

# EXTRACT FROM AN ORATION,

Delivered at Salem, Ia. July 4, 1826,

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In the enjoyment of the grateful feelings of this anniversary, let us not, fellow-citizens, be unmindful of the moral purposes of its institution, nor forget the high responsibilities which have descended to us, as the lineal successors of the founders of this confederated Republic. To us it belongs, not only by our conduct to vindicate and sustain the characters of these illustrious men, to preserve and transmit the glorious inheritance unimpaired, we are bound to amplify, improve and adorn the noble fabric, which their labors erected. Indifference or inaction would as little become us, as it would have ill become them. The world is in a state of active and unceasing progression. The theatre of human action is constantly expanding, and we are bound to elevate and enlarge our views so as to grasp the whole circle of our duties. Inheriting by birth or possessing by choice, a rich share in the sublime privileges, the ample domains, the high destinies of a great and growing nation, it becomes the most sacred of duties properly to appreciate the obligations which devolve on us as men, as fathers, and as citizens. "As the original founder of the Roman Empire," said, in the language of poetry, to have once borne on his shoulders the fame and fortunes of all his posterity, so let us never forget that the glory and greatness of all our descendants are in our hands. We consult the true happiness and glory of those who are to succeed us, if veneration for our fathers be properly blended with a just self-love and affection for our offspring, if it be our aim to realize those sublime anticipations of the future destinies of this country, which animated the men of '76 in the darkest hours of despondency and suffering, we shall place in the first rank of our duties that of providing, by all the facilities which public and private patronage can afford, for the moral and intellectual culture of our children. We shall feel it our duty to make the education of our citizens a public concern.

From the earliest periods of antiquity, in which the records of our race present us with the first rude sketches of free government, we find that the education of youth was regarded and claimed as a great public trust—peculiarly belonging to the superintendence of government. Nothing can be more just or better founded than this sentiment. It is an opinion by no means peculiar to free governments. The subject, with its important bearings, is as well understood in monarchies as republics—at Constantinople as at Washington. The difference between them is this—that the agents of despotism and oligarchy regard exclusively the physical development of their subjects and slaves, whilst the functionaries of freedom solicit the moral and intellectual expansion of their fellow-citizens and equals. On this interesting subject it is both grateful and mortifying to know that some of the earliest colonies have left us lessons and examples which cannot be too much admired nor too closely imitated. It is now nearly two hundred years since the little colony of Plymouth enacted the following law:—

"Forasmuch as the maintenance of good literature doth much tend to the advancement of the weal and flourishing state of societies and republics, this Court doth therefore order, that in whatever township in this government, consisting of fifty families or upwards, any meet man shall be obtained to teach a grammar school, such township shall allow at least twelve pounds to be raised by rate on all the inhabitants."

Twelve pounds, my friends, in those days, in Plymouth Colony, were equal to a hundred now, in any part of the United States. Similar laws, about the same time, were enacted in the neighboring colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut, where a system of public instruction was gradually established, which, with numerous enlargements and improvements continue to this day, the pride and boast of New England—the stable groundwork of her prosperity and happiness. New York, emulating her adjacent sisters in this noble work, has displayed a zeal and munificence which is beyond all praise. By the last official reports of the state of her free schools we find that nearly half a million of children of both sexes are, in that State, educated at the public expense. Virginia, under the auspices of her illustrious Ex-Presidents, is heartily engaged in the great cause. South Carolina has for many years appropriated a large portion of her revenue to the support of common schools.—Ohio, too, is directing her great and growing resources to the same glorious object. She has obtained the consent of Congress to such sale of her school lands as may be authorized by her Legislature, with the consent of the townships; and it is understood to be her intention to have the proceeds of such sale invested in public securi-

ties and sacredly appropriated to the purposes of education, as designated in her compact with the general government. I entertain little doubt that Indiana will find it to her advantage to follow this example. The leasing system has been found in both states to be wholly inadequate to the purposes of a productive fund; to be wasteful to the land, and, by encouraging an inferior and worthless population, to produce a great preponderance of evil over the benefits derived from it. The opinion is rapidly gaining ground, that the value of these lands, securely vested at simple interest, will yield a better revenue than any system of leasing that can be resorted to in our country.

Fellow-citizens of Indiana! We are proud and zealous to avow ourselves the advocates of Internal Improvement. The magnificent canals, the increasing manufactures, the vast internal commerce of New York, we contemplate with increasing admiration; and as her enterprising spirit moves over the waters of Lake Erie into the boundaries of our adjacent sister, continuing the line of excavation which is shortly to unite the streams of the west with the capacious harbor of her imperial metropolis, our enthusiasm cannot be repressed; we are not satisfied with passive admiration—we would be up and doing ourselves! All this is natural and praiseworthy: It is a noble and generous emulation, which, Heaven grant, may be diffused co-extensively with our Union. But the improvement of our territory by roads and canals, the facilities of transportation and travel, the advantages and choice of markets, all excellent, desirable and attainable as they are—yet what are they in comparison with that greatest and noblest of all internal improvements, the culture and expansion of the Mind? What are they, compared with that knowledge and intelligence which ennobles every patriot citizen clearly to discern and steadily to pursue the interest of his country? In artificial navigation and all the facilities of internal commerce, Russia and China may challenge the world: Yet who of us would be a Chinese or a Russian for the rent roll, aye, for the fee simple of their thousand canals?

Fortunately for Indiana, on this great subject, she has not been left to the tardy lessons of her own isolated experience. In addition to the examples of Colonies and States, which now form a part of this Union, we have been stimulated by the parental zeal and solicitude of our common country. In appropriating a thirty-sixth part of our soil for the use of township schools, in addition to two whole townships of land granted for a University, the General Government has not left the great subject of popular education to the unassisted efforts of our own citizens. Her generous solicitude for this cardinal interest has frequently reminded us, not only of its intrinsic importance, but of our corresponding obligations.

Permit me, however, my friends, in the spirit of candor and modesty, to suggest to you my serious apprehensions, that this noble munificence will entirely fail of its beneficent effects, unless the spirit and intelligence of our citizens are roused to prevent it. There is danger of expecting too much from our school lands, and consequently of doing too little ourselves. Although experience thus far has demonstrated that the avails of the sixteenth section must necessarily for years to come be but trifling, there are not a few of our inhabitants who appear disposed to wait in listless inactivity until, by some miraculous change in the value of property, the proceeds of this solitary section shall not only begin but complete the education of their families. Wherever this is the effect of the liberality of Congress, and I hope it is not extensive, this noble bequest, instead of a blessing, will prove the Box of Pandora, pregnant with evils.

The truth is, fellow citizens, the only substantial available fund for all public education, consists in the feelings and minds of the people. To call these feelings into vigorous action, it is only necessary to rouse their attention, to awaken their intelligence, to enlighten the public mind: correct legislation will follow as a matter of course. And let the subject be sifted over and over again, let it be canvassed ever so often, whenever the people or their representatives shall enter deliberately on this great work, they will, I feel confident, with great unanimity concur in believing that the only efficacious mode of drawing into action the mental and moral energies of the whole rising generation, and forming their morals and manners, is the good old plan adopted at Plymouth, near two hundred years ago—viz: the system of free schools supported by equal and moderate taxation. It is this system, my friends, which, in Colonial times, laid the foundation of a Franklin, the light and glory of his age—which formed the Adamses, the Warrens, the Hancocks, and

Quincys of '76—which has since unfolded the dawning intellect and gigantic powers of a Parsons, a Dexter, a Kent, and a Webster, all of whom and thousands more, equally cultivated, though not equally distinguished, inhaled elements of literature in the atmosphere of free schools, where it is the pride and glory of more than two millions of people, that not a full grown individual of either sex of sane mind, can be found, who has not learnt to read, write, and cast accounts. These blessings, Indians, may be yours. To will them, vigorously to will them, is to attain them.

When we reflect, fellow citizens, that knowledge and virtue are the main pillars which sustain the edifice of our liberties—that these noble characteristics of patriot freemen are in a great degree if not wholly the result of education; that public purity, order and happiness, have in all countries borne an exact correspondence with the diffusion of light and knowledge; that the dissemination of learning and morals is the happiest as well as most effectual mode of preventing and curtail the extension of the criminal code; that the sum allotted to this philanthropic object is just so much saved from the expenses of criminal justice; that a tax which secures our persons and property, by purifying the moral atmosphere of our country, by rescuing from vice and misery the offspring of penury and misfortune, and at the same time adds to the number of good citizens, is infinitely more acceptable and grateful than one which pays for the arrest, confinement, trial, and incarceration of the miserable felon, who, if his history be known, will in nine cases out of ten, be found to be some poor, idle, neglected, uneducated youth; when, in fine, we reflect that the system here recommended is among the positive injunctions of our own excellent State Constitution; that it has received the unqualified sanction of Washington, of Franklin, of Adams, of Jefferson, in fact of every name distinguished in the annals of science, freedom or humanity; is it, permit me to ask, too much to expect that it will ere long receive the cordial support, the enlightened suffrages of the free and independent citizens of Indiana?

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Selected from Eastern Papers.

**TURKEY.** The property of Chabuchi, the rich Jew banker at Constantinople, lately legitimately seized, amounted to nearly sixty-nine millions piastres, or six million five hundred thousand dollars.

It will be recollected that according to our last advices, a dreadful fire broke out in Constantinople on the 31st of August, which was raging on the 3rd of September. It broke out just before the sacred standard of the prophet was about to be taken with great ceremony from the seraglio and replaced in the khassne, or imperial treasury, whence it was taken on the occasion of the late suppression of the Janissaries. It began in a baker's shop, and such was its fury that in Pera it was thought to have had an hundred beginnings. The palace of the vizier was consumed. It is supposed that the number of houses burned is not less than seven thousand. The fire had been extinguished in several places, but it broke out again afresh, and the people being irritated, neglected those measures they ought to have adopted with energy. It is said that the astrologers have predicted, that, on the 27th day of the moon, the day for the return of the sandjak scheriff a great fire would break out, and be the precursor of a political reaction. The destruction of the property which it occasioned was immense. There was no reason to suppose, according to this account, that it had been produced by design.

**INDIA.** Accounts from the East Indies bring rumors of a Burmese infraction of the peace already, and the departure of Sir A. Campbell from Calcutta, to rejoin the army, gives some countenance to the report. The Burmese had, however, completed their second compensating instalment; but it is said they had been ingenious enough to pay it in coin debased to half its nominal value. The cheat was discovered upon the coin being assayed at the mint.

**THE ASHANTEES.** Private letters, and documents from the Gold Coast to the 20th of July, confirm the intelligence of the movements of the king of Ashantee against the British allies and forts in that quarter. As to the number of the enemy's forces and other details, the accounts in the letters are various and contradictory—from twenty to 50,000 men are the estimates of the Ashantee army, and one of the letters says, that it is already within thirty miles of Cape Coast castle. They all sufficiently demonstrate the dreadful alarm which prevails, and which is heightened by the previous experience of the savage and formidable character of the Ashantees. The British subjects and their allies were or-

dered to arm in readiness to oppose the inroads of the enemy.

**COLOMBIA.** Bolivar had not arrived in Colombia, as was some time ago positively stated—but it seems he was immediately expected at the date of the last account. The affair of Paez appears to be nearly at an end—he himself had called a meeting of the people at Caracas, at which it was resolved to discharge the forces raised for defence and other purposes, and to send a deputation to Bogota. We may soon expect further particulars.

There is a strong report that Bolivar will be invested with absolute power, and that the government of Colombia, will partake largely of a military despotism—if so, we may expect a monarchy. Indeed, from many things which we have seen and heard, we are apprehensive that Bolivar is about to resign his pretensions to the character of the "Washington of the south." We would yet hope not—but much allowance must be made for temporary acts of power in South America, because of the ignorant and bigoted people to be governed—not accustomed to yield much to reason, and ruled by force. It takes a long while to raise up a populace capable of sustaining a free and stable government. Kings, princes and bishops are easily manufactured—it is the work of years to educate and fit a people like those of the late colonies of Spain, to understand what are their own rights, and discern the rightful way of maintaining them.

The privateer Republicano has captured thirty Spanish vessels, burnt a village on the Mediterranean coast of Spain, and also made prisoners of a parcel of *fijeros*, perhaps to be held as hostages for the good treatment of certain Colombians, who may have fallen into the hands of the Spaniards. The commander of the Republicano has a small portion of the fiery zeal of the British admiral Cockburn—of infamous memory.

**PERU.** The state of affairs appears unsettled in Peru, and also in Chili; and conspiracies against the ruling powers are spoken of. It is also intimated that a difference will exist between the two states.

## LATER.

Whole battalions of the Spanish troops were deserting to Portugal. The kingdom of Ferdinand and his priests is filled with misery and murder, and public and private dissensions and outrages.

Seven thousand persons were ill at Groningen—the city seems half desolated by disease.

Russia was marching large bodies of troops to the frontiers of Persia.—There will probably be a pretty active and extensive war in that quarter. The people of some of the Russian provinces are said to have joined the Persians.

The late great fire in Constantinople is attributed to the Janissaries or their party. It is reported that the sultan, pressed on all sides, has ordered an accession to all the demands of Russia.

It appears that the king of Bavaria has openly announced himself a friend of the Greeks, and sanctioned the departure of some of his subjects to fight against their barbarian oppressors. The Greeks are much distressed for the want of funds.

A letter from Algiers, of the 9th of September, states that intelligence of an almost authentic nature was received there, that major, Laing and all his companions had been assassinated in the desert by one of the tribes called Twarnies.

We have conflicting accounts from Athens—one saying that it was in the hands of the Turks, the other that Reschid pasha was severely defeated and compelled to retire. It is reported that Lord Cochrane has arrived in Archipelago with a squadron of 23 vessels.

A letter from Constantinople of the 31st of August says, "It appears that executions continue in silence, and that, during the night, passage boats traverse the port, and throw into the sea, every night, dead bodies which are carried by the current away from the shores bordering the capital."

The manufacturers in Scotland are much distressed. At Ayr, one third of the operatives were wholly idle, and subsisting as poorly as subsistence could be. A frightful fever prevails at Dublin.

Mr. Gallatin, with his family, is on a visit to Paris. Mr. Canning is also there.

There is a great emigration from Germany to Poland—250,000 manufacturers are said to have departed within the last few years.

The recent events at Cartagena forcibly demonstrate the truth of an opinion entertained long ago by the President of Colombia himself, that the Colombians were unacquainted with the science of government. To that defect we may attribute the present state of disorganization into which the country has fallen.

To men accustomed only to obey the