citizen; and forbid by eternal interdiction a crown to ambition, and a mitre to fanaticism. Conscience was left unconfined, as the benevolence of Deity. Here the Mobed may kindle and cherish the sacred flame, the Bramin may explain the mysteries of the Vidam, the Iman may expound the precepts of Mahomet, the Levite may declare the ordinances of the Talmud,

"Or the rude Indian, whose untutor'd mind,
"Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind,"

may offer to the Great Spirit, the effusions of superstitious adoration; and the apostle of the blessed Jesus may publish the words of life, and proclaim salvation to redeemed humanity. The church, tabernacle, mosque, pagoda and temple may rise in undistinguished toleration. No tests awe the

will, no inquisitorial Synod forges fetters for the mind. Inquiry is free as thought, and opinion unrestrained as the air of heaven ! The press is a safeguard of public rights. It is the messenger of truth, the herald of science, the interpreter of letters, the amanuensis of history and the torcher of futurity. Like the sun, it illumines the gloom of the Gothic night, irradiates the shades of ignorance, and pours a flood of knowledge on the world. It dilates the perceptions of man, extends his intellectual vision, inspires his heart with sensibility and his mind with thought ; and endows him with past and present omniscience. It directs his way to the Piercean mount, and discovers to faith the radiant path by angels trod to Zion's holy hill. O, may it continue free, the faithful ward of civil liberty ; may the rigid censorship of public opinion preserve its purity inviolate. The bondage of ignorance is the vilest slavery. Education only can teach mankind to appreciate, to enjoy and to secure the blessings we commemorate, as the idiot unweeting of their price will barter jewels for a glittering toy ; uninformed posterity will surrender the privileges, purchased with their father's blood for any specious imposture. Teach your children

wisdom, teach them the consummation of wisdom—virtue. Instruct them to compute the value of Liberty, to estimate the worth of independence; lest art beguile and ambition subject them, and in the bitterness of suffering, they should smite your tombstones with their chains; and curse the sires, who bred them brutes. Education will instil noble sentiments, will elevate the mind to liberality, generosity, and magnanimity, will regenerate, and give sentient existence and intelligent being.—Superior to sordid views of selfish advantage, the enlightened Citizen will devote himself to his Country. In the sublime contemplation of universal good he will disregard the insignificant considerations of petty personal, or local interests, and disdain the paltry bickerings of party collision.

Like the enchantment of Circe's baneful cup, party spirit has transformed mankind, "unmoulding reason's mintage." It has frozen the current of the heart, and paralyzed the pulses of love. Friendship meets a stranger in forgotten sympathy; fraternity turns aside from alienated affection; and parental tenderness petrifies in filial estrangement. The demon of party spirit has pervaded even to the penetraia, and subverted the altars of the Pen-

ates, while enthroned on the ruins, he triumphs in domestic discord. Party spirit has invaded places most sacred, reverend and holy ; has polluted the judgment seat, and profaned the temples of the most High. History points to her sanguine leaf, the mournful memorial of party rage. See, Marius' spear reeking with gore !—Behold, expiring breath lingers on Sylla's blade !—can the drops be numbered, that fall from Julius' sword ? Can the stains be scoured from Antonius' helm ? Mark the rose dripping with blood ; where brother falls beneath a brother's hand ; where man is unhumanized, and the savage is fleshed in kindred carnage ! Father of mercies ; Let not such be the destiny of my Country ; Let not the evening star go down in blood ! Education can “unlock the clasping charm, and thaw the numbing spell” of party spirit. By informing man how little man can know, it will relax the dogmatical pertinacity of ignorance, and infuse a temper of candor and conciliation ; not the obsequious conciliation, which receives and adopts errors ; but that, which forgives them.

The militia of the United States is the guardian of their independence. The arms consecrated to freedom are preserved to defend the liberties,

they won. The sons of the brave will protect their precious patrimony. Europe may marshal her legions in dread array ; and a despot's will may move the organized automata to systematical destruction ; but necessity lifts the soldier's reluctant arm, and directs the unmeditated blow. America alone possesses the thewes and sinews of war. Liberty is the inspiring Genius of her Champions ; and their country, the friends of their bosoms, the children of their love, themselves, their homes, and the objects of their accustomed solicitude and regard, are their impulsions to action. If these motives suffice not, their father's ghosts would crowd the battle field, and terrify invasion.

Liberated from the thralldom of foreign oppression, Columbia moved on "with unblenched majesty." Plenty crowned the cultivator's toil. Science and art, vying with successful emulation, conferred the meed of merit and the classic bay. American Commerce yoked the winds of every sky, and freighted every billow ; until the Gallic Comet which has swept the orbs, gleamed desolation on the seas ; until the lawless ambition of Britain essayed to usurp the elements.

Independent America could not bow her proud spirit to tame acquiescence in injuries, to compliant submission to wrongs. She shuddered with a mother's fears at the recollected horrors of war, and hesitated to devote her children to the slaughter. A temperate, dignified and prudent policy resorted to the sole and salutary alternative, an embargo. Had this measure been enforced and continued, the Commerce of our Country might at this day have been free and unshackled, as the wave of ocean; the property of our citizens secured from spoliation, and the honor of the government preserved untarnished. Unhappy Nation! Hitherto thy escutcheon, was spotless, as the lilly, which no sun-beam has freckled. Thy fame was fair and brilliant as a cloudless morn, until it was blotted with the foul disgrace of factious resistance to authority. Commerce is the copious channel of wealth and the medium of universal knowledge. It is the patron of agriculture, and nurse of the arts. It incites to enterprize, and recompenses industry. It associates the various members of the human family, connects the regions of the earth and approximate the poles. As a profitable servant of the common weal, let commerce be fostered and protected; but let not the independence of America be sacrificed in mercantile speculations; let not

her distinguished immunities and inestimable liberties be the booked and legered items in the account of foreign trade.

The progressive improvement of domestic manufactures is a cause of present gratulation and rejoicing. Innumerable hills whiten with fleeces; unnumbered vallies labor with plenty; the plains wave with luxuriant harvests; the teeming earth discloses her secret treasures; universal abundance invites the artist and the arts. By removing the necessity of resorting to foreign climes for supplies of the conveniences of life, domestic manufactures promote the real independence of our country; and strengthen the bonds of union between the confederate states, by establishing internal commerce and increasing their mutual reliance.

While the tempest of war has desolated the nations, while the whirlwind of destruction has wasted the kingdoms, and overturned the thrones of Europe; while the sword has consumed the people, and a deluge of blood has drenched their fields, and overflowed their polluted streams; our native skies have continued serene and fair. Peace has inhabited our borders, and security dwelt in our towns. Our civil privileges, which were achiev-

ed by valor, have been preserved by wisdom. Our comforts, which were gained by enterprize, have been increased by industry. Our institutions, which were founded by liberality, have been fostered by munificence. The principles of our constitution of government remain unchanged ; and so long as they shall endure, and the integrity of the federal union shall continue unimpaired, Americans may rejoice in the freedom, sovereignty and independence of the United States. They shall endure forever. By our brave fathers' memories, by the awful shades of revolutionary martyrs, I swear, they shall endure forever,—for, “ though individuals may perish, truth is eternal. The rude blasts of tyranny may blow from every quarter, but freedom is a hardy plant, that will survive the tempest, and strike an everlasting root in the most unfavorable soil.”

Columbia, favorite of heaven, and hope of the world ! Rejoice ! Nature and Art unite to adorn thee ! Wealth is thy handmaid, and wisdom and honor attend thy steps ! Thy eagle will soar to the stars, and build her eyry, where danger cannot climb. Nations will seek shelter under the covert of her wings. The corners of the earth will bound thy power, and the confines of eternity limit thy glory !

ORDER OF THE EXERCISES

At the third Baptist Meeting House, at the *Celebration of Independence* by the Executive of the Commonwealth, on the 4th of July, 1810,—

Introductory Anthem—“*Behold God is my Salvation,*” &c.

Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Baldwin, Chaplin to the H. of Representatives.

Select passages from Scripture —

Deut. xxxii. 3, 4—“ I will publish the name of the Lord ; ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the rock, his work is perfect ; for all his ways are judgment : a God of truth, and without iniquity, just and right is he. *Verses 7, 8.* Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations : ask thy father, and he will shew thee ; thy elders, and they will tell thee. When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people.”

Psalms xlv. 1—3.—“ We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old. How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them ; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out. For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them : but thy right hand and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.”

Psm. xxii 4, 5—“ Our fathers trusted in thee : they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered : they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.”

Psm. cxxiv.—“ If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, now may Israel say ; If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us ; Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us : Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had^d gone over our soul. Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers : the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

Psm. cxvi. 3.—“ The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.”

Deut. iv. 7—9.—“ For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon

him for : And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous, as all this law which I set before you this day ? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life ; but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons."

Deut. xxxiii. 26, 27.—"There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms : and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee, and shall say, destroy them."

Rom. xiii. 1—5.—"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God : the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God ; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terrour to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power ? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same : For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid ; for he beareth not the sword in vain : for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

Ecc. iv. 13.—"Better is a poor and a wise child, than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished." "We will not have this man to reign over us," *Luke xix. 13.* "For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our KING, he will save us," *Isa. xxiii. 22.*

2. Sam. xxiii. 2—4.—"The spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake unto me. He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds ; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain." "And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their GOVERNOUR shall proceed from the midst of them," *Jer. xxx. 21.* "I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness," *Isa. lx. 17.* He hath not dealt so with any nation," *Psm. cxlvii. 20.*

Psm. cxviii. 25.—"Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord ; O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity." "That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store ; that our sheep may bring forth thousands

and ten thousands in our streets : That our oxen may be strong to labour ; that there be no breaking in, nor going out ; that there be no *complaining* in our streets. Happy is that people, that is in such a case : yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord." *I'am. cxliiv. 13—15.*

149th Hymn, 2d Book, from Dr. Watts—Tune *Hear.*

Honour to Magistrates, or Government from God.

- 1 Eternal Sovereign of the sky,
And Lord of all below,
We mortals to thy Majesty
Our first obedience owe.
- 2 Our souls adore thy throne supreme,
And bless thy providence,
For magistrates of meaner name,
Our glory and defence.
- 3 [The rulers of these States shall shine
With rays above the rest,
Where laws and liberties combine
To make a nation bless'd.]

Prayer, by the Rev. Mr. Richardson.

Ode composed for the occasion, by Dr. Nathl. Noyes.—Tune *Chester.*

KING Heaven returns the glorious morn,
That hail'd these States, a Nation born!
Thus Rank'd with Kingdoms of the World,
From Britain's Throne the Sceptre hurl'd.

Nature and Nature's God design'd
Freedom and Peace should bless Mankind ;
But Kings and Lords their power employ
These sacred blessings to destroy.

What Man who boasts COLUMBIAN birth,
Will bow to Tyrants of the earth !
Our Rights or Independence yield
With richest blood of Martyr's seal'd !

Whilst Freeman nerv'd with martial glow
In fields of danger slak'd the foe ;
ANANS and GENNY signed the deed *
Columbia's Sons from Bondage freed.

When proud Burgoyne with threatening sword,
High in his proclamation soar'd :
Brave STARK reveng'd our Country's cause,
Bound fast this British Lion's paws.

Those Patriot Sires who meet their doom,
 Address you from the mould'ring Tomb;
 "Columbians! firm your rights maintain!
 "Or else We fought and died in vain:

"Swear by that Power who rules the Fates,
 "Of changing Kingdoms, Worlds and States,
 "No Tyrant's shall possess your Soil,
 "No Traitor's arts your Freedom foil."

Secur'd by Heaven's protecting hand,
 As Brethren, firm, united stand!
 With hateful scorn the wretch disdain
 Who seeks to break our Union's Chain.

May Peace, the darling boon of Heaven,
 To this long troubled world be given!
 Unshackled Commerce spread the seas,
 Controul'd no more by Man's decrees.

May Friendship's blest Millenium rise,
 Pure as the Sun that gilds the skies!
 Till HE who reigns thro' years the same,
 Speaks and dissolves all Nature's frame.

* The DELEGATES from Massachusetts who signed the Declaration of Independence were—JOHN HANCOCK, then President of Congress.—JOHN ADAMS,* late President of the United States—ROBERT TREAT PAINE,* late Judge of the Supreme Court.—SAMUEL ADAMS, late Governor of Massachusetts, ELBRIDGE GERRY,* present Governor.

* All alive, and present on this occasion.