



A  
SERMON,

PREACHED AT YORK,

UPPER CANADA,

ON THE THIRD OF JUNE,

BEING

THE DAY

*Appointed for a General Thanksgiving.*

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BY THE

REV<sup>D</sup>. JOHN STRACHAN, D: D:

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Montreal:

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# S E R M O N,

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ROMANS VIII. 28.

*“ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*

**T**HE Apostles frequently remind their brethren of the certainty of God's moral government, to prevent them from sinking under the sufferings to which they were daily exposed; and to encourage them to look for that happiness beyond the grave, which the present life neither can, nor was meant to bestow — They did not consider this truth too general, and abstract, to afford consolation in calamity; as many strangers to the Gospel have done. They knew that these who have acquired clear and distinct conceptions of the divine perfection of God; and believe themselves continually acting in his presence, are not only warmed with gratitude towards him; but strengthened in affliction, and never become discontented like men who are doubtful of a superintending Providence. Experience hourly confirms their belief in this consolatory doctrine. They see that there is more good than evil, more

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virtue than vice, more justice than injustice in the world ; that so far is Providence from countenancing vice, that it commonly makes it the instrument of its own punishment ; and is continually producing happiness, and not misery, stability and not decay.—Satisfied that all things work together for good to them that love God ; christians expect not to behold a complete display of his moral government in the present life, much less do they flatter themselves with the hope, that they shall escape tasting of those miseries which are inseparable from mortality. They feel that he intends the welfare of all his creatures ; delights in their felicity ; and is incessantly promoting it in all possible methods—what then shall make them afraid.

When the text says that *all things work together for good*, it implies that the calamities, as well as the felicities of life, contribute to the general advantage ; and experience proves, that so far are afflictions from being real evils, that they seem necessary in this stage of our being, to the very existence of moral good. It is to misfortune that the best men owe their noblest qualifications and most eminent virtues. From the history of nations we find, that the most terrible revolutions, like storms and tempests, have produced the most beneficial effects. From such convulsions we have commonly to date the commencement of all great advances in knowledge and civilization. And may we not indulge the pleasing hope, that the wars and revolutions which have agitated the world for so many years though  
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most grievous in their progress ; and pregnant with misery and devastation ; will yet be productive of great benefit, and by assisting the cause of truth and justice, augment the permanent comfort and happiness of the human race. Never have so many unquestionable proofs of a superintending Providence appeared, in so short a period as those which may be read in the passing age. It commonly requires a long series of years ; sometimes many centuries ; to discover the good which flows upon the world from transient evil. It was not till two thousand years after the battle of Marathon, that the inestimable advantages of that victory were duly appreciated in checking a despotism which would have blasted the progress of the arts and sciences ; and extinguished the beams of liberty as they were rising in the world. The vast advantage of the Roman conquests, marked as they were with misery and carnage, in connecting and civilizing the different nations, producing universal peace ; rendering the communication between distant countries expeditious and easy ; by which the propagation of the gospel was wonderfully accelerated ; was not fully perceived till after many ages.—Advantages of equal value are derived from the exertions of a single nation in the present age, in first resisting a torrent of anarchy, and next a military despotism, which were in turn, overwhelming the earth ; and standing up amidst the ruins of subjugated nations, pointing the way to more successful efforts and happier times. Is it asked how she was able to bring the mighty contest to a suc-

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cessful issue ? Here again our text will afford us an answer. It was because all things, even the most untoward, *work together for good to them that love God* ; that is, to those who conform themselves to his will, and are fervent in their imitation of his perfections. Now, although Great Britain has many sins to deplore ; yet, on a comparison with other nations, it will be found that she possesses more true liberty more solid morality, and more true religion, than they. Where is there a nation equal to the British in the number and extent of its charitable institutions ? or possessing such a spirit of independence, such intrepid virtue, such a rational piety ; these are the distinctions which have enabled her to continue successful against the world in arms ! It is not for self-congratulation that we mention these particulars ; or with a desire of concealing from ourselves our weakness and our errors ; but rather with the view of cherishing these honorable characteristics with increased solicitude, as the best foundation of present comfort and future hope.

The words of my text establish three principles. 1st. The superintending Providence of God. 2d. That evil is necessary in this stage of our being to the existence of moral good ; where is pleasure without pain, or the enjoyment of success, without disappointment. To ascertain its value every good must be contrasted with its opposite evil. 3d. That all things are directed for the advantage of the good. The present times afford many proofs and illustrations of these

these principles. But in the rapid sketch which we shall draw of the rise and progress of the momentous contest in which we have been engaged for twenty one years, we shall often leave their application to your own judgements, contenting ourselves with pointing out the great success, which after the most disastrous events, has been vouchsafed us through the blessing of Almighty God ; and concluding with the notice of some of those glorious advantages which the termination of the war in Europe presents to the enraptured imagination.

The nations of Europe, from the peace of 1783, to the commencement of the French Revolution, formed a picture, which was on the whole pleasing, and interesting to the contemplative mind. There was seen throughout a spirit of improvement, strong among the people, and animating some of the Governments themselves. Changes were actually adopted in some states, highly beneficial to the public ; and such attention began to be paid to the general information of the people, as to present the fairest prospects of future amelioration. It cannot, however, be concealed that, in most countries in Europe, and especially in France, the Governments were far behind the knowledge of the people. The oppression of the laws ; the injustice of their administration ; and the general corruption of the Court of Versailles, which appeared in every department, spread discontent among all ranks of people, except those immediately



ately connected with the government. The lower orders began to feel and appreciate their own importance ; to be conscious of their right to greater freedom and happiness ; and, as these could not be immediately obtained, to nourish many pretensions, wishes, and desires, hostile to the established order of things. As their knowledge increased, their desires became the more vehement ; and gave rise, at length to a spirit of uneasiness, censoriousness, and disorder, which spread with astonishing rapidity. This spirit received a definite direction at the return of the troops who had enabled the Americans to achieve their independence. The people were entertained with golden dreams of transatlantic felicity ; and the soldiers accustomed to many indulgencies, and to an equality unknown in France, became turbulent and licentious ; insolent to their superiors, and furious for changes. Instead of meeting this spirit with a cautious firmness ; conceding what appeared necessary ; but opposing, with watchful energy, and circumspection, improper innovations ; the feeble administration of France, by changes too hasty, by unsteadiness of character ; sometimes conceding too much, then violently retracting what had been given up, irritated the people, and produced such a fermentation, as ended in the destruction of the government, and the establishment of the most licentious anarchy. When all the legitimate authorities were swept away, principles were adopted, with enthusiastic zeal, hostile to every regular government ; and pro-  
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pagated with a pertinacious celerity by all the outrageous factions that for ten years trampled on France.

It might have been supposed that the great liberty enjoyed by the British nation; greater by far than any Frenchman is capable of conceiving; and the general information of the people, would have rendered the new principles altogether harmless with regard to them—but it was the age of delusion. Incredible pains were taken by the apostles of anarchy to blind the people of England, and with a success truly astonishing. Yet tired of propagating their principles in secret, the faction, in possession of the sovereign authority in France, threw off the mask, and declared war against all existing governments, whether near or remote, continental or maritime. They made an offer of assistance to the disaffected among all nations, to enable them to overturn the regular authorities to which they were subjected; and to establish an anarchy similar to their own. After this dangerous measure, it became impossible for any administration to remain at peace, consistently with independence; and it is now admitted, that in England, hostilities became inevitable; for the banditti that domineered over France, had an interest in war.

There is an extraordinary coincidence in the danger to Great Britain from the war occasioned by the Revolution; and that which she has maintained against the Usurper; but from different causes. In both the total destruction of her government was threatened; in the former

by the dissemination of principles totally inconsistent with social order ; in the latter, from absolute subjugation. It is the magnitude of the danger that distinguishes these from common wars ; in which an island, a colony, or a fishing station, or something equally trifling, was the object of contention. And we have abundant cause to give thanks to Almighty God for the successful issue of the contest ; that we are a free and happy people ; have never bowed to a foreign yoke ; and have preserved in all its vigour our most excellent constitution. It must, however be confessed, that Great Britain, though successful in as far as she was herself immediately concerned, yet failed in relieving foreign nations during the revolutionary war. The efforts she made in their favor, were all unfortunate ; but to attempt their rescue was not the less meritorious ; for success is not honor ; neither is defeat infamy. It was indeed glorious to fight for the independence of Europe ; to be the supporter of the weak, and the co-adjutor of the powerful, in a cause so noble : and had the peace of Amiens continued, England would have deserved the gratitude of all the continental nations for the illustrious stand which she made to rescue them from slavery.

But her services performed for afflicted humanity during the present war having been through the blessing of God, crowned with complete success, emit a splendour which obscures her former exertions, To offer up our gratitude and praise for this astonishing and happy  
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change, we are this day assembled ; and in order to do it with the greater sincerity, it will be requisite to view the dangers we have escaped.

Although Great Britain, after the treaty of Amiens, was in no sort of danger from the dissemination of levelling principles, yet that unfortunate convention left her in a condition which, on reflexion, mortified and grieved the warmest friends of peace. It soon appeared that the honor, rank, and safety, of the nation, were compromised in that arrangement. The most extraordinary concessions and sacrifices had been made, without any equivalent ; and, although in as far as she was alone concerned, she was eminently successful ; she retired from the contest with barren laurels. Not so her enemy. He not only retained all his conquests, but increased his power to a most alarming extent during the negotiations. Bad, however, as this treaty was, some very important advantages attended it. It was a most convincing proof of the freedom enjoyed under the British constitution ; and the great influence of public opinion over the policy of the government. The people, tired of the war, murmured for peace ; and a hollow truce was purchased, with sacrifices which ought to have secured safe and permanent tranquillity. But, instead of this, it was followed up with insults and aggressions : the spirit of the nation was said, by the enemy, to be humbled ; and it was arrogantly boasted, that Great Britain durst not oppose France single-handed. The nation awoke from its lethargy ;  
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the spirit of the constitution appeared in the commanding energies of a free people ; and the danger of the peace, and the necessity of war, became so clear, that few were averse to the renewal of hostilities. But the objects of this war were very different from those of the preceding. It was not against the danger of levelling principles that the British were now guarding ; nor were they fighting for the liberation of vanquished nations, or indemnities for past aggressions ; but they found themselves obliged to contend for their liberty, religion, and laws : for their existence as a nation ; for the tombs of their fathers, and the vast power of their enemy was concentrated in the hands of a man capable of using it in the most formidable manner

Of this extraordinary person, it is difficult to speak with precision. The greatness of his power, and the splendour of his achievements, not only dazzled, for a time, the eyes of spectators ; but affected in his favour their moral decisions. Being now deprived of the glare of victory, and reduced to a private station, we may be able to form a more just estimate of his character and pretensions. Bonaparte is one of those bold, restless, enterprising spirits, who reckon every means lawful, and good, that appears necessary to promote the ends he has in view. He looks upon justice, probity, and sincerity, as empty names ; and has never made any scruple to employ lying, fraud, treachery, and perjury, to circumvent his neighbours. He thinks nothing of ruining nations, for the purpose of extending his  
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power; deems no sacrifice too precious to his ambition; and acknowledges no rule for his actions; and no other God, but interest and fortune. In other Tyrants and Usurpers we commonly discover some transient beams of magnanimity. Cruel, revengful, and capricious, they may have been; but the voice of humanity would sometimes prevail. In the life of this man we look in vain for a single disinterested or benevolent action; no sacrifice to virtue attracts our attention; or lessens the gloom which his vices and fury continually threw around him. Still his talents are confessedly great. The times have indeed been favourable to their development; and circumstances have, no doubt, given a form and direction to his character, suitable to his extending prospects, but he is certainly possessed of superior powers. This man, governed by the most insatiable ambition, opposed our Parent State for nine years with the greatest success. Sent her out from the continent of Europe; threatened her subjugation; and crushed every other state that dared to resist him. Yet good men anticipated his fall when at the height of his power. A person so destitute of moral virtue depended on terror for his safety; and this terror itself depended upon the continuance of victory. He had no hold on the affections of mankind; no friends to support him when overtaken with reverses. Men were machines in his hands; he alone must project, command, reward, and punish. From him every thing must emanate; he must be the centre of all.

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His very vices for a time promoted his success; but as the world is, it was not yet prepared to see professions made, and treaties concluded, for the purpose of being broken. To promise protection and exercise oppression; to consider friendly nations his vassals, and to smile upon those he was preparing to destroy.

This habitual Treachery nourished distrust; the nations of Europe ceased to believe in his professions, and became convinced, by dear bought experience, that nothing could restrain his oppressions, except the want of power. But of this there was for a long time no appearance. By carrying our thoughts back to the ninth year of the war, and comparing our situation now with what it was then, we shall be strongly impressed with the inestimable value of the blessings which the moral Government of God has conferred upon us.

In the commencement of the year 1812, the situation of Great Britain was certainly perilous beyond example. She stood alone in the contest; for Spain rather weakened than increased her strength; and the different attempts of the great continental nations to throw off the Tyrant's yoke, served only to aggrandise him and to rivet their chains.

The Austrian Empire had been twice invaded; and twice forced to submit to the will of the Conqueror. Her finest Provinces were given to her enemies; and she fell from the rank of the first Power of Europe, to be the humble vassal of the French Usurper. Deprived of his  
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antient dignity, as head of the German Constitution, Francis beheld that vast fabric broken in pieces ; its Princes banished, or degraded ; and thousands of antient and noble families sunk into hopeless indigence. Infatuation seemed to preside over every effort of the powers of Europe to resist subjugation. They went one by one as sheep to the slaughter. Engrossed with petty jealousies and paltry interests, they saw each other falling a prey to the tyrant, with an indifference truly astonishing. Instead of marching to the assistance of the Emperor of Germany, Prussia seemed to rejoice in the ruin of her rival, and adopted a policy as base as it was inefficient ; for no sooner did Francis submit to Napoleon, than she herself became the object of his ambition. The contest was short. Prussia, too weak to meet the increased power of France, saw her antient glory and rank among the nations totally destroyed in a few hours. There was still one nation left on the continent of Europe that had not yielded to the superior energies of France ; but without allies, Russia found herself unable to withstand the torrent. Her defence was noble and worthy of a more successful issue ; but after losing her choicest troops, she was forced to submit to a most ignominious peace. In fine, Europe had virtually become the French Empire, and its whole force was directed against the British Isles. The consequences were felt in the reduction of our commerce. The ruin of many of our Manufactures, the failure of the merchants connect-  
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ed with the continent, and the disappearance of specie. Such a gloom overspread the political horizon, at this time, as nothing but the spirit of a free people could have dispelled. In truth, the contest appeared now so unequal that, all these who were not acquainted with the unconquerable energy of liberty; but who till this time supposed the British nation equal to any emergency; began to despair. They deplored the farther aggrandisement of the tyrant; but seeing no remedy they thought it madness any longer to contend. The alternative was indeed dreadful; but they conceived submission better than destruction; while the friends of Napoleon both at home and abroad, exulted in the approaching ruin of the British empire; and spoke of her subjugation as altogether inevitable. Such was the situation of our Mother Country in the ninth year of the war; contending against all the nations of Europe; every where hostile; and every port guarded against her. This was a time when a friendly nation in any part of the world would have been exceedingly grateful, if it could not assist, it might have blessed, her exertions. And surely she had reason to expect that nations not within the grasp of the Tyrant would hold him in abhorrence, but in this reasonable hope she was grievously disappointed. The only nation from which she might have hoped for kindness, sympathy, and gratitude; a nation descended from herself; pretending to greater freedom; and still connected by all the charities of private life;

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instead of encouraging her efforts in maintaining the liberty and happiness of the world ; deserted the cause of humanity, and joined the tyrant. She made a boast to her ally of the value of her assistance, in destroying the resources of Britain, on the land, and on the ocean ; in ruining her trade ; interrupting her intercourse with her colonies ; conquering those of them that were most useful ; and employing a sword that would cut her energies to the quick. The United States of America boasted, with horrid joy, that Britain, deprived of her principal colonies, and attacked by innumerable privateers on her coast, could not continue the contest much longer ; & they hastened to share in her spoils with their ferocious ally. Posterity will hardly believe, that a nation so degenerate, so lost to every honourable feeling, could have existed. That a nation far beyond the tyrant's reach, and enjoying peace and tranquility by the generous labours of the people she sought to destroy, would have so eagerly claimed the execrable pre-eminence, of being the only nation that volunteered its aid to the oppressor of the world. No state, but this, became the ally of France from choice. Every one of them opposed Great Britain with reluctance ; they knew that she desired neither conquest, nor aggrandizement, but peace and freedom, and it was therefore from compulsion that they took arms against her.

What was the conduct of England amidst the tears of Europe and the hatred of America ? Far from being dispirited, she thought not of sub-

mission, nor shrunk from the combat : but arose more formidable after her allies had been crushed ; than when warring with their aid . She beheld, without dismay, one nation falling after another ; the best appointed armies destroyed in a day ; Empires perishing, and new ones rising in their room ; and the hands of her friends held up for destruction ; but her exertions increased with the danger . If the inhabitants of Europe found their hearts melting within them ; if they had neither counsel, nor conduct, their fate gave new strength to her nerves ; in their fall she beheld, by a vivid contrast, what she had to lose . Britons scorned submission ; all Europe crouching to the Tyrant, made them only the more ardent in defence of their independence . The holy enthusiasm of the Grecians, when fighting against the Persians, was renewed ; their bosoms became the palladium of true liberty ; and their love for it could only be extinguished with their lives . Animated with this spirit, our parent state looked the danger boldly in the face . She stood up for oppressed humanity, and offered an asylum to all the good, the honourable, and the brave, that could escape from the fangs of the merciless usurper . Sensible that she was the last free nation upon earth, her whole soul was in action ; it expanded from the magnitude of the contest ; she unfurled the banner of independence for the world ; she destroyed her enemy's ships and commerce ; captured all his colonies ; confined him to the continent of Europe ; and from her brilliant achievements, in every quarter of  
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the globe ; she transformed the despairing sighs of conquered nations into hope. Expectation again revived ; and they prayed for her prosperity while fighting against her. Never did the world exhibit such a spectacle before. A single kingdom contending against so many mighty nations, will astonish posterity ; and teach them this most consoling, and important lesson, that we ought never to despair of the peace and happiness of the world ; however gloomy things may appear. At this very period a change was working for good. Russia tired of oppression and insult, finding no security in submission ; no peace with a man that disregarded the most solemn treaties ; and discovering from the brilliant victories of the British army in Spain, that he was not invincible, took courage and appealed to arms.

The tyrant rejoiced at this determination. To conquer Russia was only as he conceived, marching to her capital. Successful in all his military enterprises, except when fighting with England ; he anticipated nothing but triumphs and glory. Fate drags the Russians on, said Napoleon ; let their destinies be fulfilled. Let us carry the war into her territories ; the second war of Poland shall be more glorious than the first. The finest army that was ever seen, accompanied Bonaparte in this memorable expedition. Six hundred and forty thousand men assembled on the Vistula ; four hundred thousand passed into Russia : but one thirtieth never returned. In this terrible calamity, we clearly perceive the operations

tions of a superintending Providence. The tyrant's cup of iniquity was full, and the judgements of God were upon him. Indeed we can trace his punishment to the silent operation of these moral causes, which, sooner or later, promote the general happiness by crushing vice and exalting virtue ; *for all things work together for good to them that love God.*—The more immediate cause of the Tyrant's ruin proceeded from that insufferable arrogance which continued success had matured in his breast. Instead of reading in the conflagration of Moscow, the determination of his enemies to conquer or perish ; he looked for the same results which had always followed the capture of Vienna. That the court of St. Petersburg, intimidated with its losses, would gladly accept the terms of peace which he chose to dictate ; events he considered at his command, and fortune the constant attendant on his car. When we hear the Polish deputies requesting him to speak the creative word, that shall complete their existence, and his profane replies, the boasting of Sennacherib and Nebuchadnezzar ; or the blasphemous flattery of the people to Herod, are forcibly brought to our recollection.

After he had totally lost the best appointed army that modern times ever beheld ; and was thought to be ruined, past all remedy ; such was his activity ; the greatness of his power ; and the enchantment of former victory ; that he soon collected another army formidable to his enemies. The facility with which this force had been assembled ; and the successful com-  
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mencement of the last campaign ; prevented his former misfortunes from teaching him wisdom ; and he considered himself on the eve of fresh triumphs. At this moment the insulted, the pillaged and dismembered Austria began to raise her head ; and to discover from the wounds Napoleon had sustained, and the strength and courage of his opponents, that the balance of power was in her hands. Using her good fortune with wonderful moderation, terms of peace were offered to France, under her mediation, more liberal than prudence durst approve, but not yet humbled, the Tyrant spurned them with disdain. The loss of armies, and the misery of nations, were nothing in his estimation, when placed in the balance with the preservation or acquisition of power. Austria finding him equally deaf to the voice of reason and humanity, or that her moderation was mistaken for fear ; and well knowing that her safety was incompatible with the power which he still possessed, joined the allies ; and by her reasonable assistance the tyrant has been overthrown. It is providential that the violence of his passions, his insatiable ambition, his pride, his unsocial habits, have rendered him so odious. Had he possessed the conciliating manners of a Caesar, his power might have become permanent ; and centuries might have elapsed before Europe would have awakened from her sleep of despotism.—But his presumption and cruelty ; his deception and treachery ; became intolerable ; and made all these nations that marched under his banners anxious to turn against him. Accordingly when rever-

as overtook him, his vassal kings deserted to his foes. Rejoice my christian brethren — the devout wish of the friends of order, and happiness of man that this scourge of nations might be deprived of the power of doing evil, has been fulfilled. — He is now a Prisoner of war. The ancient House of the Bourbons is again in possession of the kingdom of France. Yes, Louis the 18th hath ascended the throne of his Fathers; and with a heart penetrated with gratitude he acknowledges, in his answer to the congratulations of the Prince Regent, that this happy event is to be ascribed to the steady perseverance of the British nation.

When we look at the state of Europe this day, and what it was only two years ago, it seems a miracle. Hail destroyed the Canaanites. An angel, the army of Sennacherib; and frost and snow the disturbers of Europe. Do not then *all things work together for good*. Have we not seen that the very qualities which gave the tyrant a temporary success became the causes of his destruction; great reason then have we for rejoicing, and much for confiding in the Providence of God. And our joy is full when we reflect, that next to the elements and the tyrant's vices, Great Britain has been chiefly instrumental, through the blessing of God, in bringing about the happy changes which we now contemplate. She never despaired. She was the first to shew the trembling nations that the gallic legions were not invincible; and could no more withstand her soldiers than her sailors when fairly brought against them.

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Truly then may she be called the preserver of the independence of Europe, a name she had already merited on several former occasions. Those versed in history know that Great Britain has been the shield and bulwark of that balance of power under which Europe was considered one vast republic. Neither able nor willing to disturb a system which her most distinguished Statesmen have supported and admired, she continually opposed the attempts of France and Spain to destroy it, and with the more effect, because her political power never could be dangerous, however brilliant her achievements.—In her interference the nations beheld only an anxiety to preserve the general tranquility and the liberty of all. This eminent service she performed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Philip of Spain aimed at universal dominion ; and again when Louis the 14<sup>th</sup> sought to trample on the liberties of Europe —Happy was it for the World that Great Britain adopted the measures she did, when the revolutionary volcano broke forth. Happy for the liberty of man, that her situation was insular.

Let us then thankfully and devoutly acknowledge the mercy and goodness of Almighty God for protecting His Majesty and His dominions during the whole of this arduous contest; and for the signal and glorious victories obtained by his arms, & those of his Allies, and considering them the precursors of a secure and honourable peace; they cannot be too highly appreciated, nor can our gratitude be too warm.

Justly may we thank our heavenly Father,  
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that, amidst all the calamities which have distracted and overwhelmed Europe, England has continued to enjoy within herself the tranquility of the most peaceable times. Her shores have never been insulted, nor her cities plundered, nor has she heard a cannon roar, but as a mark of rejoicing; or beheld an hostile banner waving on her plains, but as a token of victory. Let us also thank God for the glorious part she has filled during such a destructive war. That she preserved her exalted attitude with unshaken firmness, amidst the wreck of nations, and the terrible efforts of her implacable foe. That impregnable herself, she proved capable of the most valourous achievements, and is recognized by the just and wise of every nation, the shield of afflicted humanity, and the successful hope of a suffering world.

It is impossible to think of these victories, without anticipating the great changes which they will effect, and drawing in our imagination a picture of the probable advantages which they will produce. Alas, my friends, victory itself is associated with many painful images; and it is only valuable as it averts greater evils, and leads to security and peace; that peace which is now diffusing its general beams over Europe, has already given liberty to the thousands of prisoners torn from those they love, by this terrible war. With what a lively delight will they return to their pleasing abodes, which renew the recollection of former times, and again introduce them to all the blessings of social and domestic endearment.

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The different members of families which have been long separated, will now meet, never again to part. Some branches that were thought dead will be restored. What congratulations? what rejoicings? how many tender recollections? but delightful as these felicities must be, they are of a transitory nature;—and mixed with lamentation and mourning: for many a heart has been broken: many endearing relations can never be renewed; and many a pleasing anticipation will meet with bitter disappointment. Let us then consider what permanent advantages mankind may reap from the general peace which Europe now enjoys.—1st. As they respect the continental nations. The dreadful commotions of the last thirty years have conferred much political experience both on rulers and subjects. To Governors they have pointed out, in the clearest and most impressive manner, the imperfections of their former constitutions; and the necessity of introducing wise reforms, for promoting, in their different territories, a much greater degree of prosperity and happiness; and for ameliorating the condition of the lower classes of society. The governments will soon acquire a liberality of principle which shall exert itself in improving their people. They will feel the propriety of revising their laws, especially these of a criminal nature; that justice may be separated from ferocity, and punishment from revenge. Industry will be encouraged; agriculture promoted, & commerce extended. From a more correct knowledge of political economy, systems of taxation, less oppressive and unjust,

will be introduced ; monopolies destroyed ; exclusive distinctions modified, or repressed ; and the advantages of individuals be made subservient to the good of the whole. In truth, the Rulers of nations have received more useful instruction during the last thirty years, than the whole range of history can furnish ; and we hope that it will not be like water spilt upon the dry ground, which cannot be gathered up again ; but that it will be like good seed sown on a fruitful soil, bringing forth fifty, sixty, an hundred fold. A large portion of blame for bringing so many evils on the world, certainly belongs to the great ; who, neglecting the duties connected with their elevated stations, indulged in a licentiousness of manners which undermined the pillars of society. No vicious person, whatever be his rank, can command respect long ; vice is a leveller of all distinctions. The corrupt manners of LOUIS the 15th, and the unblushing iniquities of his nobles and courtiers, paved the way for the dreadful convulsions that followed. Nor can we conceal that the democratical principles owed much of their success in England, to the conduct of many of the nobility and gentry, who neglected the prudential restraints becoming their stations ; degraded themselves by vice, and imitated the manners of the lowest vulgar. Let us hope that the lessons of the passing age will convince the great, that, in order to be respected by others, they must never fail to respect themselves ; that high principle, unspotted integrity, and an unremitting regard to public decorum ; a reverence for religion,

gion, and attention to the feelings of inferiors, ought never to be separated from rank and station. But in mentioning the good effects that will result from the commotions that are now happily terminated, it is not necessary to speak altogether by anticipation. Happiness already beams on France ; a spirit of peace, justice and moderation animates her counsels. Her new government respects the rights of the people.—The liberty of the Press, security of property, and person ; complete toleration in religious opinions ; are the first fruits of the return of her antient kings.—The diseases which led to the revolution, are in a great measure, corrected ; & her sovereign acknowledges that his true interest is comprised in the happiness of his people.

Nor does the same period afford less instruction to subjects than to Princes. The people will denominate these their enemies, and not their friends, who busy themselves in exaggerating the faults of Rulers and Magistrates ; nor will they longer hear with avidity the declamations of self named Patriots, which serve no other purpose but that of degrading their superiors. Taught by severe experience, that these are the methods used by designing men to raise themselves into consequence, they will behold them with a just suspicion. A greater perfection in Governments will not be expected than is seen in the regulation of private families. Why should we look for the faultless administration of public affairs, when we are daily committing errors in the trifling concerns of our own business. No civil or

political constitutions can be absolutely perfect, because they are framed by men who are too frequently passionate, interested, unjust and thoughtless ; hating the present ; regretting the past ; and eagerly anticipating the future. From men therefore errors may be expected in every situation ; and if they are not greater, or more frequent, in public, than in private life ; we have no reason to complain.—Not that the people should be blind to improper conduct in their rulers, or remiss in maintaining their just rights and privileges ; but the spirit of suspicious jealousy which has so long separated the governed and governors, will now gradually subside ; and the wish of both will be to promote the general good. Should even a person sometimes appear in a public situation not well qualified to discharge its duties ; it will neither excite astonishment, nor discontent. All who think must acknowledge that it is no easy matter to select such men for public employments as are able to acquit themselves with integrity and honor —Men's dispositions are difficult to be known ; appearances are deceitful. Who has not found himself mistaken in his choice of persons for offices —Professions are frequently false. We cannot read the hearts of men. Many who are esteemed in private life, become odious in public. Many that are honest and contented when poor ; turn violent and covetous when rich. When therefore a bad character appears in the administration, no commotions will arise, and the rulers having discovered that they have no interest in employ-  
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ing worthless servants, will remove him as soon as he is known. The artifices of demagogues may be again renewed ; but they are unmasked, and will not succeed. Instead of attending to their declamations against the regular authorities, and their cry that the constitution is in danger ; instead of trusting to their professions and their affected virtue and devotion for their country ; the people will examine them with a scrutinizing eye. They will look at their actions, and compare them with their words, their mask of virtue will disappear under a strict examination, and they will be found conspiring in obscurity against the peace of society, collecting the elements of discord ; and secretly devoting to destruction the honourable and the good.—In fine, the present age has demonstrated, that no great and decided amelioration of the lower classes of society can be reasonably expected : much improved they certainly may be ; but that foolish perfectability with which they have been deluded, can never be realized. Events seem to confound the reasonings of all political reformers. Of the two experiments made in *America* and *France* to constitute governments productive of virtue and happiness only, both have completely failed.—In the former, the most base and wretched policy is pursued ; and the latter ended in a military despotism. It is by peaceable and gradual steps, and not by revolutions, that the most solid improvements in the Science of government can be obtained.—It is in the power of God only to extract good from evil ; and in his hands the revo-  
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lutions and convulsions which are now terminating, will be made the instruments of good ; but the guilt of those who promoted them is not the less. It must needs be that offences come ; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh. In times of tranquility the people may be better instructed ; the laws may be made more equal and just ; and many new avenues of enjoyment may be opened, but labour is the lot of man ; and no system of policy can render it unnecessary, or relieve the greater proportion of mankind from suffering many privations.—And altho' some forms of government are certainly infinitely superior to others, we ought not to be deceived by the mere name ; when one assuming that of a free Republic is seen eagerly abetting and supporting the most savage tyrant, whose oppressions are such as to oblige a despot to strike him to the ground.—What a contrast does the conduct of Russia and the United States exhibit ? What a triumph to the enemies of true liberty ? what a grief to its Friends—but we leave a subject so painful to anticipate.

2d —Some of the advantages which Great Britain and her dependencies will reap from the peace in Europe.

Happy for Britain, many of those improvements which we anticipate for Europe, have been long component parts of her government ; and the increased attention to the education of the lower orders, which now prevails, will gradually introduce every amelioration compatible with social order—We shall not speak of the revival

of such of her manufactures as the war may have ruined ; of her relief from taxes ; the extension of her commerce, and the greater comfort of her people, because these are advantages which succeed common wars ; but we shall notice a few of greater magnitude.

A war protracted to the unexampled length of twenty one years, must have been productive of much misery, and many disorders, among all ranks and conditions of life. It must have diverted the people from social duties and occupations ; and corrupted their moral habits. The battles sufferings, and privations, usually experienced in military service, harden the heart ; and change the character not only of the people, but of the state itself. The peaceable professions on which the freedom and happiness of nations principally depend, are apt on such occasions, to be obscured by the glare of military achievements ; hence persons of ardent minds get discontented with private employments ; and become desirous of the distinctions of the field. But, in forsaking their usual occupations, such persons too frequently leave their domestic virtues and social charities at the same time. Nor is the danger less to the state itself from the long continuance of war. The military rises above the civil power, and the liberty of the people is diminished as the army is increased. If these changes have not been much felt in Great Britain, it has been owing, in a great measure, to the magnitude of the danger which obliged the government to call upon all those who were wil-  
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ling to defend their country, their liberty, and laws. The whole population obeyed the call, and three hundred thousand were chosen, who, not only formed an equipoise to the regular army, but gave a proof to the enemy that such a nation never could be vanquished.—By arming her subjects, the constitution was renovated, and the warlike propensities of the people gratified without any great sacrifices of their usual customs ; and it will be much more easy to restore those industrious habits which are the best foundation of peace and tranquillity

But the proclamation of peace will be to Great Britain a new æra of glory. Not satisfied with preserving the liberties of Europe, and exhibiting a spirit of patriotism and devotion to the best rights of humanity, more awful and sublime than appears in the annals of time, she must render her glory everlasting by extending the benefits of maritime commerce to other states, upon the most liberal principles; she must prove the greatness of her power by acts of kindness, by assisting the weak and raising the fallen. She must acquire the gratitude of nations, by promoting their intercourse, and making them feel from experience, that in her hands, greatness of power is ability to do good. Nor will these grand and affecting duties delay the removal of those evils which have befallen her dependencies and colonies from this dreadful war. The sufferings and discontents of Ireland will meet with a patient and unprejudiced investigation ; and the healing balm will be applied to her diseases with firmness

and ability. The rage of her political parties will vanish ; and a season will be found for reconsidering the claims of perfect toleration. The liberty, interests and commerce of that important Island will be completely identified with those of England ; and all those evils for ever removed, which have hitherto prevented such a noble and fertile kingdom from adding much to the strength and energy of the British Empire.

Nor will these colonies reap small advantage from this most agreeable event. Long had we enjoyed all the blessings of peace and tranquillity, through the kindness and protection of our Parent State, while she was herself suffering the greatest privations and distresses. The interests of Great Britain and our present enemies were so much opposed to hostilities ; and the state of the world was such, as to proclaim, in the most energetic language, that peace, cordial peace, was the true policy of both. But our neighbours blinded with ambition ; and arrogant, from the great wealth and extensive trade which they had acquired by the miseries of Europe ; and tempted by views of immediate aggrandizement, became traitors to the peace and happiness of mankind ; and anticipating the downfall of the last citadel of liberty, hastened to seize upon a part of her territories. They have been sadly disappointed, and are about to meet with the punishment which their baseness deserves. The same victories which have prostrated the Tyrant of Europe, will prostrate his Satellites in America. Peace will not take place so soon ; but it  
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must follow its establishment in Europe. And we have many causes of joy which we should not have known but for the war. We have gained a name among our fellow subjects, which will be for ever precious. We have shewn, that the same spirit animates the children of the Loyalists, which inspired their fathers to put down treason and rebellion ; and to stand up for the unity of the empire. We have given many proofs of our loyalty and affection for our gracious Sovereign ; reverence for our laws and constitution ; and devotion for our country. The toils and dangers which we have surmounted ; the fortitude and intrepidity which we have exhibited ; will be lasting sources of congratulation. It will rejoice us to have contributed to the safety of the province ; to be able to say, when we behold our neighbours flourishing around us, I have assisted in promoting this happiness. Nor will the recollection of the proofs of our mutual affection be a small source of joy. It is in the day of calamity that the virtues live. We have conferred many benefits upon each other which ought never to be forgotten. How many indications of a feeling heart ; how many labors of love ! how many convincing proofs of honorable principle, would have been lost, had not this war happened ! How glad have we frequently been, during its progress, of each others aid and countenance. How much have we been convinced of our mutual dependence ? Let such recollections stir up our hearts this day, that brotherly kindness, so strongly recommended in the gospel,

pel, that it may shine forth in our days of rejoicing, as well as in those of our grief. Many will look back on this war with the most lively satisfaction through their whole lives, from remembering the active part which they have taken in softening its rigours, and repairing its depredations. That they were instrumental in establishing a society which has become the dispenser of comfort and joy to so many of the sons and daughters of affliction. Every orphan that is nourished; every patriot that is honored; every widow that is assisted; conveys to our hearts the most agreeable pleasure; and a pleasure that we may freely indulge, since it is sanctioned by the purest religion. Struck with the benevolent design, and extensive usefulness of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society*, our generous countrymen in London, headed by a brave Prince of the blood-royal, and assisted by our benevolent Lieut-Governor, (to whom the colony is under so many obligations) came forward with the most liberal aid: an aid which will enable us to alleviate, as far as pecuniary assistance can, many of the calamities occasioned by this unhappy war. Animated by the same spirit of generous humanity, our fellow subjects in different colonies are hastening their contributions to relieve our distresses. Already has the General Assembly of Nova Scotia, with an affectionate liberality, above all praise, sent us two thousand five hundred pounds. A conduct so benevolent and humane, must inspire the inhabitants of this province with the most lively sentiments of gratitude.

titude and esteem. Can we forbear rejoicing, that we belong to a nation so generous and noble ; whose children nourish the most exalted principles of moral rectitude, in every quarter of the globe

Nor is it one of the smallest advantages resulting from the war, that it distinguishes our friends from our foes, and rids us of all those traitors and false friends whom a short sighted and mistaken policy had introduced among us.—The very able measures adopted by our Legislature for punishing traitors and defending the country, may be justly considered a cause of joy. They allowed no temporary discordancies to destroy that harmony which was so necessary at such a crisis. They have fulfilled the just expectations of our Parent state, which had a right to expect every exertion on the part of her Colonies for their own defence. This noble pre-eminence of harmony and patriotism in our Legislature must not be lost ; it acquires us the esteem of all good men and the warm affection of our Mother Country.

Behold then, my brethren, some of the reasons which call for our gratitude and praise.—Behold with what force the passing events illustrate the doctrine of my text ; the Divine Providence carefully watching over the happiness of the world. The wrath of man even in its most dreadful effects, praising God, and teaching the most important lessons for the government of nations ; the instability of vice proved from the rapid downfall of the Tyrant ; a liberal constitution

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on conferred on France, recognizing many of the principles of true liberty, and which will be gradually adopted by other nations. In fine, all things working together for good, and the fairest prospects of peace and tranquility opening upon the world.—But if contrary to expectation, the war in this country should continue, we have still the most abundant cause of joy. Great Britain is now enabled to detach such a force against our enemies, as shall, through the divine blessing, reduce them to supplication. The moment of transferring the war into their country is at hand ; and these traitors to the freedom of the world may, in their turn, experience the miseries which they have been so eager to inflict upon the Loyal Inhabitants of this Province. They threatened with unblushing arrogance, to subdue this fine colony ; to separate us from that heroic nation which enjoys the gratitude of the world. They mocked our attachment to the best of kings ; and tho' born to the most exalted freedom and independence, they reproached us with being slaves ; and sought to poison us with their crude and debasing principles. Let the recollection of these things urge you to new exertions —And as you are anxious to secure your homes from such cruel invaders ; to preserve them from pillage and conflagration ; those homes which yield to you the sweetest and most endearing enjoyments ; and in which the virtues which give consistence and harmony to society are hallowed and matured ; continue in the career of glory which you have begun ; and as you have shewn  
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yourself intrepid against the enemy in the field, be neither depressed nor discontented with such other privations and distresses as are incident to a state of war. They will not continue long; and think of what you would have given two years ago to behold the glorious state of affairs which we now commemorate. Alas! at that time interminable war, or total ruin, appeared the only alternative. Now the dawn of the happiest times is rising upon us.

Rejoice then my Christian brethren; and may the Lord God of our Fathers, who maketh all things work together for good to those that love him, graciously accept our sincere tribute of gratitude and praise and bless what yet remains to be done for the repose of the world.

