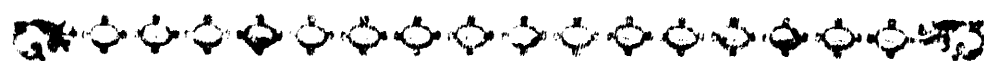


New York Historical Society

from

John Pinbard.

1857.



Rev. Doctor Macwhorter's
Discourse, delivered July 4.

1857



A

FESTIVAL DISCOURSE,

Occasioned by the CELEBRATION of the
SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY
O F

American Independence,

In the TOWN of NEWARK.

By ALEX. MACWHORTER, D. D.

To which is annexed the *Declaration of In-*
dependence, which was read, with a few
Introductory Remarks,

By ALEX. C. MACWHORTER, Esq. A. M.

He hath not dealt so with any Nation.

David.

O fortunatus nimium, sua si bona norint,

Agricolae.——

Virgil.



NEWARK: (N. J.)

PRINTED BY JOHN WOODS.

M.DCC.XCIII.

On Motion of the Reverend Mr. Ogden, seconded by
Colonel Hedden,

THAT the Thanks of the above Bodies
be given to the Reverend Doctor
MAEWORTER, for his excellent Sermon,
delivered this Day before them ; and that
the Doctor be requested to favor them with
a Copy of the Discourse for Publication ;
and also, that to the same be annexed the
Declaration of Independence.

UZAL, OGDEN, *Vice-President*
of the Patriotic Society.



A
FESTIVAL DISCOURSE,

Occasioned by the CELEBRATION of the
SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
American Independence.

P S A L M S xvi. 6.

*The Lines have fallen unto me in pleasant
Places—yea, I have a goodly Heritage.*

THANKSGIVING and praise to the glorious Creator, Conserver and Benefactor of the universe, are duties of the first magnitude incumbent upon rational creatures. That part of creation replenished with understanding minds, formed with the powers of observation and reflection, made capable of contemplating the wonderful operations of Heaven, in bringing all things from nothing into existence, upholding, directing and governing the same, how should they be employed in admiration, adoration, gratitude and praise? While these divine exercises ought, habitually, to prevail in their hearts, there are distinguished seasons, in which they should be brought forward to a more illustrious display. This day, this great day! this ever memorable FOURTH of JULY, is one of those conspicu-

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ent seasons, wherein the most elegant refinements of the human soul, in the highest strains of exalted devotion should be exhibited; and with gladness and joy offered up to the God of nations, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. For these dignified purposes, to honor the great Eternal, who acts according to his wise and infinite pleasure in his superior and inferior kingdoms throughout his unlimited dominions, we, my respected audience, are this day assembled. And what theme could, with greater force and propriety, command our contemplations and elevate our hymns of praise, than this celestial rapture of the sweet singer of Israel, now repeated in your hearing? When the inspired Psalmist called into review before him the wonders of God in creation, providence and redemption, the marvelous things performed, for the Israelitish nation, and the felicities and astonishing glories to which he himself had been raised, he bursts forth in the adoring and praising language of our text: "*The Lines are fallen unto me in pleasant Places; yea, I have a greatly Heritage.*" As though he had said, the allotments of Heaven, and the portion of mine inheritance appointed in riches, glory and pleasure, far transcend its proceedings towards other nations and other men; yea, I am planted in, and honored with, a heritage, that is amiable, beautiful, and altogether good; that charms every sense, delights every feeling, and enwraps my whole soul in gratitude and joy.

This frame of mind, this temper and spirit here expressed by this man after God's own heart, ought to be strongly imbibed, and highly cultivated, by every citizen of these United States. When we contemplate the ways of God, the wonders of Providence in bringing us into existence, as

a nation, and the superabundance of divine beneficence in contering upon us immunities, liberties, and blessings, far beyond any other people on the face of the earth, how may each American adopt the rapturous exclamation, and say, "*The Lins have fallen unto me in pleasant Places ; yea, I have a goodly Heritage.*" This day is the nativity of our nation ; this day is enobled by the commencement of our existence ; it forms a new æra in the annals of time, when we suddenly arose and seized our arrangement of rank among the nations of the world. Let this day be celebrated with thanksgiving, with pleasure and with gladness of heart. In the formation of our habitations of pleasure in those American climes, what wonders did the Almighty God perform, when he opened, in this delightful land, an asylum for our forefathers, to which they retreated from tyranny, persecution, oppression, and cruelty of the Eastern world ? This wilderness soon become a *goodly Heritage* under the hand of industry, integrity, liberty and virtue. The Rights of Man, the rights of conscience, the privileges of rational beings, born equally free, and the dignities of humanity, were the seeds immediately planted, with the erection of the first standards on these Western Shores. The plants were perfectly adapted to the soil ; they were cultivated by freedom's fair and unshackled hand ; watered by the dews and rains of celestial beneficence, and warmed by the genial beams of the bright sun of liberty.

The sacred flowers arose ; their early buds were happiness, and their full bloom, which every virtuous eye beholds, is lustre and glory.

The Atlantic bulwarks, our unknown situation, the gloomy and bigotted ignorance of Europe, created a defence for the divine plants in their tender growth in these far, remote, and distant regions. Thus they grew, became great, and their branches reached to Heaven.

Their fruits were rich and luxuriant; their fragrancy, beauty, sweetness and glory, at length, alas! struck the avaricious sense, aroused ambitious tyranny, and raised the all-grasping hand of the *Transatlantics* to gather and enjoy all the fruitage, or be the utter destruction of the tree. Hosts were collected, thousands of Germanic Slaves purchased, vast fleets equipped, our shores were crowded with ships and armies to bear away the riches, the fruits, the glories and hard earnings of the children of Columbia, or to deal the sword, fire and desolation over the land. The sons of freedom, unprovided and unaccoutred, and in all respects unfurnished for the horrid onset, relinquished their husbandry, domestic ease, and fair cultivations, and rushed, unharnessed for war, in tumultuous order to their coasts.

Their only protection, their only defence in which they trusted, under the shadow of the wings of auspicious Heaven, and which will be the theme of poets and orators yet unborn, was a new phenomenon; not the thundering bursts of nitrous and charcoal explosions, that have, from their first combinations, more terrified than injured mankind; but, an infinitely simple invention, invisible in its nature and irresistible in its operation. What is this under-working discovery, that far transcends the skill of that soldier, the investigator of the silent yet blustering type, which

has flashed upon the world, knowledge and folly, wisdom and ignorance, light and darkness, like *paroxysms* of the electrical fluid. What is this astonishing invention, that exceeds the philosophic powers of that priest who reduced the terrors of Heaven to Earth, and put the fire, and blaze, and thunder above, into the hands of men? It is the greatest temple in universal nature; the largest Batonical collection can produce nothing so unmixed & uncompounded. What is this astonishingly operating power, more than equalizing all the weapons, defensive and offensive, of ages past; that became the broad shield of *America*, the repulsion and vanquishment of her foes. It was nothing more than a simple, a simple sentiment of spirit, poured down, quickened and matured by the *celestials* in American hearts; a mere indivisible, unreducible impulse of mind, "*A determination to die or be free!*" This single feeling, infused by the high, the great and universal spirit, into the human heart, performed wonders, like the miraculous pillar of Israel, that shrouded them from burning suns by day, and illumined their camp of millions by night.

What could this mental, this aerial and invisible spirit do? It impregnated, with military ardor, the minds of thousands, incumbered the way of British miriads, instilled confusion into the enemies counsels, clogged & unaxeled their iron wheels of war, and caused them to drive in lop-sided and zig-zag form, though Jehu like, they foamed, and drove furiously. Their *Herculian* weight mocked the powers of mechanism to repel, and all the inventions of proud *Archemides* to remove, who boasted, "Give me whereon to stand, and I'll move the world." Yet this new discovery, revealed by Heaven to

Columbian minds, this strange invention, the peculiarity of American *Tactics*, in seven long years of experimental and hard application, stopped, drove back, and ejected from their borders, the tyrannic monster with all his hedious and devouring legions. Strong were the exertions—the force mighty—and the conflict dire. The war often hung dubious, as that between *Israel* and *Amalek* of old, which wavered with the elevation and depression of the Mosaic hand. So here, as the sentiment, the determination for *freedom* or *death*, rose or sunk, was vigorous combat; victory changed her standard from side to side, and from camp to camp, till foreign *Ether*, from *Gallia's* chemical stores, regaled the languid spirit, invigorated and established it.

This fixed the conquering standard, immoveable, in the American field, no longer and wavering no more, till minnydons and harpies sculked to their Augean stables, uncleansed, their native retreats, and peace, shining peace, with her balmy wings, brooded over our waited cultivations—shed a-broad her divitial dew—revived worried nature. & restored hope, life and happiness, to the possessions of freedom.

This wonderful, this auspicious day, is the birth-day of freedom—the greatest blessing, one excepted, ever ushered into our world. Happy the time—happy the place—happy the land that gave her birth, and thrice happy the hour, more than Jubilee year, in which INDEPENDENCE, Heaven-born INDEPENDENCE was announced! Independence! celestial babe—O Americans, behold her brilliant glories; how do the infant smiles shed joy, gladness, blessing and felicity all around them? Celebrate her birth; celebrate her blooming youth, with virtuous fidelity, with

innocent convivial garlands ; with all the blooming treasures which *Flora's* gardens can produce. And while you glory in this auspicious day, which, may no adverse cloud ever eclipse from Aurora's dawn, till twilight's eve, remember still, the *parent of all*. Let your joys, let your *armour* and *uniform*, be the plenoply of christians ; let the virtue of chaste and pure temperance ever president at your convivial boards.

We not only this day, celebrate the praises of the **PARENT** of the universe, who, hereon, at once, gave birth to *Liberty*, *Independence*, and millions, even a whole nation of freemen : but we celebrate the praises of the *God of Armies* who, with martial prowess, inspired our admirable **COMMANDER**, the first of Columbia's sons—who directed the high counsels of our land—who led on our *battalia*—nerved the soldier's arm—protected our sacred **ALL**, and secured to us the infinitely important rights and enjoyments of men. Let us sing *The Lines have fallen unto us in pleasant Places ; yea, we have a goodly Heritage.*

Yet, this high anniversary demands more. We celebrate the praises of the fountain of wisdom, which poured greater streams of understanding into the selected patriarchs of the nation, than ever were before dispensed to this inferior world ; in moulding a Constitution of Order (I wish not to employ the terrific term government) which embraces all the dignities of man, liberty, life, property and honor, in the highest and most perfect degree, that the social state can admit. Perhaps it is not in the reach of beings, of no more extended intelligence than man, to work up any thing nearer absolute perfection, consistent with, and creative of free-

dom, order and happiness, than the cardinal principles of our glorious *Civil Constitution*. Our nation has become glorified under its operation and administration, far beyond the most sanguine and even enthusiastic expectation. The great constituents of this new momentum of civil power are the highest privileges, prosperity and felicity of a democratic nation. One lustrum is just completed since with the most splendid pomp our little village could exhibit—we celebrated the adoption of this child of wisdom, *Our New Constitution*. One of its great perfections is, should any infirmities in it in future appear, it admits of the finishing touches of the fine pencil of amendment.

Contemplate, my honored audience, (for all freemen are honorable) contemplate for a moment, the effects of this wonder-working **CONSTITUTION** of the **UNITED STATES**. It dispelled the thick clouds which darkened our political hemisphere in the years seventeen hundred and eighty-six and eighty-seven. Public credit, which is the life of nations, in these gloomy seasons, had well nigh expired. How did this *Constitution*, beyond the usual powers of application, restore, strengthen, exalt and establish it? What a flood of riches did it instantaneously pour into the American lap, by the sudden appreciation of the medium of business? How has it in less than a single lustrum carried abundance of the American canvass, round more than half the globe, far beyond our Antipodes, vibrating commerce, to our immense emolument. The adventures of the merchant already explore the far distant regions of the universe, and their ships import the productions of every clime.

While the sun of commerce arises upon us with a resurgent blaze of glory, its grand source, *Agriculture*, is not less conspicuous in its advances. How are agricultural experiments daily making; manures of a thousand forms increasing; and the labors of the plow causing the earth to teem with a profusion of plenty? Our farms smile—our harvests bow their awny heads to the reaper's hand—our barns overflow with luxuriance, and the heart of the husbandman greatens with gladness, pleasure and gratitude. Let the souls of American farmers rejoice; "*For the Lines have fallen unto them in pleasant places; yea, they have a goodly Heritage.*"

Turn your eyes to the great cities, the attracting vortices of every character; behold those busy hives amassing treasures of wealth, yet enjoying the highest tranquility, the strongest security of their property, and basking in the umbrage of prosperity and peace, under the all-fostering, and all-protecting arm of our glorious CONSTITUTION. Let our cities rejoice, and their hearts be filled with joy, and their songs be songs of praise; "*For the Lines have fallen unto them in pleasant places; yea, they have a goodly Heritage.*"

Let the little villages, which rise unnumbered in our prolific country, swell their notes in hymns of thanksgiving to the beneficent *parent of all*, who has dignified them with a civil constitution, fraught with felicity; granted to every part of our illustrious country, an impragnable character for all their labors and enjoyments. Let vales and hills, shops, villas and stores, unite in one universal voice of praise, *THAT the Lines have fallen unto THEM in pleasant places; yea, THEY have a goodly Heritage.*

How have all kinds of Manufactories started into existence, and flourished throughout our land? Crafts & trades to comfort and ornament the human person, have arisen at once among us, and bid fair to tour high in these departments of freedom. How are new manufacturing systems every day establishing and prosecuting with vigour and enriching success? In this Western world of liberty, under the banners of our transcendently excellent CONSTITUTION, every virtuous adventure, every valuable enterprize, and undertaking, may be assured of the fostering kindness of Columbian indulgence, and dwell safely in full possession of their ALL.

Science, here flourishes in these walks of freedom. The chambers, the beautiful chambers of science, stand equally open to the peasant and the great. In no region of our globe are science and knowledge so diffusive; so irradiate and illumine the minds of the bulky mass of mankind, as in this guardian asylum of liberty. What numerous Academies, Colleges, and Universities are every year and I might almost say, every month, presenting to our view. Fair science! Thou amiable daughter of Heaven! Thou blessing, glory and dignity of the human mind! May these climes of freedom be thy perpetual, thy permanent, and unchangeable residence!

Here, the exertions, inventions, and toils of genius obtain firm patents for, and enjoy securely, all the profits of their works. In former times the adventurers of the pen had to bestow all their labors, and more for the acquisition of an introduction to the public view. Independence, a

T H E
D E C L A R A T I O N
O F
I N D E P E N D E N C E,

Which was Read, with a few INTRODUCTORY
REMARKS.

By ALEX. C. MACWHORTER, Esq. A. M.

THE most of nations, my countrymen, from long habit and prejudice, celebrate the birth-days of their Princes and Rulers, good or bad, indiscriminately, as times of great national felicity and rejoicing; but it is our superior happiness, our boast and our privilege, to associate in the commemoration of a day which gave birth to *Liberty—to a nation of freemen.* By the *Declaration* of INDEPENDENCE we became one of the nations of the earth; the fortitude, patience and perseverance, displayed by our country in its defence, shew our title thereto and give rank and dignity to our station—It is therefore right, that we celebrate THIS DAY as our great *National Anniversary.*—The situation and circumstances of the United States, at this important era, signalize that great transaction, as one of the noblest displays of human fortitude that the history of the world affords—no Fleet—no disciplined army—no magazines of military stores—our government unorganized, and

Feb 16-17 Missing

many parts of our country distracted, by the vile adherents of despotism; the friends of *Liberty* and of *Independence* of that day, stood shielded from the destructive grasp of one of the most powerful nations in the world, by the protection only of that Being, who ever smiles on a righteous cause. They confided therein, and inspired with the noble enthusiasm of liberty, gave to the world examples of magnanimity, which could proceed only from conscious rectitude, and minds sensible they were treading the paths of honor and of duty. *They dared to be free!* They nobly braved the denunciations of vengeance of a haughty tyranic King and Court; and when legions of British and German mercenaries, more formidable than our *Western world*, had ever beheld, were ready to hurl destruction over our land, this declaration of our *rights* appeared.

That time may never wear from our recollection the principles thereof, let us frequently revolve them in our minds and refresh our memories therewith. For which purpose, I shall read over to you this all-important Declaration; and it is our peculiar felicity, that we now feel the result of great and good actions, peace, happiness and unanimity; that we may read over *this Declaration*, that we may celebrate *this day*, in the full enjoyment of the rights and principles therein avouched, and there are none to oppose or fear, it becomes us, my countrymen, to revere its spirit, to cherish it in ourselves, and transmit it warm to posterity.

C O N G R E S S

O F T H E

UNITED STATES.

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION by the *Representatives* of
the UNITED STATES of AMERICA in
Congress assembled.

WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self evident : that all men are created equal ; that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed ; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed will dictate, that governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes : and accordingly all

experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present king of Great-Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature; a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected ; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise ; the state remaining, in the mean time, exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States ; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners ; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws ; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation :

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us :

For protecting them by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States :

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world :

For imposing taxes on us without our consent :

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury.

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences :

For abolishing the free system of English laws, in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render at once an example and fit instrument, for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies :

For taking away your charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments :

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power, to legislate for us, in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction, of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms : Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must therefore acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

WE, therefore, the representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, appealing to the supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these colonies solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES ; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great-Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved ; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances,

establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

The foregoing Declaration was, by order of Congress, engrossed and signed by the following members :

JOHN HANCOCK.

New-Hampshire.—Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.

Massachusetts Bay.—Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.

Rhode Island, &c.—Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.

Connecticut.—Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.

New-York.—William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.

New-Jersey.—Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark.

Pennsylvania.—Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.

Delaware.—Cæsar Rodney, George Read, Thos. M'Kean.

Maryland.—Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.

Virginia.—George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, jun. Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

North-Carolina.—William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.

South-Carolina.—Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, jun. Thomas Lynch, jun. Arthur Middleton.

Georgia.—Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.