REGISTER RALEIGH

North-Carolina State Gazette.

Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace. Unwarp'd by party rage, so live like Brothers,

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ORATION DELIVERED ON THE 4th OF JULY, 1808, AT CHARLOTTE, N. C. BY THE REV. J. WALLIS.

Frands & Fellow Girizens,

Revolving time has bro't round another Anniversary of American independence. Two and thirty years have this day finished their course. store these United States in solemn form renounced allegiance to the Monarch of G. Britain, and asserted and assumed the rights of self gorefiment .--- On the memorable 4th of July, 1776, the declaration was made that these United States are, and of right ought to be, free and independent. This declaration led the may in this part of the American con ment to new constitutions and forms of government, in which the natural p and unalienable rights of men are eserted and maintained. The American revolution which commenced in this manner, forms one of the most important aras in the political history of the world, and affords a theme so interesting that it can neet lose its charms. On the subject eindependence nothing new, nothing indeed that is not trite can now be expected. The subject, however, is at the commencement of the Ameone that will always be listened to rican Revolution alarmed the fears mill rapturous attention by the Amencau Patriot, and one that ought enstantly to excite in his breast the most lively gratitude to Heaven. The annual celebration of American Independence we deem a laudable practice : political commemorations of this kind, when conducted with propriety and good order, are calculated to answer important and useful purposes. They afford opportunities of acquiring and diffusing servet political knowledge, have a iendency to promote philanthropy and a spirit of patriotism, and to sof tes or banish those political feuds and animosities which are always of be considered as the most dangerous enemies of republican governments. Such we think must be the natural effects of a suitable commemoration of the American Revolution. By looking back on this occasion to this Revolution, and the causes that led to i. ; by considering the tangnitude of the object for which the American Colonies engaged in a dangerous and bloody war with a potent foreign power, by recollecting the numerous and complicated dan. gers which we suffered or escaped during the contest, together with the attainment of national freedom, and independence, and the ercction of a government founded upon reason and the rights of man; by firther taking into consideration the distinguishingly free & happy situation of the cuizens of these U.States time the conclusion of the war; and lastly by comparing our present circonstances with the condition of the other nations of the world ; hy such centemplations we shall be taught to make a due estimate of our national advantages and properly to appreciate our civil privileges. To trace minutely on this occasion all these particulars, would be a task at once too great for the patience of this audience, and for the abilities of the speaker. A short retrospect; however, of the catties, progress and effects of the American Revolution, together with a brief view of the present situation and prospects of our country, appear at this time to be peculiarly seasonable and proper. Suffer us then to observe, that the war that led to this Revolution, was on the part of G. B. a war of oppression and coverousness; many arbitra-Ty measures were adopted, calculated to crush in embryo the liberties of the infant colonies, and bury in the tomb of despair the hopes of a rising nation. The British Ministry displayed, on many occasions, the unprincipied exercise of power over a nation which was considered as, weak and incapaule of making effectual that to remark, that the same haughof and oppressive nation which up-Wards of thirty years ago constrainet the American colonies to rise in opposition to her tyranhical measures, hes again of tate years been aiming Penasace of these United States .---

the same King of Great-Britain United States. In the American who formerly attempted, with out our consent, to lay duties and collect revenue upon teas, and other is the happiness of millions. articles imported into this country, have been recently attempting to lay a much heavier duty upon articles of our own product and exportation. By their late orders of council they have attempted to levy a duty of nine pence sterling on every lb. of cotton exported from this country to the continent of Europe ; and indeed to dictate the sole channel through which the United States shall be permitted to enjoy any foreign trade whatever-In short, the same foreign government that formerly claimed the right of taxing the American colonies in all cases what. soever has, in numerous late intimes, displayed the most unprincipled exercise of power, in impressing some thousands of our seamen, capturing on the high seas, and condemning our vessels engaged in a fair and honest trade, blockading our citics and harbors with their ships of war, and even murdering our ciuzens. In these modern transactions we may discern the agency of the same despotic principles, which and aroused the indignation of the American Patriots, and stimulated them to endanger their lives and fortunes in defence of the liberties of their country. Indeed when we take into consideration the infantile state of the colonies, and the want of military stores and experience, it appears a matter of admiration that they dared to enter into the contest ; under such circumstances to enter the lists with the disciplined armies and potent fleets of G. Britain, required the enthusiastic ardor, the manily courage and the united exertions of patriovic and enlightened freemen : and these, happily for our country, were the most prominent raits in the characters of those illustrious men, who planned and effected the American Revolution : inspired with the love of liberty, and determined to preserve those rights which the God of Nature gave them, in defiance of the thunder of British power they sounded the alarm of the dangers of submission, and blew aloud the blast of war; the sound was heard from St. Laurence to the Floridas, and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, and echoed back by the universal murmur of indignation, and the unanimous voice of the American people to conquer or die. Powerful indeed, and determined was the attack on the part of G. Britain : but the courage and resolution with which the colonies met the shock is without a parallel in the annals of nations. In circumstances apparently hopeless they were never in despair. It is well known that during a distressing period of eight years, the interests of America were tossed upon the ocean of uncertainty, and hope & fear alternately held their empire in the breasts of her sons :--Till at length the bloody drama, which commenced by the slaughter of American citizens at Lexington, in Massachusetts, was concluded by the siege and surrender of the Briash army at York-town in Virginia. Grateful, forever, to the hearts of Americans, be the memory of those illustrious patriots who lost their lives in the righteous cause ; Warren, Montgomery, Mercer and a bright list of their compatriots expired without a murmur on the field of glory, and sealed our independence with their blood. But their fame shall never die-Their exploits shall annually be the theme of Columbia's Orators. Their names shall be enrolled in the page of historic truth, and the glorious example they have exhibited will be an excitement to virtuous and patriofic exertions to the distant ages of futurity. More than thirty years have now opposition. And here we have fary elapsed since the declaration of Iadependence. This event has immoratised the name of Americans, and elevated them high among the nations of the earth. In this part of the American continent the science of government has been greatly immany successive blows at the inde- proved : and the doctrine of equal rights and universal representation

The Ministry and government of [] has been established throughout the soil the fair tree of Liberty has been planted and nourished, and its fruit

In France a false species of liberty and republicanism sprung up and flourished for a season ; but ambitious power has now completely blasted the prospect, and overturned the foundation. Had the French nation discreetly improved the opportunity they lately enjoyed, of establishing upon the ruing of monarchy and despotism a free constitution of government, modelted upon that which has been sanctioned by American experience, their situation and that of Europe might at this day be very different from what it is .---But they have proved themselves to be very defective in political knowledge and virtue, and unworthy of the name of republicans. They have fixed an eternal disgrace upon their revolution by their sanguinary and extravagant deeds. They have as. sisted their political leaders in inflicting misery upon the innocent. and are now suffering punishment in their turn. They have passively bewed their necks to the ambitious Bonaparte, who is rivetting upon them the chains of despotism, and even making them subservient to his schemes of universal dominion. Hitherto the storm of war has been kept aloof from this rising empire. How singularly happy indeed has been the lot of Americans in this respect. We have enjoyed upwards of twenty years of peace-whilst Europe, and all the other quarters of the globe have been convulsed and agitated by the alarms and distresses of war ; whilst fell ambition has been stalking forwards in footsteps of blood, hewing his way through infancy & age, urging his infernal train to the slaughter of unoffending millions, and erecting the bloody standard of his triumphrice the rains of desolated cities, America has been basking in the sunshine of peace, free, flourishing and happy. Under the fostering care of a free and happy government, improvement in every branch of industry and mechanism has become as extensive as the bounds of our empire. The forge, the plow and the loom have been introduced upon the banks of the St. Lawrence, the Ohio, and the Mississippi. Mechanic industry has pervaded every part of the union, and has even been introduced among the savage tribes on our borders. Our commerce was spreading her sails to the breezes of every climate, and waiting our vessels into every harbour, when the late arbitrary and tyrannical decrees of Britain and France artested their progress, and exposed many of them to capture and condemnation. The unprincipled and insolent conduct of these belligerent nations has, indeed, produced at length a most serious crisis in our affairs ; and although we have already glanced at this part of our subject, yet a more particular exposure of the causes which have led to the present gloomy aspect of our relations with these foreign powers, may be proper and necessary. Ever since the peace of 1783, the conduct of G. Britain towards this country has at all times furnished just cause of complaint. Her various and contradictory orders of council, violating the laws of nations and the rights of neutrals : her practice of impressing American citizens on board her ships of war, together with the insolent conduct of her naval officers in our harbors and on our coasts, have for some years past justly and highly irritated the people of this country .- But by the orders of council of November last, the British Ministry have endeavoured to give a finishing blow at once to the commerce and independence of the United States. By these orders they have attempted to prohibit us from trading to any place but England and her dependencies, and impose a Heavy tax upon all articles shipped from thence elsewhere .---Upon the injustice and insolence of these orders, it is impossible to comment in terms too harsh. They are to be considered as a direct attack upon the sovereignty and independence of the United States, against Which they are principally levelled [] ning aspect of our relations with

To these injuries and insults we ploreign powers, there are to be found must in justice to our subject, add another, which, though of a different character, is not less offensive and intolerable, viz. the attack on the national frigate Chesapeake .---The particulars of that transaction, no doubt, are still fresh in your recollection. No reparation has been made, however, for the national insalt. On the contrary, in the correspondence which has taken place hetween the two governments on that subject, we have been dealt with as though we had been the aggressors ; and the mockery of making reparation to the honor and feelings of the American nation, has at length closed with a demand by the British commissioners, that the President's proclamatica, interdicting from our harbors British ships of war, should be rescinded; a demand which no nation actuated by principles of justice and honor, under existing circumstances, would have proposed, and which no free one would condescend to grant. And yet, under all these repeated injuries and insults, there are to be found persons who cell themselves American citizens, and who hold high situations in the federal government, who appear disposedtamely to overlook all this contumelious conduct on the part of G. Britain ; and seem highly offendeded that effectual measures should be adopted to check such insults, and procure redress. How unworthy are such persons of the name and privileges of free Americans ? How mean and degracing is their conduct'! What a stigma does it fix upon our national character ! What a contrast to the spirit of 1776 ! Surely every candid and impartial man who has any correct information on the subject; every person who has read with attention the communications so lately submitted to the inspection of the American peopie, myst at once acknowledge the undisputed justice of our cause, and the unjust and wanton aggressions that have been heaped upon us. There appears, indeed, to be but one good reason why the United States, under such accumulated insults; should not proclaim immediate war against this insolent nation, and that is, that such a measure would in all now governs the continent of Euhigh cause of complaints If the in- lence and vicejuries and insults received from the power to treat us in such a minner. With Bonaparte, every spark of na- trality. tional justice appears to be lost extinguished in his unbounded just for power. The countries he had conquered, have felt most heavily the weight of his yoke -- his conquests have been marked by one general scene of rapine, contribution and plunder. He has overtuined almost all the governments of Europe, and raised his own brothers and minions. to the rank of monarchs upon their ruins. And his conduct shews that he views the American government with an unfriendly eye. In short such violations of neutral rights, and national justice as both Britain and France have been guilty of, would be difficult to find in the history of the world. The conduct of both these nations towards the U.S. has been in the highest degree arbitrary, and founded upon no one principle of reason or justice. How far the measures of our government in laying the embargo and suspending commercial intercourse with these nations may prove effectual to convince them of the impolicy and injustice of their orders of council, and imperial decrees, is probably a question that will now soon be determined. Had the embargo been properly regarded and enforced by our own ci. tizens, there can be no doubt but it would before now have pressed heavily upon both of these belligerent nations and their West-India colohies. Much, therefore, is it to be regretted, that under the present thre: 1-

many American citizens who prefer their private interests to the interest and honor of the nation ; who appear to be governed by principles of avarice and servility, rather than by those of patriotism and a regard for the public good.

At this threatning and eventful period, let it be deeply impressed upon the minds of American citizens, that in order to preserve the great blessing of national independence and liberty, sacred and important duties are imposed on them.2.0 Under the threats and insults of European despots. let them no: sink into a state of despondency, because they are for a time deprived of some of the luxuries and superfluities of life, heretofore enjoyed; but let them rather take a view of the oppressed and wretched situation of the inhabitants of Europe, and cheerfully submit to the temporary sacrifices to which they are called. Let them remember that the preservation of their liberty, under Divine Providence, will much depend upon themselves. That united they stand, but divided they fall. Yes, fellow citing zens, union among ourselves is the main pillar in the edifice of our independence. It will be the best support of our tranquility at home, and of our peace and respect abroad ; of our safety and prosperity, of our liberty and happiness. On the other hand, there is no quarter from which we have so much to fear, as from party spirit and disunion among ourselves. We ought also especially to guard against the insidious wiles of foreign influence ; for all history and experience prove that this is the most bineful for of republican governments. Let us also remember that knowledge and religion are intimately connected with political prosperity.----How important then that these should be encouraged and protected ; they are indeed the grand columns which support the fair fabric of our independence and national happiness-Beat them down and the structure will soon fall to the dust, and the iron throne of despotism will be erected upon its rains. Let all classes of American citizens then, in this eventful and threating probability eminently forward the || crisis, unite in supporting the indeambitious designs of the despot who pendence of their country; in exertions to increase moral and religious rope, and who is evidently aiming at light, by the establishment of liteuniversal conquest. Against the de- | rary and religious institutions; in crees and edicts of the Emperor Bo-Il encouraging virtue and industry, and naparte the United States have also in discountenancing luxury, indo-Under these views of our circum-British government have been more || stances and the dangers which threatnumerous than those received from | en us, let us be united in our coun-France, it is probably because the fight and firm in the execution of the latter has not had it equally in her i measures adopted by government in order to enforce respect to our neu-

> By such conduct we shall concentrate all our energies, and oppose such a formidable front as shall appalour menacing and intriguing encmies. Such union and energy will either effect peace with honor, or war with success.

On this occasion, then, let us look back with pleasure on the past, and anticipate the fature happiness of our country ; and under the reception of so many national blessings as have been, and still are our lot, let a not forget the great source from whence they flow A sense of grattede to the great Author of happiness, an humble reliance upon his mercy, and a dutitut submission to his Providence and Government, will sweeten every blessing of life; and corriect the excesses of passion? They will support individuals and nations under every minuress, and gently watt them down the current of time. Relying then upon the protection of this Almighty Being who superintends the affairs of nations, and maintaining those virtues which he has inseparably connected with the existence of national and individual happiness, we may yet indulge the picasing hope, that the liberty and happi. ness of our country will remain ; that the American Empire will be established, and that among the ustions of the earth, us in the end of time, our country will be tris umphant, honored and respected

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