



## The Fourth of July

All nations have had their festivals and celebrations, which they have joyfully observed with religious veneration, and it seems strange, that any citizen of this happy republic should think that our anniversaries should pass by without any notice; that those days which ought to call up all the hallowed associations of our early history, which ought to remind us of the glorious achievements of our ancestors, and excite emotions of gratitude in our minds for the blessings we enjoy, should glide by undistinguished in the lapse of time, Shall no rapturous anthem of the free be heard in our land on a nation's jubilee? Shall we all plod on in our favourite pursuits without a single thought of the deeds of those who are so worthy to be remembered? — We should observe this day not to cherish a spirit of hostility to the people of other lands but to cultivate feelings of affection and a common sympathy among all our citizens, to unite them more closely together by manifesting our interest in the same subjects and a reverence for the same institutions. And while we mingle together in public congratulation, we should venerate more deeply those institutions handed down to us, and remember that to us is committed a charge, a rich legacy to be transmitted undiminished to those that may succeed. However proud may be the rank we sustain among the nations of the earth, still we should not forget, that there are dangers to which

That other republics

are exposed. <sup>^</sup> who once boasted of their grandeur, and the permanency of their institutions, have been destroyed and to us, there is a warning to guard with a jealous care, lest the seeds of decay and dissolution should be

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time to spend one day in the cultivation of social  
feelings. We are made with capacities to enjoy the  
pleasures of society, and it is well to turn aside from  
busy cares and favourite pursuits, to celebrate with  
joyful hearts the annual return of this happy  
day. After such a season of relaxation and enjoyment  
we may go back to the performance of our daily  
duties with an elasticity and vigor which we should  
not experience without some remission from continued  
labour. It is well occasionally to break up the daily  
routine of employments, to let our thoughts and  
feelings flow in new channels, that we may feel  
— new life and energy in the soul.

To be sure the day is sometimes associated  
to unholy deeds and sinful indulgence; but because  
others abuse it, there is no reason why we should not  
make a proper improvement of it. Some spend the  
hours of the holy Sabbath in idleness and dissipation yet  
we do not conclude on account of their misimprovement  
that the Sabbath was not made for man —  
And what more suitable time to remember the  
condition of those deprived of the blessings we enjoy  
and the common rights of man; than while we  
commemorate the day when a nation was freed from the  
shackles that were upon it. While we shout the praises  
of liberty let us breathe forth a prayer for the enslaved.

July 4th 1837

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