

scattered in our midst. It is not an idle waste of
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 employment, 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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