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**AN ORATION**  
BY FRANCIS S. KEY, ESQ.  
Delivered at a meeting of the Washington Society of Alexandria, on Tuesday 23d inst.

(Continued)

Nor does the patriotism of such a man depend on situation: the changes of times and circumstances do not affect it. He does not serve his country only when she has honour and profit to repay him. He manifests the ardour and sincerity of his love in the day of her adversity. His religion inspires him to proportion his efforts to her needs; and if this should require the blood of a patriot to be shed in her defence, he has learned that he can do no greater act of love than to "lay down his life for his friends." As no *secular* considerations have been the motives of his patriotism, so neither can they extinguish it. He has not loved his country for the sake of reward; and therefore if he is neglected and despised, if injustice, cruelty and oppression are the only returns his services have obtained, he will even then find abundant inducements, not only to prompt his forgiveness, but to keep alive his love.

Nor let it be supposed that if a humbler sphere of duty be assigned him, he is not still to remember that the private citizen is not exempt from the claims of patriotism. He will but shew his love of country by that exact obedience to her laws which his principles enjoin. Though not called to act in her behalf, his heart will not be unengaged in her cause, and in the eye of the religion he obeys, the will is equivalent to the deed; nor is he idle or useless in such a state. He who fulfills with zeal and faithfulness all the duties of private, domestic and social life, who encourages virtue and promotes benevolence by his influence and example is no mean contributor to the stock of public happiness, and will find engagements requiring all his efforts. To purify his own heart and watch over his own ways is his first great-work and the indispensable preparation for every other.

"There un-fatig'd  
His fervent spirit labours, there he fights,  
And there obtains fresh conquests o'er himself,  
And never withering wreaths, compared with which,  
The laurels that a Cæsar reaps are weeds."

From these conflicts he derives not only dominion over himself, but charity towards others. They have taught him the strength of passion, the violence of temptation, the art of prejudice and the fallibility of judgment. Here he is indulgent in making allowances for others, rigid only to himself.

There is also above all one claim upon him to which he cannot be insensible. Religion will not suffer the patriot to forget his country in his prayers. However lightly the world may think of the intercessions of the pious, christianity teaches us that they are neither unaccountable to God nor unavailing. This service equally does from the most low & the most exalted station. He who has a heart warm with affection for his country, though he may have nothing else to give, may yet by giving this, give greatly. He who withholds this, whatever else he may give, gives comparatively nothing. The man that thus humbly casts into the treasure of a nation's blessing, may be more effectual and availing than all the offerings of the great. He who in his retirement calls up the thought of his country, and at that thought breathes forth his secret and devout petitions in her behalf, may be instrumental in drawing down a blessing which only Almighty Goodness can grant, and which men can neither know nor estimate.

Here then, my friends, closes the faint sketch I have attempted, of

the duties imposed upon him whom religion makes a patriot. Does it require an unattainable state of virtue, an imaginary excellence, to discharge these obligations? Alas! cannot it be perfect in any branch of duty, but he may by divine help, be making in this and every other a constant progress towards that perfection which is only to begin, when this frail life of trial and difficulty shall be over. Mankind has had cause to bless Heaven for the gift of many whose attainments in this virtue has benefited and adorned the age in which they lived. Nor should we wanting in gratitude for the illustrious instances that have been bestowed on us. Foremost among them by the confession of the world, stood our Washington. While we dwell upon his precepts, let his memory and example excite us to imitation. Let us not in despair presume to say, that the flame of patriotism is extinguished, that we have only in his grave the mouldering bones of such a patriot. Let us trust to that Providence whose abundant kindness we have experienced in the time of our necessity—let us strive to conciliate the favour of that Being who can send his spirit among us and make us a nation of patriots.

Need we require whether we have been duly impressed with the importance of the great duties I have endeavoured to suggest, and how we have fulfilled them? Alas! who is there among us insensible to his want of faithfulness in this respect? The review of them has so filled him who addresses you, with a sense of his own utter unworthiness, that he has with doubt and difficulty ventured to present such a subject to your thoughts; fearful that it might not only seem, but be, presumptuous in one so culpable himself to offer such considerations to others. If individually and nationally we are found most guilty, if we must see and feel and acknowledge our offences, then is there an awful call upon us for deep and universal penitence. Are there no signs in these times, that should awaken and alarm us? are there no marks of disaffection towards God that are a stain upon our nation?

Let me ask if there can be found a region upon the globe, that has been more favoured with Providential blessings than this land? and where are the proofs of a correspondent grateful piety that should be the distinguishing characteristic of a people saved and defended as we have been? are they to be found in our hearts and in our lives? Let every man look around him and within him, and answer. Are they to be found in the sanctity of our religious worship, in the solemnity & fervour of our public devotions, in the homage paid to the consecrated houses and altars? Let him who sees our cold and ceremonious service, our unhallowed sabbaths and violated sanctuaries, let him who sees the desolate and degraded ruins scattered over our country, once temples of the most high and vocal with his praise, now frowning in portentous silence upon our land—let him who sees and feels these things tremble and answer.

Are the social duties of life faithfully discharged, by those who are thus wanting in reverence to God? Do we remember that christians are called to be "a peculiar people," that their great commandment is "to love one another?" put away from us all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamour and evil speaking, and all malice! That we are to be "kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God has forgiven us?" Alas! how does this sacred obligation of these precepts comport with the malignant spirit of party which divides and enfleams us? Who would believe that these are principles almost universally possessed among us? For our feelings in this respect we are doubly inexcusable. How has the parental solicitude of our Washington that strove to warn us against this danger, been disregarded? He has left us the most solemn admonition upon this subject, the most clear and affecting display of the ruin to which it leads. And so little

have we profited by it, that this spirit which he terms "the worst enemy of a popular government," and advises that a constant effort should be made, "by force of public opinion to mitigate and assuage it," has corrupted public opinion, and is supported by it. Can we be justified or excused in this by the situation of our affairs? Can any situation make it necessary or proper that political differences should be attended with mutual threatnings & revivings and every irritation that can minister to the most revengeful passions? Cannot those in power pursue just and moderate means in the prosecution of their measures? And if they do not, can their opponents see both the advantage and the duty of restricting themselves to an opposition firm and decided as it ought to be, yet dignified and temperate? Cannot all who see and lament the excesses of this violence, unite in endeavours to moderate it, and disavowing the vassalage of party, assert their independence by refusing obedience to whatever their judgments condemn! No bad administration can long preserve its influence in this or any popular government, unless it is assisted by an immoderate party opposition; an opposition which inflames whom it would conciliate, which keeps alive passion and prejudice, which instead of disposing men to be convinced, will never permit them to see that they are mistaken. Let me not be misunderstood to imply, that the patriot, when occasion calls for their expression is to conceal or deny his opinions; He then owes to his country the honest and independent avowal of what he thinks her good requires; and he who shrinks from such a duty is more a traitor than a patriot. But this will not make it necessary that he should hate those with whom he differs, and should be even have to bear their hatred, he will hold more firmly the reins of his passions, and shew that he is animated by a charity which "never faileth."

Time will not permit me to notice all the instances and proofs of our offending—Alas! Are there not among these some that it would not be prudent to expose? Your own observations and reflections (if turned to such a subject) will sufficiently shew among us the marks of a "faithless and perverse generation" a "rebellious people."

What remains for us then, my friends, but that each man do his part of the national expiation, and contribute with all his powers to that general reformation that will preserve us. The happy consequences of such united efforts cannot fail—they are ratified by the promise of Omnipotence. The God we have offended is "full of mercy, long suffering, abundant in goodness, easy to be entreated." Let us then make our application to him, with the fervour of Patriots, with the faith of christians.

Even in these unexampled times, when the visitations of the Almighty are seen to overshadow the nations of the earth, the believing mind has ample sources of consolation. A ray of light shines through the gloom that surrounds us, and there is neither darkness nor disquietude to him who contemplates it. In all the apparent confusion and misery around him, he sees the hand of the most high executing his awful counsels, and fulfilling in his own mysterious way, his benignant purposes to man.

The enlightening of "the nations that sit in darkness," is accomplishing. At a period, and by means, which man's poor wisdom would have deemed ill-suited to such a work, that religion, which is decreed to cover the face of the world, has been progressing in the brightness of its way, with an efficacy that shews the divinity that attends it. How should the joy & triumph of such a thought overbalance any temporal affliction we may be called on to suffer! Nor are we without proof more peculiarly consoling of a growing piety in our own country. Some of the many benevolent institutions springing (it is to be hoped) from this influence, and certainly calcu-

lated to extend it. I trust I shall be excused for using this occasion of recommending them to your attention. One of them indeed is particularly worthy of consideration here, for it displays before us the rich fruits of its labours, the most striking proofs of its success, the most affecting excitement to imitation. That a people who have the government of themselves should be virtuous and intelligent; that this can only be the case where a plain useful and religious system of education is accessible to all, are axioms that it would be a waste of time to establish.

We have now not only the benefit of knowing, in several remarkable instances, the happy consequences that reward a patriotic attention to this subject, but the world has been lately blessed by discoveries and improvements in the science of education, calculated to extend the blessings of light and knowledge with a certainty, rapidity and ease, unknown and incredible before. Of these means this society has been among the first to avail itself. And they are now brought within the reach of all, and within the compass of the most moderate resources.

If persuasive to the discharge of such duty were wanting, I could again refer to the precepts of Washington—not only to his precepts—we have this day before us the effects of his patriotism, the work of his beneficence. The institution which gratifies us with this spectacle, owes its origin to his provident and virtuous liberality. Let none then refuse that best proof of their veneration for his memory, which is to be shewn by the imitation of his example. Let them contribute to dispense (as he has done) in their respective neighborhoods, the blessings of instruction.

As an indispensable auxiliary to schools, for the diffusion of sound principles and real knowledge, I would also recommend the encouragement of those associations whose object is the publication and distribution of Bibles. In the opinion of those best acquainted with the religious state of the world, the propagation of Christianity, in modern times has owed more of its success to these institutions than to all other human means. Where missionaries had long labored in vain, the Bible has silently but rapidly made its own way, and, as in the days of its first manifestation, the idols of ignorance and superstition are falling before it. It has been ascertained that a wide and desolate field is presented in various parts of our country for the labours of those already established among us, and that means are greatly wanting to make the work effectual. We are told that in the days of Pagan darkness no habitation could be found without its protecting duties. But in Christian times and in a Christian country, there are hundreds and thousands of dwellings unsanctified by the presence of the sacred volume of life. Nor is there, in many instances, access to other means of improvement. No "holy bells knoll to the church," there is neither service nor sanctuary; the Sabbath it returns and passes away unheeded, or is made a day of more than ordinary depravity. Surely, those who live in the full enjoyment of all the blessings and privileges of the Gospel, cannot think of the miseries of such a condition without making an effort to relieve it.

Let us not pretend that these times are unfit for such exertions; that these, and other benevolent designs, must be deferred to a season of greater ease and prosperity. No time can be so suitable as the present. If discouragements and difficulties oppose their progress, the brighter will be the reward for surmounting them. Now is the time, in which they are within our power; now is the time, it may be the only time, in which they may avail us. Of that season of returning prosperity, to which we would desert their who can assure us?

When the path of duty and the help of Heaven are thus plain before us, shall we listen to the suggestions of despair? Shall we say

that all improvement of our religious character is hopeless? Then may we despair of every thing that deserves an effort—then may we despair of all national and individual happiness. We shall not cease to be suffering till we are made a more virtuous people. The experience of the world demerits—the voice of our Washington assures us, that "Providence has connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue."

May we be fouled to the zealous discharge of our several duties by prosperity, by affliction, by whatever dispensations, infinite wisdom may think fit to produce this blessed purpose. And conclude in the minds and affectionate words of the Father of our country. May the Almighty Ruler of the world be most graciously pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion; without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation."

### The Menacing Memorial.

The Norfolk Ledger of the 12th instant, contains the subsequent remarks on the insolent memorial of certain Members of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, which induced Mr. Madison to remove Gideon Granger from the office of Post-Master General:—

"Perhaps since the establishment of the government, a more extraordinary paper has not been presented to the public than this memorial. The friends of Mr. Madison can say nothing in favour of his independence in future—he may henceforth be considered as having surrendered that noble quality, without which, talents and integrity will neither be honourable to himself nor useful to his country. If any thing could exceed the nature of the application, it was the manner. No terms of decency or respect were preserved—in so many words Mr. Madison was told, that if he did not remove Granger, and appoint a successor, who would remove Leib, the signers of that memorial would not support him! Those men must have known his weak side, or they would never have dared to have exposed themselves to the reproach and contempt they so well merited, and would have experienced from a high minded chief magistrate. We profess no respect for Mr. Granger, but we perceive that he enjoyed the confidence of Mr. Madison's predecessor for eight years, and the confidence of Mr. Madison himself for six years, and we perceive him disgraced (as far as Mr. Madison can disgrace him) upon the mandate of a set of men, who assumed the offices of accusers and judges, leaving the president of the United States to perform the part of executioner.

Extract of a letter from Capt. Charles Gordon, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

March 10, 1814.

"I have to report to you the loss of one of my midshipmen, Mr. Wm. C. Hall. He was quite young, and the smallest on board—but a youth of great promise, who had so much interested himself with the officers and crew, that his loss has spread a momentary gloom over the ship. He fell from the mizen-top-mast head to the quarter deck yesterday evening, while we were in the act of sending down top-gallant yards, and expired instantly.

He had been accustomed to going aloft, and had gone up to the mast head on that occasion, (as he said to the captain of the top) to observe how they unrigged the yard; having hold of the top-gallant shroud, the yard must have struck him in falling. He will be buried in the church yard at Norfolk, this day at noon, with the ceremonies due to his grade. He is from Queen Ann's county, Eastern Shore of Maryland, no parents, and an only sister living. His family is known to Gov. Wright, the representative in Congress from that district."

**For Sale,**  
A TRACT OF LAND  
Called "Snowden's Reputation" lying  
bordered, situated on the head of South  
river, formerly occupied by Mr. Lou  
Green, and adjoining Mr. Thomas  
Woodfield's, containing upwards of 170  
acres, with considerable improvements,  
and is well timbered. A further description is deemed unnecessary, as  
persons disposed to purchase will no  
doubt view the premises. It not sold  
at private sale before the 1st April  
next, it will on that day be offered at  
public vendue. Terms will be made  
accommodating. For further particulars  
apply to

19  
NICHOLS J. WATKINS,  
Attor. at Law.

**Notice is Hereby Given,**  
That the subscriber intends to petition  
the judges of Calvert county court, at  
their next session, for the benefit of the  
act of assembly, passed at November  
session, 1805, entitled, "An act for the  
relief of sundry insolvent debtors, and  
the several supplements thereto."  
WILLIAM H. SHWALL,  
Feb. 3.

**PROPOSALS**  
For publishing in the City of Baltimore,  
A NEWSPAPER,  
TO BE ENTITLED, THE  
*Baltimore Correspondent,*  
AND  
Merchants, Manufacturers & Mechanics  
DAILY ADVERTISER.

BY THOMAS HOWARD HILL, PRINTER.  
THE proposed paper will be published daily (at noon) in order to circulate the earliest intelligence which may be received by the mails. It is proper that the intended editor should declare his intentions at the manner in which he means to conduct the publication of "The BALTIMORE CORRESPONDENT." He pledges himself that it shall be held abstract from all party, and be conducted upon the most impartial principles—that it shall comprise the following articles, viz; all foreign and domestic news of the day; a regular detail of naval and military events; a correct and regular journal of the proceedings of the national legislature as also those of the different states, and all documents that may be submitted to them for consideration. And in the absence of the above general named intelligence, he will insert useful notices of the progress of commerce, (internal and external,) of manufactures, and of mechanics, as indeed it is solely devoted to their advancement. A price current (corrected weekly) will be inserted upon the most convenient day.

The utility of such a newspaper at the present time is most certainly obvious to those acquainted with the time of the arrival of the great mail; and as it is the wish of the editor to make the contemplated paper as useful as possible, he promises to use his utmost exertions in collecting of intelligence that may be useful and interesting to those who may favor him with their support.

**TERMS.**  
"The Baltimore Correspondent" will be printed on a half sheet super royal, at five dollars per annum, payable half yearly in advance—the paper for the country at three dollars in advance. Advertisements to be inserted on the usual terms unless otherwise contracted for by the year. Arrangements are now making to anticipate news by letter.  
January 12, 1814.

### 20 Dollars Reward.

Runaway from the subscriber, on Tuesday the 4th inst a negro man by the name of CHARLES, formerly the property of Mr. Grassaway Rawlings. He is a stout able fellow, about 30 years of age, 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, stutters very much when talking, he has a wife at Mr. William Stewart's quarters, Fingall. His clothing when he went off was a round over jacket, made of green half thick, given to him this fall, a spotted awndon under jacket much worn, white furred country cloth trousers, a good deal mended, coarse shoes & yarn stockings, a white hat with a "broad" brim; as he has other clothing he may change to suit his purpose. Charles is an old offender in the life-time of his former master, he often took these trips, and when away he got acquainted on Elk-Bidge & Baltimore; he was taken up some years ago and confined in Frederick goal; he has a brother in George Town, living with Mr. Thomas Gault. It is supposed he may endeavor to get to some of the above places, and pass as a free man. Whoever takes up the said fellow, and delivers him to me, or combines him in any goal so that I get him again, shall receive the above reward. All persons are forbid harbouring the said fellow at their peril.  
SAMUEL MACCUBBIN.

Done at a public sale, on the 2d of January, 1814.