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AN  
ORATION,  
PRNOUNCED AT  
*CHARLESTOWN,*  
ON THE  
THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY,  
OF  
*American Independence.*

*JULY 4, 1806.*

.....  
BY DANIEL PARKER.  
.....

“ O LIBERTY ! can man resign THEE,  
“ Once having felt thy generous aid ?”

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.....  
1806.

CHARLESTOWN, JULY 8, 1806.

D. PARKER, Esq.

SIR—WE have the honour of being a *Committee*, from the *Republican Citizens*, who celebrated the POLITICAL BIRTH DAY, of our *Country*, at Charlestown, “to wait on you, with their thanks, for your patriotic *Oration* on that occasion; and to request a *copy* for the press.”

With sentiments of esteem,

Your's, &c.

JAMES GREEN, }  
JOHN KETTLE, } *Committee.*

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CHARLESTOWN, JULY 10, 1806.

GENTLEMEN,

With reluctance, I resign to your disposal, a *copy* of my *address*, delivered on the 4th inst. The *respectable communication*—the solicitations, and known *candour* of my *Republican friends*, at whose request it was delivered, make it a *duty* to gratify their wishes.

With respect,

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. PARKER.

JAMES GREEN, }  
JOHN KETTLE, } Esq'rs.

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NOTE.—In this hasty performance, the reader may make his own *deductions*—and should *credit* be wanting—the inverted commas may be placed at the discretion of the critick, without mortifying one, who, is only ambitious for a right to the sentiments of a FREEMAN.

THE AUTHOR.

# ORATION.



AGAIN, FELLOW FREEMEN and CITIZENS, we gather around the sacred altars of our country ; invoking, with joyful hearts, the GENIUS of LIBERTY—in adoration of that God, who perfected a plan which has given INDEPENDENCE to our nation and FREEDOM to millions.—An event, no less glorious in operation, than successful in execution.

In the Anniversary of our *Political Birth*—we celebrate an era in the history of man, from whence, has since been dated the *triumph* of FREEDOM.

Thirty years, has our Independence engaged the attention of *genius* and *oratory*, and in the hasty remarks on this occasion, I can only expect to interest by my subject ; a *theme* still grateful to every *American* ear. In which we are rather led to a partial contemplation of our own *Biography*, than to ranting declamation on the commotions of *Europe*.

DESCENDANTS from a hardy, enterprising and industrious ancestry, the boundaries of *nature*, and the *genius* of our people have contributed, in rendering us SOVEREIGN and FREE. The peculiar circumstances, which induced the settlement of our country, furnish the first principles of our *birth-right*—INDEPENDENCE. Two hundred years have not yet elapsed, since parental persecution, first prompted her own fostered children to voluntary *banishment*. America, then the haunt of beasts and *savages*, offered the only retreat from *tyranny*. Wretched as were their prospects; they, with pious zeal, embraced an opportunity of retreating from the more than *savage persecutors* of their own shores—and from omens like this, might have been calculated the laudable spirit of their descendants, which enabled our country to withstand the more recent persecutions of a *venal government*.

Scarcely had these enterprising adventurers, after encountering every hardship, secured a quiet possession on this side the Atlantic; when *persecution* assumed another form, and though in a retreat of more than three thousand miles, the grasp of despotism was directed towards them.

Here their weak and defenceless situation

compelled them to submit to *British intolerance*.

A mistaken Ministry, roused a spirit of opposition, by adopting a maxim, only applicable to beasts of burthen—the heavier the load the more tamely they submit. Taxes and duties, too heavy for the resources of our country were levied, and redress became necessary.

*Petition* and *Remonstrance* were preferred to that source, from whence those evils sprang. These breathed a spirit of loyalty, and were indicative of filial respect.

A momentary relief was the only favourable result.

Taxation and oppression were again renewed, and increased, till *opposition* became a *virtue*—a *duty* to themselves and posterity.

YOU, my VENERABLE FATHERS, know those detested acts, which roused this virtuous spirit; and you must remember with delight, the feelings of our most enlightened countrymen on those occasions.

Our first offices, filled by men only acquainted with servile homage; they could

ilily brook the reception of industry and virtue, or the honest freedom of *Republican manners*.

The destruction of our Liberties could only gratify their wishes.

The managers of the horrid *drama*, however, artfully delayed the closing scene; while every base measure, that authority could suggest, was employed to *appal*—to *deceive*. The fatal *curtain* at length arose, and exhibited a host of armed ruffians, thronging our shores, plundering our citizens, and demanding implicit obedience, to a tyrant's will. Who does not shudder at the recollection of the bloody scenes which followed? We did not “dream of cannon playing on our towns,” nor start at fancying our houses in flames! They were *realities*, in our waking moments—Realities, which require not repetition, to be remembered.

The gauntlet was hurled—Too long deaf to our supplications—The *Throne*, that *royal pinnacle* of *venality*, was no longer regarded. In GOD, and the justness of our cause, were centred, the hopes of our fathers. Our citizens became soldiers—our soldiers, PATRIOTS.

“The spears and falchions, which hung unstained in their Halls,” were now only

brought into use, for the defence of life, and those rights, without which, life is not a blessing. No assurances of mutual reliance, had yet been made by our countrymen.

But at the sound of war, *all were active*. The peaceable implements of husbandry and the arts, were hastily, (though not without regret,) exchanged for those weapons they had only been taught to use against the prowling beasts of the wilderness. The alarm was rapid, and as extensive as our territory.

It was the call of FREEMEN—it was the cause of each individual; and obeyed with that promptitude *nature* gave to man, when she gave him courage to guard against assault and depredation.

From Maine to Georgia—from the Atlantic to the Ohio; was heard, in the united voices of Columbia—LIVE FREE, OR DIE! Such was the origin of our Liberties—such the declaration on this *Anniversary*. *Thirty years* have not obliterated in our FATHERS, the principles, on which our freedom was established; and we have now listened in admiration to their declaration,\* ready to pledge ourselves for its support.

\* The Declaration of Independence was previously read.

To attempt a detail of the usurpations which induced a renunciation of our *allegiance*, would but display a series of cruelties, which are faithfully recorded on the first pages of our *Political History*, and deposited in the archives of Fame. They are also engraven on our hearts; and at the names *Tyranny* and *Britain*, our pulse will never fail to beat in tumult for their injustice.

To enter the ensanguined fields, and retrace the horrid scenes of desolation and rapine, which followed the footsteps of their *armies*; and the valour and heroism, which marked the progress of our own, would be a task already performed—recounting scenes, which have roused the enthusiasm of *orators* and *historians*. It would be what many of you have seen—what we all know.

Though glorious for us, it would have its *alloy*. With the laurels gathered in the *tented* fields, we must intertwine the *cypress*, that now blossoms on the graves of those HEROES, who fought, who bled, who conquered, who *died* !! But our children shall bear witness that their deaths have been lamented; that their deeds are not forgotten.



Seven years closed the tragic scenes of our *Revolution*, and saw the *Tree of Liberty* beginning to flourish.

Though watered by the blood of our countrymen, enough yet remained to guard it from the sacrilegious hand of the despoiler. WASHINGTON, who had led our armies in triumph—“First in War”—became no less conspicuous in Peace: “Growing with our growth,” he had watched the first germes of the favourite *plant*, and knew the culture it required. By that *oracle* of public opinion, the *imperishable declaration* of our INDEPENDENCE, penned by our PATRIOTIC JEFFERSON, which for years had breathed the vital principle, that animated every American—he knew at a glance the wishes of our country. *Humbled Britain* had acknowledged the justness of the declaration.

The *hatchet* of our frontier neighbours was buried; and their *Sachems*, who had been roused by the *war-whoop* of our *enemies*, were again smoking the *calumet* of peace, with our citizens; while, under the inspection of our own *Warriors* and *Statesmen*, the *Social compact* of our Republican government was forming. Necessity had heretofore been *law*; and private feeling, given place to public convenience.

We were only linked together by our sufferings. Dismal indeed were our prospects, at this time ! Those who fought our *battles*, returned to their families penniless ; and we might expect each to look suspicious on his brother, when there was no recompence for *labour*.

But in the victorious exultations of soldiers, they forgot not, that they were citizens. Happy in being relieved from foreign *oppression* ; anticipating future prosperity—though reduced almost to *bankruptcy* ; we knew not that we were wretched, till the accumulated debts of many years damped the rising spirit of some of our countrymen, and cast a partial shade on the bright picture. The effects were limited and momentary ; and gave zeal to our *Councils*. A Constitution was formed, endeavouring to embrace the equal rights of a **FREE PEOPLE**.

Mature consultations gave it a general sanction, with several amendments. Being pronounced by able politicians, the best, the situation our then unpractised republic would admit—it was ushered into life, subject to the amendments and control of its *sovereign authors*, the **PEOPLE** of the United States.

The man who had our confidence in *war*, was deserving of it in *peace*. WASHINGTON was unanimously elected to the first office of our Government.

A man, whose life was already covered with GLORY—"whose virtues caused *calumny* to blush, and drew tears from *envy*."—His successive elections discover the continued attachment of his country; and our prosperity evinced the blessings of an *elective Government*. Cheerfully concurring in the eulogiums on our *free and equal Rights*, a generous confidence in the disinterested integrity of those illustrious characters, who had formed and were administering it, lulled the suspicions of the people; and our triumph appeared complete, under the administration of our beloved WASHINGTON. *Ambition* and *intrigue* were unknown in our country; or active only in *secret*.

Authority, self aggrandizement, and unbounded confidence, could not offer an inducement to infringe, or speculate on the rights of our citizens. But at a time, when harmony prevailed—when the salutary effects of our Government were but partially realized; he resigned *that office*, the duties of which, had but become pleasant, easy and familiar. In retirement he was not inactive. Born but for us,

living but for our country—he is now *free* and exalted in *death*—“ who did so well maintain his, and his country’s FREEDOM.” From what we had already seen, the succeeding administration promised *universal happiness*.

The proved patriotism of ADAMS precluded any general suspicions. The people were only gradually alarmed by *palpable* deviations.

Recently taught in the school of *oppression*; jealousy, at every encroachment, became a duty.

With an individual, “ reason may become the *dupe* of sophistry,” and virtue fall a sacrifice to intriguing ambition—but they can never seriously effect a government, whose principles, like our own, are general information—whose soul is virtue. “ No state chicanery”—no corrupt system of vicious politics, can flourish. “ Free from entangling alliances,” with foreign despots—no court sychophants had power to lull our *free citizens* to inactive security, by creating armies to watch their liberties. Taxation had been too generally felt to be borne, with no other object than individual gratification. The *Independent subjects* of their own government, assumed their constitutional privileges. The *Bill of Rights* became more

generally investigated—a change of administration followed—and we are now basking in the splendour of a **REPUBLIC**.

More than five years of successful *administration*, have proved the disinterested **PATRIOTISM** and **VIRTUE** of our President—and our increasing prosperity shows, that the liberties of the people, require not the interference of *usurpers*, to guard them from their reputed *worst enemies*—themselves.

Continued, though feeble, have been the attacks of *disappointed ambition* and *its dupes*. The shafts of calumny have fallen short of their marks, and been repelled by the shield of **VIRTUOUS INTEGRITY**. Far from being injurious, the attacks on our administration have led to a *thorough* and general examination.

We are now adequate judges of our own situation, and vain are the bickering attempts of disappointed individuals, to convince us, we are not enjoying a splendid height of national *prosperity* and private *happiness*, unequalled in any other government, or country.

But while we *rejoice* in the prosperity of the *fair fabric* of our Republican liberty—let us continue to be mindful that our fathers and

brothers laboured at the foundation, and cemented it with their blood ; and we shall not neglect to repair and preserve it.

Holding the keys of the inestimable *treasure*, we can examine for ourselves, without intrusting the rightful inheritance of our posterity, in such a way, as shall compel them to crowd around the altars of usurpation, for that protection they have a right to demand at *our own hands*—and if we continue to be vigilant of our rights—no zealot in the cause of slavery—no arrogant engrosser of delegated power, will dare to practise the treacherous arts of corruption. It is our happiness, that such men can now, only *speculate* on “the *glorious doctrine of passive obedience* ; and *feast* their imaginations alone, on the *enrapturing* tenets of *non-resistance*.”—But by our neglect, the beauteous structure may be disjointed. The feeble rod of oppression, will then be successfully wielded against it, and the weakest usurper may insult its fall—even the minions of tyranny, may then trample in triumph on its ruins ; and *Independent AMERICA*, be enrolled with degraded Ireland.

But we thank our **FATHERS**, and our **GOD**, that our liberties are not dependent on the precarious will of an individual, or our enterpris-

ing sons born sporting machines for privileged courtiers.

Supported by our own vigilant exertions, our FREEDOM can neither be wrested from us by the tyrannically disposed, or decoyed away by the meretricious blandishments of designing speculators—unless ourselves be accessory. And for successful insidious attempts, of this kind, our citizens are too well informed, and too highly prize their liberties.

..... "He who loves  
His country, and feels his country's *honour*,  
*His* bones, amid a land of servitude,  
Could never rest in peace ; *and*, if he saw  
His children slaves, would feel a pang in Heaven."

Still we are fearful, that there are those, who, regardless of the happiness gained by our Independence, would, to gratify private feelings, sacrifice the grand interest of our country to individual speculation—and even court foreigners, within our own dominions, to commit depredations on property and *life* ; to bring our government into disrepute, and involve us in unequal *war*. But we should suppose the most limited political calculator could see, that such measures would procure for our *boasted carrying trade*—a convoy of European privateers.

No, Fellow Citizens, our happiness is not to be bartered in this way.—Our Independence is not to be supported by courting invasion, or our Liberties maintained by standing armies.

Our *Fellow Freemen* in arms, now witness to us, by their elegant discipline, and spirited, soldierly conduct, that our country can never be better and more ably defended, than by those, who feel interested in its welfare.

**SOLDIERS!**—“How honourable is your station”; how much depends on you and our military establishment, which co-operates with our *civil institutions*; your situation renders you doubly interesting to society. Think not yours is a *task*; it is rather a *privilege*. Recollect that a militia, unequal with yourselves, have saved our country from slavery. Fancy, for a moment, a hireling establishment quartered among you, without the reach of any civil law—receiving your earnings, and commanding your liberties—unconnected, uninterested in society, and equally ready to plunder your towns, as to protect them.

Let these considerations stimulate you to preserve your discipline—and we shall ever manifest to our *enemies*, that a well regulated Militia is the only army we require.



Be vigilant of your *rights* as *Freemen*—and say with Alexander—There is no nobler name given to man, under heaven, than the name of a SOLDIER.

We are FREE—we are *happy*—and we are proving to the children of *Royalty* and *licentiousness*, that the Government of *United Columbia* is not the offspring of weak, infamous, or deranged politicians. Not the effect of party zeal, or restless ambition—but the *fair* and *flourishing* progeny of VIRTUE and WISDOM.

MASSACHUSETTS—the cradle of *Republican Independence*—now harmonizes with our general Government—and shows to the world, that her *freeborn sons* are not strangled by the *serpents* of *tyranny*, or *governed* by the *magic wand* of a *Harlequin Aristocracy*. This influence is no longer to be dreaded.

Though our Legislatures may be patriotic and wise—our Magistrates *pure*—still the *fair features* of VIRTUE may, for a time, be partially obscured, by the black and *haggard* mask of defamation. But the libellous tales of the *hireling assassins* of *Reputation*, will soon cease to be regarded, or operate only to bring into contempt their *nefarious progenitors*.

**AMERICANS!**—We are now in the full and prosperous enjoyment of those rights and privileges, the attainment of which, nearly desolated our towns and cities—caused humanity to *groan*, and innocence to *weep*. And may it never be said, that **WE**, the **FREE CITIZENS** of a *happy Republic*—were **slumbering** on the *Cap of Liberty*—while a selfcreated **ARISTOCRACY**, were *amalgamating* from the purloined inestimable treasures of our **COUNTRYMEN**, the **CROWN OF ROYALTY**.

