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FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1801.

FOURTH OF JULY!

The annual period again returns, which made us **INDEPENDENT AND FREE**. Think to the valor of our arms, and fill more to the wisdom of our councils, the revolving period full finds us so. In 1776 we broke the chains of foreign tyranny. Since that era we have been engaged in breaking domestic fetters, no less despotic, in which we were enslaved by our own prejudices, passions and vices. We have succeeded in the great attempt, not less splendid than the subversion of empire, and *à la vie* infinitely above the highest light of military heroism.

Emanating from a government, monarchic in its form; of an empire whose ambition grasped the destiny of the world; our habits, though little corrupted by power, made us, as far as that power extended, the willing instruments of British aggrandizement. Our young hearts beat with ardor at the recollection of achievements of British prowess, and uniting our happiness, our fortunes, and our lives with the glory of the mother country, we felt our highest rapture in the little portion of tendered labor which fell to our share.

Under these circumstances, our ideas were borrowed and our habits ferried. Overlaid by her great example, our virtues equalled with our vices, were those of imitation. What England admired, we applauded; what she censured, we condemned; her friends we took to our bosom; her enemies excited and exercised all our resentments.

Were the philosophic mind called upon, specifically to define a state of slavery, it could not point to a more convincing and decisive illustration.

Public opinion, in alliance with the gigantic power of Britain, threatened a perpetuity to our chains; but mighty is the power of truth, which must prevail. Error and vice in governments invariably lead to oppression; and oppression always leads to freedom; sometimes effected by the silent and ever to be desired, operations of reason; but often, unfortunately, achieved amid the convulsions of a revolution.

Still the prize, infinite in value, can never be bought at too dear a price. For while the period of a revolution covers but a few fleeting years, that of despotism frequently borders on eternity.

These principles and truths were once familiar to Americans; they were once undisputed; and, however, from the temporary prevalence of error, they may have been forgotten by some of our fellow-citizens, we dare to say, with prophetic spirit, that their reign in this country will be eternal.

The energetic impulse, given by the Congress of 1776 to these principles, has imparted to them 34 forces, which no opposition of error or power can ultimately prevent from progressing through the moral world.

In them man recognizes his only true happiness, and that happiness he will, he ought to possess. The power which created him bestowed it, and no human power can of right take it away.

Americans! Ye who efflate the value of civil liberty; ye, who, unforsworn by all foreign prejudice, Gallic or Anglican, love your own country, and your own rights, and in such love acknowledge and respect the same festinments in other climes, forget not by whom your independence and freedom were achieved.

The declaration of Independence emanated from no common mind. Ere made, it required all the deliberations of philosophy, a knowledge of the past, an acquaintance with the present, and a foresight of the future. The fate of a nation hung upon the decision. The illustrious band of statesmen, then convened, were awfully impressed with the crisis. They fought their way through the channels of peace; they exhausted the resources of humanity and remembrance; and not until all these were insupportably tried, did they conceive, or make that bold and solemn appeal to the world, which declared their country independent and free.

The sublime conception sprang from the energies of their own minds, and from a conviction in your virtue. They felt themselves the omnipotence of moral principle, and they thought they could make you feel it. They thought truly; and your senses proved that their fellow-citizen felt like themselves. Multitudinous faged ye particularly, who are now numbered with the dead, the gratitude of your country, the applause of a world, daily repeats your praises! FRANKLIN, first in the roll of fame, if conscious of our populating scene, what a triumph is yours! Surrounded by Lee, a Washington, and a Rodney, your fortify still continues, as while with us, inseparable from the happiness of your fellow-men. Perhaps, in addition to a knowledge of the past and present, science opened to your enraptured view the whole world on a future day united by the indissoluble ties of liberty and peace!

National gratitude! Awaken also to the claims of our departed heroes! They fought not for empire and vain glory. Associate them not, then, with the worthless rabble of warriors whom history only elevates to sublimance. Our heroes seized their arms at their country's call, and at her call they laid them down—still greater in peace than in war. WASHINGTON, in your country surrounds thee with a Greene, a Montgomery and a Mercer, and proudly presents the bright galaxy to the imitation of all nations.

Let us, fellow citizens, impressed by their great examples of flatness and heroes, whose memory we have embalmed in our hearts—not unmindful of the talents and virtues of living coadjutors, whom, on some future day (may it be a distant one) it will not be servility also to commemorate—let us, fellow-citizens, impressed

by their bright example, celebrate this anniversary with *rational* rather than *animal* joy. Let not a day, which inspired in 1776 solemn, excite in 1801, light feelings. Instead of mingling in noisy scenes of riot and intoxication, let us surrender ourselves to reflections at once useful to ourselves and others.

Let us reflect, that, however divided we may be, in our opinions of particular men and measures, our interests are all the same; and that the surest way of lessening this division, and the certain way of rendering it harmless, is to tolerate a free and unreserved expression of our thoughts.

Let us compare our own fate of society with that which exists in monarchies, and rejoice that we live in a republic.

Let us study and appreciate the superior benefits of our systems of government to those of Europe, in the protection of our rights as citizens among each other, and in our exemption from war while all Europe is crisscrossed with blood.

Let us contemplate our *republican* system as perpetually progressing in improvement, while the systems of the old world are rapidly and unceasingly plunging deeper and deeper into follies and crimes.

Let us behold, in our country, under the administration of good laws, in general impartially applied, industry uniformly rewarded with support and profit, while in Europe, under bad laws, waste applied, labor scarcely supports animal life, and seldom produces any permanent benefit.

Let us felicitate ourselves on the freedom of our confidence, and our entire exemption from ecclesiastical tyranny, while a large portion of the old world still remains its slave.

These are reflections, calculated to enlarge the boundaries of intellect, and to kindle the most glowing feelings of virtue; and while their indulgence bellows individual felicity, they powerfully conspire to draw man closer to man, by fusing him with all virtue and all good are impartial and diffusive; that, like the light of heaven, and the boundless air, they produce good in proportion to their freedom, and that it is only when confined, that they subvert or impair, in tempers or volcanoes, the fair fabric of nature.

Declaration of Independence.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
WHEN in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the

right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient suffering of these colonies, and is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great-Britain, is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless they be submitted to a council, which he has utterly neglected to attend to.

He has refused to pass laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature; a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

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

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

For imposing taxes on us without our consent;

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury;

For transporting us beyond the seas to be tried for pretended offenses;

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its borders, so as to render it