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AN OBATION ed at Chapel Hill on Wednesday nt of the two Literary Societies ging to the University, by WILLIAM

M. A. M. Professor of Ancient Lan
re in the University,

ad hoped that this annual office of ing you would have always fallen up-of the alumni of the College, whose blanding, or whose space in the ever onn'ry, would have attracted public o and curiosity.—An annual special high would thus draws within these and sequestered precincts some of our inhed citizens, might confer several on benefits on the institution, by a great in their bosons the recolor of youth, and brightening the links ind them to their alms mater—while outh receiving their education, the e and the addresses of such visiters be received as a mark of attention, flattering, and fitted to inspire a noble on. I need feel no mortification of n informing the audience, that if the hes of the young gentlemen making ointment could have been gratified, ald have had the pleasure of latening, to some distinguished speaker from nor would the members of the Unihave had one selected from their boalfil a task which seems more graced appropriately committed to a stran but the failure of their applications in unriers having devolved the duty upon shall be happy if I am able, in some legree, to fulf the wishes of the lite ly who have done me the honor of ne their representative on this occad to compensate this polite auditory favor of their presence.

subject to which your attention is religited, is one which I know must ptable to every American ear: The any topic which, more than others, ed as the theme of those who aim, y the voice or the pen, to captivate ing and the hearts of this nation, it d anticipations of its future des in these we all love to dwell; and e lose ourselves in fond prophecies unity's fortunes, we find a soothing ountry a fortunes, we but a soothing in, or at least alleviation, of any chag-hich her present imperfections may spired. So far the effect is happy may be doubted whether the Ameri-icen, by indulging too sanguine hopes future, is not led to depreciate the his present blessings, and thus to himself of that fulness of contenment stitude, which is called for by the alspicious results of our government. he smiles of Providence. This dis-ion with the present, and this longing ome good in reserve, is to live for pos-is to make ourselves anxious, that may be exempt from anxiety. But we taste with indifference the sweet to our lap, or hrust them aside with because they are not as large or as as we imagine might be yielded by e tree when brought to a higher slate

ation? And are we sure that the to surpass the present? Are we country is not now in its meriappiness and glory, and that no sub-age will be as prosperous as this age will be as prosperous as this ake a view of our present condition, alge in some speculations on what we fear and what to hope; from the re of years. we compare the history of our coun-

its attainment of independence with all other nations, we see so much of all enjoyment with so little alloy, that y felicity begets suspicion and alarm indition appears to be too happy to be We are ready to apprehend that a continuance of such untroubled exismore than any one nation ought to from the favor of heaven; and we mes heave a boding sight-lest our re-are to be as rapid and calamitous as perity has been early and bright; and is to be equalized the distribution dential gifts, which hitherto seem to

en heaped upon us with a partial slity. That a people should have ermitted to settle down in the bosom undless continent, without any terri is neighbors to crush or cripple alous neighbors to crush or cupple ceble infancy—that they should have , in spite of impolitic legislation, to the of manhood, and then have been gon manhood, and then have their strip-percasing misrule to try their stripthrength against the gigantic might of trent nation—that they should have per-din the unequal contest for seven long and at length have gloriously trium— that they should have escaped the stality of revolutions, and did not find er and a tyrant in some one with with a who led them to victory—that with a minous calmness and deliberation no minous calmness and deliberation no fore witnessed in any people, they a council of their wisest senators to then a system of government, bin for then a system of government, binthe several parts into one harmonious
deracy, making "e pluribus unum;"—
bey should have adopted this govern
with so marvellous unanimity (the usual
and turbulent passions that might have
expected to mar such a work seeming
dormant or extinct)—that half a cen
almost uninterrupted peace, and the
tree ownership of an immense territo

ownership of an immense territo could make us-all these thing such a rare aggregation of political as may well awaken fears that we ady had more than our share of mag the members of the human fa

sixe farms, all the case and plenty they could usb. They are not tempted by desperate circumstances to aim at revolution, their wits are not sharpened to crime by hard necessity, and the rude collision of multitudes struggling for the same objects. What can we expect in reserve for us better than is alteraty in our hands? Ought a nation to de sire more than that a vast majority of its population should passess an easy competence, and the safe enjoyment of life, liberty and property? Can we wish or hope for more unre-trained freedom of thought and more unre-trained freedom of thought and action, for lighter taxes, for more undisturbed repose? Shall we value it at a cheap rate that our youth are not called out to abed their blood in foreign battle, that we know nothing of invading armies passing through our land, sending paids before them, and leaving carnage and desolation and mourning in their rear—that every citizen has the fos of Shall we value it at a cheap rate in their resr—that every citizen has the fos-tering hand of government to encourage his industry and protect him in its products, while he is asked but a pittance in requital —that he should be able thus to accumulate wealth all his life, and bequeath as he ; lea sea to his children!—These: features in our political condition seem to exemplify that ments, and preserve safe the bulk of its in image of national felicity, depicted by the habitants. But at the same time he may an expressive language of Holy Writ, when in every part of a land is heard "the voice of children who shall inhabit it, while the storm he bridegroum and the voice of the bride." if it could just enjoy what ours has enjoyed for the last fifty years? Would be not con pursuit of happiness, untrammetted by taxes by, or the idle alarms of a timerous spirit and monopolies and prescriptive rights and They have disturbed the breasts of some of privileged orders? Europe looks on with the soberest and firmest statesmen of this amazement and with envy at a nation so free country. Nor do we show superior courage and yet so tranquil so safe without the over or sagacity by laughing at such apprehen awing presence of military force... at the sions. True courage is evidenced by daring spectacle of a government sustained almost to contemplate danger as it is approaching without taxation, and religion flourishing and providently adopting measures to aver the aid of the national purse... Her subjects into a heat, refuses to listen to cautionary ad with admiration a people spread over a vast empire, contentedly pursuing the arts of peace, and, at its most distant extremeties, gracefully according spontaneous homage and obedience to the mild away of a govern ment, which loves to draw with silken cords, and to hide, till bateful necessity reveals it, the strength which can enforce its requisi

Historians admonish us, that nations, like the sun, have their time of rising, of meri of unpleasant communications as those of disn, and of decline; and we are familiar with kings; and a reference to history might show. the comparison of a whole people's existence that the chief danger of democracies consists to the life of a single individual, which has in yielding themselves up to the flattering its youth, its manhood, and old age. It is counsels of venal demagogues, rather than to natural for each nation, while it contemplates the faithful admonitions of their honest patri the transient date and the convulsive deaths ots. of its predecessors, to imagine that itself will lave the wisdom or the good fortune to avoid the usual causes of political destruction, and prophecies of evil, rather like a wise and to hope that the season of its glory will be prudent people, consider whether there is indefinitely extended.—And must we be any redeeming virtue in our fabric of govern lieve all such expectations to be merely the ment and the character of our people; or pleasing illusions of self love, destined to cer whether timely means may not be adopted tain disappointment?- Must we adopt the which may prevent the apprehended mis desponding sentiment of the Boman poet. chief.

omnia fatie In prius rucre, et retro sublapsa referri. that all human things tend by a sad fatality to degeneracy and dissolution? Must we, in he case of our own dear country particularv, admit the belief that the bright vision we have been contemplating will speedily vansh' that these numerous blessings are but lew drops which silver the morning of our xistence, as bright and as transient too? Shall we, by unfriendly analogies drawn from egetable and animal life, where whatever is most rapid in growth soonest hastens to decay, presage, from our early maturity, a briefer term than ordinary of national durafont No. Let us rather choose to enter ain brighter hopes for the destinies of the world. Let us hope that the lessons derived rom the melancholly wrecks of fallen empires will not be lost upon the present gen-eration. Let us indulge the delightful beief, that the active operation of the press, he consequent diffusion of intelligence and reedom, and above all, the kindly influence of christianity, controlling the passions and cheering the bearts of men, furnish a security for national permanence and improvement unenown to preceding ages.
While, however, the American patriot is

glad to cling to such consoling hopes, it is im possible for him not to feel some solicitude on ecount of certain frowning spots in our bright

The first danger which meets his view and excites the most dismal apprehensions, is a suston. When he contemplates the immense extent of our empire, his mind will sometimes be agitated with serious fears that its parts cannot long cohere, but must fall asunder, by the mere effect of unwieldly greatness. This spacious territory he sees greatness. This spacious territory he sees intersected by many grand geographical divisions, large rivers and high mountains, forming natural boundaries for distinct nations. He asks himself what moral ligaments suf-He asks himself what moral igaments sufficiently strong, can bind together regions which nature seems to have intended should be separated? The arm of a powerful despotism, fixed in the centre, might, he could suppose, wield so long a sceptre. By the dispersion of devoted legions and service atraps through the numerous provinces, dis content might be hustred and every rebellion murmur stiffed. But how, he will say, can government which allows such unbounded freedom of thought and action, which actual ly exemplifies the fair theory of freedom con-ceived by Cicero, that "men may think what they please and speak what they think," how can such a government control the free wills of so many myriads, and restrain the natural rantonness of the human mind, in loving in-tors on, and, while already in possession of nuch good, seeking for something better by

freaded by every overgrown empire, he sees acressed, in our case, by the heterogeneious materials of which the mass is composed.

might be said to resemble the ill compacted image in the rison of the Babylonian monarch, whose head was of gold, while its legs were partly of iron and partly of elay.

Of all these persitous elements of foreign mixture will be contemplate with chief alarm, that race, whose complexion, at once a banner of union and of venguance, must forever forbid amalgamation, and whose exclusion from all the blessings of the government must, make them with for its overthrow. The inthe excellence of its main materials, that it will withstand many a rude shock of the ele of and the voice of gladness, the voice of is howling over their heads, and the proba hility that they may be overwhelmed by the Would not every political economist and reformer of Europe think his country happy large majority of the family is saved, but the part dearest to him is crushed. The last act of his country's drama he has little doubt will sider his darling projects consummated, if he brought to a happy conclusion, but what if he could only reduce the complicated and the calamities of his own children are to con oppressive establishments of the old world to stitute the tragedy of the foregoing scenes' the simple model of this young republic, and Let it not be said that these are glooms leave man, as he is in America, to the free spectres conjured up by a distempered for

without the succour of the national arm, or it. Timidity on the other hand, works itself who visit us, and traverse our land, behold vice, dures not to stop and deliberate lest its blood should cool, but rushes forward hold ing its hand before its eyes, lest it should see the evils which it has not the nerve to contemplate. Let us not be so fond of indulging gay visions of our country's certain glory, as to be exasperated if any one whisper that the contrary is possible. The infelicity of monarchs in being doo-ued never to hear the truth, is proverbial. But it is quite possible for republican ears to become as intolerant

> Let us then, instead of shutting our ears with incredulity and resentment a sinst all

With respect to that event so much to be abhorded and dreaded, the disunion of the States, are not we warranted in entertaining goodly hopes for the confederacy, from our sprecedented advantages for a fair experiment of government? In most countries that have ever existed, the bulk of population, the physical strength of the nation, was not interested in the permanency of the egab lished sovereignty. They saw in that estab lishment little more to them than a system of restraints and incumbrances, while all the benefits of the social order were concentrated upon a few privileged classes... Hence they vere led to hope an amendment of their circumstances from every revolution; and as soon as any favorable conjuncture presented the promise of success, or some bold demarogue blew into a flame their smothered discontent, or some popular hero showed them their collected strength and offered them re-dress by the sword, they rose and overthrew their government without scruple or remorse Such governments were edifices resembling inverted pyramids. They stood critically o point, while a vast superincumbent weight hung tottering in the air. So long as cun ning statesman could manage by their dex terity to maintain the delicate equipoise, by balancing one part of the structure agains the other, so long the building stood But let any untoward accident, any breath of wind, or the push of a foreign hand, cause a leaning to either side, and the whole cumbrons mass came thundering down and whelmed every thing in ruin. Happily for us, our government is based upon the will of the governed. It was framed by the peo le administered by the people, and for the people. Nor does it arrogate to itself per fection, and, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, forbid all change, but contains in its structure provisions for pacific and legit-imate amendments. Should experience therefore, prove any existing ordinance to be grievous, there needs no political convul sion to throw it oif. The people who feel the grievance have but to say to their dele-gated authorities, remove it, and straightway

t disappears.

Besides the contentment and tranquillity ikely to prevade the popular mass from the mmunities so fully enjoyed, we have much to hope for our permanent union from the peculiar form of our federal government—its happy adaptation to our circumstances — the state governments supplying all the exigenlocal legislation, while the united strength of the confederacy spreads the broad shields of its protection over the gen eral concerns, and gives dignity and w to all our foreign operations. It would seen that if so wide an empire can cohere und a free government, the system we have a dopted must be the one which promises it What rare calamity shall overthrow a structure resting on so broad a basis. What dee infatuation shall ever prompt a people, quiet postession of such unparalleled ble sings, is lazard them all for the certain he roca and the precarious profits of a revo

Et tre

happy they are compared to them will be expatiated at large, tions, and the more dear to them will be expatiated at large, their own institutions. To show them the with brief and careless notice called of our union, that it is the hinge on space of a sation sexustence, which hang all the grand interests and dessiriking events, but spent in times of our country, deserves the efforts of Thus a river only flow on the wisest heads and the most shie pens of quiet current for hundreds of the mation. Every thing ought to be done venical thoroughtare of the mation and yet sever appear in the conske them wish for its overthrow. The intermixture of these ingredients with the whole mast of our common father. Washington, be write the and who has gunpowder stored away in his cellure is a contemplation of these dangers, and bed with the same who has gunpowder stored away in his cellure. Washington, be write for its a contemplation of these dangers, every manners and the same with that of a man who has gunpowder stored away in his cellure. Washington, be write for its a contemplation of these dangers, and the same whole stored away in his cellure. The same stored away in his cellure is a contemplation of these dangers, every stored away in his cellure. The same stored away in his cellure is a contemplation of these dangers, are included by the his every dangers. Let the part are but too well verified by the his from the father a sigh of solicitude for the fare of his children, which startles with terminations with the same which startles with terminations with the same with that of a family, while he muses on the probable issues of futurity, may indeed hope, from the head foundation of our national edification of our national edi tined with garrisons and frowning with hor rid battlements—that our sons will be drawn from the academic shade and the endrarments

of home to grasp the award and the bayonet for mutual sia ghter, while the willing aid of envious foreigners will be called in to help on the work of fraternal butchery. Then will our peaceful nights be startled by the peal of the dram; our plentiful fields, hither to gathered without a partner, shall then be come the foraging ground of an invading army, and the heavy exactions which each petty sovereignly must necessarily impose, spared. Let these premonitory notes he rung in the ears of the people. Let them be e-suaded that, compared with these ineviable consequences of disunion, all the in convenience and privations we have ever suffered from our federal compact ... direct tax, embargo, war, tariff, are light as air, and that the golden chain once snapped, we shall look back with bitter but fruitless regret up n our once slighted blessings and curse the

nadness which drove us to cast them away. We touched upon the dangers to be ap rehended from the admixture of foreigners mong us. Happily, this danger will grow ess with the lapse of time. The origina emigrant becomes much more harmless citizen than he was in his own country Oppression and poverty may have rendered him a dangerous revolutionist there, but the easy circumstances in which he soon placer himself here, transform his character, and at tach him to the hospitable land that has af forded him an asylum in its bosom. If he leaves children after him, they constitute i m st valuable species of population, posses sing the improvements brought from olde countries with the patriotism of natives Besides, the influx of foreigners must abate as our territory is filled with indigenous mul titudes. And it is to be hoped, that the ex ample of our free institutions, together with the progress of political philosophy, will more and more mehorate European govern ments, teaching sovereigns that it is their true interest to respect each other's rights and to make their subjects happy. As such benign changes take place, the inducements o emigration will subside, and thousands of restless malcontents, who now sigh for elys tan fields beyond the Atlantic, will then seek that happiness at home which they before hought was only

world. Against the danger that threatens us from ervile insurrection, it surely becomes a wise people to make timely provision. If no fears were awakened by groving numbers and in curable discontent, still, the necessary degra dation, and inevitable viciousness of so larg proportion of its inhabitants, would demand emedial measures from a humane and en ghtened nation. That slavery is the bane ul parent of the vilest morals, every virtuou family in this southern country knows full well, and deplores that it holds within its own walls a fountain of moral poison, which, in spite of the most watchful care, is contin ually diffusing around its baleful influence and infecting the health of all the household while public testimony to the same mournful fact is furnished by every jail and gibbet in the land. Many of the state governments have awaked to the importance of this sub ect, and we may hope that the progress of political windom and an increasing sense of he magnitude of the evil, will enlist the re nainder, who now stated back in indifference or despair, until at length a unanimity shall e effected, by which the collective wisdom and resources of the nation shall be put into ction for the extirpation of the bitter root

A survey of the multiplied blessings which already crown our land, might seem suffi cient to beget a perfect contentment, and hat all we could ask of Heaven, is a contin nance of the same condition. But it is cer ain we are not satisfied with our present at ainments; and perhaps this restless desire of omething better was implanted in communiics as it is in individuals, to prevent the stagnation of human affairs, and to st mulate out nature to its highest capacities of improve ment. Our country, rapidly as it has advance ed, has not advanced rapidly enough for our ambition. In many respects we are far be low the nations of Europe, and we cannot wait with patience until the gradual progress of time shall place us on a level with them We pant for 'more space in the world's hought.' Our homely, domestic joys, our humble quiet, unostentatious happiness seems tame and insipid. We sigh for some nore splendid fortune. We want the world to ring with our renown,...to talk with admi ration of fields won by the valour of our troops, of towns and fleets demolished by the thunders of our navy, of charmed senates hanging with breathless rapture on the tongues of our orators, of the sublimity of our poets, the erudition of our scholars, the pro found wisdom of our jurists and philosopher We want to see shinning cities line all our streams, the whole face of our land smiling streams, the whole face of our land smiling like a cultivated garden, paved roads and canals intersecting every district, and universal wealth, like a nighty river, rolling its tide from one extremity of the empire to the other. Some of these are legitimate and laudable objects of ambition, while others are purchased at so dear a rate that a desire of them is one of the most unfortunate them is one of the most unfortuna ns that can enter the bresst of a natio Are we smitten with a passion for glory, that noisy, recling goddens, who drives her flam ing chariot over the earth, delighted with the roar of her own wheels and the gaze which she attracts? We forget that the pe

have the pleasure of seeing the action of its larger muscles?...Let us remember too, that the same trying times which provoke into public view talents that are valuable, also rouse those that are noxious. If an inglerious tranquillity deprives us of the delight which we should receive from sublime exhibitions of virtue, it may save us the pain and the hor ror of witnessing gigantic powers employed only to destroy. Who of us could desire a volcano to burst forth in our neighborhood, because perchance it might send forth from showels some lumps of gold? Do we pant for military renown? Alas! let us consider what rivulets of blood must be shed to nour ish the laurels of a single hero. Let us east our eyes on Rome in the days of her Julius and her Cate, on France in the days of her to make and her Cate, on France in the days of her Louis XIV and her Napoleon, on England loped as to send the addring the campaigns of her Manhorough her mountains, and each may learn what may be taken as the such an expense, and pour ont, like water, the blood of her sons and the tears of her daughters, merely that she might boast of a few splendid victories? Heaven defend us from such accursed ambition and such "bad eminence" in the production of misery!

The we have with emulation to give birth to illustrous orators? These too, are the product is to acquire rank and influence of a oatiom's threes. It is impending dangers, it

The we burn with emulation to give birth to illustrious orators? These too, are the product of a nature strategy. These too, are the product of a nature orations through it is keen suffering, which alone can furnish the requisite subjects, or kindle the requisite passions for the display of cloquence. The brilliant though on the floor of Congress, (take the brild of the storm. When was it, let me ask again, that appeared the immortal apeakers who have illustrated their respective countries, in ancient and madern times? Greece among the rule again, that appeared the immortal apeakers who have illustrated their respective countries, in ancient and madern times? Greece among the rule again of her per cealed heard not the thunder of her Demosthems till the Macedonian conquerer was on the march with chains in his hands to put about her neck; the march rule of the per cealed heard pregnant with which want only the breath of which which want only the breath of which which want only the breath of which want only the br nor did the tongue of Cicero attor its must pow-erful notes till his country trembled or smarted erful notes till his country trembled or smarted under the treasons and spollations of Cataline, Verres and Anthony. France never knew what it was for the voice of a popular debater to command the bayonets of a nation till the conscussions of her Revolution struck out the corruscations of Mirabeau. And when was it that the British parliament bowed to the resistless force of human speech, and every Englishmen, yea, every fescendant of Englishmen, gloried in the chim, "That Chatham's language was his mother

It was when the dish Beet was battering down our towns, and the British legions were carrying haves through our fields, when the bloody truphies of the Indian tomahawk were shamelessly leagued with British arms, that the indignant a senarous secretifies spirit of Chatham electrified the senate of his constry with such burts of overpowering eloquence as it had never heard before, and perhaps will never hear again. When was it that the pen of Burke ruled the tree minds of his countryraen, like the wand of a magician? It was when the frightful apparition of the French Revolution, starting up by his side, awakened all his energies, that he snatched the barp of prophecy and remonstrance, and poured upon the ear of his country such a tide of soul subduing song, as bound in trance her restless spirits till the senson of danger and infatuation was over. To come to ourselves, if the American bosom has ever best to the powerful strokes of senstorial elequence, it was when the expected borrors of war and servitude fired the bearts and the lips of our Henry and our Ames pirit of Chatham electrified the senate of his Henry and our Ames
Let us not therefore sigh because our Congress

hall does not continually ring with strains rival-ling the noblest effusions of Greece, Rome and England. Our race of great men is not extinct, nor is their influence unfelt when their voices are not heard in the Copitol. It would be an immense mistake to suppose that all the cloquence and all the wisdom which we own, is collected in our Congress, or that those either in Congress or out of it, who make the most noise, Congress or out of it, who make the most noise, are the most important personners of our policie. To borrow an illustration from Mr. Burke, let us not imagine, " because half a dozen grasshoppers make the field ring with their importunate chink, that they are therefore the only inhabitants of the field, whilst thousands of great eattle repose beneath the shadow of the oak, and chew repose beneath the shadow of the oak, and shew the cud in silence." It is perhaps as well or bet-ter for our country, that in her tranquil lays, ber great men should be distributed through various parts of the empire, than collected at the metrop-olis. Our national debates may be less splendid, the world's gaze may be less attracted, but per-haps the nation is a gainer. These valuable characters are the salt of the republic, whose utility depends not on its accumulation in one snot, but on its diffusion. They suread a wholehaps the nation is a gainer. These valuable characters are the salt of the republic, whose utility depends not on its accumulation in one spot, but on its diffusion. They spread a wholesome seasoning through the general mass. While they are quietly engaged in the pursuits of private life, they are the ornsments of their several neighborhoods, they diffuse around them the mild radiance of civic virtue, and are the focus of light and heat to their little spheres—at the bar, on the bench, or in the pulpit, maintaining the laws and watching over the morals of their country, setting an example of honest, intelligent patriotism in the mildst of their fellow citizens, correcting their erroneous apinions, liberalizing their narrow mines, staying their headlong passions, teaching them to appreciate the blessings of freedom, introducing among them the improvements of the age, string them up to generous enterprises, founding and foatering seminaries of learning, and thus lighting up new suns to illuminate their country when their own last beams shall have sunk in the west. They may, too, without appearing in Congress, be pushing forward the general well-being of the Union by leading useful measures in the Legislatures of the several States. Meantime, should any public exigency call fow their services, they are ready, at the summons of their services, they are ready, at the summons of their services, they are ready, at the summons of their services, they are ready.

But I said there were legitimate and lavdable objects of our ambition. These are the culture of our mative soil and of our native mind—the

But I said there were legitimate a objects of our ambition. These are of our matrix soil and of our matrix bringing to the highest pitch of breatt our country and the intellect and monitizens.—Be these the aims of America

than farthing by farthing, abundance, thrusting sway fully growling at every persuade it to an enlight eye, the earlist hiss, and it may be sure that such a rai spring of popular ignorance agiv mother; and that the means for producing a faire light upon the common ma-ling the means of doing the Why does she not look with on her languishing Universe exuberant nurse of her you she must do, if she would re race of vigorous and majostic breed of dwarts and starselin

The means now in operation United States for the dissemination ments of knowledge, have given of the best informed commonalli-foreigners themselves being jur-sliftusion of moderate intelliger throng, is by no means all whiare to various and so alluring restless mind of man can healf, and not be tempted to ment in the disturbance of ment in the disturbance of society, vant advantage when the genius of a a literary turn. All its activity is a tits projects are parific, all its activity is a tits projects are parific, all its trophic dy. So many minds find in this was exercise and repose, either as write ders, that it is just calculation wi public happiness is thereby carne much ustional tranquillity is there!

Meny a daring and active spirit that wise have made examon balls and

As the public mind advances in intel ligence, we may hope that the domin-ion of reason over the wills and actions of men will gain ground. While society is in its infancy & the minds of me are dark and rude, every thing is carrie by brute force. But just in proportion as society advances in refinement, men-tal powers acquire an ascendancy over corporeal strength. What an induce-ment this, to bring our minds to the highest state of improvement, that we may possess as powerful as engine for moving the multitude of mankind! How flattering the idea, how stimulating is generous exertion, that, in this enlightened day, by the agency of the press, one, potent mind can send abroad its thoughts, as on the wings of the wind, to light upon ten thousand other minds, moulding their opinions, determining their pursuits, and like the harp of Trimotheus,

suits, and like the harp of Trimutheus, now kindling their passions into transport, now fulling them to sleep!

Here, young gentlemen, opens upon you, a glorious motive for pushing your intellectual improvement to the highest point, and also for studying with carethe art o felegant composition. As the age advances in refinament and vigor of intellect, its taste will demand the most finished style. No books but those of surpassing merit both in thought and expression will have any chance of public favor or influence. But these will exert a sway over successive generations, serving, like the cessive generations, serving, like the works of Banon, of Newton, of Locke and of Adam Smith, to effect the most and of Aslam Smith, to effect the most auspicious changes in the researches of philosophy and the administration of governments. A still more sacred use and a still prouder achievement of mental power will it be, if you can, by the medium of the voice or the pen, restrain the vices and purify the morals of your country. What avails our free government, our plentiful and overnment, our plentiful and to