

PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ORATION,  
ON THE  
CESSION  
OF  
LOUISIANA,  
TO THE  
UNITED STATES,

DELIVERED ON THE 12th MAY, 1804, IN ST.  
MICHAEL'S CHURCH, CHARLESTON, SOUTH-  
CAROLINA, AT THE REQUEST OF A NUMBER  
OF THE INHABITANTS, AND PUBLISHED  
BY THEIR DESIRE.

Exceptional.

---

---

BY DAVID RAMSAY, M. D.

---

---

CHARLESTON:  
PRINTED BY W. P. YOUNG, FRANKLIN'S HEAD,  
NO. 41, BROAD-STREET.

—:•••••:—  
M. DCCCIV.

---

## Oration, &c.

---

FELLOW CITIZENS,

OUR lot is cast in one of the four great divisions of the globe, in which nature seems to have meditated an improvement on her former works. Her operations are remarkable for their appropriate grandeur and magnificence. The American continent stretches towards the south 21 degrees beyond the most southern promontory of the continents of the east. Its internal scenery corresponds with the immensity of its outline. The Andes, are 7000 feet higher than any other mountain on the face of the earth. The lakes of Canada, are of greater extent than many of the inland seas of the eastern hemisphere.— Europe would be drained of half her waters, in furnishing supplies for such immense rivers as the Mississippi, St. Lawrence, La Plata, and Amazon, the last of which, is the largest river in the known world. The most distinguished transatlantic cataracts, bear no comparison with the falls of Niagara. The forests of Europe, Asia, and Africa, are lost  
A in

in the magnitude of those of America. The Elephant of the east is far inferior, in point of size, to the Mammoth of the west. We cannot suppose that this extraordinary physical grandeur of America, was created without design; and what design so probable, as to be subservient to some corresponding exalted state of man?

MAY we not, therefore, indulge a hope, that the inhabitants of a country so eminently distinguished by the Author of Nature, are destined to form political associations of a large size, and that these will enjoy an uncommon portion of happiness?

WE are now met to celebrate an event, which gives an air of probability to these pleasing conjectures. Louisiana is ours! If we rightly improve the heaven sent boon, we may be as great, and as happy a nation, as any on which the sun has ever shone. The establishment of independence, and of our present constitution, are prior, both in time and importance; but with these two exceptions, the acquisition of Louisiana, is the greatest political blessing ever conferred on these states. Considering it in its most inferior point of view, merely as property, it is of incalculable value. It gives us from two to three hundred miles of additional sea coast, with several excellent harbours. The land on both sides of the Mississippi, for two or three hundred miles, below our southern limits, together

gether with the exclusive possession of this noble river, from its source to its mouth, and an extension of our western territory, for its whole length, stretching indefinitely across the continent, till it touches the Pacific ocean.

THOUGH in this immense region, a considerable part is barren and unhealthy, yet the greatest proportion enjoys a salubrious air; and is so fertile, as to be equal to the support of a population, far exceeding the many millions which inhabit Great Britain, Ireland, France, Spain, and Portugal—I had almost said all Europe. In it, forests, coeval with time itself, lift their towering heads. These abound with excellent timber, adequate to the building of navies, far superior to all that are now afloat on the ocean. Prairies, or natural meadows of inexhaustible fertility, frequently extend for many leagues, in which there are neither trees, nor the roots of trees, to impede the plough, while their native grasses are capable of maintaining millions, both of wild and domestic animals, for the support and comfort of the human race.

EVERY production of the United States, may be raised to advantage in Louisiana, while its southern parts produce the sugar cane in great perfection, and would, doubtless, yield coffee, and most of the other productions, both of the East and West-Indies. Indeed, such is its variety of soil, and extent of climate, stretching, nearly, from the northern



thern tropic, to the north frigid zone, that it is highly probable, all the valuable native commodities, of every part of our world, might be advantageously cultivated in different portions of this widely extended territory.

WE have reason to believe, that in it, there are valuable mines of gold and silver; but it is certain that salt, iron, lead, and plaster of Paris, articles of much more importance, are in great abundance.

WHEN this country, hitherto untrod by the foot of either chymist or botanist, shall be carefully explored by our Waterhouses, Mitchiels, and Bartons, such additions will be made to our present stock of knowledge, in natural history, as will both delight and benefit an admiring world.

IN other countries, and under the direction of other governments, the energies of nations have been called forth—thousands of lives have been sacrificed—fees have been crimsoned with human blood in the attack and defence of a few acres, or of barren rocks, such as Malta and Gibraltar; but we have gained possession of this invaluable country, without one drop of blood, and without the imposition of any new taxes; and, at the same time, with the consent of its inhabitants, and without giving offence to any of the powers of Europe. History affords no example of the acquisition of such important national benefits, at so moderate a price, and under such favourable circumstances.

ALL

ALL this immense country is ours in trust for posterity. With such an ample reversion, what reason has any single man, to be afraid of matrimony? Or what ground is there for any married man to be alarmed at the prospects of a numerous family? Here are plantations enough, and enough, for our children and our children's children, for centuries to come. Though these must be purchased by future occupants, yet in our national capacity, we the people of the United States, are both the sellers and buyers. The purchase money, when paid, will only be transferred from the left to the right hand of the same body politic. When deposited in the treasury of the union, it will not be drawn out for the aggrandisement of our rulers, or of a privileged order of men, but for public benefit. Such is the amount of vacant land in this extensive region, and so rapid will be its population, under the auspices of our mild and equal government, that the proceeds of sales, at no very distant day, will be so great, as not only to reimburse the first cost of the purchase, but to afford a surpluse for the endowment of seminaries of learning—opening roads—inland navigations, and other objects of national consequence.

THE day would be too short to enumerate all the natural advantages, of our newly acquired territory. This view of the subject, though highly important, must be discontinued, that your attention may be drawn to other considerations of infinitely more consequence.

THE

THE cession of Louisiana to the United States, will give them power and consequence in the scale of nations—increase their prospects of peace and union—advance their commerce and manufactures—give additional security to their free constitutions, and in a variety of ways promote and extend human happiness.

To view the subject correctly, in relation to these objects, we should compare our present situation, as sole proprietors of this country, with what it would have been, if the designs of the French for colonizing Louisiana had been carried into effect. In the hands of that wonderful man, who presides over France, New-Orleans would have been the fulcrum of an immense lever, by which he would have elevated or depressed our western country in subserviency to his gigantic projects. Our rights of deposit at New-Orleans, and of the free navigation of the Mississippi, would have been considered as terminating with the termination of the government of Spain, which had granted these privileges. As a matter of favor our western citizens would have been allowed a free trade with New-Orleans in French vessels, and with the exclusive privilege of trading with the colonies of France, Spain, and Holland.

HAD this plan been pursued, which is highly probable, the standard of discord would have been planted between the Atlantic and the western states. From the operation  
of

of obvious causes, the union of our rising empire would soon have been fevered. Our nearest neighbours, would have become our enemies. The French possessing the lock and key of the Mississippi, would have had manifold inducements to supply our western citizens with merchandize, free of impost. Attempts on our part to prevent this illegal trade would have required such an host of revenue officers as to leave little or no income, to the public treasury. Our countrymen, would cease to be carriers, of such of their own commodities, as grew on the western waters. Distinct interests, marked by a ridge of mountains, would have separated one half of our citizens from the other.

WITH this gloomy picture, give me leave to contrast our present prospects. Being, as we now are, exclusive owners of the Mississippi in its whole length; the West-India islands must depend on our granaries for their daily bread. Such of the powers of Europe, as have colonies in our neighbourhood, will be obliged to court our friendship. The congress of the United States will regulate all intercourse between the West-India islands and the continent of North-America, with the paltry exceptions of the Floridas, Canada, and Nova-Scotia. This will afford the most ample and easy means of defence—of a defence, which though it costs us nothing, will serve us more effectually than fleets and armies.

IF

IF the French had colonised Louisiana, all this power and influence would be gone, the resources of our country divided, and one half of our citizens set in hostile array against the other. United, as this northern continent now is, in our hands, from the lakes of Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, we have the uncontrolled power of making such arrangements, respecting the valuable native commodities of these states, as will give a new spring to our agriculture, commerce and manufactures.

THE inhabitants of Louisiana will be chiefly agriculturists; and purchase their farming utensils, and most other domestic articles.—What a field of enterprise will this open to our eastern brethren, whose cheapness of navigation—whose skill in handicraft trades, will entitle them to a decided preference in trading with their new fellow-citizens? Here will be a great and growing demand for the manufactures and shipping of New-England, to supply the wants, and carry off the produce of this extensive territory.

OF all branches of trade, that which is carried on between different parts of the same nation is most beneficial. Agriculture, commerce, ship-building, and manufactures, support, and are supported by each other.—They are separate links of one great chain, which binds all together, and each of which adds to the strength of the whole. Too long has this country been commercially dependent  
on



on Europe. Notwithstanding our perfect neutrality, do we not all, at this moment, suffer in consequence of the war between France and England? It is high time we had a commerce of our own, as independent, as possible, of the ever changing politics of the old world. This independence will be greatly promoted by the reciprocal wants and capacities of different portions of our now widely extended empire. One extreme of the union abounds in shipping, overflows with inhabitants, and is ripe for manufactures; while the other engaged in the cultivation of a more fertile soil, finds its interest in purchasing manufactures, brought to their doors. A domestic commerce of this kind will cement our union, and make us really independent.

PEACE with all the world, and especially in our own country, is the true policy of these states. This is now much more probable than it ever could have been, while we had a strong French colony in our neighbourhood. The day that France made the cession we now celebrate, she relinquished all prospects of interfering in our government. If Buonaparte had had any hostile designs on these states, he would as soon have given up Brest or Toulon, as Louisiana.

WITHIN the limits of the ceded territory, we know of more than twenty independent tribes of Indians. As long as powerful nations of Europe had access to these untutored savages, the peace of our frontier settlements

B

was

was exposed to a variety of contingencies. In the two last wars, in which this country was involved with France and England, the blood of our inhabitants, shed by savage hands, flowed in a thousand streams. In every period of American history, the nations of Europe, regardless of morality and religion, have always availed themselves of the aid of the aborigines in destroying each other, and also, the colonies of rival nations.

In gaining the affections of the savages, the French were pre-eminent. Figure to yourselves what would have been the situation of our frontier settlements on the western waters, in case of a war with France, while her emissaries had the numerous tribes of Indians in Louisiana, firmly attached to her interests, and ready, when called upon, to make war upon our dispersed and defenceless inhabitants. These Indians are now all our own— included within our limits, and so far dependent on us, that no other nation can interfere with them. The cession of Louisiana has wrested the scalping knife, and tomahawk from their hands, and laid the foundations of perpetual peace, by giving us every desirable opportunity for introducing among them the blessings of civil and social life. They are now thrown on our humanity and generosity.

Mysterious Providence! We, the people of the United States, who, less than thirty years ago, were the subjects of the British King, are now the independent proprietors of this soil;

foil; and that portion of it, which we originally possessed, is more than doubled by a recent cession of territory, in which are numerous tribes of Indians, whose ancestors owned this whole country for time immemorial, before any one of ours had set his foot on American ground. Trusting in the virtue of my countrymen, and warranted by the present and past exertions of our rulers, I am confident that these hapless natives will have no cause to regret, but abundant reason to rejoice in the change which has taken place.

The voice of every good man should be raised in favour of our red brethren. The common Father of them, and of us, calls upon us to impart to them the superior blessings which we enjoy. The competition of rival nations, bidding against each other for their friendship, is now no more. We have the whole field to ourselves, and a glorious field it is; in which we may, and I trust will sow the seeds of knowledge, of virtue, of useful arts, of civilization, and religion; and that these will grow up and flourish till they yield a plentiful harvest of human happiness. To transform savage warriors to peaceful farmers—to convert their tomahawks and scalping knives into plowshares and pruning-hooks—to turn them from the worship of evil spirits to the worship of the true God—from the absurd rites of Pagan idolatry to the mild principles, and practical virtues of christianity, is a godlike work. For the execution of it, the extension of our boundaries gives us facilities we never had.

had before, and which, I trust, will be improved for the best of purposes.

THE cession of Louisiana, gives additional security to our free constitutions. Had the French colonised Louisiana with their accustomed energy, the most determined democrats, in our country, must have consented to the establishment of a large standing army. Without it, we could not have defended ourselves against such powerful neighbours. To maintain an army, sufficient for that purpose, we must have had heavy taxes, and an extensive executive patronage. These would, gradually, have undermined our republican forms of government, and paved the way for the concentration of power in the hands of an hereditary monarch. Free, as we now are, from all apprehensions on the score of powerful neighbours, the militia of the country, with a small regular force, and a few frigates and ships of the line, are amply sufficient to procure for us security at home, and respectability abroad. Safe from all danger, each citizen of these states, may repose in confidence under his own oak or pine tree, while there is none to make him afraid.

SUCH citizens enjoying the fruit of their labor—paying only moderate taxes, and bound by no laws, but such as are enacted by their representatives, must be fools or madmen, to wish for a revolution; on such citizens, knowing their rights, appreciating their happiness, and dispersed over our extensive country, the

arts

arts of turbulent, ambitious men, will have no considerable, permanent effect. These may operate on small states, where a single demagogue may be personally known to most of the leading characters; but would fall like pointless arrows, shot from broken bows, when intended to debauch the minds of the inhabitants of an empire, consisting, chiefly, of independent farmers, and stretching across the continent of North America.

SOME peddling politicians may object "that the extensive addition of territory, we have gained is unnecessary," as in their opinion, "we had land enough before." To this objection, our increasing population, which doubles every twenty-five years, is a satisfactory answer. Two centuries have not elapsed, since the first permanent settlements were made in British America. One at James-Town in one thousand six hundred and eight, by one hundred and ten persons, and the other at Plymouth, in one thousand six hundred and twenty, by one hundred and one persons. From these two germs, has sprung the present population of the United States, amounting in one hundred and ninety-six years to five millions.

MUCH of this increase, we acknowledge, was owing to emigration from foreign countries; but we have a right to expect much more from the same quarter, on account of the present high ground on which our country stands. If the inhabitants of the old world, ventur-  
ed



ed to the new, when we were dependent colonies—liable to be implicated in the wars of Europe, and exposed to the immediate hostilities of powerful nations of Indians, we may expect a much greater number of them to join us, in our present situation, when we are independent states—detached from Europe, and free from all apprehensions on account of hostile neighbours, either civilized or savage. The address of our extended empire to the old world, now is: “Come unto me all you that are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” Thousands, and tens of thousands, will obey the call, and joining their interests with ours, make emigration a more plentiful source of supply than it ever was in any preceding period of our history.

JUDGING of the future, by the past, what may an infant, born this day, expect to see, in case of his surviving to the age of fourscore? What do your old citizens now see, compared with what was the population of this country in the days of their youth? If some angel, hovering over the chamber, in which our venerable fellow-citizen, General Gadsden drew his first breath, and fore-seeing his ardent patriotism, had pronounced, with an audible voice, these words: “The infant, just now born, will live to see the population of his native country, South-Carolina, advanced from thirty-two thousand to three hundred and forty-five thousand”—nought, but conviction, that an angel spoke, would  
have

have procured the smallest credit to the extraordinary prediction; but we, who now live, and can compare the registers of our population, at different periods, know, that what would then have been doubtful, as prophecy, is now an established historical fact.

By the same rule, a new born infant may live to see the population of the United States, increased to fifty millions, which is more than three times the number of persons, which now inhabit Great-Britain and Ireland. Proceeding to calculate on the data, which former enumerations of our people have furnished, our population, in twenty-five years, will amount to ten millions; in fifty years to twenty millions; in seventy-five years to forty millions; in one century to eighty millions; and by the same rule, in two centuries to twelve hundred and eighty millions of inhabitants. The great grandsons of our present children, without any extraordinary series of longevity, may live to see this amazing increase of our numbers. What territory can be too large for a people, who multiply with such unequalled rapidity?

FRIGID, indeed, must be the intellects of that man, who supposes "That the possession of the island of New-Orleans, and of a slip of land on each side of the Mississippi, was all that the interests of the United States required; and that all beyond, instead of being a national benefit, is a national incumbrance." This language might apply to the subjects of

a

a decrepit empire, whose population was stationary, and the inhabitants of which, were enervated by sloth and luxury; but is very unsuitable to the citizens of the United States, in the heyday of youthful blood, who, with minds free from debasing passions, and bodies strengthened by daily labour, are capable of such multiplication, as will soon fill this whole country with an healthful, active progeny.

CONGRESS will, doubtless, direct the stream of our increasing population into the most suitable channels, and, probably, for some time, confine it to the eastward of the Mississippi; but the day will come, though perhaps at the distance of one or two centuries, when our citizens, on the west of that noble river, will equal, if not exceed those on its east side.

HERE a more formidable objection is made by some, who alledge "that this immense population will divide into separate independent governments; or can only be kept together by the strong arm of monarchy, or despotism, to the destruction of the elective principles, which pervade our present constitution." If our social compact was held together by no stronger ties, than those which bind the governments of the old world, this objection would be solid. If our newly acquired territory was to continue to be governed as a dependancy on the United States, the standard of seperation, would ere long be erected, and the inhabitants, for their own convenience, would form political associations

tions independent of us. Though a colonial government will be necessary for some short time, yet, it is wisely provided, that the inhabitants of Louisiana shall, as soon as convenient, be admitted into the union, with the same privileges as the citizens of the original states. Do the people of Connecticut govern the people of South-Carolina, or do the inhabitants of Georgia govern the inhabitants of New-Hampshire? By no means. Each state governs itself, in all matters of domestic concern. On the same principles, the inhabitants of Louisiana will soon be on such a footing of equality, that it will be as near the truth to say that they govern us, as that we govern them. While, therefore, our perfect constitution is preserved inviolate, what inducement can they have to wish for a separation? In every article of local policy, they will be as independent of us, as we are of them. In the grand councils of the nation, they, in proportion to numbers, will have their full share of weight and influence, in common, with Virginia and Massachusetts, the two oldest states in the union.

IN this view of the subject, our present form of government is the very best on earth for a great country: It combines the freedom and convenience of the smallest, with the strength and protection of the largest. Our federo-national system is an improvement on all the governments that have gone before it. I challenge the greatest admirer of antiquity—  
 the

the most deeply read in modern history, to point out one, either antient or modern, that is capable of communicating equal blessings to the inhabitants of an extensive territory.

WHEN the Romans extended their dominions, they never co-extended the rights of citizenship. Instead thereof, the new members of their empire became the subjects of their old citizens. Hence, revolts and rebellions were common. Very different is the policy of these states. Our government, formed on wiser principles, and founded on equal rights, has nothing to fear from an extension of its boundaries. With certain modifications, the more extensive the better, as the security of the component parts will be increased thereby—for the strength of the whole stands pledged for the protection of every part. It can never be too large, till the parts are so divided from each other, or the extremes so far asunder, as not to admit the convenient meeting of deputies in some central spot, for the purpose of deliberating on national concerns. This cannot be affirmed of our present most extended limits. Arrangements are making, and, perhaps made, for transporting the mail to Washington, from St. Croix and New-Orleans, in ten days from each. The distance of these two extreme parts is, therefore, no obstacle to the inhabitants of both coalescing, by their deputies, in one general congress.

WHEN the present constitution was under consideration for the purpose of adoption,  
objectors



objectors said "it could never answer for the "united government of the thirteen original "states." The experience of twenty-eight happy years has proved the fallacy of these predictions. From thirteen we have grown to seventeen states; and yet, are as well governed as ever. What is to hinder our extension on the same liberal principles of equal rights, till we have increased to twenty-seven, thirty-seven, or any other number of states that will conveniently embrace in one happy union, the whole country from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, and from the lakes of Canada to the Gulf of Mexico? Great God! All this country filled with freemen—with citizens of the United States! How must the heart of every good man expand with joy in the prospect of so great an extension of human happiness? While the kingdoms of the old world are tottering to their foundations—oppressive taxes grinding their subjects—one war scarcely ended, when another is begun—it has pleased the Eternal to erect a representative system of government in the woods of America, founded on reason and equality, the only object of which, is the happiness of the people. When this government had been carried on twenty-eight years for the noblest purposes, and with the most extensive benefits, it has farther pleased God to double its limits, by a cession of territory, which brings the most desirable portion of our continent under the operation of the best constitution in the world. Well may the citizens of the U-

nited States rejoice on the great event. Yes; we have abundant reason to rejoice on our own account, as being more immediately interested, and much also, on account of our oppressed brothers of the human race, in all parts of the world. Here an asylum is not only opened, but increased to an extent, sufficient for the support of their countless numbers, in which they may enjoy life, liberty, and property, without oppression or disturbance.

IF the souls of departed good men, know what is passing on this earth, what must be the joy of our beloved Washington on this festive day? He thought himself amply recompensed for all his toils, in seeing the happiness of the thirteen original states. With what increasing exultation must he behold an extension of the same rights, privileges, principles, and constitution over an additional territory, capable of accommodating hundreds of millions of happy inhabitants, who will enjoy the fruits of his labours?

LOUISIANIANS! You are no longer foreigners or strangers, but fellow citizens.— We give you a most hearty welcome into the union. We claim you not as subjects, but receive you as brethren, succeeding, in common with us, to an ample inheritance of the most precious rights. Rights, which you and we fully enjoy, though denied to the greatest portion of mankind. Do you enquire what they are? I shall briefly, enumerate a few of them. You are free to think, to speak, and to act as you please

pleas, provided you do not injure your neighbours. Your persons, houses, papers, and effects are secured against unreasonable searches and seizures. You cannot be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on the presentment or indictment of a grand jury. You cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of the law. You are liable to no taxes, and bound by no laws, but such as are authorized by yourselves or representatives. In short, you are in possession of every right and privilege that any reasonable member of society would wish to enjoy. All these rights are not only yours, in your quality of citizens, but are guaranteed by the whole force of the United States. If such are the privileges you obtain, by your incorporation with us, there can be no doubt of your hearty co-operation in supporting our free constitution, by which all these rights are secured, and in transmitting the same, inviolate, to posterity.

ON all the citizens of the United States, this day imposes new duties. For the last twenty-eight years we have demonstrated to the world, that man is capable of self government—that the representative system is fully adequate to secure and promote the happiness of its members. It still remains to be proved, that it is equal to the happy government of an extensive country. What a reproach would it be to us all, if our future political condition should be less happy than the

the past. Our enemies would then triumphantly say "that a representative system only suited a small country, and a handful of people, in the early stage of society." The reputation which the cause of liberty has gained, by our past successful experiment, in building government on reason, and the rights of man, would, in a great measure be lost.

THE happiness enjoyed under our new system, in this new world, has a direct tendency to regenerate the governments of the old, without the horrors and bloodshed of revolutions. If this happiness increases, and extends with the increase, and extent of our territory, the advantages to the distressed will be incalculable. The rulers of the eastern continent, who hold a great part of their fellow-men in bondage, and who are perpetually involving them in wars, will relax in their oppressions—curb their ambition, and study the things that make for the peace and happiness of their subjects: This will be their obvious interest, when they know, that our now extended limits afford an ample asylum for the poor of all nations, where they may become independent citizens, on their own lands, and in the peaceable enjoyment of every earthly comfort. The success of the noblest experiment ever made for meliorating the condition of man, in a great measure, depends on us. A price is put into our hands, which, if rightly improved, will cause thousands, who have never seen America, to bless us,

us, for our successful exertions in the cause of liberty.

As such important consequences are involved in the future destinies of these States, the thought should frequently recur, what line of conduct is most suitable to realize the happiness, which the high political situation of our country seems to promise? This would lead every one to reform himself, so as to become a good and useful citizen. Patriots of this stamp, cannot fail of making the government both happy and respectable.

SINCE it has pleased the Supreme Disposer of events, to give us peaceable possession of a great additional territory, it is our bounden duty so to improve the heaven sent boon, that it may be extensively useful. A different line of conduct would be ungrateful to God, and unjust to man. In every arrangement, respecting this new country, the greatest good of the greatest number should be the primary object of attention. To qualify his children to be worthy members of so great an empire, should be the ambition of every parent. On the vote of the child of the poorest citizen, may depend the passing of a law, or the elevation of a fellow-citizen, to the supreme executive authority of the union. If the voice of a single individual can be of such moment, what care should be taken to endow that individual with knowledge, and to train him up in the ways of truth, honor, and virtue? None of us can tell, which of our children  
may



may be called upon to the discharge of duties most important to their country ; for, in our government, there are no privileged orders, and the path to honor, and office, is open to all. The whole of the rising generation should, therefore, be educated with a view to the high destinies of republican citizens, who, individually, possess a portion of the sovereignty of a great empire. Such well trained republicans, possessing such a country as the United States, and enjoying a constitution, approaching as near to perfection, as any thing human, cannot but be happy.

The tide of joy which, on the present festive occasion, flows in upon us, must be increased, when we compare the events of this day with those which took place on the same day, of the same month, twenty-four years ago. On the twelfth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, Charleston bowed to a conqueror. Its inhabitants were brought under the yoke—their property wrested from them—their persons insulted—their families exiled and thrown on the charity of strangers, or left to starve at home, with scarcely any means of support, unless they renounced their independence, and acknowledged allegiance to its enemies. On the twelfth of May, one thousand eight hundred and four, many of the sufferers in these distressing scenes, are now before me, rejoicing not only in the independence and prosperity of their country, but in the peaceable extension of its boundaries,

ries, over an immense region, compared with which, the territories of many celebrated empires sink into insignificance. How immense the difference! How striking the contrast! Thanks to Almighty God, who, in the short space of twenty-four years, has raised us from a low state of depression to an eminence, in which, if not wanting to ourselves, we may enjoy as much political happiness, as ever yet has fallen to the lot of man.



