ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AT GOSHEN,

AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE 4th OF JULY, 1814;

AT THE DESIRE OF THE YOUNG MEN OF THE TOWN.

BY DAVID L. PARMELEE,

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AN ADDRESS, &c.

ASSEMBLED to commemorate an event, in which we all have the deepest interest, as individuals as well as a nation; I feel it my duty in obedience to your request to arise, though conscious of my inability; from the slender talents which I possess; from the avocations of a mercantile life, which are far from being consonant with the pursuits of literature and science, little can be expected from me interesting or diverting; but indulging the persuasion that you will forbear your censure, and pardon any thing that may be said inadvertently, I commence the task assigned me.

This day has the sun, thirty-eight times completed his annual rotations, since the wise representatives of a magnanimous people, proclaimed to a patriotic nation, the greatest of earthly blessings—liberty and independence. Shall we, on this ever memorable aniversary of our nation's birth, let it pass with silence? We who are descended from fathers, patriots, and soldiers, who bled, who died, who conquered, in the best of causes; shall we live to see the shining orb of heaven perform his diurnal course this day, and let it pass uncommemorated? No, my young countrymen, I humbly trust that we are formed of

nobler materials; that we are endowed with nobler sentiments; that we have patriotism enough to celebrate this day that gave a nation birth, with that religious awe, which is due the Majesty of heaven, and those enlightened feelings of gratitude, which are due the glorious achievers of a nation's happiness.

Perhaps there is no occasion more proper than the present, to recal for a moment to our recollection, the trials, dangers, and difficulties, the our heroes and statesmen had to encounter, to a lieve our independence, to construct a Constitution, to form a code of laws, which should secure to every individual, his liberty and property, and make us a free, happy, and at the same a powerful people. am fully sensible that I am following the paths of many, many abler and older, who have pourtrayed, in features of effulgent eloquence, that which I, with my feeble talents, shall not aspire to perform. But, my countrymen, let all party spirit, raneor, animosity, and hatred which have much, too much prevailed, be buried in oblivion; this day, at least, let the names of Republicans and Federalists be swallowed up in the glorious title of Americans: if there be any difference, let it be a virtuous emulation for our country's honor-for our country's good: let us prove to the world, that at least with us it may be true, that "we are all Republicans—that we are all Federalists."

In considering, briefly, the trials and dangers that the achievers of our liberty had to encounter, we will pass over that haughty, persecuting spirit, which must appear so evident to all least acquainted with the history of their country, to have actuated the court of that powerful and proud nation, at which time it was our fortune to be colonies. We will pass, I say, to that era, ever memorable in the annals of our history, to that time, when the haughty mistress of the ocean sent her armies to subdue a people, by nature formed for peace, liberty, and happiness; then, my young countrymen, was a time "that tried men's souls." Let us picture to ourselves a country without troops, without arms, without resources, and in fact, without any of the implements of war, engaged in a contest with one of the most powerful of nations. But this is the favoured land; this is the country where the tree of liberty was planted; here it was, and here I fondly hope it is destined to flourish. It was for liberty that our ancestors left their native land, to enjoy their civil and religious rights. It was for liberty, that they had to encounter their savage foes of the wilderness, and to surmount the greatest difficulties. It was for liberty, at this eventful epoch, divine providence had raised up our shield and our deliverer; a Washington, the great, the just, the good, whose name, whose worth, will be held in sacred remembrance in the remotest annals of future ages. It was for this same liberty, that he and his compeers in arms endured an eight years' war. was for liberty, that on Bunker's noble heights, a gallant WARREN met the cold embrace of death. It was for liberty, that a brave Montgomery endured a winter's campaign, and nobly died in his

country's cause. It was for liberty, that a Mercer bled at Princeton. It was liberty that animated all, that led them on to victory, that enabled them to surmount disasters, and defeats, that guided our Congress during the eventful period of our revolutionary struggle. It was Washington, who was raised to save his country; he was great as a statesman, he was great in the field; he possessed wisdom almost supernatural first to form, and first to execute. And shall we let this day pass without a tear of gratitude mingled with a tear of sorrow to the deliverer of our country; gratitude for the noble attainment of our independence; gratitude for the great and powerful efforts in forming our excellent constitution; gratitude for the dignity and energy with which he supported and administered it; and gratitude for his last legacy to his countrymen, which ought to be riveted to every man's heart? But as if too good for earth, the statesman, soldier, and citizen has winged his way to mansions of celestial bliss, and if it should be the duty of any of us to engage in our country's cause, let us act, so that the mild, and at the same time, magnanimous spirit of our departed hero, may look down upon us from the realms of felicity with a smile of complacency and satisfaction. The highest encomiums that we can pay to his exalted worth, are to revere his precepts and imitate his examples. Greece may boast of her Philip, her Alexander; Carthage of her Hannibal; Rome of her Caesars, her Fabius, her Pompey; France of her tyrant; but America can boast the man, in whom all the qualifications that adorn the statesman, the soldier, and the citizen combine. Time may

moulder the the gilded sepulchre, but the recollecof such superior excellence will survive the corrosion of ages.

Since the administration of Washington terminated, party spirit has raged with vehemence. However different we may think, yet I fondly hope and believe, that an Adams and a Jefferson both had their country's honour and welfare in view; that however different their courses, their country's rights were their primary objects. We are now engaged in a contest with our former enemy; unfortunately various are our opinions respecting its propriety; it is far from my intention to enter into a dissertation on the injuries and insults that we have recieved either from Great Britain or France: but I trust that there is no one in this assembly will differ from me, when I say, that we had ample cause of war with both of these belligerent powers, however some of us may doubt its expediency. Our nation's honour, our nation's glory, I presume are objects worthy of our consideration. Americans cannot but feel an emotion of pride, when they reflect on the recent triumph of our Navy, which has vanquished British valor, which, heretofore, met an enemy only to triumph over them. The deeds of our naval heroes have excited in Europe wonder and surprise; they have astonished our enemies. and created one universal feeling of admiration and delight, from Maine to Georgia; whilst America can boas of her Hull, Decatúr, Bainbridge. Jones, Perry, Warrington, Chauncey, Por-TER; Rodgers, and many others; or while memory can retain the recollection of a LAWRENCE, an Allen, a Burrows, a Ludlow, a Pike, a Covincron, who in the language of a poet,

- "Were with chaste ambition fir'd,
- "To die distinguish'd, as to live admir'd;"

who nobly fell adorned with the bright escutcheons of fame. While we can boast of such heroes, we have ample cause of national triumph and congratulation; while the honour and prowess of our country remain in the hands of such men, little can we doubt but that the splendour of their fame will remain, not only unsullied, but receive additional trophies from their gallantry. In distant times, when, perhaps, wars no longer convulse the civilized world; when scenes of blood shall no longer be the ambition of great men; when all shall be engaged in an emulation for the promotion of happiness; even then the recollection of bravery will be viewed with admiration and delight; then the names of those departed heroes, who nobly fell in defence of their country's dearest rights, will be reverberated back from the distant annals of time. Yes! when, where the majestic oak of the forest now waves in triumph, shall be raised cities, towns, and villages, then will the feat of the Hero of Erie be sung as a wondrous and heroic effort of chivalry.

For a moment, purmit me to turn your attention to Europe; there we behold the vicissitudes of war, the triumphs of victory, the sadness of defeats—Within the compass of a few short years, scarcely has there been a town but what is memorable for

some great battle, or the desolation of wars; scarcely has there a brook run but what has been crimsoned with the blood of man.—We have seen the tyrant of France extending his victorious prowess almost over Europe; Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Naples, and a part of Germany annexed to his empire; Denmark in a state of slavery; Spain, Portugal, Russia, Prussia, Sweden and Austria had experienced the dire effects of his vengeance; monarchs wrested from their thrones; their countries desolated; their fields drenched with the blood of their dearest citizens; despair had almost seized them.—Napoleon, flushed with victory, elated with success, less than two years since led his powerful army two thousand miles from their native homes, to a cold and inhospitable climate, to add to his dominions and gratify his unbounded ambition, with almost the whole of Europe at his command. Forlorn indeed was the hope of his defeat; having entered Moscow, the great metropolis of the Russian empire, little was it to be expected that he would meet with disaster; but a last resort, a magnanimous effort freed Russia from her invaders: death and carnage "with one full sweep" terminated their career. The annals of history do not, to my knowledge, produce an instance of any similarity; Russia for her magnanimous conduct, in sacrificing her city to save her country, deserves the admiration of the world.—Behold the reverse! Bonaparte, who so short a time since dictated to continental Europe; at whose nod they bowed; at whose looks they trembled; himself the victim of his ambition.-France which, so short a time since, bid defiance to

the world, in possession of a hostile foe; the whole of Europe leagued against the tyrant; yes, driven himself to renounce his throne to its rightful owner. How surprising the change! how strange the reverses of fortune! "These desolating wars have filled the world with widows and with orphans," without one single object for which they were commenced, being accomplished.—Where this bloody career will terminate, is known only to Him who guides the destinies of the universe—but to appearance, this great event, this desired object is fast approximating.

My countrymen, happy is it for us that we are situated so far remote from these bloody scenes. Let us be careful not to let our feelings or prejudices incline to any foreign power: but let us stand aloof from their contentions; adhere more firmly to our excellent form of government, and maintain our rights against any aggressor. We have examples sufficient in Europe to teach us the excellence of our Republican government. Let an unanimity of sentiment prevail, and prove to the world that our institutions can stand. Let us arise above all party prejudices and foreign predilections, and be animated with one universal sentiment of love of country.

To render a republican form of government an energetic one, requires unanimity; the power is in the hands of the people; if dissatisfied, they have a constitutional remedy in their elections; it is a duty obligatory on every one to support the government of his country; to yield implicit obedience to all

its constitutional laws, and aid in the execution of them.—To perpetuate our institutions, it is necessary that every one should understand their nature; to understand this, education is necessary.—Happy is it for us that the means of disseminating instruction to all are so far in our power; that the means of education are in the hands of all; while in European countries, three fourths of their inhabitants live in ignorance, the slaves or dependents of a dukedom; while here to require renown, merit is the necessary recommendation. All should be instructed what an inestimable blessing is liberty; the difficulty with which it was obtained; and how much depends upon the exertion of a single individual to retain it. You will pardon me, my countrymen, that I dwell on this subject; for not all the titles, all the honour, all the wealth, that the best of monarchs could confer, would be any inducement to a true patriot to barter the liberties of his country. -Liberty and equality are more inestimable than all the favours that a tyrant could bestow. Could I give utterance to my feelings, I would call upon you as Americans, as the friends of liberty, to frown indignant upon the wretch who would wish a dissolution of the union. No, my young countrymen, the present is no time for party prejudices to have sway; the recent events in Europe teach us, that to maintain our rights requires unanimity and exertion. However we may rejoice at the emancipation of the French empire from her tyrant, and Europe from her chains, and as the friends of liberty we must; still we must be fully sensible that the gigantic power of Great Britain is very greatly increased. Yes,

even the next breeze that blows, the next sails that are unfurled, may whiten the ocean with troops destined to desolate our cities. If it should be our fortune to meet an enemy in the "tented field," let us act worthy of Americans—worthy of departed heroes, and worthy of ourselves. Has the spirit of seventy-six become dormant? Has the fire of liberty become latent? No. Should the presumption of the enemy call us to the field of battle, it will arouse the energy of our natures; it will kindle in our souls a love of country, that will raise us above the bickerings of party, and animate us as a "band of brothers," to aspire to imitate some of those bright examples of heroism and bravery which have decked Columbia's sons with laurels, and entwined around her name an imperishable wreath of fame.

The restoration of peace is an event, " most deyoutly to be wished." Europe, for twenty-five years past, has been one continued scene of desolation, she has bled at every pore. Peace, honourable and speedy, would be an inestimable blessing to our country, to Europe, and to the world. The recollection of what dire events the calamity of war has caused the world, makes human nature shudder. The venerable father lives to see his sons, his grandsons fall victims to the ambition of a tyrant. Others live to see their sons fall more nobly, and die with the expiring liberties of their country. How sad this reverse of fortune! Happy will it be when wars shall no longer rage; when science, literature, and the arts shall be the ambition of great men; when all shall be permitted to prosecute their lawful enterprizes; when laws shall be a restraint to tyranny; when justice shall be the object of all nations; when all shall be engaged in the promotion of national happiness and prosperity; when the breeze that wafts the sail across the Atlantic shall no longer carry the news of scenes of carnage and destruction. No; these are blessings that little can be expected, as long as vice has such a preponderance over virtue; as long "as man delights to make his fellow mourn," faint must be the hope, if wars cease for a moment, but that they will soon re-commence with redoubled cruelty.

In comparing the present time, with our situation thirty-eight years ago, what a striking contrast do we draw! In that bleak hour of America's fortunes, when she declared herself independent of the mother country; when one universal anxiety prevailed over all—all animated with the same love of country, with the full determination to obtain their independence, or nobly perish in the attempt, hope was their only solace;—then with a population of two millions, now a little less than eight;—then with scarce the necessaries of life, now with all that can render it happy;—then without the means of defence, now with great resources, in a hardy yeomanry, in patriotic citizens, in wealth, in a country abounding with all the necessaries and conveniences of life—these are barriers on which the liberties of our country must rest.

With an extensive country, embracing a diversity of climate, just emerged from savage barbarism;

with a wide field for the creative genius of man to operate; in the promotion of civilization, in the extension of knowledge, in improving our situation; little was it to be expected America could make any great additions to literature, science, and the arts; that she could add to attainments of the united efforts of Europe for centuries. Strange as it may appear, at the time when our rights were in a state of jeopardy; when to obtain independence was the arduous employment of the best of men, Columbia shone conspicuous in the philosophic and literary world.—Philosophy has a noble acquisition in a FRANKLIN, he who delighted to inculcate into the minds of all the pure principles of moral rectitude, he could guide the forked lightnings of the heavens; he was great as a statesman; as a philosopher almost unrivalled; in the private walks of life he appeared with scarcely an equal. To Franklin we are indebted for one of the most useful and beneficial discoveries of philosophy, which the united efforts of the greatest of European philosophers had attempted in vain to attain.—In a BARLOW, the friends of science have a conspicuous ornament; he has presented to his countrymen one of the most conspicuous pieces of poetic typography that modern times can boast. Indeed his theme was noble! He was not engaged in any legendary tales of old. No; he sung the beauties of his native country; its rising greatness; its future prospects, and the glory of this western hemisphere. It has been remarked by authors, and may be considered a correct one, that no one century has produced more than three who deservedly rank high in the poetic world:

America can claim this palm for her Barlow. But the poet and the patriot is gone; in the prime of life; in a foreign land, in the service of his country, he rose superior to the things of this world, in the temple of fame, in the hearts of the lovers of science he will ever hold a lofty seat. While memory holds a place, as long as the historian performs his duty, the names of a Franklin, and a Barlow, will ever be held in grateful remembrance by a literary and philosophic world.

Shall I recal to your recollection a RANDOLPH, a Hancock, a Laurens, a Rutledge, a Nash, a Greene, a Clinton in "council great," and many others who lived to see their country blest; who shone as statesmen and in the field; who stood high in the classic world? No, I trust that the recollection of their worth is present in all your minds, that the repetition of their names will excite in your feelings an emotion of gratitude and admiration far exceeding any panegyric that I could pronounce. They have left the world; America mourns their loss; they bade adieu with the satisfaction of seeing their country free, happy, and independent, and we fondly hope that they are usherd into a world of celestial spirits; may the recollection of their transcendant worth appear in vivid colours; how much they suffered, how much they endured to see their country blest; may their departed spirits still hover over us, and extend a warning voice if we swerve from our duty. "Their suns have set; Oh! rise some such other suns," AND ILLUMINATE OUR World. While life remains, mankind seldom do

justice to exalted worth; party spirit and the envenomed tongue of envy are ever ready to calumniate the best of men; every little error is magnified, every act misconstrued; to posterity it is left to do justice to the brave and good; they view their pristine worth in all its original splendour, and gently pardon their defects. It is influenced by these considerations, that I forbear to speak of many statesmen who adorn their country, without any distinction of party; of many who are an acquisition to science and the classic world—distant times will do justice to their merits.

The revolutions of time, having again brought us to that day, when America, indignant at the injuries and insults that she had received; after stating her unalienable rights; after commending her country, her cause to the God of HEAVEN; and her representatives pledging each other, "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honour," to achieve her independence, or nobly perish in the attempt; after having accomplished so glorious an event; let us, my young countrymen, this day, in the presence of our God, in the recollection of the memory of our departed worthies, and in the presence of each other, " pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour," that as a part of the great community, we will exert every talent we possess, that we will look death in the face, to transmit this most inestimable blessing to our posterity. Young as I am, and happy should I be to receive instruction, yet as you have been pleased to select me to address you this day, permit me to state what I conceive to be some of the

fundamental principles of liberty and republicanism:-That all men are endowed by nature with equal and unalienable rights; that among these, liberty, equality, the pursuit of happiness, and liberty of conscience are prominent features; that for the welfare of communities, governments are necessary upon a limited plan; that the power should be in the hands of the people, and that they should be watchful of their rights. These I conceive to be some of the principles upon which our government was founded, and upon these I hope that it will be perpetuated. The French nation were animated by the principles of our constitution; this, together with the pusillanimity of their king; the imbecility of a worse than wretched ministry; the deranged state of their finances; and the general discontent that prevailed, were ascribed, as the causes of their revolution. However much Americans deplored the effusion of blood and carnage; yet the prospect of an empire emerging from monarchy to republicanism, excited one universal feeling of admiration and delight. But fragile were their hopes! with all the crowned heads of Europe to oppose them; with a spirit unaccustomed to restraint; untutored in the principles of liberty, they required a powerful leader; these are some of the reasons why they permitted themselves unconsciously to become the dupes of a tyrant. After such scenes of desolation as they have passed, happy will it be for them, if they can be restored to their ancient sovereignty, if they can have a limited monarchy embracing some of the features of our most excellent consti-The dangers of a revolution are great;

seldom is it the case but that they terminate in ty-It should be a last resort that should warrant such an act; with a government like ours, a change would be our ruin. No! Columbia is destined to hold a conspicuous rank among nations; she is the asylum of oppressed humanity; here we can enjoy our rights; here we can respire the breath of liberty, and contemplate the inestimable price that was paid for it; how many illustrious men died to achieve it; how many lived to see it accomplished, and died commending to heaven their country. Here we can contemplate the rising glory of this western hemisphere; its advances in civilization, manufactures, and the arts; with an extensive domain, from Canada to Florida: from the Atlantic to the Pacific. When a few short years shall have revolved, perhaps some of us may live to see our Republic extending the hand of civilization to the western extremities of Missouri's sources; with large and navigable streams, a country situated hundreds, even thousands of miles from the ocean, can hold communication with the Atlantic. Much is our country indebted to one of its citizens, for the incalculable improvement made in inland navigation. Situated as we are, with a soil producing all the necessaries and conveniences of life; with resources of our own; let us learn to duly prize our inestimable privileges; to suffer no dereliction from the true principles of liberty; but pursue a strict and impartial line of duty. Living at a portentous period, when commotions rend, and wars distract the world, let us recollect that to be a free, happy, and powerful, we must be a maritime

nation; that to perpetuate our independence, we must maintain our rights against any encroachment.

Finally, my young countrymen, after the independence achieved for us, the noble constitution formed for us, the excellent example set us by enlightened statesmen, magnanimous soldiers, and virtuous citizens, it is becoming in us, cheerfully to submit to the constituted authorities of the land. On us (the rising generation) will fall the pleasing, yet difficult task to transmit, unimpaired, to future generations, the precious patrimony of our departed worthies; on us the happiness or misery of millions, who yet never saw the light of heaven. cousre is clear, our cause is just, though tempests should assail us, though clouds should hover over our political atmosphere; though anarchy should raise her bloody crest, still our ship is good, we must cling more firmly to our rudder as the palladium of our existence, as the sheet-anchor of our safety, and we shall triumphantly ride out the storm, If we perform our duty, future generations will lisp our praise; yea, even the rocks and hills will resound, and reverberate in echo, their gratitude to those who achieved and transmitted to them their liberty; then will the sun of Republicanism brighten and illuminate the world with its resplendent Let us then forget our party prejudices, our local jealousies, and rally round one standard, and let our motto be Unity, LIBERTY AND IN-DEPENDENCE. Then will our freedom long survive the "storied urn," or sculptured monument.

In these blest realms let patriotic zeal
Inspire each heart, and every arm control;
Let every tongue be taught to lisp the weal,
That can on the noblest of subjects roll.

When time shall have furrowed us o'er with years, how solacing will be the thought, to have the conscious satisfaction, that we have exerted the talents which we possess in perpetuating the freedom of our country! How glorious will be the reflection of the true patriot when he comes to die, that he bids adieu to the world "by all his country's wishes blest;" that he has left an example to posterity to imitate, to practise and to admire! If we are actuated by such sentiments, as the revolving years roll on, distant nations will point out America as the asylum of liberty. The morning of our freedom has dawned, its radiant tint has burst upon our land, and may its splendour illuminate with one continual ray, the remotest recesses of our country. May the crescent beams of patriotism extend their benign influence, and party spirit be no longer a stigma upon our national character. Born, educated, and nurtured, under the bright orb of liberty, ours will be the satisfaction to foster it as a plant necessary to be cherished, to maintain its intrinsic excellence; recollecting that if once transplanted it may wither, and with it, all that can endear us to life, to happiness, to ourselves, and to our country. Impressed by these considerations, although darkness may cast a momentary shade over our horizon, yet soon will the genial light of liberty burst forth with redoubled lustre; and as the rising luminary of heaven dispels the morning dew, so its effulgent excellence will heal every wound, scatter every shade that hovers in our political atmosphere.

Animated by these sentiments, let us celebrate this day not as a day of revelry and dissipation, but with hearts warmed with gratitude, feelingly alive to the events to which it gave birth; let us cherish it as a solemn memento which will recal to our recollection the immensity of the subject with which it is connected—let us Pæan one solemn adulation of gratitude to the consummate wisdom which formed, to the matchless bravery, which accomplished and transmited to us this most inestimable of blessings.

When the exercises of the day had terminated, the procession moves to Mr. A. Norton's, where a collation was prepared; after which, the following Toasts were drank, by a harmonious concourse of all parties, accompanied by appropriate music, together with the discharge of cannon:—

- 1st. The Day—May the recollection of the events to which it gave birth, be a sufficient inducement to commemorate it.
- 2d. The Memory of Washington—Monuments of brass may crumble, but the recollection of such superiour worth will never be obliterated.

- 3d. The Memory of our departed revolutionary Heroes—A noble sacrifice on the altar of Liberty.
- 4th. The President and Vice-President of the United States—Like the sun and moon may they perform their unerring duty.
- 5th. The Governor of Connecticut—May wisdom direct his steps.
- 6th. Union—The basis of a Republican Government—May it never be undermined.
- 7th. The United States—A staunch ship—May she never become the victim of boisterous elements.
- 8th. The Constitution of the United States—The bulwark of American liberty, may it ever be held sacred.
- 9th. The Navy of the United States—When manned with the sons of Columbia, the subjects of despotism must sink beneath its thunder.
- 10th. The American Congress—May their love of country supersede the love of party.
- 11th. The American Heroes who have recently fallen in battle—Clad in bright laurels, their memory is enshrined in the hearts of their countrymen.

12th. Party Spirit—May it give place to patriotism.

13th. The Wheels of Liberty—May they never mire in Columbia's soil, until the wheels of time shall be buried in eternity.

14th. A Republican Government—May those who enjoy its smiles, know how to prize its privileges.

15th. Our Naval Heroes—Brave in action—humane in victory—an ornament to their country.

16th. Commerce, Agriculture and Manufactures—Indispensably connected, and necessary to support a nation—May they be fostered with more than parental attention.

17th. Our Commissioners at Gottenburg—May the result of their embassy be a speedy, lasting, and honourable peace.

18th. The Fair Daughters of Columbia—In childhood, we have experienced their fostering care, in manhood we will protect them.