

ORATION,

BELIVERED ON THE

FIFTH OF JULY, 1802,

AT

STEVENSTOWN, New-York.

BY THE REV. JOHN Mc. NIECE.

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TO A CANDID PUBLIC.

THE following Oration is addressed for the following reasons:

1st. Lemuel Clift, Esq. has threatened, "that he will fine all the Irish pedlars, by God, every Devil of them, for Mc. Niece's oration." The Pedlars may from reading judge for themselves, how far I am to blame.

2nd. James Owens has expressed himself, that I was a damned rascal, that he would kick my backside, for such a rascally oration, &c. &c.

3d. That Americans may endeavor to discover who that party is, that I have raised to Heaven and dashed to Hell. As Joshua Purdy, Esq. has joined himself to this party; and has thus expressed himself. Mc. Niece has raised us to heaven and dashed us to hell.

4th. That if any in America think as I do, they may have an opportunity of flying from being the cause of fining pedlars, from getting their backsides kicked, from being shot, and from incurring the displeasure of the party stiled us.

N. B. I approve of fining Pedlars, when it is done thro' the principle of Law and Justice; but should be sorry it should be done on my account.

AN ORATION, &c.

THE kind and indulgent God of Nature, has formed the western continent to supply Inhabitants, with every thing suited to their comfort. A variety of climates, every soil, every convenience are placed in the boundaries of this land. The fertile fields invite the industrious, the ebbing and flowing rivers call upon the adventurer; the hills and vales, the streams and cascades, pronounce an ample reward to the searcher of Nature's works. There is scarcely any thing, vegetable, animal, or mineral, that may not be found in this magazine of plenty. Riches and rewards, lie in magnificent profusion in this storehouse of Nature. The eye is invited with the beautiful scenery, and the heart regaled, with the bounteous gifts of rich production. The nodding plumes of the solitary forest, speak to the Mechanic, in impressive voice, the hidden treasure engages the Philosopher, the bounding lakes and the dividing streams set marks and rudiments to the Politician. All are equally invited. In this continent an ample field is opened, to display ability, to reward industry, to make life improved, and to make **MAN LIVE LIKE MAN.**

Nature's God never made any thing in vain. The smallest insect, and the highest seraph equally answer their end. That the American continent should be made void of design, is a thought as ignorant as it is absurd. For it, was designed to exhibit the rise and progress of the fairest fabric, the grandeur of men, the honor of being, the **TEMPLE OF LIBERTY.**

Different nations claim the discovery of America. Every account is buried in darkness, or lost in fable, until a late period. Columbus drew aside the veil, and removed the curtain, behind which, priestly tyranny, and contracted ignorance, withdrew themselves, where they gnawed, and pounded on the live of Philosophy and Truth. The enchantment was broken, the news return to gaping astonishment, that men may not longer be confined to a prison like Europe, but bound forth into ranges, wide as imagination. The emulous hear with pleasure, the friend of mankind exults with joy, and the ambitious are busied in golden dreams.—The western continent held up a picture, of vast and incalculable importance.

PREJUDICE and **HABIT**, are the most insurmountable enemies of men. They engage the passions to their assistance, and raise up most formidable barriers to the view. Alexander the great said, "he who has overcome **PREJUDICE** and **HABIT** has made greater conquests, than he, who subdued worlds." These were the enemies who forbid, and the bulwarks that stood in the way, to prevent thousands from peopling the new discovered world. Did not these pests of men, rise up, and grow in their frame, they would be ever active after improvement and perfection. But wherever they are found, and they are less or more in all, they narrow the mind, and turn callous every sentiment. Their wall of adamant is fixed, with terror and dismay to all that attempt an escape. The Philosopher, who breaks their guards, and eludes their grasp, is almost a miracle. The man who breaks their cords, is Sampson like, and viewed as a wonder. The conquerors of prejudice and habit, are worthies of renown; wherever they appear, Nature shows her richest production, her centre-wheel, and grand spring to every achievement great, advanced and noble.

What a pity! that men labor under such weakness and infirmity. What a pity! that the tyrant's hand is raised to perform, what the strongest motives, the cogent allurements, and the persuasive voice of nature's sweets are not able to do. By this supineness in man, is the blood sucking tyrant introduced into creation, and overruled for good. To this source we are obliged to trace the peopling of these States. With pity let us view, with sorrow let us contemplate the painful yet instructive scene.

After the discovery of America, years elapsed, arguments were disregarded, rewards were despised, few adventurers yet appear. The dewy vales and fertile hills are seen only in fame. The riches and opulence of a luxuriant soil, and the crowns of industry vibrate only on the multitude. Prejudice caused the parching sun and chilling frost to jar, and arrayed the elements in confusion to prevent even reaching hope. Europeans despised their best offer, and secluded their posterity from the means of raising themselves to the rank of men. The continent of America was then viewed as a prison, and there, those were banished, who dare to disobey.

At this crisis, distinction ceases. The advocate of his rights, the guardians of the last expiring taper of freedom, are doomed to traverse the wilderness, and to make an acquaintance with the beasts of the field. The night assassin, the destroyer of Peace, and the worshiper of God in sincerity and truth, are jumbled together, and destined to this land. The praying saint, and the clamorous christian,

christian, are dismissed, to tell their tales of woe to the murmuring stream and aged oak. European monarchs shinking at innovation, and dreading free discussion, by their Imperial seals, transported their victims. When the gallows bended under their loads, and the fire was quenched with human gore, then was mercy exhibited in the western land. As prisoners are obliged to accept of any terms, charters ambiguous, and equivocal grants were furnished, as the jewels and diamonds of unrelenting powers; and the chain galled slaves must hug and embrace the engines of their tortures. Conscience is powerful, and when void of offence, can dare the greatest difficulties; nay rather than submit, encounters even death. The undaunted soul must bid an adieu to friends and connexions dear as life, the punishment of Kings must be received as blessings, and existence and security held from them, under uncertain tenures, ambiguous words, and doubtful expressions. From such beginnings a nation hath arisen, the wonder of the world. Upon this foundation, those transactions arose, whose fame has reached, from shore to shore. Thus European monarchs granted lands they had seized by rapine, and detained by dissimulation, to those, whom they expected at some future day to crush into vassalage, and rob of the earnings of the sweat of their brows.

Every political scheme and intrigue must have its rise and progress. Consequently the British authority sometimes pointed with the finger of promise, to its young and weak colonies, assured, that under every charter granted, such claims were reserved, or such minions employed, as would finally secure its wishes. Buoyed up, with this expectation, and incited by a system of practised slavery, when an opportunity offered, the posterity of former persecutors, appeared the monster they really are. They crept from the den, and like a destroying angel endeavoured to seize the persons and properties of the most peaceful men, and to pass by unhurt only those, who like the menial hound licked the rod with which they were beaten. The orders of court hirelings were vended in America, and reckoned as divine. The unmerciful mandates of an usurping despot were substituted, for fatherly care and paternal affection. The gaping but never satisfied jaws of Tyranny were opened, to swallow up the riches of the land. A charter was no longer a defence, life and property must be given up, and yielded to the disposal of an avaricious crew. Thus "that fairest fabric of human wisdom," the "British government" grasped for unlawful power, and endeavored to reduce to slavery the free born sons of America. The declaration of Independence now read is a living monument of this assertion.

tion. Those solemn appeals to God and men demonstrate the justness of your forefathers cause, and laid the never failing foundation, of the 4th July 1776 never to be forgotten until time shall cease to be.

This is a subject that demands respect, and should be approached, with reverence and respect. This is a day, that should be commemorated with honor and manly joy. I fail in apologies for my own deficiency, and am sorry, circumstances did not permit me to be a partaker of your laurels. How would I have rejoiced to have helped the wheels of Tyranny down hill. In your toils I had no share, in your dangers I had no part; but in real sympathy, I can pour out my spirit in the general effusion of joy that appears this day. I can participate the pleasure of the rising generation, and applaud the honor of the aged sears. I can render thanks to the favours of this country. I can walk, and join in the emblems of liberty, and decorate the memory of deceased patriots, with annual boughs. But did I attempt to describe your struggles and dangers, your tortures and sufferings, your fortitude and bravery; how would I wrong you, ye yet living monuments, and deceased heroes. Had I an iron voice, and an hundred tongues; had I the trumpet of fame and her emblazoning imagery, how simply could I tell your virtues, how far fall short of the original. No pencil can draw, no tongue can tell, all attempts fail, the greatness of the atchievement of American independence.

In the early ages of the world, on great and festival days, an enquiry was made, by the master of the feast, what brought us here, for what purpose, did we assemble? Each guest answered in his turn. On this occasion, the general answer may be; that fathers bring not their sons here, to vend flattery, to a domineering tyrant, to assist in fixing on the hooks, his devoted victims, to gaze at his triumphal carr, or to insult the captive dragged at his chariot wheel. The tyrant's sword reeking with blood draws not forth the effusions of our souls. To lead murmuring innocence, with heavier chains, to lock the screw on distressed virtue, is not the order of the day. Slaves may raise their voices on the birth day of kings. Minions and menial lacqueys may hail their first breathings; Poets Laureat may fawn and flatter, when the pests of mankind enter the portals of life. Kings, ribbons, stars and garters, may hug themselves in idle fancy, and gaping ignorance may worship and adore. This day knows no such profanation, nor is it garnished with such pigmy and unmeaning titles. Hail sacred 4th July! Thou all productive day of liberty! Hail blessed morn! Thou restorer of nature's rights! All hail thy portals!

portals whose open valves received and protected heaven-born patriots. In humble strains we part before that God of day, whose rolling orb proclaimed America free. Ever sacred be that morn'g that burst the bars of darkness, and with its darting rays, carried the Genius of Liberty in triumphant sway. Thou Liberty! dear as life, fill us with thy flame, wave over us, with thy banners, and smile on us with thy rosy effulgence. May thy influence spread thro' every vein, may every throbbing pulse be filled with love and reverence of thee. This be our theme "LIBERTY THOU GREATEST GOOD, without thee, life is a load, and time stands still."

As every thing must have a cause, recourse to first principles, is always attended with advantage. In review, our contemplations are assisted, and our share of praise or blame is better proportioned. In scanning the American revolution, in viewing its first principles; what praises can we raise, what praises can we bestow, on the heroes who fought and bled, and conquered for their country? Behold their fortitude in that moment of perilous magnanimity. Come and see them engaging as host, bravely daring to conquer or to die. The conflict was big with fate.— Busy memory paints the following scene.

An armed banditti, was landed on your shore. These unprincipled wretches panted after plunder. Deal to all restraint, they leaped upon their prey. The matches of death are prepared.— The weapons of slaughter were now sharpened. The bloody colours fly. The prancing steeds and glittering spears were all mustered in array. The warlike drums, and roaring cannon proclaim the harbingers of death. The coasts were surrounded with swimming prisons, and every wave floats signals of distress.— Hark! the crackling flames ascend the sky; hamlets, towns, and villages lie in one confused ruin. The mother weeps, the orphan cries, a sullen stillness wrings the father's soul. Flame to flame, blaze to blaze, reach from Georgia to the Maine.

The yet living patriots, and deceased heroes were inspired with no common fortitude, in that hour of distress. Depending on the justice of their cause, and appealing to the God of battles, they stood the shock undismayed. Undistinguished ruin, and denied mercy firmly cemented their union, and in the field of battle they hazarded the-prize.

The heroes of '76 waded through blood, arrested the monster, and at the ever memorable battle of Bunker's hill, lopped off one of the heads of the British hydra. There, were tried the bravadoes of an English house of Lords.— "My Lords I can inform you that thousands of rebels and effeminate Americans, will fly before

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"fore our generals and red-coated grenadiers." Did they fly? No, they stemmed the current, and strung the nerves of patriotism. The slaves of England "bite the dust," grumbling revenge.

The catastrophe ended not here. Year upon year succeeds. The carnage increases. The Sons of Liberty despise Georgial authority, and bid defiance to his hosts. They rallied round their country's right, like a rock that neither the corroding hand of time, nor the proud billows can remove. The poisoned meat and the envenomed draught thinned your ranks; but like cemented granite, your phalanxes stood unmoved. The prison ships, and floating hells wreaked out their torments; amid these sufferings, love of liberty and country was your all.

Inward division joined by neutrality, and indifference, aimed the deadly stab. The domestic assassin stood ready to plunge the deadly dagger. The worthless hypocrite, "ready to mimic sorrow, when the heart is not sad" nursed his cowardly wrath to keep it warm, and the lukewarm soul, like the weather-cock, offered his rotten and changing service. But such miscreants were over-ruled. Through a ten years war, through losses and dangers, through bloodshed and death, by the roaring cannon, and reeking steel, the temple of liberty was raised, and the foundation of your constitution was laid, which stands the test of time, and shines with unrivalled lustre.

Say, ye hoary heads, ye who bear the scars, and shew the wounds, will ye enter Liberty's temple with polluted steps? Ye young generation, will ye ever sell your fathers honors, and laurels, for the smiles of Tyrants? Will ye, who were haunted by lurking destroyers, as by the nightly ghost, ever share the trophies of your country, with pretended patriots? The impious pretenders, will fall down, and shrink into their original meanness, before the dome of true, virtuous, and steadfast Liberty.—Your Constitution needs neither, the smiles of the careless, the broken bow of the sleeping sentinel, nor the camelion hue of the unprincipled patriot, for its support. It was never purchased by such, and the pretensions of such to its support is worse than vanity.

In the history of ages, there is nothing presented equal to your constitution, to a great and mighty people governing themselves, by full free and equal representation. Each individual's right is properly ascertained, and a proper balance fixed between the governors and the governed. The wheels and springs of your constitution, are plain, natural and easy: they may be approached, not only without fear, but with pleasure and satisfaction. The
mysterious

mysterious involutions of monarchy, and the grasping power of aristocracy are equally guarded against. The fabric is beautiful, and pleasing, in whatever direction you may approach. Men view, in it, the security of life, and property; their all hangs not on the nod of unbounded power, or never satisfied avarice. An union cemented by the strongest bond of mutual defence, founds a hope of its duration, and the contemplative mind is pleased in future prospects.

The distance of the American constitution and government, from the monarchies of the eastern world; whereby its operations are not clearly seen, and its sweets never tasted; is perhaps the only reason, why one monarchy stands on the earth. Nothing so much alarms the eastern potentates, as the science of politics spreading among men.

The knowledge of civil and religious rights, is their most fatal enemy. They shrink before the blaze of liberty's effulgence; they cannot drink the mortifying draught. Liberty's light conducts them to a precipice, where they behold themselves dashed down the TARPEIAN rock. Your constitution never can fail, as long as inhabitants exist, who will not slumber at their posts, and betray their trust. May I venture to say it resembles immortality,—It carries in its organization, the faculty of improvement. It invites scrutiny, denies infallibility, and is willing to progress to the highest improvement. May we not say, "it flourishes in immortal youth?" Such a boon should absorb its possessors, in strains of gratitude. Every 4th of July should be engraven on the tablet of memory. The air ye imbibe this day should pervade the space of your bodies, and exclude every thing inimical, to such a great deposit.

An infinite variety of objects and pursuits, produces a difference in opinion. I believe it is not doubted by any considerate man, that such things necessarily exist. Nature's volume opened to view is a good example of this assertion. Her innumerable varieties, regale, delight and invigorate the mind. A government not opened to the view of the governed, is absurdity, and an uniform same opinion, among men, with respect to government is nowhere found. This is one of the impossibilities, and so ordered for some good and wise end. Free discussion is therefore necessary, and variety of opinion is never dangerous, unless it proceeds by unconstitutional steps, and like the raging hurricane, or devouring tempest spreads desolation. Since therefore such things necessarily exist; the citizens of America, may watch like the careful gardener, encourage every opening bud, fan every spreading leaf, and only lop off the gangrened limbs, and useless excrescences.

erescences. The defenders of the American constitution, are like the sea, "they cast out the dirt and mire." Variety of opinion has a tendency to this effect. Under its influence, the mind cannot stagnate, the putrid vapors and filth, are disgorged into the sinks of pollution, the avaricious, and intriguing are purged away, and the constitution remains doubly refined.

A better example cannot be produced, to realize the value of your government, than the meeting of this day. Your privileges are those of civilized and improved men. Your actions and discussions, are under no penal laws. Rectitude and propriety of conduct guarantee your security. Well may it be said, "what a beautiful building is here?" Man fears not his fellow creature as the beast of the field; but meets him as man. In many places in Europe, the despot's fiat must move the machine. No meeting, no council, no liberty, no discussion. In the late distressed places, if military and dragooning law has subsided; their meetings are covered with weeds of woe. Sable mourning, and saddening melancholly "wrap them in sorrow's shade." The expiring taper of liberty is swallowed in the gulph of unbounded power. Fathers cannot hand to their sons, **THEIR FOURTH OF JULY.** They must clank their chains and etch another year of slavery on the pillar of time. There how degraded, here how exalted are men. There how slow the wheels of slavery move, here smiling liberty bounds forth with ever new delight. There patriotic virtue is "a living corpse" and an object of punishment, here it raises its votaries to the summit of renown.

Your situation is exalted, and your happiness unparalleled; but the permanence of your felicity, depends upon your raising and cultivating the pure principles of '76. Free discussion built upon these principles can never injure. I think that none can be found so hardy to affirm; that in America the scale of politics may mutually preponderate with difference of opinion. If parties differing in circumstantial things, build their essential pursuits, upon the declaration of independence, the nation is safe, and the sovereignty of the people will be unshaken. *The lurking foe is your danger. The assertion is unsupportable, that all are equally warm and friendly to your government, that there are
none

* I think this description cannot suit the party styled us, in the preface. All will doubt the moderation of Lemuel Clift, Esq. Many will doubt the moderation of James Owens. And from what I know, of Joshua Purdy Esq. I cannot admit, that he is a lurking foe. But if these gentlemen, take this description to themselves I cannot help them.

none, who view it with "bewitching eyes." This day holds up to some, their miscreant deeds, in the glass of memory; and such view the exaltation of the people with heart-burning hate. The smile may sit on the countenance of such, but this day's joys exert the unwilling sigh. Their presumption is developed in calling themselves the MODERATES. With this inscription and under this banner, they endeavour to enlist and engage the unwary and incautious. Hypocrisy, duplicity, and ignorance fill the ranks. The first makes them claim the constitution; the second makes them carry on the farce, and the third gives them the privileges of the madman in Bedlam. What reasonable man will say, that such, love, aid, or approve of your government? Can I speak the insult to an enlightened people?—These improperly stiled *moderates* think they are unseen, and like the silly bird that hides its head, and thinks itself safe, they hide their main object, and dream they are secure. It requires neither the penetration of Pythagoras, the sagacity of Newton, nor the divinity of a prophet to discover their machinations. Wherever they are, all see them, all know them. All virtuous Americans spurn at such. Their opposition which only wants the tortitude of the grand traitor,* is like "the snow that falls on the river, a moment white, then gone forever:" or like the meteor that burst into common air again, they dissolve ere they spread terror or dismay. Who in his senses, will believe, that your constitution, your declaration of independence, is like the enchanted cap, which as the story says "is fitted to all heads and all heads fitted to it?" No. Free patriotism, true principles of '76, are the only heads, that are adorned with the never failing boughs of liberty.

A late experiment has been made, whether the trappings of royalty, the epaulettes of monarchy, and the guards of arbitrary power, could exalt this nation. Perhaps this has been of advantage. The devotees of such fooleries were never beyond the reach of the people. A majority of this great nation frowned. They disappeared. A constitution and government, on such a sovereign basis, as the united will of this people, needs no provisional (I dare not call it standing) army.† An alien law, a sedition law and stamp act have been tried. They are a disgrace to a free and enlightened people. Was it not so, why are they not continued? Not one character is removed, against whom they were levelled: nor one good purpose effected by them. Many evils, lamentable

* Arnold.

† The declaration of Independence remonstrates against such acts, and I see no difference in injustice, whether foreign, or domestic.

lamentable evils, have arisen from such extremities. The confidence of the people was in a great measure broken, foreigners prevented from settling here, party spirit was raised, internal commotions broke out, and peace was so far destroyed, that the support of these measures, was signified by the symbols, and insignia of the army. Citizens, without enquiry proper for the occasion, gave their assent to the order of that day, and challenged their opponents,* by heisting the black cockade. Citizens saw in each other the seeds of mistrust; slander and reviling raged from state to state. The supporters of this system "burst asunder. Their bands are broken and cast away." Peace is no longer abused. The military power no longer threatens the civil. Confidence I hope is restored, and all the citizens of America enjoy the protection of a free and original government.

Many here understand little of the intrigue of foreign courts. This occasion very fitly brings in review before this audience, a memento of such absurdity. Britain thinks herself the mistress of the world, and her grandeur is displayed in the etiquette, and parade of nobility. A few are raised far beyond the common mass, the most unbounded ambition is gratified, pride and vanity are exalted to the highest degree. No greater insult can be given to such nobility, than that they hold, their pomp, their luxury, and advancement from the people. They know the people only as vassals and slaves. Men are fond of imitation, and merit once rewarded views an higher situation, and wishes not to stop short of the highest promotion. When men receive they are apt to forget the giver, count what they enjoy secure, and to grasp after more. "Men would be angels and angels would be Gods."—Your connections with foreign intriguing courts, have a tendency to blind the eyes, flatter the passions, and oftentimes mislead the judgment. Every assimilation, to the shining and pampered pageants of courts, have a tendency, to make their admirers forget the rock upon which they stand, to unfit the most useful men, for the duties incumbent on them as statesmen here, and make them be viewed by the people as their enemies. A jealousy arises, which embitters the peace of community, and then discordance jars through the nerves of government. The ARGUS eye of scrupolosity watches, and the best intentions may be misconstrued.

Into

* Nothing is more pointed against in the Independence than the military power, overcoming the civil, and the raising of discord among Americans. If the party stiled us, differ from the true principles of Independence, they are answerable to their countrymen. I want none of their backbiting.

Into this situation, many may be insensibly involved, and in innocence suffer the punishment of the guilty. Pity should drop a tear on this often unavoidable situation.

* But when statesmen are entrusted, who willingly barter their country's prosperity, for the tinselled baubles of courts, when they insultingly boast of the inferiority of their government and constitution, and league themselves, with foreign speculation, chicanery, and imposition, and where as a people, ye are degraded; whose soul can refrain swelling indignant? Can all the glare of assumption save such from the peoples' wrath? They and your government, are the extremes of a contradiction. There is no more connection between them, than between God and the Devil.

There is something strange in the career of men, that blinds them against warning. The divine fragrance of monarchy was wafted over its Generals, to fortify them against the puny efforts of a young nation. The reins of power were assumed; they rode triumphant to the western shore, singing "Rule Britannia:" but like Phaeton they fell from their career. A satellite lost its orbit, wandered through space, and fell near the head of the North-river. Another of greater magnitude, was shaken from its centre, and dwindled away its borrowed light near little York. All the internal enemies of America, who endeavour to rise by such means, will find the breathings of their employers as a broken bow against a watchful and unconquered people. Such would assume your constitution, cry constitution, and wear it in disguise, until like a Panders coat, their elbows would burst through, and the haggard visage appear from within. Some may have thought, and no doubt others will think, that they have imbibed as much governing cunning, that like the lake Asphaltites, they can bring down dead every thing that dares approach. But their vapors and exhalations will be lost, corrected or purified, amid the enlivening rays of American Liberty.

Approximation to the intrigues of foreign courts, of whatever nation, is equally dangerous. Any other mind, any other inspiration than the love and light of your sovereign Independence, every other claim for advancement, but by the peoples choice and will, is spurious, comes not from your ancestors of 76, and is an impure offering for the day. If anyt in this house, who
love

* If the opinion of the party vs, expect such high situations, and would act the above part, I have nothing better on the subject, for them.

† If the party vs claim this character, I have no objections, I support my assertions.

loves not the memorials of the day: "speak, for him have I offended." If any here, whose heart does not pant after the dear deposit of their ancestors bravery, "speak, for him have I offended." If any are to be found elsewhere, who would change his birth-right bought through peril and blood, for any other government; down, down to the yawning gulph of the most sovereign contempt. Let poignant shame, and guilty blushes mark him like Cain, until he drink forgetfulness of his baseness, as deep as Lethe's stream.

A popular government like yours invites inspection. Every class darts the eye of scrutiny towards it, as to a city on a hill, that cannot be hid. Clerical influence has not been lame in the busy croud. Like all other classes their opinions are divided. The most noisy warnings that have been trumpeted abroad, are void of charity, as they are wanting in truth, ignorant of the principles of true liberty, as unwilling to grant its gifts. No religious qualification is required, in filling public offices: But because places of trust are not filled with men of a certain opinion; religion must sicken and die. It is hard to scan the events of futurity, but at present religion seems to flourish, and her benign influence to spread. In places and nations where governors are beyond the reach of the people, and the prosperity and happiness of their subjects depend upon the sovereign's will; it would be necessary such governors and potentates should have angelic faculties. But in America a place of trust is obedience to the general will, and if Deism, Atheism, or any other *ism* infringe upon the rights of the community, it is decently set aside. The liberty of conscience is equally inviolate in the governors, and the governed. Since therefore, the nature of things does not permit an angel to fill the executive chair, the conduct of that situation is tried and proved by the constitution. The chief magistrate may use the liberty of conscience; but as soon as his creed, whatever it is, suffers him to attempt the slavery of the people, he must leave the banks of the Potowmac, chariot, horses, wheels and all. This is a legal dismissal. He can then with his conscience be recommended to God, who alone can try the heart.

Such is your constitution, the Colossus of an united people, which if kept in original purity, will ever flourish, amid all the attacks of its enemies. What so great, so august, and so grand as the Temple and magnificent Fabric, which your forefathers have handed down to you. It is heaven's gift, keep it secure.

I presume it would be improper to advance much, by way of impressing this audience, in what manner and for what purpose, the remainder of this day should be spent. A short time has been employed

employed in imperfectly pointing out the discovery, the settlement, the rise and progress of these States, and the causes of your Independence. Such decorum and order should appear in the remaining part of this day, as will shew respect to the memories of the best of men. Such an understanding should be carried out of this house, that this day is not only a celebration of the greatest event that ever happened in the world; but a fixed and determined resolution to maintain the true spirit, and practice of the American constitution. That ye have been governed by angels is not true, that ye are now is equally false, and that ye will be is not to be expected. That all are equally concerned for your constitution will be admitted by no reasonable man. That cunning and intrigue may destroy public peace is too well known. To guard against such things is the chief intent of assembling this day. The Father who brings his Son for any other purpose, betrays his trust; the son arriving to the years of discretion, who sees not such things, in this day's emblems, is yet untaught in the science of his own independence. This day and its deeds commemorated should be engraven on the rocks; its wondrous truths should fill the land. The wounds of your forefathers should be uncovered: they say, "my language is to you." The ashes of plundered towns, and sacked villages, should speak in indelible sculpture, distance to foreign foes; and domestic enemies. Cemented union should be your leading principle; to live as the children of the best government on earth, your only pleasure. To relieve the distressed, to pity where you cannot help, to enlighten ignorance, and to forgive opposition, when not dangerous, should raise you above all nations on earth. Your minds so engaged, will reach after improvement, and science. Your name as a nation will strike enemies with terror. Your sons and your sons' sons shall enjoy your blessings. Your land, your government and your patriots shall be recorded through never ceasing time.

The festive board now invites. Let libations be poured out in commemoration of the 4th of July, 1776. Tell in the streets, proclaim to the clouds, that ye are and shall be a free Republican people,