

America, America

As the weary delegates to the Constitutional Convention filed out of Independence Hall on September 17, 1787, a woman, waiting anxiously at the entrance, asked Benjamin Franklin, “Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?”

America’s far-seeing elder statesman’s short answer revealed his fears about the future of the American “experiment” in democracy: “A republic, if you can keep it,” replied the eighty-four year old Franklin.

The peoples of these United States should from time to time look back over their 370 years of history — beginning in Jamestown in 1607 — to see just how it was that this vast, fertile land was won. How did we become the world’s richest, most powerful nation?

The peoples who colonized America cherished a burning conviction that they had *a very special mission* to fulfill in life. They nurtured a deep belief that they had a “divinely appointed destiny,” and thought of themselves as “being chosen for a special mission in the world.”

When the devout Pilgrims waded ashore at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620, according to their first governor, William Bradford, “they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had brought them from all the perils and miseries.” In 1630, the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, John Winthrop, wrote: “We shall find that the God of Israel is among us. The eyes of all people are upon us.”

The *Pasadena Star News* (April 13, 1976) clearly described that special feeling: “The sense of divinely appointed destiny, of being chosen for a special mission in the world to bring ‘light to the nations,’ as Scripture phrased it, pervaded the life of the colonial communities, fired the American Revolution, and has tinged the country’s outlook ever since.”

That same conviction of Providential care over these United States has been perpetuated to this very day in America’s Great Seal (as shown on our one dollar bill). America’s official Great Seal illustrates the “eye of God” above an Egyptian pyramid — with the cryptic words “*Annuit Coeptis*” — “He [God] has favored our undertakings.” The early American settlers firmly believed the “eye of God” was upon their under-

takings. His Providential care and protection was often referred to in the early proclamations of Washington, Adams, Jefferson and Madison.

America at "the Summit"

America's ascent to greatness has placed her at the very pinnacle of power and prosperity. While speaking at a dinner held in his honor in New York on May 25, 1949, Winston S. Churchill acknowledged that America had "arrived at the *summit* of the world."

How did the United States get her vast wealth and power? What caused America's meteoric rise to greatness? How could this comparative late-comer on the world scene rise to such an unprecedented pinnacle of economic and military power — leaving all other nations far behind?

Is America's fabulous wealth and her awesome military might the result of her own ingenuity? Was it by mere blind *chance* that we happened to inherit the earth's goodliest heritage — a happy blending of the earth's most productive land with one of the mildest, most salubrious climates?

America's Founding Fathers (especially Washington, Adams and Jefferson) firmly believed that the "Supreme Ruler of Nations" had given the Thirteen Colonies the victory over the far superior British forces. To George Washington, it was clear that it was through the instrumentality of the "Invisible Hand" of "that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe" that America had gained a signal victory over the English.

By the Treaty of Paris of 1783, Britain granted to the U.S. not only the title deed to the original Thirteen Colonies, but also all the land eastward from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic. Just 20 years after 1783, the U.S. acquired the fabulous "Louisiana Territory" west of the Mississippi for only \$15,000,000. This vast tract of land cost America only *four cents per acre*!

In 1819 America bought the Florida Territory from Spain for \$10,000,000. In 1845, the U.S. annexed the Lone Star Republic of Texas; and in 1846, Britain ceded to America the Oregon Territory — thus giving America a window to the Pacific. After Mexico was defeated by America in 1846-47, The Mexican Government ceded to the U.S. the vast California Territory. The U.S. agreed to pay Mexico \$15,000,000.

But would America now be satisfied with her territorial acquisitions? The U.S. bought a sliver of land from Mexico (called the "Gadsden Purchase") in 1853 — for the sum of \$10,000,000. With this purchase of approximately 29,640 square miles from Mexico, the U.S. territory which would comprise the original 48 contiguous states was now complete.

“Seward’s Ice Box”

Russia, as well as Spain and France, had been grasping belatedly for control of the North American continent. She had taken possession of Alaska, and boldly claimed parts of western Canada; in 1812 Russia even established a thriving colony of about 400 people at Fort Ross — just north of San Francisco. But Russia foolishly sold her California colony to John Sutter in 1841 for \$30,000 — only seven years before gold was discovered on Sutter’s property!

Russia, after several years of bargaining, agreed to sell Alaska to the U.S. for only \$7,200,000 — about *two cents per acre*! Many short-sighted Americans disapproved of this U.S. purchase of Alaska, and called it “Seward’s Icebox” and “Seward’s Folly.” After Russia got skinned by her foolish sale of Alaska to America, the Russian bear lumbered back into its lair on the Russian-dominated mainland of Asia.

How fortunate that America purchased Alaska from Russia when she did! That vast, rich land is worth much more than the original purchase price in annual trade, and its strategic value is incalculable.

200 Years of Growth — 1776-1976

How did America of 1776 compare with the America of 1976? When the Thirteen Colonies declared their independence from the Mother Country in 1776, there were only 2,500,000 people living in those colonies — including 500,000 colored slaves. Today, this nation has a thriving population of over 215,000,000 — eighty-six times the population of the colonies at the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

The annual gross national product (all of the goods and services) produced by the Thirteen Colonies at the time of the war of Independence was a little under \$3 billion. America’s annual GNP is now estimated at over \$1.5 trillion.

In 1776 there were six persons per household in the Thirteen Colonies, whereas today there are only three per household. The *median age* of the population of the Thirteen Colonies was about fifteen years; today it’s 28.2 years.

At the time of the American Revolution, the vast majority of Americans lived on farms. Today only a small percent live on farms and only 4 percent of the labor force is employed in farm labor. The annual income per person in the Thirteen Colonies was less than \$500.00. Today, the annual per capita income of the average American is about \$6,000.00 — and is still rising.

According to estimates of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the num-

ber of native Indians living in America in 1776 was less than one million. Today, there are between 600,000 and 1,000,000 descendants of those original native Indian tribes. Many were killed in the successive wars which ravaged the North American continent, for nearly three centuries; but far greater numbers died as a result of terrible plagues which ravaged their numbers.

World's Highest Living Standard

America has come a long way since 1776.

Despite inflation and heavy taxes, Americans today enjoy the world's highest standard of living! The average U.S. worker still puts in far less work time than his European or Japanese counterpart in order to earn enough to buy the necessities (such as food and clothing) or the luxuries (such as second homes, and automobiles, luxury cars, expensive sports equipment, color TV, etc.).

The average American industrial worker earns nearly \$5 per hour, and the median family income is now over \$14,200.00. Even though the average Swiss or Swedish worker earns a higher wage than his American counterpart, yet their oppressive taxes and burdensome government deductions of various types, means that the average Swiss or Swedish worker actually has less take-home pay than does the typical American worker. And since most goods and services are far cheaper in the U.S. than in Europe and Japan, the average American wage will stretch much further than the wage of any other developed country.

Furthermore, inflation (about 7%) is considerably lower in the U.S. than in most of the other industrial nations where it often ranges from about 12% to 25% annually. Thus, in spite of inflation and rising taxes in the U.S., a husband and wife and their two children enjoyed an average 2.1 percent *gain* in their real take-home pay during the ten-year period of 1963-73. And it is interesting to note that an annual improvement increase of only 2 percent or so in real take-home pay actually results in the *doubling* of the living standard every thirty-five years!

What does all this add up to? America's 87 million employed workers now produce about one-third of all of the goods and services of the entire world! Remember, the total worldwide gross national product is just a little over \$4 trillion, while America's GNP is now running a little over \$1.5 trillion.

The per capita income worldwide is now approximately \$1,000 — just one sixth of America's per capita income.

How does the living standard of the average American compare with that of the average citizen of the typical industrial nation? Overall, the typical U.S. citizen is about 25% to 35% better off than his counterpart living in the *advanced* nations of the world!

America's Natural Resources

America's fantastic natural resources give her a virtual guarantee (if she uses them rightly) that the U.S. will *continue* to enjoy the highest standard of living for years to come.

The U.S. possesses about one third of all known *coal reserves* in the world. This abundant supply of energy, if properly utilized, is sufficient to supply all our energy needs for centuries to come. America's natural resources (iron, oil, aluminum, etc.) are generally quite good, though the U.S. continues to have to import more and more minerals as well as more oil and gas.

But America's chief physical asset is her vast, rich *farmland* much of which, unfortunately, she is using up as she continues to build sprawling cities on some of her best croplands. Even though the U.S. population of over 215 million comprises only 6% of the world's population of four billion, and this tiny 6% also possesses about 6% of the land of the world, at the same time they possess 18% of the world's cropland. This means that America enjoys approximately three times the world average in arable farmlands. And this 18% of the world's cropland comprises some of the very best land in the world.

What all of this adds up to is simply this: the average American still enjoys a higher standard of living than anyone in the world. We have been blessed with more resources and other material possessions than any people on earth!

But what are we doing with those fantastic blessings? Are we using them wisely? Are we grateful for them? Or, have we become ungrateful, careless, and profligate?

John Steinbeck once said: "If I wanted to *destroy a nation* I would give it too much and I would have it on its knees, miserable, greedy and sick."

America — Land of Opportunity

Ever since the discovery of North America, this Fair Land has rightly been looked upon as the *land of opportunity*. Early explorers sent glowing reports back to Europe — telling of the super-abundance of wildlife, fish, fowl, timber, fruits, rich vegetation, sparkling rivers and natural resources. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "*America is another name for opportunity. Our whole history appears like a last effort of divine Providence in behalf of the human race.*"

Since the beginning of colonization of this fair continent, foreigners have flocked to our shores seeking freedom, opportunity and the good life! America has been — and continues to be — a *haven* for the poor, down-trodden, oppressed peoples of this earth.

The Statue of Liberty

No other symbol in the whole world so vividly portrays, in symbolic imagery, the deep, human yearning for true freedom as America's famed Statue of Liberty, standing majestically on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

The Statue of Liberty represents a proud, free woman, dressed in a loose robe which falls in graceful folds to the top of the pedestal on which she stands. The right arm holds a great torch (representing enlightenment) raised high in the air. The left arm holds a tablet bearing the date of Declaration of Independence — 1776!

On the head of this proud, free woman rests a crown with huge spikes — representing the illuminating rays of the sun. At the feet of the Statue of Liberty is a broken shackle — symbolizing the overthrow of tyranny.

This symbolic statue stands 151 feet high, and weighs 450,000 pounds. The torch in the woman's hand rises 305 feet above the base of the pedestal. At night, the torch gleams with powerful incandescent and mercury-vapor lights — a symbol of *Liberty Enlightening the World*.

The liberty-loving people of France presented the Statue of Liberty to the U.S. Minister in Paris, on July 4, 1884. On October 28, 1886, President Grover Cleveland dedicated the Statue of Liberty. It was then unveiled before representatives of the United States and France.

In 1903, a poem written by Emma Lazarus was inscribed on a tablet in the pedestal of the statue. The words from that sonnet beckon the world's "huddled masses."

Not like the brazen giant [i.e. Colossus of Rhodes]
of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*"



Statue of Liberty beckons to the world: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free!" — *H. Armstrong Roberts*

This noble "Lady of Liberty" has welcomed millions of immigrants into her bosom. In 1910, the peak year of immigration, 1,041,570 immigrated to America.

As these peoples — mostly from Europe — poured into the great American "melting Pot," they brought with them different cultures, religions, laws and social customs. But the freedom loving peoples of America have generally embraced these new-comers — the down-trodden, oppressed peoples of the earth — with open arms.

Here in America, the less fortunate peoples from other nations can — if they really apply themselves diligently — earn a good living and learn to breathe freely the invigorating air of a free society.

Since its inception in 1776, this nation has been a generous, magnanimous, open-armed nation — beckoning to the "huddled masses" of the less fortunate nations to flee to our shores for succor and for refuge.

Many tens of millions of aliens have found comfort and refuge in this wonderfully blessed country. Ellis Island served as the "gateway to America for 16 million," until it was abandoned in 1954.

Just think of that for a moment. Sixteen million aliens passed through the Ellis Island immigration center!

But not all aliens enter this country legally. As proof that this American Democratic Republic — in spite of its many shortcomings and blemishes — is still a pretty good place in which to live, consider the following: Some estimate that there are now about 8.2 *million illegal aliens* living within these United States. And in spite of the fact that most of them take our jobs, use our free government services and handouts — we, in the main, tolerate these abuses with benign indifference! Deep down, all of us know that our ancestors came to this country as aliens — in the not-too-distant past. And if the impenetrable immigration barriers prevent millions who would like to enter this blessed land from so doing, many Americans are willing to turn a blind eye when someone succeeds. In the main, our problem of coping with ever-growing numbers of illegal aliens is treated more as a petty annoyance than as a serious problem.

In many lands around the world, illegal aliens would be treated harshly — might be imprisoned, or in some instances, they would simply be shot. Here in the U.S., we often help bind up their wounds, give them clothes and food, find them a job, and in that way welcome most of them into our midst.

There are many reasons why millions of aliens enter this country illegally. Some are only after money, and much of what they earn is often sent back "home." But the broad majority, undoubtedly, hope to escape detection, and make America their permanent home — for they long to have their children grow up in the world's most blessed nation!

We in America sometimes take our manifold blessings for granted.

In fact, the average American lives like a king or queen in comparison with the poor, down-trodden, illiterate masses of humanity, barely eking out an existence.

Is America too Privileged?

No nation in the entire history of the world has ever been so blessed as these United States of America. America's sin of national ingratitude is sometimes quite obvious to others. Kakuei Tanaka, the late Prime Minister of Japan, seemed to sense our national ingratitude — our taking our many blessings for granted — when he commented: "I often wonder why you [Americans] worry so much about domestic problems when you have such an abundance of resources. For example, look at American agricultural productivity. It's easy for the U.S. to expand its output whenever it chooses. We can't do that in Japan. When I compare the situation here in Japan with the situation in your country, I think that as a nation you are too privileged."

The late Prime Minister of Japan then added: "Yes, *I think God has not been very fair* in the distribution of resources."

"The U.S.," said he, "has many domestic problems, and some Americans may be deeply concerned about the way their country is being run. But of all the 3.7 [now over 4.0] billion people on this earth, Americans have the most stable economy, they have an abundance of resources available within their own country, and they have more investments abroad than any other country. So in terms of broad economic activity, the influence of the United States, as such, has not changed at all."

Was the late Prime Minister Tanaka correct?
Was Tanaka right?

"What Is An American?"

Hector St.-Jean de Crevecoeur (1735-1813) in his "Letters From an American Farmer" asked:

What then is the American, this new man? . . . He is an American, who leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds. He becomes an American by being received in a broad lap of our great *Alma Mater*. Here individuals of all nations are *melted into a new race of men*, whose labours and posterity will one day cause great changes in the world The American is *a new man*, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas, and form new opinions. From involuntary idleness, servile dependence, penury, and useless labour, he has passed to toils of a very different nature, rewarded by ample subsistence. This is an American.

These are the proud Americans. But have we forgotten our epic past — our splendid heritage?

Have today's Americans forgotten the "Miracle of Dunkirk"? Do we still remember the Providentially directed outcome of the "Battle of Britain"? Do we no longer remember the Allies' signal victory at *El Alemain* — one of the turning points of World War II? Are we oblivious to the many miracles that were performed by Providence at critical times in our history?

How many Americans who still daily draw the breath of freedom have forgotten that during World War II there was a feverish race between the scientists of Nazi Germany and the Allies to acquire the world's first A-bomb? And how many (or how few!) Americans have even heard about the Allies' Ultra Secret — the possession of the Axis Powers' *Enigma machines* by which the Allies often learned directly from Hitler and his top generals exactly what the Nazis intended to do next?

As America enters her third century of national existence, has she forgotten there was Providential intervention on behalf of the Allies during the Second World War? Churchill firmly believed there had been divine intervention: "I have a feeling sometimes that some *Guiding Hand has interferred*. I have a feeling that *we have a Guardian* because we have a great Cause, and we shall have that Guardian so long as we serve that Cause faithfully. And what a Cause it is!"

Lest We Forget

We as a nation must be careful — lest we forget the many signal blessings and Providential interventions during our long, proud history. If we aren't constantly mindful and if we don't cherish and guard our many blessings — including our liberties — then we could lose those precious freedoms during this, our third, century!

America's Founding Father's were very concerned about the future of the United States. They feared the corrupting influence of moral degeneracy and political unsoundness in the America of the future.

In 1837, Daniel Webster said: "I apprehend no danger to our country from a foreign foe. Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their *carelessness* and *negligence*, I must confess that I do apprehend some danger."

In January, 1838, Abraham Lincoln warned: "If danger ever reaches us it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

In President George Washington's First Inaugural Address, April

30, 1789, he warned "that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

General Douglas MacArthur, speaking on December 12, 1951, said: "In this day of gathering storm, as the moral deterioration of political power spreads its growing infection, it is essential that every spiritual force be mobilized to defend and preserve the religious base upon which this nation was founded. For it is that base which has been the motivating impulse to our moral and national growth. History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual reawakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster."

Guarding Our American Heritage

What should the peoples of America do to make sure that their nation isn't destroyed from *within* or from without? How can we make certain that we overcome our national malaise of complacency, immorality and lawlessness in order to attain far greater "greatness" during our third century?

Today, as during early colonial times, America is a "religious" nation. According to a recent Gallup Poll, 98 percent of all Americans profess to believe in God.

But a simple profession of *belief* in a Supreme Being will not necessarily insure that our peoples follow the wise laws He has given all mankind.

We need to remember Washington's admonition spoken to our nation during his Farewell Address: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert *these great pillars of human happiness* in these *firmest props* of the duties of men and citizens."

President Calvin Coolidge realized that religion and true morality are inseparable: "We do not need more material development, we need more spiritual development. We do not need more intellectual power, we need more moral power. We do not need more knowledge, we need more character. We do not need more government, we need more culture. We do not need more law, we need more religion. We do not need more of the things that are seen, we need more of the things that are unseen. It is that side which is the foundation of all else. If the foundation be firm, the superstructure will stand."

America's Founding Fathers, and many of her greatest leaders down through the last two centuries have clearly recognized that *morality* and *religion* are corner stones of national greatness.

Strengthen Family Ties

Most of America's religious leaders and sociologists realize that much of what is wrong with the United States today is the direct result of a serious break-down in family life. The real strength of a nation rests on the firm basis of strong family units. If family life is weakened, immorality, juvenile delinquency, crime and general lawlessness will prevail in the nation — especially in the up-and-coming younger generation.

What can America do to strengthen her family ties?

This nation needs to “put *father* back at the head of the family.” If there is not a strong father figure heading the family, there is less likelihood of having a happy, well-knit strong family unit.

The overwhelming majority of American families need to put *God* back at the very center of the home. All too many families either totally *ignore* the Creator, or pay him mere lip service. It has been said that “A family that prays together, stays together!” There is a lot of truth in that statement. The homes of George Washington and Dwight D. Eisenhower were homes where Scripture reading and prayer were practiced.

How many parents teach their children the sound principles in the “Volume of Inspiration” — i.e., the Bible (to use the words of President John Adams)?

How many heads of families ever conduct family *prayer* — or regularly give *thanks* to the “Divine Author of Every Good and Perfect Gift” (in the words of President James Madison), for the food on their table?

Can a strong, stable family be built on any other foundation than that which puts the Word of God, plus a wholesome fear and deep love toward the Creator-Ruler paramount?

True Americanism

How many young Americans are being taught — in the home, at school, and especially while in college — the principles of *true Americanism*? How many of today's younger generation of Americans are being taught true loyalty and allegiance to our flag and our country?

How many even know the words to our national “Pledge of Allegiance”? “I pledge allegiance to the *flag* of the United States of America and to *the republic* for which it stands, one nation *under God*, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

How many Americans today practice true Americanism?

True Americanism was defined by Teddy Roosevelt as follows:

Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity and hardihood — the virtues that made America. The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, peace-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life.

All Americans ought to be taught a deep respect for, and loyalty toward, their nation. We should to do all within our power to keep our nation strong.

And no person can be truly loyal to his country, while he has contempt for the Constitution and for those national or state laws which regulate the life of the community.

Abraham Lincoln sometimes didn't agree with some of the laws of the land — especially those concerning slavery. But nonetheless, he made it clear that he would obey those laws as long as they were on the books, but would, through proper legislation, seek to have laws which he considered bad repealed. He did not, however, believe he could flout the laws — becoming a law unto himself. Rather, he taught strict obedience to the laws of the land. In 1838, Lincoln said:

Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution, never to violate in the least particular, the *laws* of the country; and never to tolerate their violation by others Let *reverence for the laws*, be breathed by every American mother, to the lisping babe, that prattles on her lap — let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; — let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice.

Our National Goal

The American peoples once believed they had a Divine commission to take the blessings of liberty, industry, frugality, knowledge, and Christianity to the rest of the world. Americans once looked upon themselves as the "Chosen People" of the end time — the "Elect of God." Today, however, it seems we have lost all our goals — our national purpose — other than seeking as many pleasures as possible.

Even in the conduct of our foreign policy, it is now clear that America doesn't seem to have a firm national goal. The thought of giving up America's "in perpetuity" rights — written plainly in our treaty with Panama — once upon a time would have been exceedingly repugnant to the average American.

U.S. foreign policy weakness is revealed in our acceptance of a stalemate in Korea, a humiliating defeat in Vietnam, and our giving Russia our pledge not to invade a belligerent, Communistic Cuba. Dur-

ing the 1976 primaries, almost all of the major contenders for the Presidency — except Ronald Reagan, who says we should be willing to fight to retain our right over the Panama Canal — were willing to hand the Canal back over to Panama!

Teddy Roosevelt, who once said, “I took the Canal, and let Congress debate it later,” would probably turn over in his grave if he knew what American leadership is now in the process of doing!

George Washington counselled that America should not have favorite, or perpetual enemy nations — but should pursue friendly, equitable relations with all nations in both commerce and in the political sphere. The Father of our Country counselled: “It is our true policy to *steer clear of permanent alliances* with any portion of the foreign world (but) we may safely trust to *temporary alliances* for extraordinary emergencies.”

America’s third President, Thomas Jefferson advised his fellow Americans: “Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce, and honest friendship, with all nations — entangling alliances with none”

America now has “entangling alliances” with about one third of all the nations on the face of the earth. We are committed to the defense of so many nations, that our national will and strength has been needlessly sapped. We need to listen to Benjamin Harrison, who in 1888 said: “We Americans have no commission from God to police the world.”

Admittedly, America has had good intentions, and has wanted to help as many nations as possible. We have tried to export our “American Democracy” to many other nations. But we have failed to realize that not all countries have the means to make Democracy work.

Furthermore, we need to remember that America simply doesn’t have the wealth, the military power, the human resources, or the wisdom to “police the whole world.” We are unable to usher in the Golden Age of pax-Americana throughout the world. For any one nation to police the entire world would take messianic abilities which no country on earth has.

America can help those nations which are willing and able, with our assistance, to overcome their poverty, ignorance, or degradation. We can help those who are willing to help themselves, but we can’t do everything for them.

America’s foreign policy should be based on integrity, firmness, fairness, morality — and military preparedness.

“To be *prepared for war* is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace,” said George Washington in January, 1790. That still applies.

But America’s true strength should rest primarily in the *moral* and

spiritual character of her peoples — not solely on her superior scientific technology and highly sophisticated weaponry!

The “Fearful Atomic Dilemma”

America has been fearfully and wonderfully blessed. And yet, with all of our affluence and power, we — just like all other nations — could lose everything in the twinkling of an eye — amidst the blinding flashes of a few strategically placed bombs.

Is it possible that the world’s richest, most powerful nation could disappear as a world power within only minutes — as hideous mushroom clouds formed over our major cities and military installations?

President Dwight D. Eisenhower addressed the General Assembly of the U.N. on December 8, 1953. In that address he candidly admitted to the whole world that in this nuclear era, mankind has the awful problem of the fearful atomic dilemma.

Mr. Eisenhower continued his warning:

But let no one think that the expenditure of vast sums for weapons and systems of defense can guarantee absolute safety for the cities and citizens of any nation. The awful arithmetic of the atomic bomb does not permit of any such easy solution. Even against the most powerful defense, an aggressor in possession of the effective minimum number of atomic bombs for a surprise attack could probably place a sufficient number of his bombs on the chosen targets to cause hideous damage.

Should such an atomic attack be launched against the United States, our reactions would be swift and resolute

To pause there would be to confirm the hopeless finality of a belief that *two atomic collossi are doomed malevolently to eye each other indefinitely across a trembling world*. To stop there would be to accept helplessly the probability of civilization destroyed — the annihilation of the irreplaceable heritage of mankind handed down to us from generation to generation — and the condemnation of mankind to begin all over again the age-old struggle upward from savagery toward decency, right, and justice.

Nearly a quarter of a century has elapsed since America’s President expressed his — and America’s — fervent desire and “determination to help solve the fearful atomic dilemma,” but we have found *no solution*.

Since President Eisenhower’s address before the U.N. in 1953 the danger of a nuclear holocaust has increased. At that time there were only three atomic powers; now there are seven or more nations which possess nuclear bombs!

And so . . . the atomic club continues to grow — and with the enlargement of that “elite” club, the chances of World War III being ignited — even accidentally — grows infinitely larger!

Right this moment, off America’s Atlantic and Pacific coasts, Soviet subs carrying deadly nuclear-tipped missiles prowl international waters

— playing hide and seek with America's naval forces. Furthermore, there are deadly nuclear-tipped missiles stationed in various sites throughout the Soviet Union — with their payloads preprogrammed to hit every major U.S. city — as well as all of America's strategic military objectives.

America likewise, has its doomsday nuclear-tipped missiles poised, ready to strike pre-arranged targets throughout Russia. The U.S. has deadly land-based nuclear-tipped missiles, submarine-launched missiles, and a large fleet of bombers loaded with bombs which would make World War II's biggest bombs seem like mere firecrackers!

Where will it all end? Will there be a nuclear Armageddon which will erase all life from this planet?

The late President John F. Kennedy eloquently told delegates at the U.N. Assembly in 1961: "Mankind must put an end to war — or war will put an end to mankind.

"Today," said President Kennedy, "every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when this planet may no longer be habitable. The mere existence of modern weapons — 10 million times more powerful than any that the world has ever seen, and only minutes away from any target on earth — is a source of horror.

"*Together,*" said the grim President, "*we shall save our planet — or together we shall perish in its flames.*"

But what is America to do? Is she to sit idly back, while listening agonizingly to the monotonous tick of the doomsday clock — which brings us all ever nearer the awful reality of a nuclear Armageddon?

We have been humbled by our post-World War II military defeats, bruised by our sordid Watergate mess, shamed by our widespread corporate and private scandals. But in spite of our soaring crime, juvenile delinquency, broken homes, widespread debilitating illnesses, gross immorality and lessening patriotism — we as a nation still have some redeeming traits of character.

Let nobody write off America *yet*.

"True National Greatness"

How can America make sure that she achieves her ultimate goal of "true national greatness"?

In 1899, before Teddy Roosevelt became President, he pointed Americans the way toward "true national greatness." He asserted:

We do not admire the man of timid peace. We admire the man who embodies *victorious effort*; the man who never wrongs his neighbor, who is prompt to help a friend, but who has those virile qualities necessary to win in the stern strife of actual life. It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed. In this life we get nothing save by effort.

Teddy Roosevelt then added:

I preach to you, then, my countrymen, that our country calls not for the life of ease but for the life of *strenuous endeavor*. The twentieth century looms before us big with the fate of many nations. If we stand idly by, if we seek merely swollen, slothful ease and ignoble peace, if we shrink from the hard contests where men must win at hazard of their lives and at the risk of all they hold dear, then the bolder and stronger peoples will pass us by, and will win for themselves the domination of the world. Let us therefore boldly face the life of strife, resolute to do our duty well and manfully, resolute to uphold righteousness by deed and by word, resolute to be both honest and brave, to serve high ideals, yet to use practical methods. Above all, let us shrink from no strife, moral or physical, within or without the nation, provided we are certain that the strife is justified, *for it is only through strife, through hard and dangerous endeavor, that we shall ultimately win the goal of true national greatness.*

This dynamic American leader also said:

Those who tell the Americans of the future what the Americans of today and of yesterday have done will perforce tell much that is *unpleasant*. Nevertheless, when the tale is finally told, I believe that it will show that the forces working for good in our national life outweigh the forces working for evil, and that, with *many blunders* and *shortcomings*, with much *halting* and *turning aside* from the path, we shall yet in the end prove our faith by our works, and show in our lives our belief that *righteousness exalteth a nation*.

How prophetic! Since the days of Teddy Roosevelt, America has evinced many blunders and shortcomings, and has often shown "much halting and turning aside from the path." But it is not too late for America to get back on the path which this nation trod during its infancy.

It is the firm conviction of the author that one way in which America has turned aside from the path — the true course — set by the Founding Fathers of this nation is in her neglect of the "Pillars" of true "religion and morality" — to use the words of Washington. Has America forgotten the memory of her first President on his knees at Valley Forge — praying to "the great Ruler of Nations" for guidance and victory?

Has this nation forgotten the advice of its 84-year-old elder statesman, Benjamin Franklin, who stood up during the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and urged the delegates to have *daily prayer* — asking for Divine guidance in their important deliberations?

Many today seek to debunk the Founding Fathers — to cast doubts on their integrity and their faith in a Supreme Ruler. Pay them no heed.

Benjamin Franklin in his *Autobiography* stated his belief in a Supreme Being. He wrote:

I had been religiously educated as a Presbyterian; and . . . I never was without some religious principles. *I never doubted*, for instance, *the*

existence of the Deity; that he made the world, and governed it by his Providence; that the most acceptable service of God was the doing good to man and that all crime will be punished, and virtue rewarded, either here or hereafter.

America's second President, John Adams, wrote in 1816: "Dupuis has made no alteration in my opinion of the Christian religion, in its *primitive purity* and simplicity, which I have entertained for more than sixty years. It is the religion of reason, equity and love; it is the religion of the head and of the heart."

The third U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson, once wrote a good friend, explaining to him that his religious beliefs were the "result of a life of inquiry and reflection, and are very different from the Anti-Christian system attributed to me by those who know nothing of my opinions. To the corruptions of Christianity I am indeed opposed, but not to the genuine precepts of Jesus himself. I am a Christian, but I am a Christian only in the sense in which I believe Jesus wished anyone to be, sincerely attached to his doctrine in preference to all others"

All of America's presidents except four — Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson and Rutherford B. Hayes — were formally affiliated with a Christian church. But this does not mean that the four Presidents with no formal church affiliation were atheists — or that they weren't just as "Christian" as the other Presidents.

Lincoln once said: "I never behold them [the heavens filled with stars] that I do not feel I am looking in the face of God. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an *atheist*, but *I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.*"

Dwight D. Eisenhower was also a very religious man. He said:

"The *Bible* is endorsed by the ages. Our civilization is built upon its words. In no other book is there such a collection of inspired wisdom, reality and hope. It describes the condition of man and the promise of man with such power that, through many eras and generations, it has made the mighty humble and has strengthened the weak."

On another occasion, Eisenhower said: "Like stored wisdom, the lessons of the Bible are useless unless they are lifted out and employed. A faithful reading of Scripture provides the courage and strength required for the living of our time."

The Invisible Thread

Many Americans have forgotten that America's greatest Presidents — Washington and Lincoln — were both deeply sincere, and very religious men.

Furthermore, many modern Americans appear to have forgotten

that divine Providence, like an invisible thread, has guided the destiny of this great nation since its inception in 1776, and will continue to guide us, — if we sincerely look to Him for that badly needed guidance.

It is the author's firm belief that there exists, for those who have eyes to see, an invisible thread revealing an unseen Guiding Hand — in the affairs of this nation from its very beginning right up to this time in history. This great "Unseen Hand" has guided America through her birth, and her tumultuous years of growth — as she became the world's foremost economic and military giant. It is that great Being who has brought America to her present exalted position at the very pinnacle of world greatness.

But we need to ask: Are we — is America! — in danger of *losing* that Divine guidance and protection?

On March 4, 1809, President James Madison made the following frank admission to the nation:

"But the source to which I look for the aids which alone can supply my deficiencies is in the well-tried intelligence and virtue of my fellow-citizens, and in the counsels of those representing them in the other departments associated in the care of the national interests. In these my confidence will under every difficulty be best placed, *next to that which we have all been encouraged to feel in the guardianship and guidance of that Almighty Being* whose power regulates the destiny of nations, whose blessings have been so conspicuously dispensed to *this rising Republic*, and to whom we are bound to address our devout gratitude for the past, as well as our fervent supplications and best hopes for the future."

Do we still place our confidence in the guidance and guardianship of the Almighty?

"The Golden Hopes of Men"

Teddy Roosevelt declared back in 1912:

"In the long fight for *righteousness* the watchword for all of us is *spend and be spent*. It is of little matter whether any one man fails or succeeds; but *the cause* shall not fail, for it is the cause of mankind.

We, here in America, hold in our hands *the hope of the world*, the fate of the coming years; and shame and disgrace will be ours if in our eyes the light of high resolve is dimmed, *if we trail in the dust the golden hopes of men*."

Will the peoples of these beloved United States let this "hope of the world" be dimmed and "trail in the dust"? Will we let crime, scandals, lawlessness and immorality, so weaken us as a nation that — regardless of our technology and our great affluence — we fall easy prey to an aggressor nation, bent on destroying us?

Or will this nation shift itself back firmly on its true foundation — the foundation of the “indispensable supports” of true “religion and morality” — “these *great pillars* of human happiness — these *firmest props* of the duties of men and citizens”?

Once before in our history America faced an awesome crisis similar in many respects to the global crisis facing us today.

At that time Abraham Lincoln said:

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. *But we have forgotten God.* We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, *that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.* Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, *too proud to pray to the God that made us.*

On October 20, 1864, as the tragic Civil War neared its termination, a visibly saddened Lincoln issued a Thanksgiving Day Proclamation in which he urged his fellow-Americans to properly observe the soon-coming Thanksgiving day “as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe. And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid that on that occasion they do reverently *humble themselves in the dust and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the Great Disposer of Events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony throughout the land which it has pleased Him to assign as a dwelling place for ourselves and for our posterity throughout all generations.*”

Have modern Americans, as in the days of President Lincoln “forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us”?

Way back in 1765 — eleven years before America declared her Independence — John Adams wrote: “Let the pulpit resound with the doctrines and sentiments of religious liberty. Let us hear the danger of thralldom to our consciences from ignorance, extreme poverty, and dependence, in short, from civil and political slavery. Let us hear the dignity of his [man’s] nature, and the noble rank he holds among the works of God . . . and that God Almighty has promulgated from heaven, liberty, peace and goodwill to man!”

America needs to examine and heed the lessons of history. All of the mighty nations and empires of the ancient world crumbled from internal weakness. The ancient, impregnable city of Babylon was conquered through the debauched carelessness of its heedless inhabitants. Rome

fell from its lofty grandeur because of its immorality, lack of character and self-restraint, and spirit of hedonism.

Every ancient empire rose to greatness when its people were sturdy, hardy, and valiant. Every empire fell when its people lost their sense of purpose, their character and self-restraint and began loving the life of ease, complacency, self-indulgence and moral lassitude.

China built a great wall to keep out invaders — but forgot that all an enemy had to do was to bribe the gatekeeper!

Have the peoples of America forgotten that it was the lack of vigilance and complacency that catapulted World War II upon a sleepy world?

Has this generation of Americans — which experienced the tragic Vietnam debacle, the Watergate trauma, corporate and private scandals — somehow imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all our blessings were produced by “some superior wisdom and virtue of our own”?

Has modern America, like America during the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln, become “intoxicated with unbroken success”? Are we too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us?

As with Civil War America of the early 1860s, have many of today’s Americans — to use Lincoln’s words — “forgotten God”?

Are well-fed, affluent, complacent Americans willing to generously share their manifold blessings with others? Are we willing to make *personal sacrifices* to help preserve the nation’s high ideals, and attain its lofty goals?

America has been chosen by Providence as the world’s foremost guardian of liberty, a haven for the oppressed, a strong citadel of religious freedom, a storehouse of plenty to help the needy of the world — man’s “last best hope!”

Will the American *ascent to greatness* continue during this third century of her national existence — or will America’s sun begin to set — will she begin a long but rapid downward spiral into national oblivion?

America — for her own sake and for the sake of the whole world! — must remember the immortal lesson of Scripture which states the profound truth:

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

America — during her third century — can *ascend* to even higher plateaus of greatness — *if* she will only choose and follow the right course!

The Declaration of Independence

*In Congress, July 4, 1776.
The unanimous Declaration
of the thirteen united
States of America.*

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. —

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

—
Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. —

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. —

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. —

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. —

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. —

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. —

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. —

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. —

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. —

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. —

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance. —

He has kept among us in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. —

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. —

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: —

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: —

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: —

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: —

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: —

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: —

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: —

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule in these Colonies: —

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: —

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. —

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. —

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. —

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. —

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. —

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. —

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. —

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

[From C. F. Adams's Works of John Adams, Vol. IX, p. 172.]

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

MARCH 6, 1799.

AS NO TRUTH is more clearly taught in the Volume of Inspiration, nor any more fully demonstrated by the experience of all ages, than that a deep sense and due acknowledgment of the governing providence of a Supreme Being and of the accountableness of men to Him as the searcher of hearts and righteous distributor of rewards and punishments are conducive equally to the happiness and rectitude of individuals and to the well-being of communities; as it is also most reasonable in itself that men who are made capable of social acts and relations, who owe their improvements to the social state, and who derive their enjoyments from it, should, as a society, make their acknowledgments of dependence and obligation to Him who hath endowed them with these capacities and elevated them in the scale of existence by these distinctions; as it is likewise a plain dictate of duty and a strong sentiment of nature that in circumstances of great urgency and seasons of imminent danger earnest and particular supplications should be made to Him who is able to defend or to destroy; as, moreover, the most precious interests of the people of the United States are still held in jeopardy by the hostile designs and insidious acts of a foreign nation, as well as by the dissemination among them of those principles, subversive of the foundations of all religious, moral, and social obligations, that have produced incalculable mischief and misery in other countries; and as, in fine, the observance of special seasons for public religious solemnities is happily calculated to avert the evils which we ought to deprecate and excite to the performance of the duties which we ought to discharge by calling and fixing the attention of the people at large to the momentous truths already recited, by affording opportunity to teach and inculcate them by animating devotion and giving to it the character of a national act:

For these reasons I have thought proper to recommend, and I do hereby recommend accordingly, that Thursday, the 25th day of April next, be observed throughout the United States of America as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that the citizens on that day abstain as far as may be from their secular occupations, devote the time to the sacred duties of religion in public and in private; that they call to mind our numerous offenses against the Most High God, confess them before Him with the sincerest penitence, implore His pardoning mercy, through the Great Mediator and Redeemer for our past transgressions, and that through the grace of His Holy Spirit we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience to His righteous requisitions in time to come; that He would interpose to arrest the progress of that impiety and licentiousness in principle and practice so offensive to Himself and so ruinous to mankind; that He would make us deeply sensible that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people;" that He would turn us from our transgressions and turn His displeasure from us; that He would withhold us from unreasonable discontent, from disunion, faction, sedition, and insurrection; that He would preserve our country from the desolating sword; that He would save our cities and towns from a repetition of those awful pestilential visitations under which they have lately suffered so severely, and that the health of our inhabitants generally may be precious in His sight; that He would favor us with fruitful seasons and so bless the labors of the husbandman as that there may be food in abundance for man and beast; that He would prosper our commerce, manufactures, and fisheries, and give success to the people in all their lawful industry and enterprise; that He would smile on our colleges, academies, schools, and seminaries of learning, and make them nurseries of sound science, morals, and religion; that He would bless all magistrates, from the highest to the lowest, give them the true spirit of their station, make them a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well; that He would preside over the councils of the nation at this critical period, enlighten them to a just discernment of the public interest, and save them from mistake, division, and discord; that He would make succeed our preparations for defense and bless our armaments by land and by sea; that He would put an end to the effusion of human blood and the accumulation of human misery among the contending nations of the earth by disposing them to justice, to equity, to benevolence, and to peace; and that he would extend the blessings of knowledge, of true liberty, and of pure and undefiled religion throughout the world.

And I do also recommend that with these acts of humiliation, penitence, and prayer fervent thanksgiving to the Author of All Good be united for the countless favors which He is still continuing to the people of the United States, and which render their condition as a nation eminently happy when compared with the lot of others.

Given, etc.

JOHN ADAMS.

A PROCLAMATION.

AS THE SAFETY and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgment of this truth is not only an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him, but a duty whose natural influence is favorable to the promotion of that morality and piety without which social happiness can not exist nor the blessings of a free government be enjoyed; and as this duty, at all times incumbent, is so especially in seasons of difficulty or of danger, when existing or threatening calamities, the just judgments of God against prevalent iniquity, are a loud call to repentance and reformation; and as the United States of America are at present placed in a hazardous and afflictive situation by the unfriendly disposition, conduct, and demands of a foreign power, evinced by repeated refusals to receive our messengers of reconciliation and peace, by depredations on our commerce, and the infliction of injuries on very many of our fellow-citizens while engaged in their lawful business on the seas — under these considerations it has appeared to me that the duty of imploring the mercy and benediction of Heaven on our country demands at this time a special attention from its inhabitants.

I have therefore thought fit to recommend, and I do hereby recommend, that Wednesday, the 9th day of May next, be observed throughout the United States as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that the citizens of these States, abstaining on that day from their customary worldly occupations, offer their devout addresses to the Father of Mercies agreeably to those forms or methods which they have severally adopted as the most suitable and becoming; that all religious congregations do, with the deepest humility, acknowledge before God the manifold sins and transgressions with which we are justly chargeable as individuals and as a nation, beseeching Him at the same time, of His infinite grace, through the Redeemer of the World, freely to remit all our offenses, and to incline us by His Holy Spirit to that sincere repentance and reformation which may afford us reason to hope for his inestimable favor and heavenly benediction; that it be made the subject of particular and earnest supplication that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it; that our civil and religious privileges may be preserved inviolate and perpetuated to the latest generations; that our public councils and magistrates may be especially enlightened and directed at this critical period; that the American people may be united in those bonds of amity and mutual confidence and inspired with that vigor and fortitude by which they have in times past been so highly distinguished and by which they have obtained such invaluable advantages; that the health of the inhabitants of our land may be preserved, and their agriculture, commerce, fisheries, arts, and manufactures be blessed and prospered; that the principles of genuine piety and sound morality may influence the minds and govern the lives of every description of our citizens, and that the blessings of peace, freedom, and pure religion may be speedily extended to all the nations of the earth.

And finally, I recommend that on the said day the duties of humiliation and prayer be accompanied by fervent thanksgiving to the Bestower of Every Good Gift, not only for His having hitherto protected and preserved the people of these United States in the independent enjoyment of their religious and civil freedom, but also for having prospered them in a wonderful progress of population, and for conferring on them many and great favors conducive to the happiness and prosperity of a nation.

Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America, at Philadelphia, this 23rd day of March, A.D. 1798, and of the Independence of the said States the twenty-second.

JOHN ADAMS.

By the President:
TIMOTHY PICKERING,
Secretary of State.

