

THE
BLESSINGS of PEACE:

A

S E R M O N,

PREACHED IN CHRIST'S CHURCH, NEW-YORK, ON THE
FOURTH OF JULY, 1794.

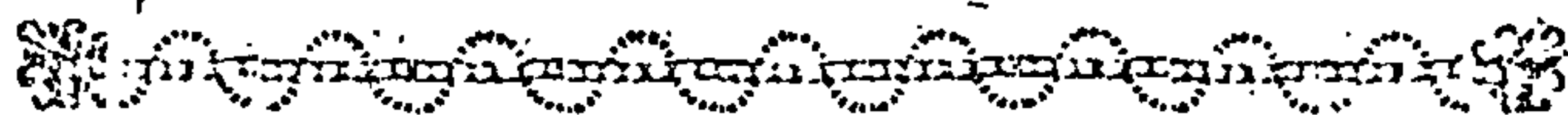
AT THE JOINT REQUEST OF THE

TAMMANY SOCIETY OR,
COLUMBIAN ORDER,

AND THE

SOCIETY OF MECHANICS.

BY THE REV. JOSEPH PILMORE.



NEW-YORK:

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At a meeting of TAMMANY SOCIETY, OF
COLUMBIAN ORDER, held the 4th of
July, 1794,

*“ ON Motion, Resolved, That the Sagha-
more, the Secretary, and Brother John T.
Duryee, be a Committee to wait on the Rev.
Mr. Pilmore, and return the thanks of this
Society, for his truly Patriotic Sermon, deli-
vered to them this day, and to request a Copy
for Publication.”*

A true Copy from the Minutes,

BENJAMIN STRONG, Sec'ry.

TO THE
BRETHREN OF THE COLUMBIAN ORDER,

AND THE
SOCIETY OF MECHANICS,

IN

PARTICULAR:

AND TO ALL THE FRIENDS OF PEACE AND CONCORD,

IN EVERY

CHRISTIAN NATION:

This S E R M O N,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

By their truly Affectionate,

And very Humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.



T H E

BLESSINGS OF PEACE.

PSALM 132—1. Behold, how good and pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity.

RESPECTED CITIZENS,

AT the joint request of the *Tammany Society*, or *Columbian Order*, and the *Society of Mechanics*, I come forward on this auspicious day, with ardent wishes to promote your happiness, and share in the general joy. Allow me, therefore, to draw your attention to the consideration of a subject, which, for its importance, may justly claim, and for its native beauty and simplicity, both deserve and reward our investigation.

By the choice of such a Theme on the present happy occasion, we shall be naturally led to view the inestimable benefits, arising from fraternal affection and social harmony.

Revolving nature, guided by the unerring wisdom of the Supreme Ruler, has once more ushered in the welcome morn, which fills Columbia's grateful Sons with patriotic joy, and makes each virtuous heart right glad.

By

By the just allotments of a gracious Providence, the "lines are" indeed "fallen to us in pleasant places," and we have received, from the Universal Father, a rich and goodly heritage---a land, which, like the ancient Canaan, is "with every blessing blest." The native richness of the soil, the serene, salubrious air, fanned by the waving tops of our lofty cedars, the choice springs of water every where abounding, the noble rivers so fit for navigation, gently flowing through every part of our extensive territory, together with the sweet refreshing dew and showers of heaven, the precious fruits brought forth by the sun---the precious things put forth by the moon---the chief things of the mountains, and the precious things of the lasting hills, make it a fair inheritance indeed! But what are these advantages, though great and valuable, when compared with the inestimable blessings conveyed to us by that happy *Independence*, which we heard just now proclaimed, by the voice of freedom, from that honored *desk*.* On the fair tree of genuine liberty, what golden fruits do grow! Equal rights, real freedom, security of

* The Declaration of Independence was read by a Gentleman of the Tammany Society, from a Desk in the front gallery of the Church.

of property, a righteous government of our own election, a perfect equality among all religious societies, the sacred rights of conscience & all the glorious advantages of revealed religion. Hail ! happy ! happy Æra ! which secured such blessings to our western world !

Favored of God so highly, it well becomes the American People to surround his Throne, exulting ; and to fill his sacred courts with “ founding praise.” For this holy purpose we have assembled *here*, on this most welcome day, and to promote this noble end, shall be the chief design of our discourse. To do this in proper order, we will now attend to the leading sentiments held out to us by the holy Psalmist in our text. And,

First, We will take notice of the endearing appellation here given to men of grace and virtue, he calls them *brethren*.

Secondly ; Consider the obligations they are under to *live together in unity* :

Thirdly ; Point out the advantages resulting from it. And,

Fourthly, Conclude with an address suited to the present occasion.

And I. We proceed to take notice of the endearing appellation here given to men of grace and virtue ; they are called brethren.

This

This expression admits of a considerable degree of latitude, and may naturally lead us to consider mankind, either as connected in one great family of human beings, or, as united under particular forms of civil government, as distinct nations---joined together in friendly confederations---or as true believers, gathered unto the peaceful Shiloh, and happily made one in him.

When the great Builder pronounced the all-creating word, behold the worlds were made! The earth, the air, the sea, were filled with beings, suited to their various stations, and fitted for their different ends. All these were very good, but

“ A creature of a more exalted kind,

“ Was wanted yet, and then was man design'd ;

“ Conscious of thought, of more capacious breast,

“ For empire form'd, and fit to rule the rest.”

This happy being, composed of material elements, and endowed with noble intellectual powers, was, at once, the tenant of the new made earth, and a shining image of the immortal God! And, to endear his highly favoured creatures to each other---to promote their common interests---to inspire them with kind and social affections, and to insure their mutual happiness, the Almighty Father decreed,

decreed, in the plenitude of his own boundless wisdom, to raise from one original pair, a numerous race to people every part of the globe ; or, to use the venerable language of an Hebrew Orator, *God made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell on the earth, and hath determined the bounds of their habitations.* Thus, it appears that all mankind, however diversified as to complexion, and however scattered upon the face of the whole earth, are all partakers of the same common nature, and make but one great family.

But, inasmuch as men are divided into many different tribes, or nations, distinguished by various forms of government, and separated from each other by the lines of their territory and the bounds of their habitations, it is necessary to consider them in their national capacity, united in the social compact. Here it is proper to observe, that all those who live under the same government, citizens of the same country, partakers of its advantages, and equal sharers of the privileges of the commonwealth, may, with the utmost propriety, be called brethren. Moreover, we shall happily find within the peaceful bosom of the great community, distinct societies;

societies, formed for mutual improvement--- to promote patriotic friendship, to diffuse useful knowledge, to guard and defend the rights of human nature, to give counsel and impart relief to the distressed, to encourage virtue, and to promote the happiness of their country. All these are truly excellent in their kind, and justly deserve the smiles of public approbation: but there is one yet behind, pre-eminent above all the rest; and that is a gracious union of pious and congenial souls, under the benign influences of the adorable SAVIOUR, who is king of righteousness and prince of peace. In *Him*, differing nations join in sweetest harmony; Jews and Greeks, Barbarians, Scythians, bond and free---all true Christians are one in *Him*, and *He* is all in all.

We shall now go on to consider,

II. The obligations men are under to live together in unity. Whether we consider mankind as under the just restraints of natural or revealed religion, it will appear, that there are certain duties, arising from the relation which they bear to each other, which cannot be neglected without an high degree of criminality. For instance, parents are bound to love, take care of, and provide for
their

their children ; and, in return, children must take care of and defend their parents, cheerfully supply their wants, and study to make them happy. But this is not all ; our duty spreads much wider, and the social principle, which God has planted in our nature, is so expansive, that it cannot be confined within the narrow limits of a family, of friends, or even of a neighbourhood ; it spreads itself into larger systems, and draws men into friendly communities, commonwealths and confederacies. In these, the noble powers of our intellectual nature, may be employed in great and generous actions, and attain unto that degree of improvement and perfection, which the solitary state of men would not admit of. Here I might with some propriety enlarge, and pursue the delightful theme of universal philanthropy and benevolence, but I *yield* to that divine attraction, which, at present, sweetly draws me within a smaller circle, and fixes my heart upon our own beloved country---our dear America.--- With a pure design to promote its real interests, it seems proper to observe,

1st. That whether we are natives of the country, or emigrants from other lands, who have settled here, doubtless it is our duty to unite

unite in the common cause, and strive to make the nation which we live in, happy. As we all partake of its privileges in common, as a people, and equally enjoy the advantages of its soil, its government, its commerce, and all the benefits of its local situation, we must, in return for these extensive blessings, make it our study to preserve good order and concord among its inhabitants, and constantly lay ourselves out to promote its prosperity, and advance its glory.

2d. This obligation will appear to be still stronger, when we consider ourselves as a commonwealth, connected in the grand scheme of national federation; for all the parts of the general system are bound by the most sacred ties, to prosecute its welfare and security. This we must do, not only in the sunshine of peace and prosperity, but also in such times of difficulty and danger as *try men's very souls*. Times like those when Britain's legislative sons, enveloped in a sable cloud of deep infatuation, mistook their legal way, and boldly claimed a right to tax us without a single representative, and a power to "bind us in all cases whatsoever," which their own constitution never gave them!

Adopting

Adopting measures both impolitic and unjust, and led on by pride and ambition, they attempted, but in vain, to subjugate a people born to freedom, and nobly tenacious of their rights.

The American people, though resolved to keep their *birth right*, yet wished to live united with their brethren in the mother country. They betook themselves, at first, to prayers and tears---they bowed with filial decency at their common Fathers Throne, and only asked to be treated as his children, to live in freedom like their brethren in England---to be taxed by their own proper representatives, and to have the pleasure of giving their own money, which they earned so dearly, to support his throne and government. They asked---but they asked in vain! I blush while I repeat it: the prayer of more than three millions of people, once and again repeated, was most shamefully neglected, and no favor granted to an highly injured country! An haughty peer---his *name* shall not be mentioned, for Britons and Americans equally *detest* it---obtruded his nefarious counsel, inspired by some hellish demon, to turn away his sovereign's ear, that he might not harken to our grievances. Like the
sons

sons of Belial, whose cursed counsel led Rehoboam to slight the prayers of Israel. By threatening them with heavier burthens, whips and scorpions, he drove the distressed tribes to such a degree of desperation, that they renounced their portion in David, returned to their tents, and became an independent kingdom. Just so the wicked British Minister, and his deluded master drove the American Colonies to withdraw their allegiance from a prince who would not do them justice, but strove to compel them to ignoble submission and servile obedience. In the distressing hour, the appeal was made to Heaven, when lo, a shining seraph, zealous for the rights of men, descended to cheer the hearts of patriots with hopes of succour from the Lord of hosts, who never fails to pity the distressed.

As if lighted by the torch of some superior being, at once the fire was kindled on Columbia's altar---the patriotic flame was quickly spread from east to west, from north to south, and soon become a *common cause*. The general voice of an afflicted people, so unjustly and so cruelly disappointed, founded through all the nation, To arms ! To arms ! Ye valiant youth ! Nor let your *parents* be *oppressed*---nor let your *Country* be *enslaved*.

Behold

Behold the patriot legions, flying from every quarter to defend the unalienable rights of human nature ! Behold a mighty army, joined under the command of a patriot General, raised by Heaven to defend and save his country ! Hail ! Great Washington ! We glory to *repeat* thy name---Washington led on the valiant troops to fight in the high places of the field for Columbia's rights, her fair daughters and her fires. Hark ! How the martial clarions sound ! Hoarse cannons loudly roar ! Swords o'er swords are quickly brandished, and Columbia's valiant Sons engage in sharpest contest for the prize ! The prize is won ! is won by Patriots, and lo ! *Fair Liberty is our's.*

The vassal Hessians sold by a cruel Despot, for thirty pounds a man, to fight against our freedom, were quickly vanquished ; and even kindred Britons, though renowned for valor, when engaged in such a wretched cause as they espoused, became an easy prey to men who fought upon their own native soil to save their country from ruin and from chains. But the contest cost us much : many mighty heroes were numbered with the slain ; and O how dear the memory of those brave men, who nobly ventured against
the

the mighty, in their country's cause, and fought, and bled, and died to purchase that precious liberty which we this day enjoy ! Here I might produce a list of honored names, which, on such occasions as this, is not unusual ; but that is *needless now*, for they are all *engraven* on your hearts. Mine shall be the pleasing task of attempting to promote the *end* for which they so manfully contended, and secure the blessed prize for which they shed their blood : And this will, we hope, be the most effectually accomplished by adhering to the important doctrine of our text, enforcing brotherly love and unity.

By united counsels, we shall increase in every branch of useful knowledge ; by united interests we shall be more and more endeared to each other ; and by our united strength, we shall, at once, become more formidable to our enemies abroad, and the most likely to preserve tranquility among ourselves.

Owing partly to the perfidiousness and savage depredations of our western neighbors, who have butchered our frontier citizens with the most wanton cruelty ; and still more to the horrid wars in Europe, our situation, as
a neutral

a neutral nation, has, for some time, been exceedingly critical. The *French*, to whom this country has been much indebted, have been engaged in a *cause*, which in its original principle, was just and righteous. The sad state of the common people, in that great and mighty nation, was truly deplorable. Like Issachar of old, they couched down beneath two burthens ; on the one hand, they were oppressed by a load of despotic tyranny ; and on the other, by the cruel impositions of a superstitious and corrupted clergy, whose sacred profession should have taught them very different conduct. To a people, thus crushed with sad oppression, a revolution was absolutely necessary for the liberty of the people, and to promote the prosperity and happiness of their empire.

The attempt was made, and with such success, as amazed the neighbouring nations ! LOUIS, the friend and ally of the American people, agreed, at length, with his own beloved subjects, to make a change in their civil government ; and they adopted, at the altar of the gallic nation, a CONSTITUTION, which secured the freedom of the people, and promised fair to make them happy.

How

How far it afterwards became necessary to depart from the sacred compact, which they swore to, with so much national solemnity, is not within the sphere of this day's duty to determine; only we have to lament, that *eventually*, at least, it has been productive of much disorder and calamity; but we will judge of nothing before the time. Perhaps something great and glorious may yet arise from the present darkness, which will cheer the perplexed nations after all their misery, and introduce the *dear Messiah's gentle reign*.

When the war became so general in Europe, and nations with whom America is at peace, engaged in the contest, it required all the wisdom of our greatest sages to preserve us from confusion. It was then we saw with joy and wonder, the incomparable man, chosen by Heaven to save our country, rising like a guardian angel to preserve our peace. The proclamation quickly reached the utmost limits of the land, and all Columbia's legislative sons re-echoed the pacific sound, and bade us live in peace.

Though warmly pressed to arms by some *well meaning*, but *mistaken* men at home; and highly provoked by the most wicked and cruel depredations on our property *abroad*,

to make reprisals in our own defence, to sequester the property of their nation, and indemnify our injured citizens ; yet the virtue of our government, recoiled at every thing dishonorable, and we still remain magnanimously victorious over insult in this day of sharpest trial ! Wishing to continue at peace with all the powers of Europe, and preserve a strict neutrality, an *envoy extraordinary* has been appointed, whose established reputation and admirable talents, afford us a favourable ground of hope, that we shall gain, by honorable negociation, a full redress of all our grievancies, and such a compensation for our losses, as might, perhaps, be doubtful in the case of war. At any rate we do our duty as a *neutral* nation, our conduct will be approbated by the world, and, if we must, at last submit to have recourse to arms, we may humbly hope, the Lord of hosts will bless us, and the God of armies be our refuge. This leads us

3d. To consider the obligation mentioned above, not only as we are men, & as subjects of the commonwealth, but most of all as *Christians*. The religion of JESUS is properly calculated to promote the peace of nations, and to diffuse the most perfect harmony throughout the world.

When

When the Almighty Father appointed his only Son as king upon the holy hill of Sion, and made him head of the universal Church, all power in Heaven and Earth was given unto him, and all nations commanded to hear his voice and obey his precepts. His authority, therefore is unlimited, and it is the indispensable duty of all his creatures to do him service ; *for his dominion shall be from sea to sea---all kings shall fall down before him, and all nations shall serve him. In his days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reigns---the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid ; and the calf, and the young lion, and the fatling together---and they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

When sinners are truly converted unto God, and made partakers of the spirit of his Son, they feel themselves so truly happy in the enjoyment of the favour and the love of God, that they wish to be at peace, and live in friendship with all mankind. Love is the great uniting principle which eradicates every
root

root of bitterness, envy, and malevolence; it overturns the mountains of prejudice, sets aside the shibboleths of party opinions, and utterly destroys all sectarian fountains and bigotry; it sweetly draws congenial souls into the holy fellowship of the gospel, and binds them together in the indissoluble bands of genuine benevolence, brotherly kindness, and charity. Thus

“ The serpents enmity shall cease,
 “ And universal love succeed.”

Possessed of this Heavenly frame, and actuated by the noble and generous spirit of Christianity, we shall all become courteous, modest, pitiful and tender-hearted to each other. Gentle sympathy will make us sharers in our brother's woe, and teach us to bear the burdens of the weak---to weep with those who weep, and to rejoice with them who do rejoice. Thus shall we fulfil the holy law of Christ, we shall spread light and comfort through the dwellings of the righteous, we shall bring honor to our most holy religion, we shall convince gainfayers of the reality of vital piety, we shall promote the happiness of mankind, and do our part towards preserving “ the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.”

We

We are now to consider,

III. The special advantages resulting from this unity. A people united in one community, formed on the plan of mutual interest, and cemented together, by principles of religion, virtue, and the love of our country, is an object justly worthy of public veneration. And the advantages arising to mankind from such an association, are so many and great, that it would require a volume to express them. At present, however, we cannot *dilate* : the rapid moments hasten away, and *order* commands me to be *concise*. I shall, notwithstanding, claim your attention for a little while, to a small selection of those peculiar benefits which may seem to be of the greatest importance. And,

ist, To use the language of the Psalmist, it is *good*. Hereby the property of individuals is the most effectually secured, their persons protected from injury and insult, their tranquility preserved, and the best opportunity afforded of doing good to others, and promoting the happiness of human beings. Here our families enjoy the benefit of mutual aid, improvement, and comfort : they may follow, without distraction, *whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just,*

just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, and whatsoever things are of good report for the advancement of their own felicity and the general good. Our farmers, also, cultivate the fields in pleasing hope, and a rich harvest rewards their care and labor : our manufacturers display their genius and dexterity to cloath us with garments, fit for patriots---with garments made in our own beloved country : our merchants export the exuberant produce of our lands, and in return, enrich us with the wealth of distant nations, and supply us even with the luxuries of life ! Moreover, the sons of science pursue their studies, under the care of proper tutors, and professors in our colleges and other seminaries of learning, free from noise and interruption, and rise to literary fame and glory : our holy ministers may every where proclaim glad tidings of salvation, without fear of molestation, kindle the sacred fire upon our consecrated altars, and greatly help us in our devotions : Our general, and particular governments, are all supported with credit and respectability : Our laws are esteemed and kept with cheerfulness by the people : Our sons grow up as pleasant plants of righteousness : Our daughters are adorned with beauty like the polished

polished corners of the temple ; in short, peace makes all our people happy---the voice of joy is heard in our cities and in our villages, and our very forrests laugh and sing---

2d, It is *pleasant*. Every man of real virtue must delight in human happiness. Even mighty angels who excell in strength ; those first born Sons of God, who are far exalted above the human race, rejoice when man is happy !

If, then, those pure intellectual Beings, so completely blessed are thus deeply interested in the happiness of mankind, how much more does it behove mankind themselves to promote the felicity of their brethren in every possible way, by acting agreeably to the principles of our nature, faithfully discharging all the duties of our station, improving our talents to the honor of the Deity, and doing good to all his creatures. If this is done we cannot fail of attaining unto the most solid satisfaction and peace of mind. Every good man shall be satisfied from himself, for virtue will afford a present reward of inward contentment ; and a pleasing consciousness of having done what is right, must be productive of genuine happiness. Thus it appears, that wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness-----

“ Soft

“Soft peace she brings wherever she arrives;
 “She builds our quiet, as she forms our lives;
 “Lays the rough paths of peevish nature even;
 “And opens in each heart a little Heaven.”

Moreover, our situation and condition, as a nation, shall be made prosperous and happy. “My people,” said the Lord, “shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” Isa. 32. 18. What on earth can be more pleasing, than to see the people happy! A country where the Deity is adored, religion held in veneration, the laws obeyed, the government respected, the heads of particular departments, and all subordinate officers, esteemed by their fellow-citizens and supported in the discharge of their respective duties; trade flourishing, agriculture daily improving, infant manufactures rising to admiration, and plenty, pouring all her blessings on the land to make it like Eden---or a *field which God hath blessed*, must afford a pleasing habitation to every man of real worth. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous, and God himself invites his people to be joyful! *Sing O daughters of Zion, shout O Israel, be glad and rejoice with*
all

all the heart, O daughters of Jerusalem! The Lord hath taken away thy judgments; he hath cast out thine enemy: The king of Israel---even JEHOVAH is in the midst of thee; thou shalt not see evil any more; for the Lord thy God is mighty, he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy, he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. Zeph. 3. 14.

Having *first*, as we proposed, briefly touched on the state of human beings, as composing one great family---formed into distinct communities and commonwealths---and as united in one common faith and Saviour: *Secondly*; pointed out the obligations they are under to live in peace with each other, promoting harmony and concord: and *thirdly* taken notice of the advantages resulting from it; we shall now, in conclusion, attempt some improvement of the subject, by an address suited to the present happy occasion.

And first, what tribute shall we pay to the great GOD! Parent of good, kind father of the human race, whose smiles create our day, and fill our souls with bliss, unutterable! Being of Beings! look down from thy high sanctuary with sweet benignity, and behold our chosen tribes assembled round thy
sacred

facred altar, presenting free oblations with the incense of their praise. Accept, indulgent Father, the offerings which we bring, and be our God---and be our guardian still.

Respected Patriots---dear lovers of this happy land, accept the genuine gratulations of a friend, whose heart rejoices to meet you here on this great Festive Day! How grand the sight! Confociate fraternities assembled in the house of God! And bowing down before the great I AM! *Here* I see the famed COLUMBIAN ORDER, champions for our country, steady friends to man, and worthy *beirs* of the rich inheritance allotted us by the universal Father, again renew their annual vows and determine to maintain the highly valued prize! Hail! Patriot leaders of the happy tribes, raise your banners in the temple in honor of our Heavenly King! To you, gentlemen, we, and all our citizens, are much indebted. The MUSEUM, which arose under your auspices, and has already been enriched by your liberality, not only with a choice collection of the curious productions of nature, but likewise with some of the most masterly productions of literature, particularly on the rights of man, which will happily preserve them from oblivion, and afford,

both

both to the present and succeeding generations, a fund of knowledge and improvement. *There*, I behold with joy a goodly company of confociate and beloved brethren, well skilled in all mechanic arts, who furnish us with habitations, improve and aggrandize our city, and make her lofty towers rise ! Hail beloved free men ! Your corporation shall afford relief to the decayed, and the distressed, and wipe the tear of sorrow, from the widow's and the orphan's eyes.

And *you*, beloved citizens, who have assembled with us on this most welcome day ; behold with joy, Columbia's happy sons, joined in beauteous order, with smiles of friendship on their brow. All these, and many more which cannot be enumerated now, contribute much to make our country happy, and they well deserve her praise---nor shall it be withheld, for our own beloved America will never prove ungrateful to her friends. No : she still remembers the virtuous deeds of all her gallant sons, who fought " in the high places of her fields," and bled upon the mountains of our Israel, to secure our liberty. Manes of departed heroes---gentle shades ! Behold the golden
fruit

fruit which grows on this *fair tree*, planted in the new world of freedom, and rejoice that your blood has not been shed in vain. See on this joyful Festival of our country's Independence, a multitude of *free men* met to commemorate your valiant acts, while the fair daughters of our nation strew your graves with flowers.

Excuse this freedom, and indulge me, brethren, a moment longer, while I express an ardent wish that rises in my heart for your continuance in the steady practice of every social and of every Christian virtue. To be happy, we must be just and righteous; that is, we must be real Christians. *Vice* never fails to prove *enslaving*: sooner or later it will surely bind in adamant chains, and pierce the heart with deepest woe. If strangers to true religion, we never can be happy: even an old heathen could say, *Nemo malus felix*, no wicked man is happy. Indeed it is impossible that he should, because he is perpetually harrassed by his own tumultuous and disorderly passions, constantly under the frowns of the Deity and in danger of eternal ruin. On the other hand the possession of vital godliness and the practice of piety and virtue, will afford us the most solid satisfaction.

tion and peace of mind. When the love of God is shed abroad in the heart by the power of the holy Ghost, it will produce the most cordial affections to the people of God, and genuine benevolence to all mankind. This will prove a constant source of joy and delight to us through life, and after death---

“ Lasting its Lamp, and unconsum’d its flame
 “ In ceaseless triumph shall forever live.”

By a steady and uniform practice of virtue and righteousness among our citizens, we shall both be *exalted* and *established* as a nation. If our ways are pleasing to God, he will make our very *enemies* to be at peace with us, and smiling prosperity shall crown all our works. Thus shall we extend unnumbered blessings to succeeding generations, and millions yet unborn, shall praise the Lord for the fair *inheritance* we leave them.

To leave our families and our country happy when we are called to depart from these regions of mortality, is truly desirable; and it is our duty to do all in our power to accomplish these valuable purposes: but to be prepared for the invisible world of glory, is of infinitely greater importance. On that all our happiness depends through the everlasting ages!

Allow

Allow me, then, my Christian brethren, as a Minister of Christ, to remind you of the absolute necessity of an entire conformity to to the *will* and the *image* of God. Holiness to the Lord must be engraven on our hearts and expressed in our lives. Without a *meetness* for Heaven, we shall never possess the inheritance of the saints in light, nor could Heaven itself afford us any happiness without real and entire holiness. The saints must first be made like their divine master before they can *see him as he is*. It is only the pure in heart that can see God.

“ Cloath’d in his righteousness, and wash’d in his
“ blood :

“ Bold shall they appear in the presence of God.”
Let us, then, give all diligence to be found of him in peace, without spot of sin and blameless ; let us be always ready, for we know not the hour when the summons will come. We must be careful to be found in Christ---to have our life hid with Christ in God, that when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, we also may appear with him in glory. Thus shall we secure the protection of Heaven, we shall pass through this world of snares and dangers with safety, the Lord of hosts will be with us, and the eternal God will be our refuge ; he will thrust
out

out the enemy before us and we shall be saved by the Lord, who is the *shield* of our help and the *excellency* of our glory. Even now, the shining prospect opens before us, and we can rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Yet a little while, and we shall finish our journey through the dreary deserts of the wilderness, and enter into the flowery fields of that blissful Canaan which we love, and dwell where there is fulness of joy and pleasures forevermore. In that world of uninterrupted happiness ---

“ No horrid alarm of war,
 “ Shall vex our eternal repose ;
 “ No sound of the trumpet is there,
 “ Where Jesus’s spirit o’er-flows ;
 “ Appeas’d by the charms of his grace,
 “ We all shall in amity join :
 “ And kindly each other embrace,
 “ And love with a position divine.”

The subject engages my heart, and I would most gladly proceed, but hark ! our brethren in your neighbouring Church, assembled round another altar of the universal King, are already founding his eternal praise. With them let us unite, so shall our praises, in one grateful sacrifice, like clouds of fragrant incense rise to our JEHOVAH in the MEDIATOR’S NAME.

F I N I S.