WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

[V) LUME IX.

Mr Carleton

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY ALLMAND HALL .____ TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1805. "

From the Boston Chronicle. AN ORATION,

Pronounced at the request of the "Charlestown Light Infantry," before the Republican Citizens of Charlestown, on the Anniversary of American Independence,

By BENJAMIN GLEASON.

VIRTUE is the soul of a Republican Government;----and truly great and glorious are those spirits which feel and excreise the exalted PRINCIPLE.

LIBERTY is the birth-right, and EQUALITY of Rights the incontestible privilege of MAN! —Sacred to the Citizeas of our United States, be all their blessings!

Sacred to the present generation, and to all posterity, be The Day we celebrate;—be it consecrated to the memory of former times; —to the remembrance of mighty deeds; and to the preservation of those Principles, which warmed the pure blood of our FA-THERS:—to be perpetuated down, through the long lapse of ages, a Jubilee of Joy, Union and Glory.

Our Republic—the Fabric of our INDEPEN-DENCE, still exists !—The Republics of the elder world have long since ceased their continuance ;---all swallowed up, in absolute power, or absolute ruin !

Our several state governments, united in a national body politic, compose one grand confederated REPUBLIC;----a UNION, which stands unrivalled, among all the systems of government, throughout the habitable regions of the Earth; and we, its Citizens----indeed Republicans---not in fancy----but in fact, are most supremely blest!

The present occasion affords an opportunity to elucidate, and substantiate this pleasing reality. Look through all AFRICA; from Grand Cairo to Tangier, and from Tangier to the Cape of Good Hope:....thro' all the diversity of tribes, from the Copts and Mamelukes in Egypt. to the black inhabitants of Senegambia; to the Hottentot, at the Cape; you find no organized Republic-...no free-born Republiean of a free and distinguished Country.

Look through all Asia; and you behold all the mighty wheels of Empire, rolling at large, like Comets, in boundless space, disconnected with system, consuming and consumed, with their own fires ; wandering in hordes, and preying on all opposing obstacles ; or walled in Cities, ever waiting the issue of Battle !---- Among the Clans of the former, abject poverty and despotism !---- Among the Governments of the latter, despotism, opulence, avarice, indigence and slavery ! EUROPE presents an assemblage of character -a group of scenes ---- a budget of curiosities ---- a prolixity of events a PICTURE, which is variegated, with almost every hue and colour of diversified Life. Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Russia exhibit, in the national and political characters, no bright and glorious traits of Republicanism. -The Norwegian principle is perhaps too much incased in Climate ;---every chieftain, at Stockholm, is not a GUSTAVUS VASA ;-Lopenhagen still points the cannon of the Mole, to the exaction of tribute ;---- a Russian num-Bers his slaves, by the multitude of his roubles; -the Baltic washes all their shores, and will perhaps for ages yet to come, never feel the grateful breezes of FREEDOM. Poland was called a Republic, but in its bosom, lives an hereditary Aristocracy. Its Kosciuskos sleep beyond the bourne of Life ; and the Suwarrow spirits, already gorged, in madness and in blood, stand ready waiting at its portals, to rush in, at their grand festival of anticipated Rebellion ! The Circles of Germany, though composing a convention of great political Interests, in their National Diet Imperial Cities, with an Imperial Emperor at their head, yet fall short of a firm, and free Republic. What a difference between the peasant of Hungary, and the Republican Farmer of New-England-between their heyducks and hussars, and the Infantry and Cavalry, in our great, respectable, and invincible Militia ! Holland, since the great confederation of Utrecht, boasts itself a Republic ; but in it-States-General there is more than a pure demecratic representation of the United Provinces r it contains an hereditary Stadtholdership! Switzerland, whose Cantons, enriched by the hand of Industry, smile with plenty ; affording a fit residence for a vigorous, free, and happy people. Switzerland ever considered a Republic, in the Helvetic Union, is too often subjected to the controuling authorities of Aristocracy and Usurpation.

complicated interests, can never become a united and lasting Republic.

Look at the Despotic State of Spain ; their Cortes, or Parliaments, are the most harmless things in Nature; a mere splendid etiquetteto Royalty; without power! without privilege! without pretention!

Portugal is a sister in the same connection, and their Government, like the Government of Spain, as contrasted with that of our United States, is a standing monument of impoverished Ostentation : and pre-eminent Insignificance !

France, after it had existed a monarchy, upwards of 1200 years, was by the National Assembly, in a representation from its 92 departments, declared a Republic ! How true this declaration is, in fact, you yourselves are judges. A Corsican, absolute in Authority, and nearly thirty millions of people to obey his imperial pleasure !--- A government hereditary ! --- France----not a Republic !

It may have been said that Great-Britain boasts a Constitution, which is, in its nature and effects, the most perfect model of all Governments : "the most stupendous fabric of human invention:" Grant, it bears the semblance--- it is not the substance; it is but the shading and outlines; not the full picture, the perfect glory of a free and united Republic!

England, compared with the United States, is much like the ark of the Covenant, in comparison with the Temple of Solomon; -- but in its Works and Greeds, it has been much like the Giant of the Philistines, in competition with the little ruddy DAVID of Israel !. Its whole head is now sick ! its whole heart is faint ! its destruction, it is feared, is inevitable ! On their Land, there will at some future day, be reared a Beacon, to warn against approaches to that mighty Old England !--- While America young, vigorous, & lorious and happy, will afford an Asylum to the persecuted of all Nations, and shield them ever, under the banners of Liberty, Prosperity and Peace !

Upon the Continent this side the great waters of the Atlantic, the devouring talons of insatiable ambition, once usurped the power to prey, ravage, waste and destroy. Earthquake, Tempest, Inundation and Flames have been rivalled by daring and usurping men! The blood stained traces of a CORTES and a Ptzarro, carrying depredation in one hand, and desolation in the other, still are, and ever will be visibly dilineated, on the charts of ments of those Times, which " tried men's souls"-as in crucibles of political affliction!

May our FATHERS, who still live, and who this day witness our grateful affections, our sealous attachment to the cause of LIBERTY, and our resolution to defend and protect the RIGHTS OF MAN; while they behold their children around them, rising up "to call them blessed;" may they feel the assurances of a blessed immortality !- They shall be immortal in the affections of their Children !!

While we retrospect the rough vicissitudes of War, and regard, with due consideration, the scene of Battle-may the thrillings of sublime sensation pervade the heart, vibrating to every tone of Recollection-Behold!

Aggression followed on after aggression .----Prohibition after prehibition. The stamp-act. The massacre. The tea-traffic. The "Boston port-bill." Impositions and persecutions. -These were the high-handed insults offered the People of the United States, particularly the State of Mussachusetts, while yet a Colony, by his Sovereign Majesty, the King ! " defen-der of the taith !" and the Supreme authorities of the Court of Great-Britain ! - And these persecutions were answered by Remonstranceafter Remonstrance ; petition after petition : but the evil increased; opposition then became a Right; and resistance, Law; then courage became a Virtue; and resolution, Glory !---- " Arms become just and sacred to those who have no other resource :"-- The standards of LIBERTY were erected, on the high hills of Massachusetts !---- Thousands rallied around them in arms! HEAVEN attested the fact! and the "Gop of Armies," smiling complacent, bid America be free !

See! a gathering storm appears at Leechmore's point----eight hundred troops have lanued! They open their way to Concord, to destroy our military stores, and to secure the proscribed patriots-HANCOCK and ADAMS! Then Lexington recorded a scene memorable in the history of our country.

"DEATH or LIBEATT," exclaim our undaunted, patriotic Countrymen. The scene was cruel! Skirmish, confusion, and death pave their way from *Concard*. Lord Piercy appears, with a relief of nine hundred recruits; our *jankee* brethren pursue them *scatteringly*; but with revenged havoc, to the very ground, where now we celebrate our INDEPENDENCE. rated AMERICA, from GREAT-BRITAIN-

See ! next at New-York, WASHINGTON and Howe in competition.

See the American Soldiers driven from Tork-Island, and retreating through the Jerseys: disheartened and almost hopeles: --Rhode-Island is lost, taken by Clinton. Losses, defeat, sickness and death; the four Elements of present misery, darken with conflicting tempests, the present dreary scene. The Northern army reduced from 25,000 to 3000 men, is in a manner no more: to add the last aggravation, by a strange imprudence, Ceneral Lee is captured by a party of British Light Horse.

It was on the evening of the 25th December, 1776, that Washington, great in misfortune, as he was good in character, turned the tide of War, and "revived the desponding hopes of America." He passes from Pennsylvania: crosses the Delaware in a storm; arrives at Trenton: captures the Hessian troops; gains a signal victory: saves his COUNTRY! The gallant Mercer dies, but the patriot lives, in eternal remembrance!

Soon after Tryon carries fire and sword into Connecticut---at Danbury, the brave Wooster fell !

Practising the policy of the English, in taking Gibraltar ; the heroic Col. Barton takes the English Gen. Prescot naked, from his quarters in Rhede-Island.

See! the mighty champion---Burgoyne--now advances with 10,000 men; many were the brave and worthy, who rose in powerful opposition. Gates leads on the Americans, and Burgoyne's whole army, at Saratoga, yield prisoners of War. This was glorious for you, my Country. The tears of affliction are now succeeded, by the smiles of joy and satisfaction.

See now the English forces, proudly sailing up the Chesapeak! The heights of Brandywige are lined with a Washingtonian opposition; but the Americans' loss is great; Philadelphia and Germantown witness similar scenes; the British losses balance it, prescrving the equipoise of war.

The year 1778 is distinguished by a treaty of Alliance with France. Monmouth is rendered memorable by our

Soldiers' successes. Rhode-Island the same. Conflagration still marks the foot-steps of the British.

Geneva, once the ally of the Swiss, knows but the fluctuating thrills of LIBERTT; not the glory of being a permanent Republic.

The Government of the Genoese more resembles their shield executed by VACCEE, than the Republican Government, under which, we have the happiness to live.

Venice is said to be one of the most celebrated Republics in the world, and is perhaps one of the most perfect and powerful Aristocracies on Earth! This fact has been well attested, by even their Doges themselves; too often the devoted victims to the inscrutable operations of the ministerial Cabinet !

Italy, hewn up into so many states & kingdoms, with so many opposite, conflicting and

South-America.

The altars of a Republic can never rise, or stand secure, on a basis of blood; but if founded on the imperishable principles of Integrity, Honor and Glory; when the rites of FREEDOM must be consecrated with blood, its shrines are cleansed from all pollution, by the potent fires of Heaven.

On such an imperishable basis, stand the altars of our own Country; venerated by the patriot and friend of Man! and having been once consecrated by blood, they shall be defended, though it be even by the blood of our FATHERS'S Children, & Children's Childrendown to the remotest generations.

No part of America, no part of the known populated world, stands so pre-eminent in Gibry, in Principles, in *Republican Virtue*, as these our *United States*: they are indeed a *Republic*, and we—Citizens of this free and happy Country, indeed-----REPUBLICANS!

Be it ever our ambition to defend, preserve and perpetuate the Constituted Rights of our Country; to support our CONSTITUTION, which is proverbially called the "Palladium of our Liberties!" to respect our Rulers; to remember with gratitude, the exertions of our Patriots; and to transmit unimpaired, and laden with accumulating honors, the exalted Principle, which has immortalized their names.

On this all important Day, Memory walks its meditations round, among the multitude of glorious deeds effected by our Fathers.— "The Mind's Eye" contemplates with infinite delight the unshaken firmness of the steady virtues, the immortal bravery of our sizes, our sages, and our heroes: and often pausing, at the warrior's tomb, where sleep the great and good, all covered with laurels ;—

----- " Oh! how beautiful is Death, when earn'd by virtue !"

There stands the smiling Angel of Peace----Guarding, with holy rites, the Hero's bourne, Guiding their spirits onward, never to return.

The Guardian Angel of our Union hath also inscribed, upon the records of Eternity— Ever sacred to posterity, be the remembrance of Times past I and be this Day hallowed, with Life's sublimest sympathy !

In the retrospection of past times, we behold a wonderful concatenation of Events, which led on ultimately to the establishment of American Independence.

"While Memory holds her mental seat," may we never forget those, to whom we stand indebted for our FREEDOM, with all its concomitant advantages; and while Gratitude warms the human breast, may our hearts cherish the noble principles of Republican Firtue, in connection with the dearest affections and felicities of Life.

May our fair Sisters listen to the tales of old Times, with pleasure ; give a tear to departed worth ; a smile to merit ; and applaud with generous hearts, the truly virtuous sentiThe alarm is spread! GAGE trembles with his mighty men of war in our metropolis!

I see the arms of our Citizens taken by a edlusion—I see their sufferings, but they sorn to complain—Their prospects shall be serate! Their native town is now besieged, with 20,000 of their brave countrymen, denanding satisfaction for their injured rights.

Here, within a war-whoop call, sat in pompus state, the British Myrmidons, Howe, IURGOTNE, CLINTON and GAGE;—issuing proclamations, and deciding upon the fate of cur Country, and the lives of our Citizens — The British martial laws are in operation !— 0! think of the distresses of those times; ---all is lamentation, horror and distraction !

See! your brave countrymen throwing up entrenchments on Bunker's Hill ! ... The enemy advancing with the progress of the Sun, -all is lost !--- No !--- livid Death rushes down their ranks, dreadful and tremendous. They retreat ! Our Countrymen victorious !--- No ! -- They raily !--- They return !--- Again all is confusion, shricks and shouts-again bravely repulsed :--- They retreat !--- Victory !--- No !--wrought up to a degree of desperation---great in numbers, pomp and power---they furiously put forward !--- O ! God --- temper, with mercy, the preponderating scale of war !----Spare---Spare our brethren. WARREN falls! --- Relief---ammunition fail ! Convulsed, our Countrymen make the last struggle !----Charlestown in flames ! Howe yet trembles in dubious contest !--- I see the interest felt universal, all round the hemisphere of vision .----The Enemy have reared the standard of victory : but in exaltation, triumph the Americans !-- Those take possession of the Hill : but our WARREN,-- our Countrymen of immortal glory !

The next war scene discovers the Green-Mountain boys, at Ticonderoga. under the command of General Allen,...demanding a surrender "in the name of the great Jehovah, and the Continental Congress." The key to Canada is secured to the Americans.

A regular army is now established, and its Chief is the illustrious WASHINGTON.

The next scene discovers the heroic Montgomery, at the head of his troops---struggling against double the number of the enemy--securing the out posts, and eities of refuge, belonging to the English. He fell glorious in battle, fighting for LIBERTY!

Norfolk and Falmough now lie smoaking in ruins !

About this time, rose those astonishing heights at Dorchester. Howe and his army in trepidation, quit our Capital-- they fear the invincible spirits of the Americans. Our beloved Washingtons enters Boston triumphant ! Parent, Brother and Friend, again meet and are happy !

Congress publish their Declaration of American Independence, (July 4, 1776.) which cut asunder the bond of connection, and sepa-

At Stoney-point, our Countrymen, led on by Wayne, are victorious! At Penobscot, they are unfortunate. Again, at Savannah, Lincoln and Count d'Estaing, repulsed with loss; here fellthe "brave soldier," Pulaski ! Again, at Charlestown, Lincoln taken : pgain, at Camden, Gates and his troops routed with loss. The British marauders now ravage our Country, like hungry tygers !

Rochambeau arrives !- Gen. Green takes command at the southward, and is successful.

Guildford commemorates the best fought action during the war; Green and Cornwallis in opposition. The Eutaw Springs are commemorative of American successes. Marguis de la Fayette, be thy virtues in remembrance while LIBERTY has charms!

Cornwallis is now blocked up! at York-Town by Count de Grasse. WASHINGTON arrives! Cornwallis surrenders! The contest is decided! America is free !

Peace, rises to view, like the Sun emerging from the last wastings, and desolating howlings of a storm, and LIBERT is all our own !

The British evacuate all their posts. They take their last stand at New-York. Guy Carleton comen over their commander, and treaties of PRACE, FRIENDENIF and ALLIANCE, close the eventful scene !

Thus, Gentlemen, conceiving it my duty, I have passed with you mentally over the vast theatre of the world. You have hed a cursory glance at the various modes and forms of Government, in their various relations, and operations throughout the Earth.

You have seen the Republics of Europe, as they now exist, and by contrast and illustration, how glorious, how pre-eminent, the Republic of the United States ! reared by our fathers, cemented with their best blood; and to be perpetuated, in republican union, forever!

Thus have we walked mentally over the terrific field of carnage, devastation and death. "Ins DAT," we celebrate, is designed ever to be commemorative of these great events. Our subject is our Independence ! and it is glorious for posterity on such a Day as this, to remember with gratitude the mighty Deeds, by which, with the blessing of Heaven, our Freedom was obtained.

The recital can never fatigue the Patriot, the Republican, whose heart glows with love to his fellow-man, to his Country, and to his Gon. No ! it is justice to elder times ! it is honor ! it is glory ! to bless the memory of our fathers ; to drink of the fountain of their feelings ; and to feel within us a spirit, like theirs, invincible ! immortal !

Peace, contrasted with War, now appears like the circuits of Elysium z contrasted with the trophies and carousals in the halls of Woden. 'The darkening clouds disperse ! the brightness of Freedom's Day beams forth, in tenfold lustre !

[Consinued on the last Page.]