

ORATION,

DELIVERED AT DUMMERSTON, VT.
JULY 4. 1815.

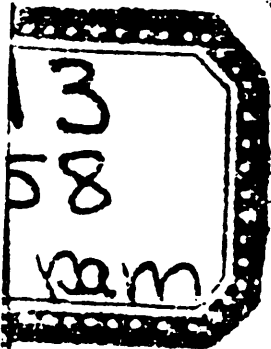
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 39TH
ANNIVERSARY OF

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

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BY HON. PHINEHAS WHITE, Esq.

[Published at the request of the Committee of Arrangements.]



AN ORATION.

Friends & Fellow Citizens,

We are not convened to celebrate the birth of a Prince ; the coronation of a King ; or the exaltation of an Emperor ;—But, to commemorate the birth day of a Nation—The achievements of disinterested Patriots, and sages, the renown and exploits of former times ;—the establishment of the Liberty and independence, of a great and free people.

On this interesting occasion, you will not expect to be entertained with ingenious disquisitions of novel and untried theories and systems of government and national policy ;—or to be amused and diverted with flowers of rhetoric or figures of oratory ;—But patiently to attend, to an imperfect examination, and review of events and transactions, familiar to many, and not unknown or *disinteresting* to any of you.

And while an humble attempt shall be made, to review the causes, which, under Divine Providence, operated in the establishment of Independence ; and in raising us, as a people, to an unrivalled state of prosperity and happiness ; and to an elevated rank among the Nations ; A candid examination of some of the causes, which have led to our recent sufferings, and calamities, as a nation ; and a patient enquiry into the means to be used, and measures to be pursued, in order to restore our once beloved Country to its former state of prosperity ; and to establish and perpetuate our National freedom and Independence, will not be considered, by any, as an unprofitable undertaking, or as incompatible with the performances of this our National Anniversary.

In tracing the origin, progress, and establishment of this our nation and government, we have not, as is the case, with most of the European nations, to mark

the slow progress of improvement, from savage life, up to refined civilized society ; nor thro' the revolutionary struggles from the feudal, clanish codes, up to the federative and rational systems of government, and Laws ; calculated to secure to the people, the enjoyment of equal rights and privileges. Nor have we the painful task, of tracing the dynasty of kings, despots and emperors, thro' a long line of ancestry, down to the inglorious reign of the present ruling prince :—But, we possess the proud satisfaction, of tracing the origin of this our American nation ; from the first settlement of a band of civilized, enterprizing, tho' persecuted emigrants, who, to escape the iron hand of despotism, and the bloody persecution of bigotry and superstition, in the old world ; sought an asylum in this, then uncultivated wilderness, savage land ; thro' many perils and dangers, and a glorious and successful struggle for freedom and independence, to the establishment of a constitution of government, wisely calculated for the security and happiness of the whole community, in the free enjoyment of all their rights and privileges.

Whilst other nations may boast of their kings, princes, and emperors ; we will boast of our Freedom and Independence, achieved by the valor and courage of the disinterested patriots and heroes of our country. And more, we will boast of a Washington, with whom the conquerors of former ages, and the more recent warriors and heroes, of modern times, are not to be compared—They fought for conquest, for personal aggrandizement, and the usurpation of power.—Washington fought not for conquest, but for his Country's rights.—He lived not for himself ; but for the good of his country. The renowned American Patriot and Hero, after he had led his countrymen thro' the revolutionary struggle, and to

chieved their Freedom and independence, sought not personal aggrandizement. He served them not for the sake of emolument or power.

The struggle being over, and our independence obtained and acknowledged instead of availing himself of the distracted state of his country, owing to the reduced state of her finances, in order to place himself at her head, as her Ruler: He by his unswerving patriotism and example, quieted the discontent of his officers and soldiers, persuaded them to separate, and mingle again with their fellow citizens, and to attend to the peaceful occupations of civil life; relying on the justice of a grateful, though impoverished country, for a reward, for their services; defeated the mad projects of some unprincipled demagogues, among his officers; and then modestly retired to private life, to enjoy, in common with his fellow citizens, the blessings resulting from the establishment of Independence and Peace.

Yet the American Hero was ever obedient to his country's call. When it was found necessary to establish a new system of government, in order to secure the enjoyment of the blessings resulting from the establishment of our independence; At the call of his country, Washington appeared to preside in that august body of Patriots and sages; who planned, and recommended our excellent constitution of government. And when that plan of government was adopted by the people, he again (tho' contrary to his inclination) at the united voice of the whole American people, left his retirement, and came forward, to preside in the grand councils of our nation.

And the unparalleled prosperity and happiness enjoyed by the nation, and her unprecedented growth in wealth and respectability, under his wise,

liberal, and *truly republican* administration, are the best tests of the equity, justice and wisdom of his policy.

He by the equity, and wisdom of his policy, advanced the respectability and importance of the national government, secured to the individual States, the full enjoyment of their state sovereignties—Extended our commerce to almost every part of the known world—Established an equitable distribution of justice—Preserved a peaceful neutrality with foreign nations ; and from the entangling alliances with the conflicting nations of Europe, kept us unembarrassed.

Under his superintendence, a system of finance was framed and adopted, whereby our national debt was fast diminishing.—Our treasury overflowing, and the growth and prosperity of our nation without a parallel.—These were the happy fruits of the Washington policy.

But oh ! that we, as a nation, had in this our day have known the things which belonged to our Peace !

Mankind, ever restless and uneasy are too often blind to their best interests—The poisonous effects of the mad projects of the French revolution, had turned the heads of a great portion of the American people, our visionary leaders of modern reform, in this country, who had ever been inimical to the Federal Constitution, seconded the views of the French revolutionists.—Great pains were taken to inflame the minds of the people ; Party spirit became almost intolerable—Washington was reviled—His measures and administration were opposed—His friends and followers rejected—The plans and measures of the Washington policy exploded—New measures and new projects were adopted, and a new era in the administration of our government commenced.

Commerce was no longer to be encouraged—An increase of the Navy was no longer considered of national importance, but a navy was deemed a national curse—The measures which had been adopted for the gradual increase of the navy, were discarded; and the project of gun-boats for the defence of our coasts was adopted: and dry docks were to be built for the reception of the few remaining ships of war.—And under a specious pretence of preserving commerce, from the unjust depredations of Great-Britain and France—(But, in fact, as it turned out, in order to coerce the former, and favor the latter,) non-intercourses and embargoes were laid, and finally a war was entered into with Great-Britain. And how far the avowed objects of this war were the real ones, the American people must judge; and how far the avowed objects of this sanguinary contest, have been obtained, and how far it has terminated honorably for the administration, the American people, and impartial posterity must also judge.—A sacrifice of many thousands of lives, and many millions of property—the destruction of a great portion of our commerce—A vexatious and most oppressive system of taxation—A large and almost intolerable national debt have been the result; and are some of the poisonous fruits of the present anti-Washington Administration.

Compare them with the fruits of Washington policy, and then judge—For; “by their fruits ye shall know them,” But we, as a people, have great reason to rejoice in the beneficence of an All Wise overruling Providence, in restoring peace again to our nation; we begin to experience the salutary effects resulting from a state of Peace; And happy would it be for our nation, could we but learn wisdom, from the things we have suffered, and must still suffer. We

ought greatly to rejoice that *He*, who holds the destinies of Nations and Empires, can make the wrath of man to praise him—bring good out of evil, and will, eventually overrule all things for good to them that love, fear and obey him, both as it respects nations and individuals—Many of the prejudices against the Washington policy appear wearing away—An increase of the navy is no longer considered a national curse; but, the late valiant achievements of our navy have become the pride and boast, even of its former most inveterate opposers; and a disposition to foster and increase our Naval strength, both in government and people, has become universal.

The system of gun-boats for national defence, is now universally exploded, and the doctrine of dry docks discarded—Commerce is no longer considered as useless and unnecessary; but, as entitled to national encouragement and patronage, as the handmaid to agriculture, and a great source of wealth, prosperity and improvement.

Since we are in the enjoyment of peace, the present is a favorable time for reflection; for candid enquiry and examination—We ought no longer to be actuated by passions and party prejudices; but dispassionately and coolly to reflect and examine, compare the measures and fruits of the present national Administration, with the Washington policy, and its fruits, and see which has been productive of the greatest happiness and prosperity to the People.

The appeal is not now made, my Fellow Citizens, to your passions and prejudices, but to your reason and candor; with impartiality, then examine the conduct of your rulers, compare the avowed causes of the late war, with the conditions of the late treaty of Peace, and see if a single object, for which it was avowedly declared, has been obtained—See if the in-

fringement of a single national right is atoned for— or if any security against the future violation of those rights is, by this treaty, in any manner guaranteed.—If they are not, where is the mighty honor resulting to our government, from the late conclusion of Peace ?

If the peace be honorable, and our national rights are sufficiently secure under it, as is alleged by the friends of the administration, were they not equally secure before the war, and would have so remained without it ?—If so, where the necessity or justice of waging this war ?—If not a single object is gained by it, but, we are left exactly in the situation we were, when we began, as it respects the points in controversy ; and yet the peace is honorable—The declaration of war by our government, was premature, unnecessary, and unjust, as it respected ourselves ; of course, to those who waged it thus prematurely and wantonly, without the compulsion of necessity or justice, no possible honor can attach.—And if the manner in which the war was carried on, by the administration is regarded, how much of honor have they to boast ?—How inefficient and wretched was the defence of our seaboard ?—The destruction of Hampton, and other places, and the frequent depredations upon our maritime borders, will abundantly show—And how impotent and feeble were the management and movements of our arms for the two first years of the war ? The capture of a Hull, a Winchester, a Winder and Chandler, with their companions in arms, will declare.—How disgraceful and ineffectual were the attempts to invade the Canadas ? The movements, bickerings, and manœuvres of a Wilkinson and Hampton, will long testify. And to come nearer home, how totally incapable and unqualified, were the administration themselves, to

manage the concerns of a great and free people, and more especially in time of war?—The march of a small enemy's force into the heart of the country, without any adequate force to oppose them—The taking of the Capital of the nation—The burning of the public buildings—the destruction of the National Library—Military stores and other public property—and the inglorious flight of the members of the administration, themselves, from the seat of government, at the first approach of the enemy, most clearly evince, and will stand on long record as testimonials, to the everlasting shame and disgrace of those who then composed the American Cabinet.

If, however, it can be honorable to any government, unnecessarily to involve their country in all the calamities of war—sacrifice the lives of many thousand citizens, and squander millions of the resources of the nation, in the prosecution of such war, in an imbecile and wretched manner—and at length make peace without the attainment of a single object, for which the war was avowedly declared; then our government to be sure, are entitled to their full share of honor.

Yet amidst all our calamities and disgrace as a nation, we are not left without some consolation—The valorous exploits of our little navy by repeatedly conquering an equal and superior force—and the brilliant achievements of a Brown and a Jackson, and the brave officers and soldiers under their command, upon the land, have in some degree preserved and supported the character and honor of the American nation.

It is high time that the days of political delusion should have passed away—that the people should regard measures and not men.—Whence has fled the proud spirit of our ancestors? They were tenacious

of their freedom, and jealous of their rights; and regarded the least infringement of their privileges, by wanton or unprincipled rulers, just cause for remonstrance and even for resistance.

When our ancestors felt themselves oppressed by the mother country, and the then government attempted to tax them, without their consent, they repelled the first movement of oppression—They believed not in the infallibility of any king, prince, or ruler—They regarded measures and not men. When the British government sought to raise a small revenue from her colonies, by imposing a tax of four pence upon each pound of tea imported, they revolted at the idea; resolved to consume no more of that article during such imposition; and in the height of their resentment, went on board the ships and threw the cargoes of tea overboard. And finally, proceeded from step to step in resisting the unjust aggressions upon their rights, till they had completely thrown off the yoke of the oppressor, and achieved their independence.

Then a small tax, unnecessarily imposed, was considered a great grievance, sufficient to justify resistance, and even a change of government.

When compared with the present feelings and dispositions of the people—what a contrast! Now, for sooth, it is moral treason, in the view of many, to call in question the oppressive and wicked acts of rulers. Instead of paying six cents, we are now compelled to pay an average tax of fifty cents upon every pound of tea; sixty cents upon every gallon of spirit consumed, and so in proportion upon all other foreign articles, which our necessities or convenience require. And this is not all; our houses, our lands, and the humble vehicles in which we convey our families to church, are overloaded with taxes.

And more ; almost every article of clothing, from the crown of our heads to the soles of our feet, are subject to taxation. The honest and industrious mechanic, must procure large bonds with surety or sureties, before he can be permitted to pursue his wonted occupation. And our houses, shops, and repositories of valuables and family records are liable to be entered, searched and exposed, by boards of assessors and tax gatherers, who, like hungry leaches are preying upon the vitals of the body politic ; and going about under governmental pay, to deceive and cajole the people ; singing praises to the mild reign ; and praying for the perpetuity of the Virginian Dynasty.

And must all this be patiently borne ; and the deluded or wicked authors of these calamities, still be supported, and left to bask in the rays of public patronage ? the most tyrannical, oppressive and unconstitutional acts of rulers be submitted to ? And the exercise of the civil authority has been made to give place to the orders of a sergeant of a guard, or petty upstart military tyrants ; who with impunity have imprisoned the citizens, without law or right, and treated them with unheard of cruelty, and barbarity. And this say our sticklers for liberty and equality, is just and right.

Oh ! Shame where is thy blush ! Will not the sainted shades of our ancestors look down and frown indignantly upon the degeneracy of their sons ? But we will no longer view the dark side of the picture—Let us look for better prospects and for better times—and examine how a change is to be effected, and our country restored to her former prosperity. To effect a redress of grievances, none but constitutional measures are necessary. It is to be hoped that our government and nation will learn wisdom from

experience, and not again involve themselves in the contentions of other nations, or rashly plunge their country in an unnecessary, expensive, destructive war. Under a government like ours, all power, as it ought, is derived from, and rests in the hands of the people; and they can easily, at any time, effect a change of measures without contention or bloodshed, by making a change of men. They can do it by the exercise of their right of suffrage. They must divest themselves of party feelings and prejudices, and honestly unite, as was the case in the days of Washington, in electing to office the best men. Our interests are one and the same; that course of measures, which will be best for my neighbor and his children, will be best for me and mine. If so, why this contention and violence about men? And the struggle to bolster up a party, right or wrong? We ought to have no party but our country, and no objects, as citizens, but the promotion of her best interests. It is of but little consequence, to me, or to my neighbor, what men are appointed to office, provided they be honest and capable, and will pursue the best interests of the country.

Were we about to select a person or persons to manage our private concerns, should we not select men of integrity and uprightness? Such as were capable of performing the part assigned them; and who would have honesty enough to be true to their trust?

If we should be thus provident in the management of our private concerns, ought we to be less careful, in the choice and appointment of our *public* agents?

One wicked or unprincipled ruler is capable of doing incalculable evil to the nation. Let us exercise charity and liberality one towards another, and honestly unite in promoting our best men to office;

men of integrity and uprightness, friends to the Washington policy, and our excellent constitution of government; who, shall be able to discern, and will undeviatingly pursue the best interests of their country.

“When the wicked bear rule, the people mourn,” is as true a saying as any in the sacred volume; as the whole history of ages and nations, abundantly proves.

And if the people of this country should ever become so infatuated with party zeal and party prejudices, and so blinded to their best interests, as to appoint wicked and unprincipled men to office: and more especially, should elect to the office of chief magistrate, an openly professed infidel; one who should consider it of no consequence, whether mankind should believe in one or twenty Gods; and one who should invite, and at the expence of government, as a compliment for his useful labors, transport across the Atlantic one of the vilest, and most debauched infidels, (if not atheists) the world ever produced; an open reviler of our holy religion, and contemner of the sacred scriptures; and one, who also should defame and slander the venerable name of the great and good Washington; calling him coward and enemy of his country: might it not be justly expected that the great God of Heaven and earth would severely chastise and punish that people, who should cast such reproach and indignity upon the great and holy name and sovereignty of the divine author and disposer of all things?

When great and good men bear rule, the people may rationally expect a divine blessing upon their national and governmental concerns. Such measures will be adopted and pursued, as will effectually advance and secure the best interests of the people.

The virtue of the people is the foundation and support of all free governments ; In order to secure the enjoyment of the blessings of a free government, the great body of the people must be moral and virtuous ; and in vain it is to attempt to support morality and virtue, without religion. Rational, true religion, is the real foundation of all morality and virtue. It is therefore, the true policy of all free governments to foster and cherish religious institutions ; to encourage and support pious and enlightened teachers of religion ; to diffuse general correct information among the people ; the means of education ought to be universally promoted ; the arts encouraged, and the door to laudable enterprise left unembarrassed.

The force of example is more powerful than that of precept ; of course a respect for religion and religious institutions, enforced by the exemplary conduct of leading men and rulers, would have a powerful and salutary effect upon the moral and religious conduct of the people at large.

So long as the people remain moral and virtuous, possessing general correct information, and shall appoint their best men to office, so long will their freedom and independence remain permanent and sure ; settled upon a rock against which the winds and waves of faction and infidelity may beat in vain.

But some may urge that religion has nothing to do with politics, or the affairs of civil government. As well might it be urged that religion has no concern with the temporal affairs, or private conduct of men. Religion is the only sure foundation for man to build all his hopes of present and future felicity. Abolish religion from civil society ; discard the idea of an all wise overruling

Providence ; the immortality of the soul ; the accountability of man, and his dependence upon his Creator : and where would be the solemnity and validity of oaths ? Where would be the security for the enjoyment of life, liberty and property ? And above all, where would be the consolation of the good man and the Christian ? And where would be the solace of a dying hour ? It is true, that civil government never ought to undertake to control the consciences of men as to their belief, or modes of worship. *These* ought to rest alone between the individual and his God ; and each one, in these respects, ought to be left free to exercise the rights of conscience ; provided he so conduct as not to disturb or infringe the rights of the consciences of others.

But the teachers of our holy religion, are as much bound to exclaim against national sins, and reprove the wickedness of rulers, as to inveigh against the sins of private individuals, and reprove them for their wickedness.

Situated as we are, a nation by ourselves, separated by a vast ocean from the eastern continent, and possessing all the necessary means of subsisting comfortably within ourselves—it may be rationally hoped and expected that our government will, in future, avoid taking part in the rivalships, jealousies, and clashing interests of the European nations, and preserve our country from the danger of being drawn into the vortex of the contentions and revolutions of the eastern world.

Whilst a peaceful, equitable, and strict neutrality should be preserved with all nations ; we ought to form “entangling alliances with none.”

The present, is truly an age of wonders. The great and astonishing events ; and the frequent un-

accountable changes and revolutions which have taken place within the short space of a few years, in the civilized world, have vastly exceeded all human calculations.

And the recent change which has taken place in the restoration of the modern disturber of nations, and the scourge of mankind—and the vast warlike preparations making throughout Europe—portend dangers, disasters and revolutions, momentous and important ; far beyond the powers of human imagination to conceive.

Therefore, it behoves us as individuals and as a nation, to be doubly on our guard ; for we know not “ what a day or an hour may bring forth.”

And while we hope for the best, we must prepare for the worst. And as the nation is composed of individuals, the most effectual method to bring about a reform, is, for each individual to begin at home and reform one ; correct his own errors and vices ; reform his manners and habits—and the work is done ; the great national reform is complete.

Let children, for they are the rising hopes of the nation, be early taught in all useful knowledge ; as they increase in years, let them be instructed in the principles of rational freedom and liberty ; and more especially, in the all important doctrines of the Christian religion. Inculcate a spirit of humanity, charity and liberality one towards another, and their fellow men—and be sure to set the example ; let party names, party distinctions, and party prejudices, be abolished ; and all unite, as members of the same great community, in promoting the prosperity and happiness of our common country.

We possess the proud privilege of choosing our rulers ; and justice to ourselves, and justice to our beloved country require, that we, on all proper occa-

sions, should be faithful and honest in the exercise of that privilege. In vain it is, to possess the right, if we neglect to exercise it.

And now my friends and fellow citizens, will you justly appreciate your privileges, and maintain your rights? Hold sacred the rich inheritance transmitted by our ancestors? Purchased at the expense of much blood and treasure, and hand the same down to your children, unimpaired? Or shall our freedom and independence be prematurely buried in the tomb, with all ancient and modern Republics? And the fair fabric of liberty be tumbled to ruins?

You will not, cannot hesitate. You will defend, protect and hold sacred your rights. You will preserve our excellent Constitution and restore the Washington policy. You will hold fast the bonds of your political union. Separated and divided, these states would become impotent and feeble; but united, must be a great and powerful; and if virtuous, a happy nation. Local and party prejudices must be done away. Although the interests of different sections of the union may be different and clashing; the great concerns of the nation ought always to be so balanced and directed, by a wise and liberal policy, as to promote the substantial and permanent interests of the great whole.

Let not the head say to the hand or the foot, "I have no need of thee," for all parts are useful and necessary to form one great political body. The local advantages of this country are great and important, in every point of view. Separated by a vast ocean from the old world, the clashing interests and contentions of the European nations, it is hoped, will not in future affect us.

The superior advantages possessed both for foreign and internal commerce and navigation, by far

exceed those of any other country or nation in the known world. Our excellent system or constitution of government is without a parallel. The enlarged and enlightened policy planned, pursued, & most fervently recommended by the great and good Washington, ought to be perseveringly adhered to, and if practicable, improved upon.

And while all shall unite in promoting to office the best men in the country,—perfection must not be expected in any man, or in any set of men—“To err is *human*, to forgive, *divine*.”

We ought not to be ready to impute corrupt, or bad motives to all those who differ from us in sentiment; but consider, that though in an error, they may be honest;—if so, we should endeavor to convince them of their errors; and also, we ought to consider that there is a possibility they may be in the right, and we in the wrong.

It is the bounden duty of freemen to be jealous of their rights, and tenacious of their liberties; and always to keep a watchful eye over their public agents, who must be judged of, and appreciated by the fruits produced from their public conduct, or measures pursued.

Under a free government, rulers are responsible to the people for their errors and blunders, as well as for their wicked acts.

The only legitimate strength and defence of a free people, is a well organized, and well disciplined militia. Such a militia will supercede the necessity of a standing army, in time of peace. Standing armies, in time of peace, in all free countries, have always been found *dangerous*, if not destructive, to the morals and liberties. Free governments never ought to commence offensive war; and as a measure of *defence*, there have been, both in the revolutionary, and

late war, ample specimens of the competency and all-sufficiency of ^{the militia} our country, to repel and defeat an invading foe.

In war, soldiers—in peace, citizens—ought to be the motto of every citizen soldier.

Of the improvement in military discipline ; of the subordination, and laudable ambition of the militia of our country, we are favored with a gratifying specimen, by our brethren and fellow citizens, this day in arms.

And you, citizen-soldiers, have an enviable and proud task to perform ; to guard, protect, and defend your country's rights & liberties, their altars and their firesides. And to your guardian care, who know how to appreciate the inestimable civil and religious institutions of your country, and who possess the laudable pride and ambition of your ancestors, they can with safety be entrusted ; for you will never avail yourselves of the advantages of your military station, to overturn the liberties of your beloved country.

Though the part which nature and the customs of civilized society, have assigned to the fair sex, on the great theatre of human action, is less public—yet it is not less important as it respects the good of society, than the part assigned to the other sex.

The superior virtue, refinement of taste and delicacy of manners possessed in general, by the fair, has had in all civilized countries, in all ages, a powerful effect in correcting the morals, refining the taste, and improving the manners of the coarser sex. To your sex society is indebted for its finest polish—to your sex indebted for first useful and virtuous impressions ; often the first and most lasting impressions upon the tender mind are made by the mother. Many of the greatest philosophers, statesmen, heroes

and divines, the world ever produced, were indebted for first impressions, and of course in a great measure, for their celebrity and usefulness, to the pious instructions, virtuous examples, and refined manners of a religious, amiable and beloved mother.

The condition of the fair sex, in all civilized countries, and more especially in this, differs very materially from the condition among the savage tribes, or among the despotic heathen and mahometan nations of the east.

There the woman is considered the mere slave of the man; but *here*, as she ought, his companion and associate. Here, then, female education is of great importance. The fair should be instructed in useful science; be trained up to habits of industry and domestic economy, and early taught the doctrines and precepts of the Christian religion.

You who are, and wish to become real mothers, in this our American Israel, will no doubt, be careful to walk exemplary before your household; and study to improve, instruct, refine and happify the domestic circle; will teach your virtuous daughters to be prudent, and not bestow their hands and affections upon the immoral, intemperate, idle and profane; but let it be well understood, that no one who does not, by his moral conduct, industry and regular deportment, manifest himself to be worthy of assuming the important, tender and endearing character and relation of husband and father—need ever expect to obtain the hand and affections of an American fair.

All of every age and sex, under a free government, have an important part; and the excellency consists, not so much in what *part*, as in the manner in which it is acted on the theatre of human life. It matters but little what station one fills, in a free

country, provided he discharge the duties of his station with fidelity and ability. Each one ought to move in that sphere, and attend to those pursuits for which his genius is best calculated :

“ Honor and shame from no condition rise,

“ Act well your part, there all the honor lies.”

Those of this respected assembly who are the professed friends and disciples of the venerable Washington, and have assumed his name, are under peculiar obligations to pattern the examples and obey the precepts of that great and good man; and endeavor to restore and maintain the just, enlightened, and truly republican policy planned and adopted under his wise and equitable administration.

All the talents, all the integrity of which our country can boast, ought immediately to be put in requisition, and as fast as constitutionally practicable, called into service.

And now permit me, my friends and fellow citizens, to conjure you, by your love of country, by your love of the memory of your venerable ancestors; by your love of yourselves; by your love of posterity; by your love of all you hold dear, to unite to do your duty, like unprejudiced, patriotic freemen. Be *liberal*—be *charitable*—be *honest*—be *true to yourselves*—be *true to your country*—The day is your own—speak—act like Americans—and your country shall long continue to enjoy peace and prosperity—and your freedom and independence shall remain.