

January 22: ~~_____~~ 1784

Gift of Edmund Sawyer Esq.
New Wood

3.

MR. MURRAY'S
 THANKSGIVING
 SERMON.



3

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

2 Y A R A Y 2

THANKS



S E R M O N

4

JERUBBAAL,
OR
TYRANNY'S GROVE DESTROYED,
AND THE
ALTAR OF LIBERTY FINISHED.

3.

A
DISCOURSE
ON
AMERICA'S DUTY AND DANGER,

DELIVERED AT THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NEWBURY-PORT,
DECEMBER 11, 1783.

ON OCCASION OF THE
PUBLIC THANKSGIVING

FOR
P E A C E.

(Published by particular Request.)

By JOHN MURRAY, A. M.
PASTOR OF SAID CHURCH.

NEWBURY-PORT:

PRINTED BY JOHN MYCALL, MDCCLXXXIV.

A S E R M O N, &c.

JUDGES, VIII. 34. 35.

And the children of Israel remembered not the Lord their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side :

Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon ; according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel.

MANY anniversary days of Thanksgiving New-England has enjoyed. This may be calculated for the hundred and sixty-second since its plantation : but among them all, never did the rising sun shine on one so justly gladsome, as the present day ;—a day, which announces the long-wished arrival of that beautiful dove, which, expanding her wings of silver, and glittering in feathers of gold, hath halted across the Atlantic,

lantic, to plant her olive-branch in our land! A day, which proclaims the cope-stone set on Liberty's sacred fane; and the INDEPENDENCE OF CONFEDERATE AMERICA finally guaranteed by a Definitive Treaty of Peace, signed at Paris, on the third day of September last; and the ratifications thereof exchanged on the nineteenth of that month; in consequence of which, the British garrison evacuated the city of New-York on the twenty-second of November—and the joyful return of its long-exiled citizens, and the welcome restoration of civil government to that seat of military despotism was publicly celebrated there by the Commander in Chief of the Allied Army, on the first day of the present month.

By this glorious event, we behold the work is done—the AMERICAN REVOLUTION is finished—the Patriot's labor is crowned—and a cruel and destructive war, of eight painful years, is brought to a final period. Our shields are now hung in the hall. The ruthless blade, sated with carnage, returns quiet into its sheath—never to wake again—never (we ardently hope, never again) to reek with human gore! Our hands, forgetful of the weapons of death, lay hold on the peaceful lyre—while glad voices attuned to its strains, chant forth the honors of the GOD of SALVATION, No more the horrid din of arms! The clangor of trumpets no more! The eye, astonished with the frightful scenes—of bloody fields and burning towns—of bleeding brothers—of mangled and expiring friends,—is now soothed in peaceful slumbers, nor dreads the midnight-alarm! The ear, long tortured with the groans of the wounded—with the thunder of cannon—

cannon—with the batter of drums—with the shrieks of ravished virgins—the moans of bereaved widows—and the piercing cries of helpless orphans, wailing round a butchered father's bloody corse—at last is permitted to rest from its horrors!

WHILE the mention of these affecting objects wakes every tender passion in the soul—how strongly are we thereby struck with the contrast between past and present scenes! The public feelings are too keen to be concealed. Joy dances in every eye. Pleasure beams in every countenance; and every bosom beats high with the emotions peculiarly fitted to hail the auspicious day that declares the clouds of horror fled, to return no more for ever—and bespeaks our country, as the prophet once did the city of his GOD—*Arise—shine, for thy light is come:—the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.* * *For, lo! thy winter is past—thy rains are over and gone—the flowers appear on the earth—thy time for the singing of birds is come—the sweet voice of the turtle is heard in thy land!* † Shake off thy dust, AMERICA:—put on the garments of praise. Thy vine and thy fig-tree are thine—thou mayest now call their shade thine own—and freely taste of their fruit! Now hail thy DELIVERER-GOD. Worship without fear of man.

This day, invite him to the crown of America—proclaim him KING of the land—submit to his rightful sway—touch his sovereign scepter, and live:—while prostrate before his imperial throne—let thy praises rend the concave—and the JUBILEE ring from shore to shore!

—I r

* *I sa.* ix. 1.

† *Cant.* ii. 11, 12.

IT is with no faint feelings of our singular obligations to heaven, that the GENERAL COUNCIL of these ransomed states calls them all, with heart and voice united, to pay the tributes of this happy day!

NEVER did the meridian sun look down on a land whose arguments for gratitude to the God of Peace were more numerous, or more cogent. Nor can the annals of time furnish an instance of a people, in whom the contrary temper would be more aggravated and horrible.

DULY to feel the force of these arguments, it becomes us ever to keep in view the evil of ingratitude, and the dangers it brings with it.

NOR could any topic afford a more pertinent theme for the reasonings of the desk on the present occasion. But nothing strikes the mind like examples: of that sort of instruction, a pertinent and remarkable instance is presented in the text: and for that reason, it is chosen as the clue that must conduct the meditations of this audience, in the sequel of the public service of this day.

CONNECTED as it is with the memorable facts recorded in the four chapters that surround it—the text exhibits a case as nearly resembling our own, as ancient fashions can be accommodated to modern times. In it we contemplate

1. A covenant-people.—“the children of Israel.”—sprung from pious and covenant-ancestors—blessed with invaluable privileges, civil and religious, which descended to them as a patrimony peculiar to themselves—and in the

the enjoyment of them, they were protected by an equal providence as the favorite ward of a Guardian-Deity.— Yet we find them

2. **BESET** with enemies, numerous, fierce and powerful, who were ever watching for their halting—and never lost an opportunity to distress and enslave them, whenever their crimes had provoked the Lord to leave them in their hands: and of such opportunities, their strange proneness to idolatry and its concomitant vices, furnished not a few. A melancholy instance of that kind we see in the degeneracy of that infatuated people, after their wonderful success against Jabin, king of Canaan; and after the happiness they enjoyed, during the regency of Deborah and Barak. For this, at length, behold Midian is permitted severely to chastize them.—Midian, their near kinsman—the offspring of their own father Abraham—unprovoked, and without any just pretext for war—now quite forgets the ties of nature and of blood, which ought ever to have made that nation the friend of Israel, and the guarantee of its liberties—from mere lust of power and wealth, invades the land—and, with relentless barbarity, lays all things waste wherever he comes. Yes, surprizing as it may seem, however unrighteous the cause of the lawless and insolent aggressor—yet, as heaven's controversy against Israel was perfectly just, Midian is suffered so far to prevail as to ruin their cities—to sack their villages—to defolate their dwellings—and pillage their whole country; 'till its miserable inhabitants—unable to resist the conqueror—and driven from their homes—are compelled to seek shelter for themselves—their wives and children in the caves of the mountains. In these dreary lodgings, this

B

unhappy

unhappy people are vain to hide from the fury of a foe whose very name strikes terror to their hearts. Broken and appalled, they tremble at the shaking of a leaf—while stripped of all resources—pale with famine—and sinking in despair, the prospect of a cruel death, or a living burial, in their darksome caverns, is the only alternative that stares them in the face.

3. THUS did Israel smart under JEHOVAH's scourge—while made to eat the fruit of their doings.—Such were the wages of their deep revolts—and thus did heaven teach them how evil and how bitter a thing it is, to depart from the living God—and how surely it will be found, in the issue, that *they who follow lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*

WHAT greatly enhanced the horrors of their case, was—that the longer their night of woe continued, the darker it grew.—Seven long years the hand of Midian had lain heavy on them:—the eighth year of their ravages was now begun:—nor was there any prospect of the abatement of their fury.—The ball was at their foot. Resistance had ceased. “They came—they saw—they conquered” wherever they pleased. A very little while's continuance of their career, was all that seemed requisite to crown the expedition with complete triumph; and to let them see this unhappy nation extirpated—and all their hopes, and all their privileges, expire together.—When—Lo! The wheel of Providence instantly turns half-round—the uppermost spoke at once becomes the lowest: to the confusion of Midian—and the astonishment of all ages—before they have time to realize danger—or leisure to doubt of their own success—the bar-
ley

lay-cake from the mountains strikes their tents: their camp is broken up: their innumerable and victorious host is totally defeated—and the oppressed nation, at once, set free.

4. THE text reminds them, that this deliverance was not to be ascribed to their merits—any more than to their swords: it was altogether the work of the Lord; a work in which the finger of Omnipotence was visible to all;—and concerning it, the most stupid spectator was obliged to say, “this is the Lord’s doing, and wondrous in our eyes.” But what raised the favor of the divine interposition, on behalf of that people, to the highest, was, that by it, he declared himself to be still their God:—their’s in a covenant-relation still—notwithstanding all their sins and all their sufferings. But

5. THE omnipotence of the agent, never supercedes the use of means. God is not beholden to any instrument. Yet, in all the business of Providence, means are employed as constantly as if they were necessary. In the case in hand we see this remark eminently verified: for effecting this singular deliverance of Israel—he raised up an HEROE—chosen by himself—singularly qualified—and solemnly commissioned to sustain the arduous and important trust of their JUDGE, DICTATOR, AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

THIS eminent person was divinely inspired, first, to reform the deranged state of Israel’s affairs:—and then to command her dispirited forces—and to persevere in this great employ, maugré all the oppositions of aspiring men, until the great work was done—until the grand object in view was obtained—the forces of Midian entirely routed, and

and his country delivered from them. Yes, until perfect peace was restored—and the liberties of his people, dearer to him than life itself, were so effectually secured, that he had the pleasure of seeing them protected as long as he lived:—even for forty peaceful and happy years.

IN the accomplishment of this glorious design, the wonders of divine interposition were very many, and their resemblance to the steps by which the work of our deliverance is now completed, appears so striking—that, methinks, it would be inexcusable to overlook them on this occasion:—and therefore,

To review these steps—and to see how far they run parallel to those, for which America, this day, sends up her praises from ten thousand tongues—shall be the business of what remains to be offered to your candid attention.

It cannot fail, then, to give us pleasure to remember, that

1. WHEN the general desolation in Israel had left them without arms, or ammunition—without money, or resources for war, or sustenance—without correspondent ally, or friend; that people, were not destitute of a very general sense of their grievances—nor of a proper esteem of the value of the high privileges which the enemy was then wresting out of their hands.†

2. WHILE they groaned under their burdens—and cried to the God of their fathers for relief—though

† Judg. vi. 1—10.

they knew not by whom JACOB should arise—nor could they tell where to look for a deliverer: God himself was pleased to point out the man, whom he had chosen and fitted for the work—to invest him with sufficient authority—and call him forth to the great undertaking.

3. FAR from the ambition which would prompt some men to court so high an honor—or to grasp the nomination to office with the eagerest transports of joy—the Judge elect modestly declines the appointment—remonstrates the smallness of his tribe—the obscurity of his family—and his own inferiority in it—represents himself as the last person, of the last family, of the last tribe, from which a commander in Israel should be expected—and persists in his doubts, until such evidences of his divine commission were poured in upon him, as sufficed to silence incredulity itself.

4. ACCEPTING the command, he begins his operations with an act in open defiance of Baal—and which contained at once a public declaration of war against him and his service—a solemn appeal to heaven for the justice and necessity of taking arms—a courageous erection of JEHOVAH'S standard, and a pledging of his own altes never to desert it. *And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold the altar of Baal was cut down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the legend bullock was offered on the altar (of the Lord): then was built.—And they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.* §

REVIEWED

§ Judg. vi. 13—17. 36—40. § ver. 28, 29.

5. REVIVED with the unexpected news, that a leader appeared to take them by the hand, the scattered tribes, from north to south, remarkably united their strength under him—and all, at once flew to arms and followed his banner to the field of war.

THE government of so unweildy a body of undisciplined men—long strangers to order and unused to arms—and greatly diversified in their manners, tempers, and party-passions, was a task sufficient for the abilities of an angel: yet, supported by the promised presence of the LORD of hosts, GIDEON managed that weighty trust with a dignity that did honor to the cause he had engaged to defend.

6. To reduce this heterogeneous mass into a sound, organical body, it became necessary to discharge great numbers, as utterly unfit to pass muster; and unworthy to mingle with the armies of Israel. To manage this point so as to give no umbrage to themselves or their friends, was a matter of delicacy that required the wisdom which comes from above:—and kindly was that divine instinct applied in the crisis when he needed it most:—proclamation is made through the camp. Cowards and irregulars are dismissed the service. And, thus, the chaotic body is quickly transformed, from a lawless mob, into a regular army—an army which, disdaining an enlistment for a few bargained weeks, had nobly disclaimed any term of their service, other than what put a period to the war.

7. LIKE the folly of modern times, it was Israel's weakness, never to be able to muster great forces, without

out putting her trust in them—and never to succeed after great preparations, without vainly vaunting herself, and saying, *mine own hand hath saved me*. Hence we find, that nothing very great was done, so long as GIDEON seemed formidable for numbers. The war was Fabian, and merely defensive. No capital blow was struck, 'till his troops were diminished, from thousands to hundreds. This second reduction, leaving no more than three hundred men with the General, seemed to put him at the head of an army in miniature:—it was divinely ordered for the greater trial of GIDEON's faith—and the greater glory of that arm of the Lord, which by these means proved, that its conquests were made with equal ease, whether its instruments were many or few.

FIREd with military ardor by the great example of their Commander, this little band pushed forward to meet the enemy, with such eagerness for action, as would not suffer them to stop to refresh themselves with a full draught from the cooling stream, in the heat of the march, and of the day. Contented to catch up a few hasty drops, to give a momentary check to the rage of their thirst—they boldly advance to seize the ford and secure the pass. But never was an army so strangely equipped! Destitute of provisions, save what they carried in their knapsacks—without tents or military baggage—and even unfurnished with arms and accoutrements—a burning lamp, concealed in a sordid earthen pitcher—in the one hand—and a trumpet in the other—these were all their redoubtable apparatus for battle!—and such the motley figure of GIDEON's army, on the day in which they were destined

to engage the innumerable host of Midian, supported by auxiliaries, hired from the Amalekites, Arabians, and all the mercenary troops of the east; who formed a line, extending along the valley, like grasshoppers for multitude—while the immensity of their baggage, employed camels without number, as the sand on the shore.*

8 At the head of this goodly and promising armament, the Jewish Commander greatly forms the design of surprizing the enemy in their camp: and, with the address of a great General, he skilfully disposes his little corps, so as to make the foe conclude their mighty host completely surrounded.—Covered by the veil of night—this seeming forlorn are posted as an ambuscade for an army, to which their whole body would not suffice for out-centries:—but, the hand of the Lord was upon them for good—the stratagem was crowned with success—the camp is alarmed—the astonished soldiers start from their midnight-slumbers—all is confusion—all is terror—nor friends, nor brothers, are distinguished—distracted with fury—disdain and despair—every one falls on the first he meets—their affrighted fancy, makes every one of GIDEON'S lamps appear to be the camp-fire of a battalion—turns each of his soldiers into the trumpeter of a distinct regiment—and represents the crack of each earthen pitcher as the crashing of chariots and engines of war! while his little party, magnified by the panic of their adversaries into a formidable host—have nothing to do but stand still—cry, THE SWORD OF THE LORD!—THE SWORD OF THE LORD AND OF GIDEON! and hold the candle

* Judg. vii. 2—12

candle to let Midian see how to turn her sword into her own bowels. The rout was complete. Israel triumphed—her enemy's progress was finished. The joyful news rang through the land. The militia flew to arms—the remains of Midian betake themselves to flight—and the fatal blow is struck, by which that haughty invader is irrecoverably ruined—and oppressed Israel happily freed. †

9. ALL the glorious success of this expedition, and all the consummate Generalship with which it was conducted, could not shield the Dictator from the shafts of envy. Ephraim, the proudest and most potent of the states of Israel, impatient of an eclipse of their honor, in a national deliverance, where they had not the lead, take unwearied pains to undermine Jerubbaal—excite foreclamours and oppositions against him—fill the army with complaints of hard and injurious treatment—and secretly continue to blow the coal of sedition, 'till at last it burst out in the flames of a dangerous mutiny, which threatened at once the safety of the General, and the dissolution of the army. On this occasion, his wisdom and meekness shone out with no less lustre, than his magnanimity had done in all his former trials. Seasonably apprized of these commotions, and sensible that sedition is a weed, that can only be killed by nipping its buds—he seizes the nick of opportunity—throws himself into the midst of the insurgents, and harangues them, in a nervous oration, with such pathetic and winning eloquence, as irresistibly took hold of their hearts— instantaneously extinguished the unhallowed flame—and united

C

eyes

‡ Chap. vii. 16—23.

even these subverters of Israel's liberty, in the support of Israel's cause. §

10. NOR were the dangers of the camp and field, the only dangers which Israel's Champion had to face. The feat of the war was infested with swarms of vermine more noxious than the open foe. Succoth, a principal city—and Penuel, one of the best fortified towns on that side of Jordan, lay in his rout—thither he dispatches a party; not to maraud, or levy contributions, but with an humble request for some present refreshments for his exhausted and weary troops. But these places were inhabited by a sett of mongrel-Israelites; who, Ephraim-like, were cakes unturned, half-toasted, and half raw;—unprincipled Tories in Israel, who secretly corresponded with the enemy, and, regardless of the slavery and ruin which threatened their country, did what they durst, to weaken the hands of its great Protector:—contracted up into their sordid selves, they declined the trouble of plucking their indolent and traitorous hands out of their bosoms, to lend the least assistance to the sinking public—some, doubtless, buoyed with the hopes of soon falling in heir to the estates of their neighbours, when Gideon's rebellion should be crushed by the invincible power of Midian's kings—others, puffed with secret assurances of some high and lucrative posts in the government, which would quickly enable them to ride on the backs of their enslaved brethren:—all confident that Midian must conquer—and the coolest, halting between two opinions—resolved to act the PRUDENT part---to be Jack of both

§ *Chap. viii. 1—4.*

both sides---and lie on their oars, until they were sure of not missing the side, on which victory should declare. ---Hence, their country must not look to them for help, though she trembles on the brink of ruin---their aids must be reserved for those to whom their hearts are bidding GOD-SPEED---but GIDEON's army, fatigued with marching, and fainting with hunger, cannot obtain a morsel of bread from the hoarded stores of these perfidious wretches---they beg unrelieved, and may starve unpitied, at the doors of the faithful and dutiful loyalists, who mean to rise on their country's fall. ||

II. CONVINCED that of all sorts of enemies, these traitorous inmates were the most dangerous—and fully persuaded that the public safety was incompatible with their continuing to enjoy the privileges which they sought to betray—the general resolves that the events which concluded the war with Midian, should not give peace to the intestine suckers of his country's blood. Sentence is immediately pronounced against them in general orders. The Dictator however, determines not to proceed to the execution of martial law, against secret conspirators, while he has so many open enemies yet on his hands; he prudently defers the punishment, though the cause is decided.-- But when the day arrived in which the invasion was finally repelled—and Israel's liberty and independence fully secured—then to complete the great work he began—he calmly goes on to treat with the loyalists as to law, and justice did appertain: he inflicts the doom denounced—in a way that might serve to warn others against similar practices—and to teach themselves the nature of their crime

|| Chap. viii. 4—5.

crime and the risque they had run in it:—he denied them any share in the fruits of his labors—who had denied themselves any share in the pains and dangers he underwent in planting them—he demolished their fortrefs—cut them off from all shelter in it—and finally to disable them from repeating their dangerous practices—*he sends them for correction, to the briers and thorns of a dreary desert.* †

12. THE heroes most valiant in times of danger, are ever most modest in the day of triumph. Never was there an example of both these qualities, more conspicuous, than that before us: crowned with the blessings of his rescued country—and loaded with laurels, well earned from its foes—he greatly renounces all claims of honor—and ascribes to his foldiers (next to his God) the whole glory of his signal victories. “What have I done now in comparison of you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim—better than the vintage of Abiezer? God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian.” Such was the language of Israel’s General, returning victorious over his country’s oppressors. Nor was his conduct less heroic at the close of the war:—two mighty chiefs had fallen before him—and two captive kings had graced his triumph—his country, freed by his means, from the hand of her enemies, in the excess of joy, turns her eyes to the endeared instrument of her deliverance—and in the ebullitions of her gratitude, the flood of her passions, like that of England on the return of Charles the II. overflowed the banks of prudence. By the unanimous suffrage of the nation, GIBSON is invited to ascend a throne:

† Chap. viii. 4—17.

throne: they are ready to receive him as Monarch in Israel:—and offer to settle the crown upon his issue, male, as their hereditary property in lineal succession: and thus they consent tamely to surrender to their General, those precious liberties with which heaven had made them free—and even entreat him to trample with his feet on those rights of his country, he had so gloriously protected with his hands:—But, behold the patriotic greatness of soul, with which he stems the popular torrent. He positively refuses the unadvised present—earnestly corrects the mistaken zeal from which it sprang—and solemnly reminds them of an eternal maxim of truth, which no change of circumstances can justify any nation in forgetting—viz. that the reins of kingly authority become no other hands than those of the all-perfect Sovereign of the universe. *I will not reign over you—neither shall my Son—the LORD alone shall reign: he alone is worthy to sway an absolute scepter*:—he only is fit to sit Monarch on a throne—before him only every knee should bow—at his feet should scepter'd mortals cast their crowns—there should they lay them down—to resume and wear them no more for ever—and he who refuses this rightful homage to the only Supreme, deserves to be treated as a tyrant among men, and a rebel against God.

DECLINING the sovereignty, for which no man in Israel was better qualified—-he refuses rewards which none ever did better deserve. He accepts no pay for his laborious services—nor any pension to himself or family, for all the essential kindnesses he had rendered to his country:—the Jewish Cincinnatus greatly retires to his farm—leaving the public his debtors, for more than ever any nation was rich enough to pay:—and while he withdraws from
the

the command, he doubles the obligations of his country, by the affectionate manner in which he takes his leave—engaging the continuance of his best aids to the state in any capacity of civil life—but obtesting them to take the LORD alone for king :—and dutifully to behave themselves as his subjects.

13. IT must be manifest to every candid reader of his life, that the character of this Jewish chief was distinguished for genuine piety and zeal for religion, no less than for the love of liberty and abilities for command. A solemn act of devotion began his public life : and strong marks of habitual communion with his God, graced every important step he took in it. Nor was he disposed to give his enemies any colour to suggest that his seeming zeal was only varnish for his ambition ;—and that, laying down his commission, he meant to drop his piety also.

In opposition to this, he resigns the command with a public testimony in favor of religion :—and avows the purpose of devoting his future days to encourage his people to the service of God : and, for that end, to give it the most honorable support in his own place. But here a difficulty rises and obstructs his way—he finds the ark at Shiloh sunk into neglect—and the rites of the tabernacle long gone to decay :—the presence and authority of a prophet of the LORD seemed alike necessary for receiving the instituted service there, or for the removal of that sacred symbol of the divine presence to any other place. There was an apparent fitness, on the close of the war, that a monument of God's wondrous works should be set up on the memorable spot where these works began, (that is), at the place where he himself had at first, erect-
ed

ed the LORD's altar---and destroyed the utensils of the idolatrous worship of Baal. Nor was it less proper that this office of gratitude should be devolved on the man whom heaven had honored as the instrument of the works to be commemorated. Conscious of authority from the special mandate of JEHOVAH, not only for building an altar there—but also for offering sacrifice on it ;—and having received no new orders for its demolition, he is led to conclude that, on that very spot, his GOD requires him to worship still.—But if he must be worshipped there—it was natural to infer that, there he will be consulted too. To carry on this solemn work, an EPHOD, was not less requisite here, than at Shiloh. This, however, was a matter of expence ill-suited to the circumstances of a man who, though placed at the head of a numerous family, had exhausted his substance in the public service, without fee or reward. Moreover, it was peculiarly fit, that the erection of this monument should come under the notion of a public act of the nation it was designed to serve. It took its rise from a glorious victory, by which the LORD had put into their hands a potent enemy, and an ample booty—it therefore appeared highly expedient that the whole apparatus of the designed worship should spring out of the dedicated spoils. In this view of the matter he requests of his people the dedication of the ear-rings of their vanquished enemies, in token of their gratitude to God for putting them thus into their hands—this was a tribute which Israel was easily persuaded to pay—it was cheerfully laid at Gideon's feet—and with it he made the Ephod at Ophrah.

HEREBY did this great man give proof of imperfection sufficient to keep him from being exalted above measure :
—thus

—thus did he countenance his people's forsaking the worship which God had appointed, and encourage their deserting the place which he had chosen! And, in its stead, he set up a course of rites entirely uninstituted—a worship merely of human invention—and this attended with a priesthood—hierarchy—and a heap of ceremonies *which the Lord commanded not, neither came it into his heart,*

WHILE we lament, in a person of so much eminence, a deviation which left an indelible blot on a character otherwise justly ranked among the most illustrious that antiquity affords—we presume not to doubt but that all these incautious steps were taken by Gideon in the simplicity of his heart—and in a hasty zeal for the service of God; to whom all the worship of which this was the means, was, on his part, honestly meant to be paid.—But, see the insufficiency of man's wisdom to direct in matters of religion! Behold the danger of stepping one inch aside from the rule divinely inspired! This device soon became to the nation of Israel, the woful engine of spiritual whoredom. The honor, hereby designed to the Deity, was gradually alienated from the true God and stupidly lavished on senseless idols. And, thus, in the natural course of things, the Ephod at Ophrah became the inlet to a general forgetfulness of JEHOVAH, and a national apostacy from his worship; and in the issue, it proved the source of total ruin to Gideon's house—and utter desolation to great part of the land.

THE readiness with which Israel fell into this snare, was a melancholy proof of their ingratitude to God.—And the inhumanity of the massacre of Gideon's sons—
together

together with the national sanction given to that horrible deed, by rewarding, with the throne of Israel, the unnatural murderer—the base-born son of GIDEON'S hand-maid—and only stain of his honorable house—completes the evidence of that ingratitude to man, which never fails to accompany a spirit of unthankfulness to the God that is above—and shews with what justice that people are charged, in the text, as *not shewing kindness to the house of Jerubbabai*.

THIS awful catastrophe may be considered as the judgment of heaven, righteously falling on Gideon's house to punish the idolatry it had occasioned:—but the ingratitude of Israel therein displayed, was soon followed by that nation's reduction to the state of vassalage, under the tyranny of the parricide Abimelech—who insolently waded, through the innocent blood of seventy brothers more worthy than himself, to that very throne which his venerable father refused to ascend, when his way to it was opened by his country's unanimous call:

BUT the honor of insulted heaven was soon avenged of this monster. The merited fate of usurping parricides, quickly fell to Abimelech's share---the divine Nemesis pursued him unseen---destruction trod close on the heels of his elevation: like satan, the father of usurping tyrants,--when he fell, he fell not alone;--the ruin of his country, involved in his own, was the chief thing that rendered his ignominious fall, the theme of lamentation to the wise and good.

AMONG all the recorded examples of human wickedness—and of the vanity of that sort of greatness which it
D
procures---

procures—very few are to be found more fitted to afford both instruction and warning to AMERICA, at the present day. These things have been written for generations to come---they happened for our ensamples---they were recorded for our learning---and nothing but stupidity of the first rate, can pass them unobserved. Every step by which Abimelech rose to Israel's throne, seems to have been carefully marked, for the same purposes as beacons are lighted—to notify approaching dangers—and tell the public when it is time to take the alarm.—First he cajoles a party among his kindred and intimate friends—by secretly impeaching GIDEON's innocent family of dark and treasonable designs against the public liberties—after thus bringing under suspicion the persons to whom the administration of public affairs did most naturally fall—he next, sets himself to sap the foundation of the constitution—insinuating, that its republican form, was nerveless and unstable--ever liable to convulsions from the caprice of parties--and ill-fitted to repel a foreign invader—adding moreover, that of all sorts of government, it was the most oppressive—being in reality the tyranny of a multitude—and appealing to themselves, whether a CONGRESS of seventy rulers conspiring together to fleece and enslave the people, was not seventy times as intolerable, as the administration of a single Monarch.—Then he artfully addresses himself to their ambition and avarice—scattering the golden apples so thick in their way—that, on his elevation to the regal dignity, nothing seemed to be wanting, but to pick them up—their city would become the seat of his court—their selves the minions of royal favor—the highest honors and most lucrative posts were reserved for them—and while they should bask in the rays of smiling majesty—the wealth of
the

the nation should be at their command—having thus secretly strengthened his party—and secured them to himself by mutual vows—the plot was ripe for execution—nothing was wanting to carry his point, but a present supply of men and money : bars of this nature are easily removed in a country swarming with profligates :—Abimelech found little difficulty in filling his enlistments with a banditti of ruffians, fit for his purpose : this done, his next step was to seize on the public treasury—not sparing even the offerings devoted to the temple of his God :—and now, emboldened by the resources thus acquired—and his coffers filled with a booty which, though sacrilegiously obtained, never fails to make many friends—he throws off the mask—suddenly apprehends—and inhumanly cuts off, at one stroke—and as if by a shew of public justice, the seventy fathers of the country—the long and avowed guardians of those liberties, which GIDEON had vindicated with the risque of his life :—the most dangerous obstacle was now removed—nothing remained in the way of his ambition—his party gathers strength by every new outrage it commits—and flames with zeal to promote his service—while the rest of the nation, lost to sensibility—and lost to principle, sleep on careless and secure—and are led as oxen to the slaughter, tame and unconcerned, though a traitor and parricide mounts the throne.

HERE let us pause—and reflect—how striking a display this, of the track, by which tyrants rise to rule—and nations fall under them ! How awakening a hint too of the just and ordinary course, which Providence takes to punish national ingratitude, and abuse of mercy !

BUT

BUT reason refuses to stop its inquiries at this stage of the history: we have seen in Israel, a notable revolution, in favor of monarchy—we have seen a tyrant settled over that nation—and an absolute scepter placed in his hand*—let us now turn the leaf—and for a moment pursue the consequences.—When the bramble has found the trees of the forest bending beneath it, and putting their trust in its shadow—we shall soon perceive it, trying its power on its new subjects—fire shall, e'er long, come out of the bramble, that shall devour the cedars of Lebanon. §—Soon did the new Monarch convince them, that absolute kings have no law but their will—and that the description of regal manners, given by the prophet, was not designed for Saul alone. † The new-fangled multitude is soon tired of its choice: and the Prince has scarcely got warm in his seat, till the stream of vengeance is poured reciprocally on the heads of his subjects, and on his own:—in the short term of three years, his most zealous friends are become his bitterest foes—the principal hands that lifted him to a throne—are now combined to tumble him thence—the same voices which lately shouted, *O king, live forever!* now fill the air with curses against the tyrant, and the woful day of his coronation. The trumpet of revolt is blown—the bond of allegiance renounced—and the flag of defiance hoisted!

BEHOLD, on the other hand, the cruel revenge Abimelech takes on his people, for an offence, the most unpardonable in a tyrant's esteem—an offence which no usurper ever forgave—for daring to regret the loss of their freedom!—His native city is laid in ruins—its walls beat
down---

* *Judg.* ix. 1—6. § *ver.* 15. † *1. Sam.* viii. 10—18.

down—their foundations rased—the ground it stood on, torn up with the plough—and sowed with salt, to seal it up for a perpetual desolation :—its miserable inhabitants, of every description, so lately distinguished as his kindred—his partizans—the confederates in all his plots of wickedness—and the chief instruments of his advancement—are now marked out as the first objects of his fury—all are sacrificed to the ROYAL resentment—the hoary scalp is clotted with gore!—the shrieks of helpless mothers, and the cries of innocent babes, are alike unavailing, to shield them from the common slaughter.

NOR can all this havoc glut a tyrant's rage ; the rest of the land must share in the fate of the ruined capital :—no sooner is the dreadful work finished at Shechem, than the incensed conqueror carries fire and sword through all the neighbourhood—determined at once to crush the last seed of the tree of liberty—and to prevent all future rebellions, by teaching the world, what they must expect, who dare to dispute a Monarch's pleasure : he storms Thebez—enters the city sword in hand—and refusing quarter to its vanquished citizens—he deals destruction wherever he comes : the distressed remains of that people fly to the tower—thither he pursues them like a staunch blood-hound—advances to the gate—and with his own hand, plants the faggot that he hopes will lay the fort in ashes, and make all within it drink of the same cup, which the ROYAL BOUNTY had lately put into Shechem's hand.—But, in the midst of his career of success and victory—heaven thunders ! The voice is heard—hitherto hast thou come—but no further !—A stone dropt from a female hand—in a moment shifts the scene—the tyrant

rant falls! a sudden, violent, and shameful death, by the hands of a woman, brings him to the deserved reward of his work!

AND, is this the happiness with which usurpers and their people live and die? How important, then, the lesson read by these events:—and how necessary that every nation, in every age, should give the most heedful attention to it!—All, all conspire to teach us how little good these men shall gain, who, to advance a party, or promote an ambitious tyrant, have not scrupled to ruin a nation:—how unstable the friendships which are founded in a communion of crimes! The nearer friends such men have been, the more dangerous foes they soon become: a single affront to an ungrateful mind—in however frivolous a matter it is offered or taken, is enough to obliterate the memory of ten thousand services, of the most important and essential nature! Here too we see that there is no revenge like the revenge of tyrants, when disappointed or displeased—and that, in their best seasons, it is utterly impossible for men of that class, to make their best friends happy—or themselves easy or safe: and how loudly does this sacred passage proclaim the utter uncertainty of the success of prosperous usurpers—the disgraceful nature of all their glories, and the absolute certainty of their fall—a fall, than which none can be conceived more ignominious and wretched: hated, they rose—despised, they reign—and unlamented, they sink and perish.

BUT whilst the history now reviewed exhibits, as in a lively mirror, the evil of national ingratitude to God; it reminds us, in the mean time, that nothing more fully

ly proves this guilt, than forgetting the favors conferred by him : nor can forgetfulness of the divine DELIVERER be more sadly evidenced, than by slights, neglects, and deliberate injuries, offered to the special instruments he was pleased to employ in effecting the deliverance wrought : these injuries are not less aggravated, when committed against their memories or households, when themselves are no more—than if the insult had been personal during their lives : and of this sort, no UNKINDNESS can be more pointed and gross—than that, by which the delivered nation, meanly surrenders the liberties, which their heroes had so dearly bought—barters away the privileges, which they have defended at the price of their blood—or rashly consents to overturn the establishments, their wisdom had planned, and their valour procured.

It is not, however, to be overlooked, that the strain of the text aims to represent this ingratitude, as specially aggravated by such considerations as these, viz.—1st. its being found in the posterity of Israel ; 2d. committed not only against human benefactors—but even when unkindness is offered to them, the crime is considered as levelled directly against GOD himself : 3d. and that even in the relation of THEIR GOD—superadded to the character of the GOD of their fathers : and finally by its being perpetrated at a juncture, when gratitude was most eminently called for at their hands—-even after he had delivered them from all their enemies on every side : and the dismal consequence which we find ensuing on their heinous crime in the case before us, may well assure us, that in a national sin thus deeply dyed, are sown the seeds of national slavery and public ruin—and to conclude the
review,

review, that the harvest of woe, in which these bitter fruits must be reaped and tasted---is near---very near--- is then even at the door.

ought not then so affecting an example, to be held up in the most public manner, to the view of all the nations on earth? Ought not all ages to keep it in eye, that being deterred from the crime, they may be so happy, as to escape its fatal punishment? And if that end be answered by the present discourse---it will be my apology for the freedom with which it is laid before you on this occasion. And does it not, in almost every part, address our country more pointedly, than any other under the sun? Pause, my hearers, review the several parts of this sacred story; and say, does it not seem to be written for an history of the American war---only allowing for the change of names---places---and times? Are not we the children of Israel too---a professing covenant-people; in a land peculiarly privileged with gospel-light? Have we not also been invaded by unnatural kindred---uninjured---and unprovoked? Have not these Midianites hired for this work numberless Amalekites, from Hesse---Hannau---Brunswick---Hanover; and all the mercenary troops they could procure from the EASTERN continent? In addition to these, have they not strengthened their hands with great multitudes of good and faithful allies; from among their dear brethren, the savages of this land? L---and joined to the rest, their disinterested friends, the children of Æthiopia; long fed at our own tables, and nursed up in our own families?---Supported by these worthy auxiliaries, have they not invaded our naked and defenceless country, with forces as numberless as grasshoppers

pass in the vallies---with more than 300,000 men *---
thousands of ships, of different kinds--and warlike stores
without calculation ?

LIKE Israel, we have seen our cities besieged--our sea-
ports blocked up---our fortresses reduced--the capital
of every state where they came, we have seen fall before
the hostile invaders :--the inhabitants held in duress, or
compelled to flee, to the caves of the mountains---and
seek an asylum in the remote wilderness :---like them,
too, we have been stripped by our enemies, of every
moveable property that fell in their way---pillaged of eve-
ry convenience---plundered of every necessary of life, on
which the foe could lay their hands---of the fruits of
our labors---and the produce of our fields---our flocks
carried off---our herds butchered---our houses rifled---and
many of them burnt---nor have they spared the last mor-
sel provided for the orphan's mouth---nor the last shift
for the widow's back !---Yes, to the immortal honor of
our humane enemies---we have seen the most brutal rapes
of mothers---wives---and daughters, crown the success
of plundering heroes---and the basest murder of the
unhappy victims; finish the scene !---We have seen the
aged and infirm slaughtered in cold blood---the innocent
babe clasped in a dying mother's arms, yielding up its last
breath to the conqueror's force ! We have seen Indian
savages, let loose by British commanders on our brethren,
when they had surrendered---and been disarmed---and
(can humanity support itself to hear the horrid tale)---

By the Hon. the Members of the House of Commons, in the Year 1775, 1776, 1777, and 1778, the

By the Journals of the house of Commons, it appears
that in the Years 1775, 1776, 1777, and 1778, the
numbers of men voted, amounted to 314918.

Britons stand by, and enjoy the scene, while the lawless sons of the forest, scalp and torture them—tear out their hearts—drink their blood—and dance around the mangled heaps of human flesh!—We have seen officers of high rank, refuse quarter, and putting to the bayonet, a surprized militia, throwing down their arms and begging their lives. §—We have seen sixteen fair towns, wantonly laid in ashes, and many more partly destroyed—seven colleges demolished or broken up—some hundreds of churches ruined—defaced—and profaned—the worships for which they were reared—made the subject of open ridicule, and the great JEHOVAH, to whom they were dedicated, publicly defied in his own temples: we have seen thousands of our ships, of various sorts, taken or burnt—many fortunes lost in them, and many wealthy owners ruined—and, to add no more to so dreadful a list of spectacles of horror—we have seen fifteen sieges—thirty-three important battles—and bloody skirmishes without number—and in the issue, we sorrowfully mourn the severe—the never-to-be-forgotten loss of twelve brave GENERALS—hundreds of excellent officers, and how many gallant soldiers, my heart bleeds to recount!—How many thousands of our free-born citizens have fallen victims to the barbarity of British goals! Eleven thousand six hundred and forty-four perished in the plague-rooms of their single prison-ship, called the JERSEY—in the harbor of New-York—and many thousands more, in other factitious tophets of the same kind!

WE have seen a British Protestant Prince—plumed with the possession of a fleet, that rode Empress of the
Malta

§ General Gray—and Col. Mawhood.

Main—priding himself in an army, able to give law to the world—establishing popery, in one part of his dominions; that he might thereby, secure its aid in the glorious work of massacring his harmless protestant subjects in another—while the world has been astonished at the generous magnanimity of a Popish Monarch, frowning indignant on the unnatural scheme—greatly rising to oppose it—taking the oppressed by the hand, when crushed and sinking under the weight of their woes—joining his forces to theirs—nobly expending the treasure and blood of his kingdom in their defence—and pledging himself never to sheath the sword; till the haughty oppressor was thoroughly humbled, and the injured sufferers finally freed from his power!—If history neglects not to fix a note of censure on the name of the Emperor Domitian—for spending whole days earnestly engaged in killing flies with a bodkin—we may venture to presage with what veneration and applause, future ages will consider a British Monarch fitting out powerful armaments, and employing them, whole weeks, in important expeditions against desolate islands—and crowning, with laurels, the flower of his troops; for glorious victories obtained over prodigious hay-stacks, and formidable piles of fire-wood: for the heroism with which they acquitted themselves, in the execution of his royal commands, in the bombardment of naked villages, inhabited chiefly by women and children—or for the military abilities they displayed in bloody campaigns against lawless and ungovernable flocks of sheep! How will generations unborn, heap their honors on the memory of that mighty potentate; who, failing in the use of his arms, greatly descended to the arts of deceit—flattery and falsehood, that no mean might

might be left untried, for promoting the public good? What eulogies shall annually crown the name of that Monarch, whose zeal for the happiness of his realm nobly stooped to lavish great part of the national treasures, as bribes to debauch the hearts of some of his subjects; that they might traitorously betray and effectually murder the rest?

SEVEN long and painful years have rolled over our heads—while scenes, like these, afflicted our eyes:—for these our harps were hung on willows—and our tongues indulged to plaintive strains:—but, blessed be the GOD OF PEACE, who delivered Israel in the eighth year of Midian's oppression; for in the eighth of our sorrows, he arose for our deliverance also!

LET us, then, turn our eyes to that more pleasing theme. And who can reflect on the great instrument of Israel's freedom—and the steps of its accomplishment; and not see the picture of our own case? Like them, we were blessed with a GIDEON too—divinely raised, and singularly qualified to tread in the steps of his renowned predecessor: the special direction of heaven pointed to the man:—the votes of Congress were unanimous:—his country's call was loud, as its need was extreme.—Though firmly resolved to devote his life to the service of his country—he accepted the rank of Commander in Chief, in a manner in which dignity and delicacy—real patriotism, and modest diffidence in himself, struggled for the mastery:§ On his arrival in the camp, he begins
his

§ *The speech made by him when the President of Congress informed him of his being chosen, deserves perpetual*

his operations with a solemn declaration of the cause of taking arms—an act of public homage to the Lord of hosts, and an appeal to him as the Arbiter of war.—Under his auspices, the people of the most distant provinces—hitherto separated by diversity of local prejudices, interests, and manners, were wonderfully consolidated into one body, and became an united band of brothers;—they flocked to his standard by thousands—his camp was filled with men.—But they were a multitude, not an army—until arranged by him, with a skill, similar to that which organized the troops of Israel. Wisdom, conscience, and love to his country, obliged him to keep within the defensive line of conduct:—Hence, to persons less judicious, the war seemed Fabian and dilatory:—and hence, too, occasion was taken by restless and aspiring Genii, in the EPHRAIM of this country—to mutter in the corner—and to plot in the dark:—and, it were

petual remembrance:—“Though I am truly sensible of the high honor done me in this appointment; yet, I feel great distress from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust: however, as Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty; and exert every power I possess in the service, and for support of the glorious cause. I beg they will accept my most cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation.—But lest some unlucky event should happen, unfavourable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every Gentleman in the room, that I this day declare, with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with.—As to pay, Sir, I beg leave to assure Congress, that as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment, at the expence of my domestic ease and happiness: so I do not wish to make any profit from it; I will keep an exact account of my expences: those I doubt not they will discharge, and that is all I desire.”

to be wished, that of this kind of leaves, our councils and armies had been perfectly cleared.

LIKE GIDEON, he has had the pain to behold his army, for a long time, straitened for want of every resource of provision—of ammunition—of cloathing and of arms, while himself was sharing no kinder fate—like him, too, he has often seen the day, when nothing but the mildness and patience—the tenderness and affection, with which he addressed his soldiers—and their cordial love and veneration for his person, could have prevented his army from crumbling to pieces!—How have secret incendiaries been confounded to find, that his eagle-eye had penetrated their darkest designs, before they were able to bring them to pass—and the common foe astonished to see their devices counterplotted, as soon as they were framed! The confusion of the British Babel—in the detection and defeat of their GUN-POWDER-PLOT at West-Point;—and the measures which placed Andre on a gallows, and Arnold at the elbow of the British throne, will not be forgotten while the name of AMERICA is known in the world: but the ability with which the modern JERUBBAAL defied the public danger on a late threatening occasion—entered the assembly, where there was no reason to doubt the plotters would be found—addressed his very respectable audience—and extinguished the latent sparks of sedition: this will be written on the heart of every lover of the honor of the American Army—as long as such a heart is warm with life.

WHAT distressing circumstance have we seen about Israel's little force, that does not bring to view; something

thing which really attended our own? Can we read the story of the three hundred surprizing Midian—and not call up to view, the memorable night †—in which the AMERICAN GIDEON, with scarce that number of men, equally destitute of every military advantage, beat up the enemy's quarters at Trenton—when a truly Midianitish pannic turned every fire he had left behind him, into an ideal encampment—and tied the hands of their mighty men—until he had made his way to Princeton—routed another body of their troops—stopt the career of his enemy's conquests—entirely turned the tide of war—and held the terrified army of Britain, cooped up in Brunfwick, till the canavs of their fleet found them wings for flight?

WHEN we see OREB and ZEEB, those heroes of Midian, fall before a detachment of the militia of Ephraim, who, dispatched by GIDEON, on that service,—had seized the passes of the rivers Bethabara and Jordan—and so cut off the retreat of those chiefs;—can we avoid the recollection of BURGOYNS and REIDZEL, at Saratoga?—when, their progress being checked by the loss at Bennington ||—and their way made impassable, by the skilful dispositions and masterly exertions of the accomplished General GATES,—who had effectually broken their force—and defeated them, in the decisive rencounters at Still-Water †—and Bemisoth-Heights §—these haughty and victorious commanders met a similar overthrow; ¶—their retreat to CANADA, being effectually cut off by a body of New-England militia, who had seized

† December 25, 1776. || Aug. 16, 1777.

‡ Sept. 19. § Oct. 7. ¶ Oct. 17.

seized the passes on the Hudson; under the command of the brave, the cool, the sagacious LINCOLN; in whom the skilful General—the able politician—and the disinterested patriot, are singularly combined.

Do we contemplate GIDEON's speedy and unexpected march, in pursuit of ZEB and ZALMUNNA—the suddenness with which he comes upon them—the security in which he finds them—and the ease wherewith he obtains a complete victory—and returns with those insolent chiefs, as humbled prisoners, attending in his train—chiefs, who had lately massacred his brethren in cold blood; when they unhappily fell into their hands? and can we forbear applying the description to the well-known address, with which the AMERICAN Commander quitted his camp—and, by a manœuvrę of consummate Generalship, had completed his march to Virginia—and was found at the doors of the British strong hold, at York-Town; before the vigilance of his enemy was able to penetrate into the design of his movement? Can we avoid perceiving the admirable correspondence between the case of the invaders of Israel, in the story before us—and the humiliating circumstances with which CORNWALLIS and KNYPHAUSEN—the haughty conquerors of the Carolinas—who had murdered a HAYNES, and many more of our unhappy brethren, at Charlestown—are, at last, brought themselves to wear the captive's chain? §

Who can reflect on the state of the fugitive armies of Midian and her allies—the captives made from among them—the slaughters they suffered—the immense treas-

ures—

§ OS. 19, 1781.

tures, equipage and stores they lost—the disgrace wherein their powerful armies laid down their warlike weapons ; —with which, too, their supercilious leaders, surrendered themselves prisoners of war—and the total ruin that was finally hurled on all their expeditions, and all their projects ; and not see, in them all, a lively picture of British confusion, disappointment and woe ?

WHILE AMERICA, on this retrospect, has good cause to prostrate herself at the feet of the LORD her GOD—and, overwhelmed with a grateful sense of his favors, to ascribe to him ALONE, the glory of her deliverance from so formidable a foe ; may we not hope, that ages to come will profit, by the instructive lesson taught them, in the gains by which Britain is rewarded for a lawless invasion of the rights of mankind—from which she had not wisdom enough to recede, until she smarted in the loss of some of her ablest Generals slain—and others disgracefully recalled—hundreds of her best officers fallen—nearly 100,000 men,—more than eleven hundred sail of their shipping—above one hundred and fifty millions sterling—and what was more than all, the possession and territory of thirteen large and populous provinces—full of provisions, and the most valuable branches of the British trade. *

F

CAN

* Mr. Secretary Pitt assured the House of Commons, on February 17, 1783, that the first five years of the American war had cost England five millions more than all the wars of the last age—Indeed, before Christmas, 1779, it had cost £ 47,437,500—The enormous expence of the whole war will not appear incredible, when it is remembered, that every year greatly exceeded the calculation made when the supplies were asked—and that the single campaign of 1782 was estimated at 30 millions sterling, even when the minister had nothing
but

CAN any looking-glass, more truly shew the faces of the American tories, than the temper and conduct of the men of Succoth and Penuel? Nor is it possible, more exactly to represent the manner of GIDEON's deferring the punishment of these men, till the war was ended—the different degrees of correction he then administered to them, in proportion to the different degrees of their guilt—or the very instruments used in inflicting the public sentence, pronounced against them—than in the several circumstances attending the present banishment of these traitors from this country; to be TAUGHT by the THORNS AND BRIARS OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

HITHERTO, the resemblance we have traced, is striking in every feature; and the application unavoidable.—
Like

but subscriptions to rely on for raising it.—The numbers of men lost to the nation, as hinted above, will not surprize us, if we reflect that, by authentic returns, it appears that, on the 24th of June 1780, the troops in British pay were not fewer than 142,000.—And especially if we consider that by the returns laid before parliament, by Lord Lisburne, the Navy-Office avowed that, from Sept. 29, 1777, to Jan. 23, 1781, England had raised 175,900 Seamen for Government-service; and that of them, in that term, 18,545 died—1243 were owned to be killed, and 42069 deserted—and the War-Office confessed that, from Sept. 20, 1774, to Sept. 29th, 1780, they had raised 76,885 land troops; of which, in that time, 10012 died—8629 were taken—3801 deserted—and 3885 were discharged unfit for service.—When to this are added the numbers of recruits annually sent over to fill up vacancies in the regiments here, the reality must very far exceed the estimate.—Of these we may judge by the list of recruits for the three years following sc. anno 1778—3774—anno 1779, 6871—anno 1780, 10,236.

Like Israel's Dictator, the AMERICAN GIDEON JOSE—
like him he conquered—and like him too, he retires.

THE crown and sceptre, 'tis true, have not been tendered to him. The idea of a human monarchy is too absurd in itself—too inconsistent with the liberties essential to human, and to social happiness—and too incompatible with the diversity of climes—educations—and manners in this confederate nation, ever to be reconcilable to the feelings of free-born and sensible Americans.

NEVER, I trust, never shall this bright Luminary of the heavens, rise on this country, to lend its light to that day, wherein its free, REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTIONS shall be exchanged for a dangerous Aristocracy—or for a regal tyranny still more unsufferable! No! May the traitor, who shall ever dare to attempt to rebuild that idolatrous Jericho, in this land, receive the reward which Joshua once adjudged—*may he lay its foundations in his first-born, and in his youngest son, may he set up its gates!*

EVERY honor which a grateful people can confer—without sacrificing the liberties, which he has so illustriously defended, a grateful people will readily lay at the feet of that hero—and his head is more graced by well-earned laurels that never shall fade, than it could be by the most sparkling diadem which ever adorned a monarch's brow. Thoroughly does the heart of our GIDEON feel the wide differences between the title of HIS COUNTRY'S DELIVERER, and that of his country's LORD AND MASTER: and no man is a better judge, which of these titles he ought to prefer:—had his countrymen

copied the weakness of Israel—and rashly invited him to a throne ;—his past conduct affords unequivocal proof, that the offer would have met the deserved repulse—*I will not rule over you ;—neither shall my son rule over you :—the LORD alone shall be king of AMERICA.* Had he been ambitious of royalty, he was not ignorant, that the same means of elevation were in his hand, by which SYLLA became perpetual Dictator in ROME—by which Cæsar rose to the imperial purple there—by which THRASYBULUS triumphed over the liberties of his native ATHENS—and by which CROMWELL rendered himself absolute in BRITAIN.

BUT, from the base examples of tyrants he turns his eyes indignant :—happy in serving his country, he wishes not to master it.—As JERUBBAAL, when his work was done, returned to his native city—behold the AMERICAN CINCINNATUS greatly retiring to his beloved privacy ! That bosom must have been long estranged to every ingenuous feeling—which glows not with the patriot-fire— which expands not with the heroic sentiments breathed forth in his last general orders—orders which will be written on his soldier's hearts, and deserve to be written every where in letters of gold !—We cannot suppress the emotions of nature, arising from the struggle of generous, yet contending passions ; while we witness the tender—the paternal affections with which that great man, there, takes a LAST EMBRACE of a gallant and meritorious army, which he ever considered as his household—which he ever loved as his OWN SONS.

BUT here let the parallel cease, May no future event ever warrant the pulpit or press to trace the similitude any farther. May Guardian-Heaven kindly preserve him from

From any unexpected step, in the private walks of life, that might tend to sully the fair and unrivalled honor, with which he has, so long, sustained the most arduous station that can be found in the whole compass of public character! But why should we distrust the care of our **GIDEON'S GOD** now, when it has been seen so eminently to uphold him in all the past, more trying scenes—inso-much that British gold could not corrupt him—nor British artifice inveigle—nor British stratagems captivate—nor British weapons wound or destroy!

WHAT, though envy spit her venom at the **EQUESTRIAN STATUE**? It is decreed him by his country. In it her voice is as united, as it was in his call to her defence. Nor is there a heart friendly to the liberties of this country, and honestly rejoicing in its deliverance, which does not in its own sphere, cheerfully give its suffrage for this mark of public gratitude—conscious, at the same time, that it is but a pepper-corn confession of a debt, which statues of gold were unable to repay.—Does **SUCOTM** plead that such honors have been rarely conferred on living heroes? We answer, as rarely have they been thus deserved. In vain do they tell us of a **PERICLES**—of a **CORIOLANUS**, and a **MANLIUS CAPITOLINUS**—the comparison is invidious!—his principles have been long tried with the touch-stone—his country has proved their purity—and they need not now dread the assay.—Nor is there any danger of this monument, sometime becoming an **EPHOD**. As little countenance, could it receive from its great original, should it ever be perverted into the standard of sedition; as if it were profaned as a sanctuary, for impiety and vice.

It is true, he is still but man—but man in a state of imperfection. Such a creature is insufficient to uphold itself, one moment. Nor will he cease to be surrounded with peculiar snares, while his abode among mortals continues; of this, we trust, he will be ever aware.— Should ennobling titles—and dazzling dignities be heaped on him, by the hand of a magnanimous and generous Prince, who has long been sensible of his merits—and at the same time, should warm solicitations, beset him for exclusive privileges, or peculiar powers to an American Episcopate—or even for his patronage to the national religion of France—we know how sacred his regards for the just liberty of conscience—and the equal rights of men:—we fear not his suffering those regards ever to decay,—but, surely, it ought to be the constant prayer of every American, to the unchanging Guardian of Israel's weal, that our JERUBBAAL may be preserved from ever giving a wrong touch to the LORD's ark: nor suffered, in any instance, to degrade his influence by once lending it to the support of error—to the establishing, in this country, a religion which has ever been found dangerous to the liberty of Protestant-States—or to the giving one denomination of christians, an undue ascendancy; which might, one day, be able to subvert the equal freedom of all,——this is the least tribute, that his past services deserve---and it is the least which the gratitude of every lover of religion and of his country would wish to pay,---and, whilst cultivating such a temper, it may be presumed, that the public conduct will not fail to shew, that the inhabitants of this enlightened land, have not so learned CHRIST; as to follow, into snares like these; if ever they should be so unhappy as
to

to see the examples of the greatest among them, pointing the way.

On the contrary, while all AMERICA takes a just pride in acknowledging her obligations to the instruments of her deliverance—to the constellation of patriot-statesmen, whose counsels have directed the ship safely through the long and tempestuous night of the war---to the great enthroned patron of oppressed right; who, like the good Samaritan, CAME NEAR to this distressed people, when fallen among thieves; and with his wine, his oyl, and his treasure, revived their spirits---healed their wounds---and sustained their lives-----to the penetrating, the cautious---the inflexible and HONEST MEN, who, entrusted as Ambassadors at foreign courts, with the eyes of an ARGUS, and all the heart of fathers, watched over their country's good-----conducted its negotiations abroad with fidelity and address---and at last astonished the world with the joint display of their abilities in the formation of the treaty of peace---to the JERUBBAAL of AMERICA for *all the goodness he has shewed to our Israel*---and to his worthy SONS, the illustrious band of GENERALS---officers and soldiers under his command---for exertions which history cannot parallel---and panegyric would but obscure---it is with peculiar pleasure, that all these distinguished characters, this day join with their grateful country---and prostrate themselves at JEHOVAH'S footstool---saying *not unto us---not unto us, but to the Lord alone be all the glory given :---not to our wisdom, nor our skill---not our swords nor to our bows be this work ascribed :---the finger of God hath done it.* And let all the praises of AMERICA'S salvation crown his head, through this and every age to come!

EVERY

EVERY circumstance of our late amazing deliverance; calls this land to the highest thankfulness to God.—Our gratitude and improvement ought to be as distinguished as our mercies have been: to avow the conviction of this is the special business of our present appearance in his courts---and there is peculiar necessity for our being now seriously reminded of our obligations to this duty.

FOR it must be confessed that, as a people, we appear to have a very great and general proneness to the contrary practice: many alarming symptoms of that ill temper are already too evident upon us---if we are insensible of them, it must be said that we begin to be covered with *grey hairs, here and there, which we know not of.*

IT was justly observed by SENECA, once, that, if you call a man ungrateful, you call him all that is bad: and that the height of ingratitude is, forgetting the favor received. This is the crime with which the national character of Israel is branded in the text---and yet of the guilt of it they appear to have been very insensible at the time:---the charge we have seen divided into two parts, and each part supported by undeniable proofs---proofs which we ardently pray may never apply to the land we live in;—the first charge is, *they remembered not the Lord their God.*---Let us enquire if we can evade it.—If we can, *what means all this bleating of the sheep and lowing of the oxen?* Is there to be found any where a professing people—just rescued from the open jaws of deserved destruction?—and what excuse could charity invent or reason hear in their behalf—if, at such a time, it were incontrovertibly evident that among them very generally the power of religion is slighted—revivals of it contemned—and
vowed

vowed reformation forgotten :—if the gospel of CHRIST is neglected and the purity of its doctrines made light of—
 —if every ancient error is raised from its grave—nursed up, and encouraged to pour its pestilential breath all over the land—
 —if the authority of the scriptures is openly denied—and suffered to become matter of debate in a public legislature :—
 —if the sacred name of GOD has lost its reverence—and to profane it by common impious swearing is become fashionable politeness—
 —if CUSTOM-HOUSE OATHS are become customary perjuries, under which the loaded conscience lies still and sleeps; because it has the smile of a multitude to keep it in countenance :—
 —if the genius of the laws, by multiplying oaths on every frivolous occasion—and putting it in the power of parties, in that way, to gain their causes; and swear other men's money into their own pockets, has been evidently calculated to bring that sacred ordinance into contempt—
 —if the sabbath is become the day of licensed diversion—and the metropolis of a leading state passes unpunished, though openly avowing to the legislature thereof a systematic plan for opposing the execution of the laws made against sabbath-breaking; though confidently persisting in the violation of such laws, even under the nose of the supreme authority—and thus using its influence to draw all the other towns in the government into the same impious practice—
 —if family-government is vanished—
 —the daily sacrifice in the dwellings of the people has ceased—and the youth are suffered to grow up ignorant of religion and unrestrained from vice :—
 —if religious zeal is degenerated into mere party-spirit—
 —if, for the sake of the unrighteous Mammon, the house of God is deserted—the Ministers of religion defrauded and starved—and igno-

G

rant

rant and fanatical lay-teachers, placed in their stead—if suicide, the most horrid of all kinds of murder, is become a common thing—and so far connived at by the officers of justice, as to elude the execution of the just laws against it—and the unnatural criminals are indulged the same honorable rites of interment with the best christians in the land—and so the crime adopted by the public and sheltered under the wing of its patronage:—if drunkenness, in both sexes, spreads like an epidemic disease—and numbers of precious lives are weekly sacrificed by it—and yet survivors are confirmed in the same course by the silence of their friends who ought to reprove them—and hardened, to incurables, by being continued still in the enjoyment of all the special privileges of regular members in a church-state—if uncleanness has received a general licence—if notorious incests are continued—and impudent adulteries openly avowed—and not one juror—not one officer of the peace is found so honest to his oath—so upright to society—or so much concerned for the honor of God and the salvation of men, as to exert the powers with which he is vested for putting a stop to such enormities?—I say, whenever these are the features of any community—may we not cry *Iebabod*—for their glory is departed? Shall not such a people be called *Lagammi*? May we not, at least, take up a lamentation over them—nor scruple to say—though we say it with tears—*they remembered not the Lord their God—who had delivered them from all their enemies on every side?*

THE second part of Israel's indictment in the text, we have seen was base ingratitude to their best earthly friends—*neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal—*

rubbaal—This completes the blackening of Israel's character. But may not this part be better traversed, this day, in behalf of America?

For the trial of this cause, let it be remembered that the spirit—the place—the conduct, and the usefulness of our late Commander in chief—all—all combine to proclaim him justly entitled to the character of the FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY.—The public interest he felt as his own—He fought and conquered, unpaid—He retires unpensioned. Not for himself, but for the national welfare were all his active days employed—all his sleepless nights spent—all his fatigues endured—all his hazards encountered.—The CONGRESS he respected as his superiors—yes, obeyed them as his fathers—but it is not to be forgotten, that he loved them as his brethren, and protected them as his SONS : not more tenderly concerned was Gideon for those seventy worthies, descended from his own loins—to whom he turned his wishful eyes, as the instruments heaven had provided for conducting the affairs of Israel when he should be no more—than was our Jerubbaal for that august and venerable COUNCIL—nearly of the same number—whom he considered as the pilots of his tottering country.

BUT the GENERALS, the officers, and soldiers of his patriotic army, he considered as his tenderest and most favorite children, and held them to his heart with more than parental love. To his numerous household (thus understood) was reserved the honor of vindicating and securing the Liberty and Independence of CONSTITUTIONAL AMERICA; and for the effecting that glorious work, they had the free aids of his counsels and his sword—

sword—and when it was finished, he considered that LIBERTY as the best patrimony he could bequeath. To touch that, is to touch the apple of his eye. Whatever therefore is unfriendly to the dignity of CONGRESS—to the officer's honor—to the soldier's just reward—to the full establishment of the liberties of one—or to the perfect and perpetual enjoyment of them, in all the STATES in the UNION—that will deserve to be regarded as ungrateful unkindness to the house of Jerubbaal.

AND if by this rule we must judge of this case—and if, in any part of America, there shall ever be found, a people among whom public spirit hath so long been in the grave, that, by this time, it stinketh in the nostrils of great numbers of all their ranks:—if their public character for truth—for gratitude—for justice is deliberately sacrificed, in the sight of all nations, to the narrow selfishness of covetous individuals—whose little minds are incapable of comprehending the connexion between the public interest and their own—and whose stupidity forbids their views of their private emolument ever to look forward as far as to-morrow.—If public credit is suffered to sink, that a few sordid men may make fortunes out of its ruins—if solemn promises to the generous creditors of the country must be all trampled on, lest some avaricious souls should have the pain of paying a just quota for the fulfilment of them—if taxes necessary for the payment of the national debt must not be laid—or being laid, may not be levied:—if CONGRESS may be openly insulted and endangered, in the heart of a populous and apprized city—by lawless violence unrestrained.—If the only measure which the collected wisdom of America could

could discover for discharging its bonds, with certainty, in any given time, is opposed and frustrated :—if the sacred engagements of the UNITED STATES to the officers of the army, made, at a critical juncture, when nothing else could have prevented their whole host from crumbling to pieces—is to be avowedly, and faithlessly violated by particular legislatures—after the great work is done ;—and all this, notwithstanding that these very legislatures solemnly ratified that engagement at the time—and although it now comes down mutilated of nearly one half its amount :—if a house of representatives may resolve that it has a right to alter the Confederation of the continent, without ever consulting a constituent on the matter—if the CONSTITUTION of a state is studiously evaded and overthrown in judicial processes—both in regard of the religion and property of its citizens—*If—-if—-if—-but I forbear.*—If any, if all these are found on any people so delivered as this—at any such time, may it not be said that *they shewed not kindness to the house of Jerubbaal ?*

It is peculiarly necessary that the people of this deliv-
 ered land be early apprized of all this—lest, by any in-
 advertency they should slip into this case, unawares ;—
 for the way of this sin may emphatically be said to be all
 down-hill. The steps of its unhappy subjects are gene-
 rally seen pointing all one way :—few—very few are
 observed returning : ingratitude is a crime which, worse
 than witchcraft in itself, is not less fascinating to its
 slaves. No sin is more rarely confessed.—No sinner
 more seldom repents or reforms. The criminal is soon
 incurably hardened—and generally goes on, from bad to
 worse—from deep to deeper, to the gulph of despair.

Now

Now, gratitude for the liberties which indulgent heaven has so kindly bestowed on us—and a suitable improvement of the advantages thence resulting, is all that is required at the hands of AMERICA, at this day. It is this that can make our LIBERTY secure and permanent—by this, and by this alone—it can be the foundation of lasting felicity to ourselves—to our children—to generations unborn.

LIBERTY thus improved becomes the mother of learning—the nurse of sciences and of arts—the great patroness of commerce—the best support of navigation and of agriculture—the friendly guardian of military virtues, as well as of those that are social—the best promoter of population and civil grandeur, and the faithful handmaid to true religion. All this it were easy to demonstrate from the nature of man, and the common course of things :--- but a glance at the state of the ancient nations GREECE and ROME, in the days of their freedom---compared with themselves in the ages of slavery, or with their neighbours and successors, in Asia of old, and Turkey and Italy at this day, will in a moment settle the point, and supersede the necessity of further discussion :--- there we see that as liberty rose or fell, all these blessings rose and fell with her.

AND are these thy gifts, O Liberty ! Sacred name ! Worthily then did those heroes lie down in the bed of honour, who, in thy cause, have freely offered up their vital blood. Dear men ! And ever to be revered, in whatever age, or clime they lived or died ! Generations unborn shall rise up and call them blessed !---At this thought,
how

how thick do the images of these doubly endeared martyrs to so great a cause, rush in upon the overwhelmed bosom?---The immortal names who bravely bled---who nobly sacrificed their precious lives at the shrine of AMERICAN freedom;---To what distant region shall gratitude have winged her way, when the endeared names of WARREN, & MONTGOMERY---and their companions, in virtue and in fate, shall be forgotten in AMERICA---or repeated without a tear?

BUT if they deserve honor who bought its liberty at the price of their blood; shall we not be the most inexorable among nations---generations and worlds, if ever we should be found, for a paltry morsel, bartering away this precious birth-right of posterity? Yes! Should this people ungratefully forget GOD---or neglect to maintain his religion;---should Ministers of the gospel cease to defend it in its purity and its power---if the churches should forget their covenant with GOD---or the members of them their mutual stipulations to watch over each other for good---should the heads of our several tribes neglect the day, or forsake the ordinances of the LORD---and shut family-worship out of their doors---should errors---and delusions---should deism---and infidelity be carested and honored---while the most precious gospel-truths lie unfriended and bleeding in our streets---should a passion for splendor and dissipation seize the uppermost ranks, or the rage of gaming, of plays and masquerades infect the leaders of the fashion---should intemperance, riot, and debauchery, cease to be scandalous---or sufficiently so to disqualify the guilty for any place of public trust---should legislative bodies be suffered to consider themselves masters of the people, whom it is their honor to serve---
 shall

Should they refuse to pass wholesome and necessary statutes---or dare to establish iniquity by law---or should we look to the place of judgment and behold iniquity to be there :---and good laws to have become useless by the want of faithful and impartial execution---should the sickness of the head strike the heart with faintings---and lower magistrates, jurors, and wardens connive at the wickedness they are sworn to suppress.---Then should this people be an execrable monument of that ingratitude which remembereth not the Lord their God---and ripe to be made a monument of his tremendous judgments---to be hung up, in *terrorem*, for ages to come !

NOR would it be possible for such a people long to keep up the face of *kindness to the house of Jerubbaal*. When piety has once forsaken a state, policy cannot long support it. Should any AMERICAN ever be so unhappy as to be reserved for a time when the public credit shall have failed, and the nation become a bankrupt, when government has lost its energy and the laws their force---when the confederation is weakened or broken---the union dissolved---the constitutions of particular states corrupted, and their civil governments, torn by factions, totter on the brink of anarchy :---or the people, lost to a sense of order, and impatient of due subordination to lawful authority, are just ripe for revolt, and ready to be tools for the ambitious designs of some aspiring tyrant ---when AGRARIAN LAWS cannot be obtained ; or must pass unexecuted---when individuals are permitted to purchase or possess such enormous tracts of land as may gradually work them up to an influence, dangerous to the liberty of the state :---when commerce, which ought to be open and extensive as the ocean which laves our shores,

is in-bayed and swallowed up in the narrow gulf of partial monopolies---when real estates are publicly known and permitted to be sold, or conveyed to known enemies of the country's peace---when inveterate and persisting Tories are suffered to mix with its free citizens, or to rise to places of power among them :---when the people at large shall become inured to the opinion that the business of the state is too mysterious for them to look into, and so shall have forgotten the important duty of watching their rulers---when it shall be thought needless to establish a rotation in every post of state---to make all public trusts annual---and to require, from all their servants, a fair account of their public proceedings, at the expiration of their several terms :-----

WHOEVER shall live to see the deprecated day, when the people shall slight their right of elections---be remiss in attending them---or regardless of the personal qualifications of the persons they choose---when all things have become venal---when the people can stoop to give their votes, for the smile of a great man---or traitorously set public trusts to auction---through the cursed thirst of bribing gold---when commissions are not granted for merit, or capacity---but rather are smuggled for favor---for party, or for a price---when it is generally forgotten that no commission can be an honor to him who is not an honor to his commission---a maxim so important that, to the man who disputes it, an Emperor's horse might be a good enough Consul; and Alexander's Bucephalus may suffice for a god.

WHEN the lamentable era shall arrive wherein the regulation of the militia shall have been neglected---and,

H

by

by that mean, matters prepared for keeping up standing armies in times of peace—when a Cæsar and a Pompey are seen rivals for power---like two contending furs in the firmament setting the heavens on fire---and, instead of being roused to save the nation from impending ruin, by instantly crushing the ambition of both---and excluding them, for ever, from all share in the government---the infatuated people are found stupidly siding with either---and ranking themselves under their several leaders---till the state is gradually wrought up to the madness of faction---and ready, in its phrenzy, to fall on the point of its own sword.

SHOULD any of our posterity have the unhappy lot to live in a day, when the internal resources for every art and manufacture, necessary for times of peace or war, are generally neglected---and instead of plans for encouraging, by premiums or otherwise, persons of ingenuity, in each of the states, to improve the several arts as far as possible---Government refuses to draw forth to public use the strength which the nation might easily derive from the natural advantages, which Heaven has bountifully heaped upon it---and puts it into the power of foreign countries to prescribe the terms at which we may hope for the chief commodities we want---and empowers them to say, in the extremities of war, whether we shall be supplied at all---When a passion for foreign supplies prevails in preference to such as might be raised at home---when that passion is encouraged by the example or connivance of THE POWERS THAT BE---and so, in the natural course of things, those monies are drained off for the purchase of them, which ought to be sacred to the use of discharging public debts---of supporting government
with

with dignity—and of preparing for sudden emergencies of the state—Should any future CONGRESS be suffered to grasp a prerogative beyond the purposes of their delegation—or their dignity be slighted—and their measures opposed, whilst honestly using the powers designed, and modestly contenting themselves with the limits prescribed them by the constitution :—should the malignant breath of malicious whispers inspire groundless jealousies of the designs of Congress—or of the chief rulers in any state—and the people be found without virtue enough to crush the viper with their feet.—Should the spirit of ambition be permitted to open her Pandora's box and scatter her plagues over the land—and no honest patriots rise to remove them—should the sinister views of some malevolent incendiary prevail so far as to throw the apple of discord among these CONFEDERATE STATES—when the truest policy would induce them to grow together, as one living body, animated by ONE living soul ;—and, by unanimous consent, to cast their government into such a mould, as to demolish all divisional lines between state and state—and reduce all (as might easily be done, without either danger or disorder) into ONE GREAT REPUBLIC, WITH ONE TREASURY—ONE CODE OF LAWS—ONE MILITARY FORCE—ONE FORM OF ADMINISTRATION—ONE INTEREST—ONE END—ONE HEART AND ONE LIFE.

SHOULD success attend the secret manœuvres of our uncured, intestine foes, who will ever be watching the long-wished moment of opportunity, when the public distress would make it easy to persuade the American Israel to make them a captain and return back to Egypt ;—should their ill-starred councils so far prevail for that end, as to entan-

gle

gle this land in the politics of foreign powers—or to embroil it in their wars—whilst it must ever be the true interest of AMERICA to keep the arms of her friendship—her commerce—and ports, alike open to embrace all the nations on earth.—In a word—should any—but especially, should all these evils be found, in any future age to take place in this country—the true-hearted American, who is so unhappy as to behold them—will bewail the deep ingratitude of this people—who, though so deeply indebted to a great benefactor, have, by each of these steps, given glaring proof, that they had no disposition to *show kindness to the house of JERUBBAAL*—and the miserable generation, in which he lives, will soon—very soon, have occasion to mingle their tears with his.—Matters can never be at a stand in such a case.—Soon will that people be called to deplore, with tears of blood, the folly and wickedness which has precipitated them into that doleful abyss!

For, what should forbid another *Abimelech* then to arise, and wade to a throne through a deluge of blood—of brethren's blood.—a deluge of which the blood of Gideon's seventy sons—the massacre of some patriotic CONGRESS, may be the fore-running stream? We devoutly deprecate so dark a day. But whenever this warned people shall have wantonly traversed those paths of apostacy—nothing remains to ward off their doom.—The divine NEMESIS never misses her way. Nor will there be any difficulty in finding a scourge to chastize such ingratitude to God and man. Justly might heaven give us up to some usurping tyrant among ourselves—or to those party-feuds that would soon teach us to imitate the martial feats of the new-

new-born race, which CADMUS had planted to people the earth. Justly might we be then abandoned to the vengeance of the implacable Philistines, now planting colonies on our borders. In them such a people would not fail to find neighbours equally troublesome in peace—and dangerous in war—ever watching for the crisis which might put it in their power to give a fatal stab to the liberty to which they owe their exile.—And should we not, in the case here reviewed, richly merit to have Providence turn the tables—and teach us a Succoth's lesson in our turn? Should we not deserve to have our towers of defence beaten down—our liberties raised to the foundation—and our cities, like other Shechems, sown with salt?

YES---by a conduct of this sort, we should be found to have outraged the ashes of the venerable dead—to have ungratefully insulted the illustrious NAMES of our GENERALS slain in the high places of the field—of our officers and soldiers who have fallen for our cause!—Thus should we harrow the souls of their disconsolate widows—and abandon to the fury of a vengeful foe their fatherless orphans; whom it would be but mere justice in this Continent to adopt—to nurse—and educate as America's dearest sons!—Thus, too, should we have drawn certain ruin on our own heads—when, having wickedly forfeited all we had gained by the late glorious deliverance—and, abandoned by every friend on earth and in heaven, we should fall an easy prey to the first invader—and rivet on ourselves the most inglorious chains—chains which, however inglorious, are the fittest ornaments that can be worn by a race so dastardly—unprincipled

pled, and ungrateful—a generation that had so copiously proved themselves so unworthy of freedom, and so fit to be slaves.

NOR is this all the woe entailed on us by such rebellion against a delivering God:---whilst by these means we should have become the disgrace of the ancestors from whose loins we sprang, we should, at the same time, be found guilty of betraying all the posterity that shall proceed from ours;---of forging chains for the innocent generations to come---and of fixing on their necks the galling yoke of undeserved thralldom---the weight whereof will lead future ages, as they rise, to curse the memory of the unnatural progenitors who wilfully bequeathed them so sad an inheritance!

As we, then, would wish to shun so unhappy a fate, let us beware of **THE FIRST STEPS** which lead towards it. Obedient to the sage advice of the Proclamation which has now convened us, let us, this day, reflect on the wondrous deliverance which the **LORD** has wrought---and the unspeakable obligations to endless gratitude, under which it has laid this rescued land, to the **ALMIGHTY SAVIOUR** whose hand has done it. Look back, my country, to the lowering cloud that darkened thy horizon in the infamous stamp-act: remember the grumbling thunders that began to roll over thy head in the succeeding year:---when a British Parliament proclaimed itself vested with all the rights and powers of **GOD ALMIGHTY**---the right of binding thee to its will in all cases whatsoever!--Forget not the gradual increases of the approaching storm. But make a solemn and a thankful pause when the retrospect has been carried down to the glorious day when
when

when the single County of Suffolk dared to tell the world she resolved to be free*—especially when it is considered in connexion with that auspicious morning, when CONGRESS adopted her patriotic resolutions and associated in solemn league for their defence. †—Survey the aspects of the frowning heavens, when the long-gathering storm at last broke upon us ‡—when our peaceful fields were first stained with the blood of our friends! Compare, with the joys and prospects of this happy day, the darksome seasons past—and the terrors hanging on them—when our populous towns were instantly evacuated—our homes abandoned—our dwellings left without inhabitant—merely on the vain breath of inauthentic rumors! Look through the horrid, bloody scenes that follow each other, in thick succession, as wave follows wave in the storm!—Trace the red footsteps of the hostile band! See them landed first in your distressed and persecuted Capital!—see!—see!—but I forbear—my own feelings cannot support the review—your time forbids me to push it further.

ENOUGH, however, has been said to shew this delivered people where both their duty and their danger lie. And whilst these things pass before our astonished eyes—let the fire of gratitude burn within us, until the praises of our DELIVERER GOD break from our lips—and the highest tributes which AMERICA is able to pay, be, this day, thankfully laid at his feet.

WERE we to essay an enumeration of his wondrous mercies, we should hardly know where to begin. The slightest

* Sept. 9, 1774. † Oct. 20, 1774. ‡ April 19, 1775.

Rightest reflection on the favors of this single year, overwhelms our feelings, and strikes us dumb with amazement!

If we institute a comparison between his dealings with us, and his works to our foes,—how striking the contrast!

See the proudest Nebuchadnezzar of the age erecting, in the pretended omnipotence of his Parliament, a golden image! Hear the heaven-insulting proclamation made! § —Behold the furnace heated often enough to keep pace with his fury!—See the poor children of the planned captivity, commanded to fall down and worship! —And for hesitating about it, behold them bound up in their own clothes—by acts which cut off their trade—shut up their ports—tied their hands, and would scarce allow them to think their souls their own;—and, at last, violently cast into the devouring furnace of war!—But, O the matchless condescension! The Son of God forsakes them not when all other friends are forced to withdraw,—he walks with them in the midst of the fire!—This keeps them unhurt—but strikes the tyrant with terrors—and, Lo! the hour at last draws on when his haughty countenance falls—and himself is fain to call them from the flames and proclaim them free!—and, to the praise of their God and the shame and confusion of their oppressors;—the chief agents employed for their destruction, perish in the flames they had kindled for them—but themselves come forth, in the open sight of the astonished world, safe and harmless!—upon their bodies the fire had no power—nor was an hair of their head singed—

§ Vide Dan. 3d chapter, throughout.

fringed--neither were their coats changed--nor the smell of the fire had passed on their garments, all because their God was with them; and there is no other god that can deliver after this sort!

SEE how the king's word is changed! Behold the most formidable potentate on the earth, a suppliant at the feet of his once despised and oppressed subjects!—Begging, in his turn, for what he once punished them for asking, peace—liberty and safety!—Accepting of the terms they dictate—and yielding them up the possession and jurisdiction of an immense territory*—surpassing in its dimensions

* From the mouth of St. Croix, by the middle of its stream to its source;—thence North to the height of the land;—then along the said height to the N. W. head of Connecticut-river:—then down its mids, 25 miles, to the 45th deg. N. L.—thence West to the river Catequaquay—and by its mids to lake Ontario, and through that to a stream with which it runs to lake Erie, sixty miles;—and thro' it to another stream, with which it continues sixty miles more to lake Huron: through that to a stream with which it goes on seven hundred miles to lake Superior:—proceeding through it N. of the isles Royale and Philippeaux to the long lake: through that to the lake of the woods at the stream between them runs;—then through that also to its W. point, and thence due west a thousand miles to the Mississippi, and down its mids to the 31st deg. N. L.—thence E. to the river Apalachicola; and with it to Flint river:—then directly to the head of St. Mary's river, and along its middle, to the atlantic ocean; including all the islands within 20 leagues of the continent from the mouth of St. Mary's to the mouth of St. Croix—with an equal right of free navigation in the Mississippi from its mouth to its source—a free right of fishery in the gulph of St. Lawrence—and all the banks and coasts of all the British dominions in America---and liberty to cure fish at any uninhabited place on the shores of such dominions, Newfoundland excepted.

mentions all Germany, Holland, Switzerland, France, Spain, Portugal, Britain and Ireland †—together with the absolute sovereignty and independent government of the whole † See the monarch who had solemnly declared he would relinquish his crown, rather than set AMERICA free—the minister who pledged himself to Parliament, that he never would open a treaty with us, 'TILL HE HAD AMERICA AT HIS FEET—and the General that engaged with 5000 men, to march through the Continent, and conquer every foot of ground over which he passed—all united, at last, in suing for peace with us, on the terms of absolute INDEPENDENCE and perfect equality † Consider that haughty government, like Samson, shorn of his locks, tamely sitting down with the loss of all this territory, and even without influence enough to procure a lodging, within

† By a late calculation it appears, that if the territory of the United States were divided into 4 parcels, and compared with the kingdoms, &c. mentioned above, the difference in square miles would be as follows :

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The old Colonies, 207,050 | Germany, Flanders, Holland and Switzerland, 270,483. |
| 2. From the Ohio, at Fort Pitt, to its mouth, is 1164 miles, all Navigable: the lands on it, and between the Mississippi, the lakes, and the Allegany mountains now belonging to America, 233,200. | Britain and France together, 235,237. |
| 3. Between the Illinois, Hutton, Superior, and St. Anthony's Falls in the Mississippi, 129,020. | Great Britain and Ireland, 131,800. |
| 4. Between said Falls and the South Line from the lake of the woods to the head of the river, 59,000. | Holland, Flanders and Ireland, 57,908. |

within all that extent, for its dearest friends, the loyal adherents to its desperate cause:—tottering, at the same time, under the weight of an enormous debt of 232,354,128 pounds sterling:—the bare annual interest of which amounts to £.11,502,164:—while their yearly revenue exceeds not £.12,000,279: and no resources left in their hands for enlarging it!

How different from this, the state of AMERICA; her cause triumphant—her freedom secured—her INDEPENDENCE guaranteed, her boundaries enlarged, and her debt, foreign and domestic, no more than 42,000,375 dollars, its interest only 2,115,256 dollars, and her resources numberless for discharging it:—it has been supposed, by no mean judges, that the single article of the unlocated lands now belonging to the public, would more than double that sum!

WHILST PEACE has waved her friendly banners over these rejoicing STATES—has at once calmed their fears and quenched their fires and invited their free citizens to sit down under their own vine and fig-tree:—behold the remaining dominions of Britain! Torn by factions, venal prill things, consumed by luxury, broiling in discontent, and distracted for fear that the emancipation of IRELAND should be completed, in consequence of that American revolution from which it began! See all ranks there mutually devouring and devoured! Contemplate the condition of the AMERICAN LOYALISTS, who lately expected to bask in the sun-shine—but I forbear—'tis cruel—'tis cowardly to insult the wretched.—Let us turn our eyes from these miserable objects of pity, and try to fetch fresh grounds of gratitude from other quarters.

WHILST health and plenty have been travelling through these states, and, hand in hand, have been pouring their united blessings on this Western world ;—behold the lamentable state of the East—where the noisome pestilence has laid cities waste—villages in ruins—and more than 200,000 human victims in the dust !—Take a view of the horrible carnage in India—and that carnage closely pursued (especially at Madras) by a famine more horrible still, in which our latest accounts announce 60,000 already perished !—Here no volcanos have vomited death—no gaping earthquakes have devoured our towns :—but, survey the ruins of Sicily and the Crimæas ! Consider the terrors of that dreadful day in February last, when in a moment of security, the laboring earth fetched a convulsive throw---and at the tremendous groan, forty fair and flourishing cities---seven large bishopricks---300 beautiful villages and upwards of 100,000 of the human race instantly disappeared, and sunk into the deep !

O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness--- for his wonderful works to the children of men !

NEVER was there less cause to ascribe any people's mercies to their merit---than there is in our case. Never was there less reason to suppose the people saved, less guilty, than they that suffer ! O ! Is it not amazing that a land swarming with the most audacious classes of gospel-sinners should be thus marked out for singular favors---favors which shall ring through every future age---and make the ears of generations unborn to tingle when they hear them !

NOT unto us ! Not unto us ! But to the free, unmerited goodness—to the sovereign—distinguishing grace of the

the LORD OUR GOD, be all the glory!—It is he hath visited and redeemed his people for his own name's sake, and not for our sakes—be it known unto all!—For his own name's sake, he girded his sword upon his thigh, he rode from conquering to conquer:—he was the God of our armies:—he sat Arbitrator of the war:—he spake, and peace was created!—he spake, and peace was the fruit of his lips!—the LORD arose—he made bare his holy arm for our help—and *delivered us from all our enemies on every side!*

AND shall it, after all, be said of this people *they remembered not the LORD their GOD?* We start at the abhorred idea! With hearts uplifted, we unitedly cry out, *God forbid!*

BUT if we wish to escape so great a woe—let us seize the earliest opportunity of barring its way.—Let us this day, rise up, as one man, and send up our praises to our ALL-GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN for the numberless mercies of our lives—-for the numberless mercies of this single year:—-for the kindnesses bestowed on our persons, and families:—-and for the favors conferred on this town —-in its health, plenty and peace—in the preservation of so many of its citizens from tempests at Sea, and numbering none of them among the late numerous shipwrecks on the coast—-and especially, in saving so many of their dwellings from the ravages of fire, when they threatened the town with a general desolation—-praise him for the still more wonderful blessings bestowed on the community at large:—-for the union of the states—-the fidelity and success of their ambassadors—-for the firmness of CONGRESS —-and the preservation of our LIBERTY from corruption, captivity,

captivity, wounds and death—for the kindness of our
 ADDRESS, and the smiles of heaven on them—for the
 public rest from the horrors of war—for peace—liber-
 ty—and Independence proclaimed and secured.

Let us, therefore, let our gratitude be excited, for the con-
 tinuance of the blessing GODS in the land—and for any
 success that has attended it—and, above all, for GOD'S
 greatest and best gift to a lost world, the gift of his CO-
 TERNAL AND CO-EQUAL SON, and the saving benefits pur-
 chased by his blood, and conveyed by his SPIRIT!

AND, to prove our praise sincere, let us, to thanksgiv-
 ings, add serious resolutions of making an improvement
 of our mercies, that shall be, in some measure, corre-
 spondent to their worth:—an improvement that shall be
 immediate, universal and endless. Let us be humbled be-
 fore the LORD for all our own sins, and the sins of this guilty
 land. Let us all now embrace the gospel, and believe in the
 LORD JESUS CHRIST: that so our temporal deliverance
 may be crowned with eternal salvation. Improve the day
 and means of grace more than ever—cherish the moti-
 ons of divine grace, and grieve not the HOLY SPIRIT.—
 Let us all, in our places, exert every power we have to
 effect an universal reformation of heart and manners.—
 Ever be solicitous for the public good—and may all the
 inhabitants of AMERICA be now persuaded to shun, as
 death, the steps of ingratitude traced above—and to pur-
 sue the contrary path:—and, if any good purposes have
 not been formed in the minds of men—My request to
 them, and my prayer to the GOD AND FATHER OF ALL
 GRACES, that none may delay to put resolution in practice
 —that

—that all may instantly wake up, and begin the business of thorough reformation—and prosecute it unwearied, until all that is amiss be mended; in individuals, in families, in church and state.—May courts be purged, and voluminous laws curtailed into a plain compend, which the common people, of plain sense, may understand.—May offices of trust be filled only with men that deserve them—and no longer than they continue to deserve them:—May the people of each state be united and loyal—jealous of their liberties, but cheerfully subordinate to authority—ever public spirited, but still peaceable—and lovers of order:—May all the states be O N E:—and nothing remain to divide, to hurt, or offend among them: In every part of the great REPUBLIC, may the kindness be shown to the house of JERUSALEM. May public frolics early fall on the ambitious and aspiring.—May faction be nipped in the bud, and the baleful weeds of party spirit be blasted and rooted up, whenever they appear: May it be the unanimous intent of this people to punish incendiaries in an exemplary manner—to stop the first blossoms of sedition—to mark the man for a traitor who dares to oppose a just taxation, or refuses to bear his part of it—to give full energy to the laws, and to promote the impartial execution of them—to support the Government with dignity, and steadily maintain the authority of CONGRESS—to be very careful of their elections, and never give a vote but as if upon oath—to often to recur to first principles—and to watch and resist the very first beginnings of the encroachments of power.

TOGETHER with my best wishes for the state, I cannot forbear offering an humble petition for the churches, that

- that they might be roused to contend earnestly for the present truth—against many that go about to deceive unwary souls :—that peace and truth may more obtain among them ; and that they may be led to some happy plan for union among different denominations :—that the purity of the word and ordinances may universally prevail ; and the spirit and power, as well as the form, of godliness every where take place :—that thus armed against fanatics and sectaries on the one hand, they may never fall under the power of an aspiring hierarchy, nor the dangerous corruption of the mother of harlots on the other.

My heart forbids me to close this exercise, without bending the knee to the FATHER of lights, in behalf of an important interest yet unnoticed in these aspirations :—An interest in which my poor requests, I know, will be seconded by the warm supplications of all the tender parents in the assembly. It is for the improvement of the rising generation. For them my heart has long struggled with painful, anxious feelings.—They have suffered peculiarly by the late dismal war : Education has languished—genius has been stifled—and the wonted channels of instruction stopped. The return of peace it may be hoped will open them anew. But this will not answer my ardent wishes :—May the means of education be encouraged on a larger scale :—May SCHOOLS and ACADEMIES be revived—and COLLEGES better supported than ever. Parsimony here is the worst sort of murder : it is the murder of MINDS. Learning or sciences can advance but slowly, while each Instructor, in our Seminaries, is obliged to act as a teacher of every thing—this

A work in which no genius ever greatly excelled. Nor can any great improvements be expected from Academicians, whose scanty subsistence compels them to turn their chief attention to some other business;—and to wait on the classes no longer than 'till they can find an opening for some settlement for life:—and never will this disease be remedied, 'till the people are spirited up to furnish UNIVERSITIES with funds sufficient to keep a distinct Professor for each distinct branch of learning— and to afford them such maintenance as may encourage men of genius to devote their lives to that business, and look no more for another.

THIS is a matter that falls more especially to the share of the Legislature—and scarce any matter may more justly claim their attention at this day—But in a free state, where the instructions of Constituents direct Legislators— and people may have any laws that they please, there is no surer way to obtain good regulations than to convince the people of the necessity of them. It is on this principle that several things in this farrago have been insisted on:—with this view the last particular is earnestly recommended to your attention:—and on the same considerations I beg leave to add,

THAT it would be no small encouragement to mental improvement, if a noble emulation should arise among the several states, in promoting societies for arts—for science—for agriculture, and manufactures: and especially if some public institution were set on foot by the authority in each state for annual exhibitions at some public place—on the 19th of April, or some other time;—when

K

Candidates

Candidates might display their abilities in their several studies, and some honorary premiums be awarded by the Judges to such as excel.

BUT, in my humble opinion, nothing would be more salutary to the interests of learning, of arts and sciences—nothing would more effectually tend to strengthen and perpetuate the union of the states—promote mutual love—public spirit—and every valuable purpose to our national policy, consequence, and honor in the world, than to have the ancient Olympic exercises of GREECE revived and established in AMERICA.—If Congress should appoint a public Convention of the learned and ingenious in all the states—to be held on the sixth of July—or some more suitable time—in every third, fourth, or fifth year—at the place of their own seat for the time being—there might such efforts of genius be made, as should merit, to the authors, all the honors of an Olympic crown—and at once astonish and improve the world.

Such we all know, was the method taken by GREECE, in her wisest days, to encourage learning and promote the arts: and it proved the means by which that free people made greater improvements in every valuable study—and preserved those improvements longer than any other nation.

AT the times appointed for these public trials, all attended who had any claims to encouragement—the most illustrious characters repaired thither:—nobles—ambassadors—and sovereign princes—with all the fathers of learning or of the state sat judges—here the competitors for glory exerted their best abilities:—here true me-

rit,

rit, in every profession, was distinguished—here Herodotus read his history with such applause, as fired young Thucydides to write a better—the honors conferred on the victors here were such as Cicero reckons nearly equal to those of a Roman triumph.

To stimulate ambition for honors of this kind, were surely an object most worthy the attention of the fathers of this free country—from them must come all that can be done to promote so great and salutary a purpose, and to them the consideration of the utility of such a measure is now most humbly submitted.

BUT, to conclude all, I beg it may never be forgotten, that no measure will be effectual to secure the happiness of this land, if its inhabitants *remember not the Lord their God*: the interest of **CHRIST'S** kingdom in the world should ever lie nearest the hearts of a people, whose interests have been so dear to him. Righteousness is the only thing that really exalteth a nation. In the honest cultivation of true virtue, and the zealous promotion of vital religion—we must seek our establishment. This is the surest—and indeed the only way to perpetuate the liberties wherewith heaven has made us free—and that, in this way, the **PEACE OF AMERICA** may be secured—its **LIBERTIES** asserted—and its **INDEPENDENCE** maintained as long as Sun and Moon shall endure—and that every succeeding generation, as it rises, in consideration of the great events of the present æra, may remember that they are not their own, but bought with a price:—and therefore under greater obligations than any other people to glorify God, with their bodies and spirits which are his, may he, in infinite mercy grant!—And let all the people say, **A M E N.**

