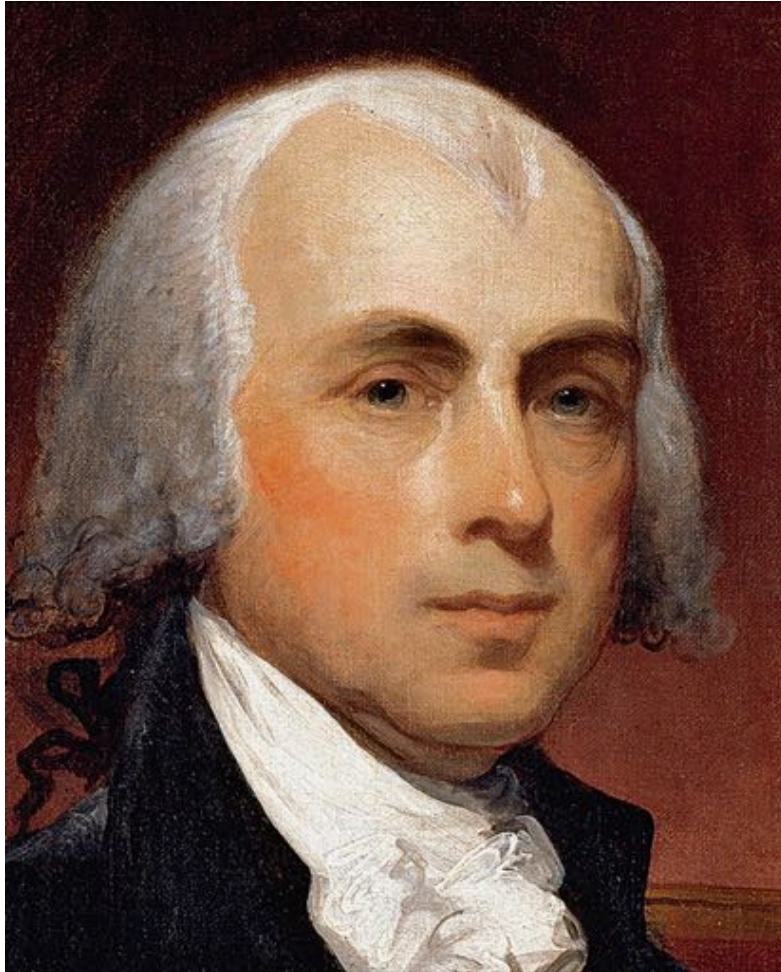


Madison

on the Founding of the United States



Bil Lewis

HSSP July 2020

10058 words

The Liberty Song

By John Dickinson

Come, join, Hand in Hand, brave Americans all,
And rouse your bold Hearts at fair Liberty's call,
No tyrannous Acts shall suppress your just Claim,
Or stain with dishonor America's Name.

(Chorus)

In Freedom we're born, and in Freedom we'll live.
Our purses are ready. Steady, friends, steady,
Not as Slaves, but as Freemen our money we'll give.

(Chorus)

Our worthy Forefathers—let's give them a cheer—
To Climates unknown did courageously steer;
Thro' Oceans to Deserts for Freedom they came,
And dying bequeath'd us their Freedom and Fame.

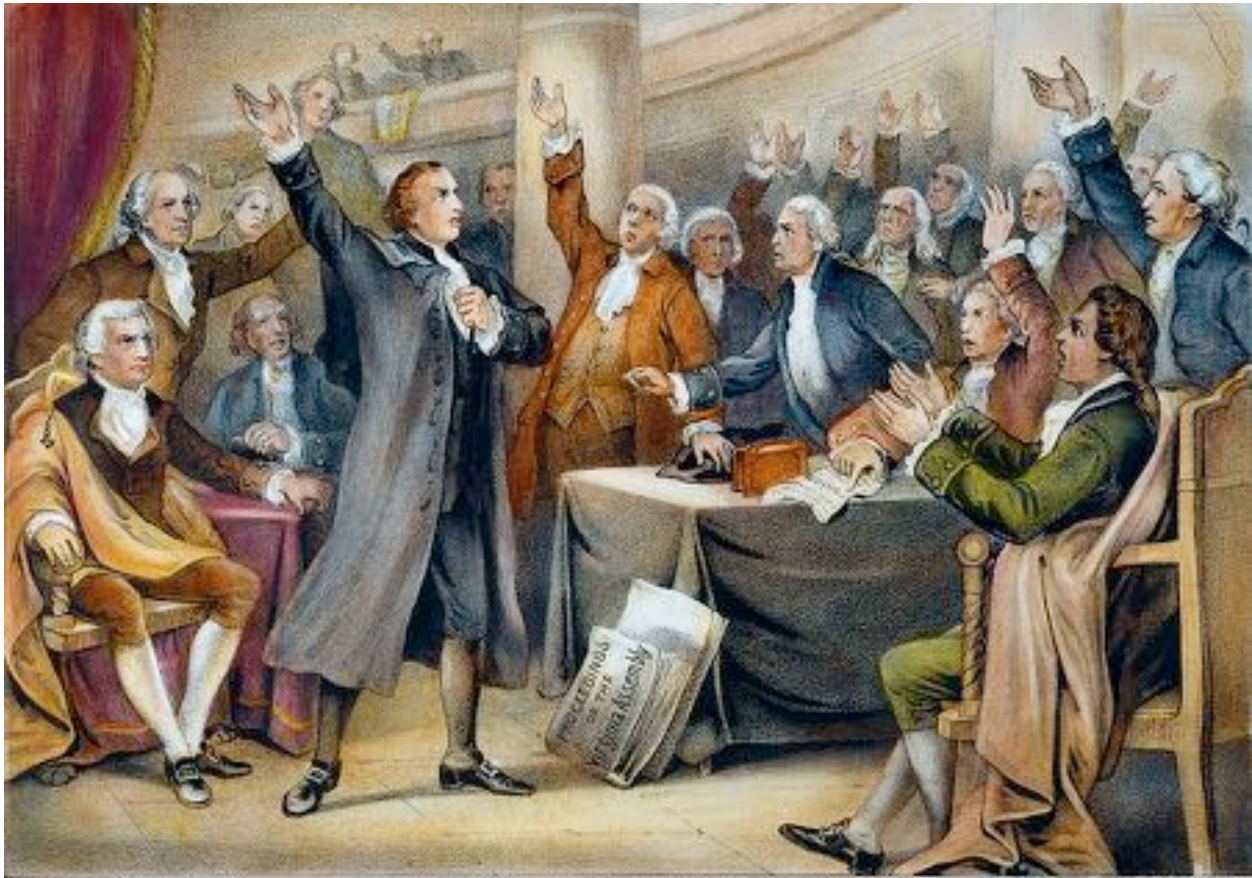
(Chorus)

Their generous Bosoms all Dangers despis'd,
So highly, so wisely, their Birthrights they priz'd;
We'll keep what they gave—we will piously keep,
Nor frustrate their Toils on the Land and the Deep.

(Chorus)

Then join Hand in Hand brave Americans all,
By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall;
In so righteous a Cause let us hope to succeed,
For Heaven approves of each generous Deed.

(Chorus)



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“GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH !”

PATRICK HENRY delivering his great speech on the Rights of the Colonies, before the Virginia Assembly, convened at Richmond March 23rd 1775. Concluding with the above sentiment, which became the war cry of the Revolution.

Patrick Henry Part I

520 Words

Patrick Henry, James Madison

[Patrick Henry was a wild, impassioned, individual. He was 15 years older than me and a mesmerizing speaker--powerful, loud, obnoxious, self-important, but above all else, inspiring. He liked to dress in buckskin with wool stockings, and an unpowdered wig, as if he were a strong, self-reliant backwoods man. But he wasn't really.]

JM: 23 March, 1775. PH is 38. At the House of Delegates, his most famous speech...

PH [Loud]: Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace! but there is no peace. The war is actually begun!
Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God!

[YELL] I know not what course others may take; but as for me, **give me liberty or give me death!**

[Crowd goes wild.]

JM: His speech shot like a lightning bolt across the colonies. A month later, on April 20, 1775, one day after the battles at Lexington and Concord, Lord Dunmore--the Royal Governor of Virginia--sent troops to take gun power from the armory in Williamsburg. 600 armed men gathered in Fredericksburg, threatening to march against the British. After much heated discussion and debate, General Washington and the cooler heads concluded that it was not time for military force. PH saw things differently.

PH: [Returns home to Hanover County]
Men of Hanover! Who will march with me against the British?

Crowd: Me! I shall! I too will march! Huzzah! March! March!
March!

JM: A hundred and fifty men joined Henry as they marched the hundred miles to Williamsburg. I was determined that if there was to be fighting, that I should be there. My brother Ambrose and I jumped on our horses and headed after them.

We were too late. When the Hanover militia approached the city, Henry demanded that Lord Dunmore return the powder.

PH: It is by British law that the Government cannot confiscate any possessions without just compensation. I see no compensation!

JM: Lord Dunmore did not want a repeat of Lexington, so he wrote bill of exchange for **330 pounds**.

[Gives bill to PH.]

PH: We have not the powder, but we have a victory! The Governor has recognized our rights and our determination to protect them. He fears us. He shall not tread upon us again without consequences!

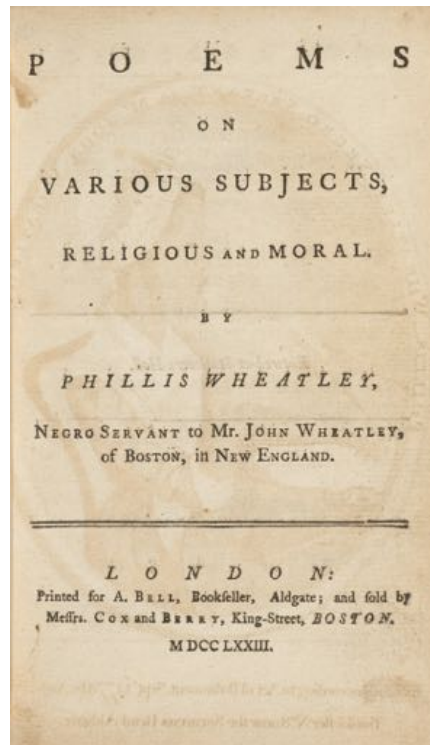
All: Huzzah!

JM: Ambrose and I rode up about this time. Remember, I was 23 years old, 5 ft 4, 100 pounds. I had lots of enthusiasm, but little experience.

Colonel Henry! Colonel Henry! James Madison, Jr. of Montpelier in Orange County, Sir! [Salute] We have ridden to hard to be with you. We had hoped to stand beside you in battle.

PH: And you may yet do exactly that. There will be war and it shall not be long in coming. I can see strong determination in your face. I expect great things from you, young Madison.

JM: I rode home with my heart fluttering. PH thought I had greatness in me!



240 words

Phillis Wheatley, (c. 1753 – December 5, 1784) was the first African-American author of a book of poetry. Born in West Africa, she was sold into slavery at the age of seven or eight and transported to North America. She was purchased by the Wheatley family of Boston, who taught her to read and write and encouraged her poetry when they saw her talent.

The publication in London of her *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* on September 1, 1773, brought her fame both in England and the American colonies.

A Hymn to the Evening
BY PHILLIS WHEATLEY

Soon as the sun forsook the eastern main
The pealing thunder shook the heav'nly plain;
Majestic grandeur! From the **zephyr's** wing,
Exhales the incense of the blooming spring.

Soft **purl** the streams, the birds renew their notes,
And through the air their mingled music floats.
Through all the heav'ns what beauteous dies are spread!
But the west glories in the deepest red:

So may our breasts with ev'ry virtue glow,
The living temples of our God below!
Fill'd with the praise of him who gives the light,
And draws the **sable** curtains of the night,

Let placid slumbers sooth each weary mind,
At morn to wake more heav'nly, more refin'd;
So shall the labours of the day begin
More pure, more guarded from the snares of sin.

Night's leaden **sceptre** seals my drowsy eyes,
Then cease, my song, till fair **Aurora** rise.

zephyr	a soft gentle breeze
purl	flow with a swirling motion and babbling sound
sable	A Martin (Badger-like animal) or its color (Black) (Often used in symbolic reference to Negros)
sceptre	An imperial staff held by Royalty
Aurora	Roman goddess of the dawn



Washington Resigns His Commission

Dec 23, 1783

516 Words

[George Washington is, in general, very stiff and formal, almost morose. He is brilliant, perceptive, enormous, perhaps 6 foot two. Today he is almost smiling.]

Thomas Jefferson is also tall, but far less imposing. He has a beautiful image of how the world should be, and is, perhaps, a bit weak on reality. He can be... lost in his reveries.]

JM: Annapolis, Maryland. Dec 23, 1783.

The war was over. We had no need of an army. No need for a commanding general. General Washington came before Congress to resign his commission. [**Picture**]

That, of course, is General Washington. There I am. And that's my dear friend, Thomas Jefferson.

Thomas!

TJ: James! A pleasure!

I am still brooding over Congress being chased out of Philadelphia. And by an angry mob of our own soldiers, demanding their backpay.

We did our part. Congress mandated their payment, but the states haven't made their contributions. I am disgusted.

JM: Well you should be!

The President of Pennsylvania, John Dickinson, did not call out the militia to protect us, and we had to flee. First to Princeton, now Annapolis, where next?

TJ: Dickinson is the one who didn't pay the mandates.
He's the one they should be protesting!

JM: We are of a mind.

Congress has become everyone's whipping boy.

But this is not the time to obsess on that. We have before us a most propitious occasion.

TJ: It is a glorious moment!

The most revered man in America is stepping down from power to return to his farm. People were calling on him to be King. He could have ruled America.

JM: He is a true Cincinnatus!

TJ: The Roman General who was called on to save Rome.

He was given complete power over all of the city. When the crisis had passed, he returned to his farm. The very definition of nobility!

GW: Gentlemen...

"Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable nation, I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence; a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task.

"Having now finished the work assigned to me, I retire from the great theatre of action; and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take any leave of all the employments of public life."

TJ: It is done! Thank you, General!

GW: It has been an honor to work with you, Mr. Jefferson.

And it shall be a pleasure to abandon the Realm of politics and return to my Beloved Wife and Plantation. The men of my family are not long lived and I wish to spend the remainder of my time with my Family.

TJ: Fare thee well, General!

GW: I must off immediately, for I mean to celebrate Christmas with my family!

JM: It is for this act, that King George III declared that Washington was "The Greatest Character of the Age."



Patrick Henry Part II

520 words

JM: Spring 1784, I was 33. I had just finished my three years in Congress. I received a letter from Patrick Henry! He wanted me to commit to "further service to our Country."

Yes! I could most certainly do further service. As soon as I arrived in Richmond, I contacted him and we went for Coffee.

[PH joins JM]

PH: Mister Madison, it is so fine to have you back home. There is much to be done. As your time in Philadelphia has shown you, "the federal Government is on a bad Footing."

JM: Yes, indeed! We must make our government strong enough to carry out its responsibilities. We must pay the soldiers!

PH: Absolutely! The soldiers must be paid.

JM: I foresee a tripartite government, with separate branches for the Executive, the Legislative, and the judicial functions.

PH: This is good.

JM: And the legislature would contain two houses. A small Senate with long terms so that they may deliberate carefully and a larger House of Representatives with shorter terms, so that it would be more responsive to the people. Each branch would be elected proportionally to population.

PH: So Virginia, being the most populous state, would have the most legislators?

JM: Yes, sir.

PH: Excellent!

JM: The Federal Government would need to have the power to tax directly.

PH: That's not such a wise idea. Each state is different.

JM: But the soldiers MUST be paid.

PH: That is certain.

JM: The Federal Government would be able to void state laws that violated people's rights.

PH: Again, beware of the creeping tyrant. Remember James, you are a son of Old Dominion first. You must do what is best for Virginia.

JM: And not going to war with her neighbors is to her best interest. You must see that with our current weak Articles of Confederation, we are at risk of going to war with Maryland! That would be a calamity!

PH: You are most certainly correct there.

JM: Well, I intend to make you proud!

[To Audience]: did you see how excited he was? How supportive he was of my ideas? This is wonderful!

====

JM: Soon after this, Col. Henry proposed an assessment to support the churches. I was aghast! The Government should have NO involvement with Religion what-so-ever!

PH [Loudly]: The attendance in our religious institutions has fallen drastically in the past years. What are we, if not men of God? We must support our churches!

I do not mean to tell anyone WHICH church they should support, merely that they owe their God just as much as they owe their Government.

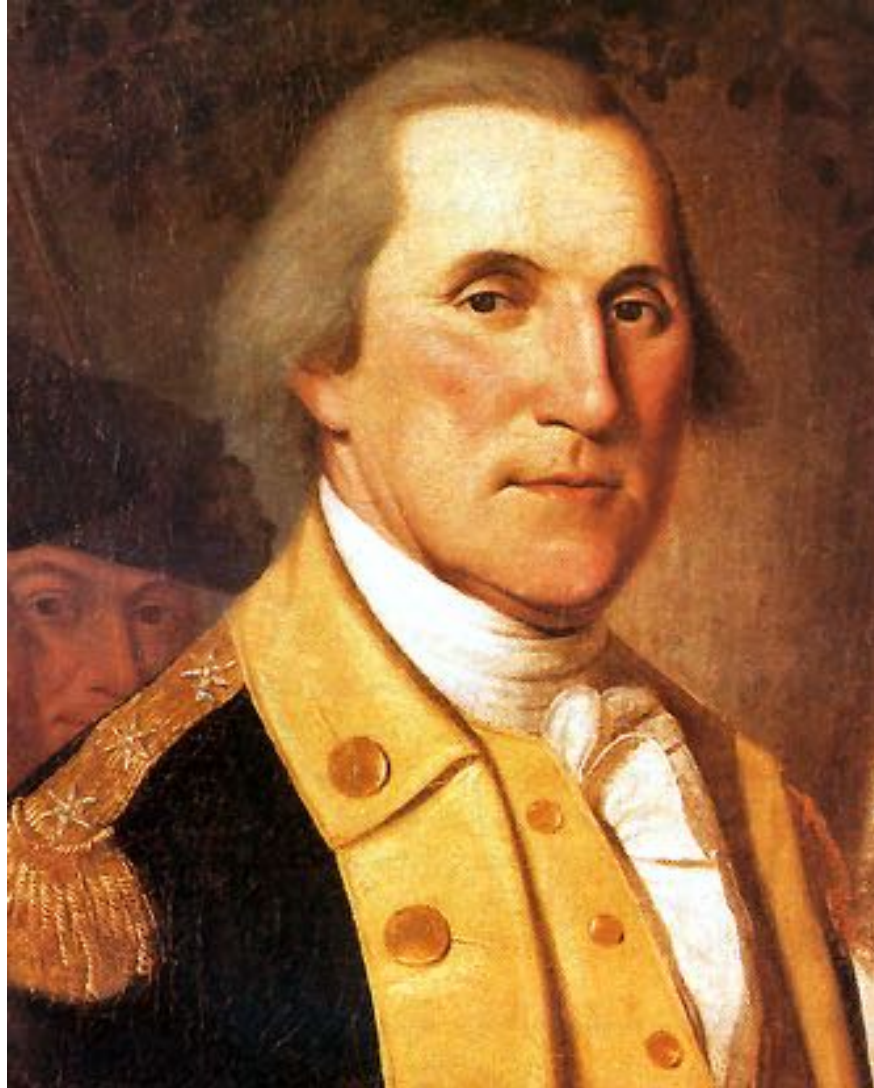
JM: People were so swayed by his dazzling words. He would clearly succeed in passing this assessment if he continued to speak so strongly for it in the House of Delegates.

Thomas Jefferson and I could think of only one possible solution...

PH: I have been reelected Governor! Thank you! Thank you, everyone!

JM: The Governor, of course, can't speak in the House debates. And his proposal for an assessment faded away.

PH [Look irritated]



Wooing of George Washington

600 Words

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Citizens

[Fall '86 - Spring '87. Alexander Hamilton was born on Nevis, a flyspeck of an island in the Caribbean, in 1757. He was as John Adams put it, "the bastard son of Scotch peddler" and a poor mother. His father ran out on them when Alex was 9. His mother died when he was 11. He was brilliant and ambitious beyond belief.]

JM: Alexander!

AH: James! Good to see you, my friend.

JM: I understand that you are quite the romantic poet.

AH: Oh, that was years ago.

JM: Still, I'm sure everyone would enjoy hearing your verse.

AH: Oh, I'm embarrassed.

In yonder mead my love I found
Beside a murm'ring brook reclin'd:
Her pretty lambkins dancing round
Secure in harmless bliss.
I bad the waters gently glide,
And vainly hush'd the heedless wind,
Then, softly kneeling by her side,
I stole a silent kiss—

JM: There is no surprise why the ladies find you delightful.

AH: Did you hear that Congress has rejected my proposal for a convention to write a stronger Constitution? The whole bunch of 'em are short-sighted, selfish scoundrels.

JM: You may be correct, but they're our scoundrels.

What you need to do is to couch your desires in less threatening language. We only manage to pass the Articles of Confederation a few years ago. Many people still want to give it time.

AH: Time is what we don't have. We are on the brink of disunion!

JM: Look, just don't say we're going to throw them out. Say we're going to "address the deficits in the Article of Confederation." One way of addressing the deficits is to throw them out and start all over again, but we don't have to tell Congress that.

[The following day...]

AH: It worked! Congress has approved the convention. Now all we need is to get all 13 states to attend.

JM: General Washington, I should like to inform you of our success in calling for another Convention of the states to deal with the weakness in the Articles of Confederation.

GW: I am pleased for that, but I have no confidence in its success. Why should this be successful when the previous conferences were not?

JM: Because this time Alexander Hamilton and I will ensure that all states attend. And to accomplish that, we need your participation. If you are there, they will come.

GW: I appreciate your confidence in me, but I must decline. I cannot have my name associated with a dubious enterprise.

JM: Of course not. I should never suggest such a thing. I merely need to ascertain that you would be interested in attending, should we be successful in bringing all the states together?

GW: I do not anticipate your success, but I do not refuse.

JM [Aside]: I did not need him to say that he WOULD come, only that he'd consider coming. Then I could imply as much as I wanted.

JM: Gentlemen of Massachusetts, we are to have our conference in May. It is essential that you send a delegation. General Washington is quite clear on the matter.

Citizen 1: What? Is the General to attend? Then we must attend!

JM: General Washington, Massachusetts shall attend.

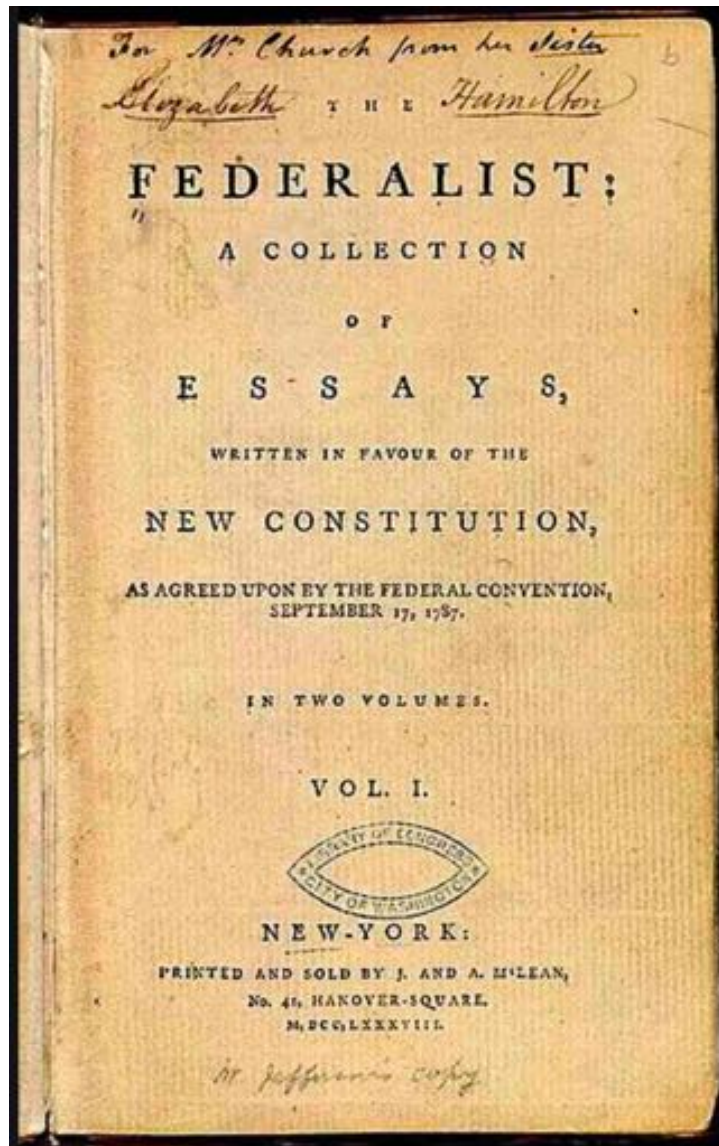
GW: I am pleased!

JM: Ladies and Gentlemen of New Jersey (Women got the right to vote in New Jersey in 1780.), You are needed by the General!

Citizen 2: What? General Washington? Of course!

JM: New Jersey! New York! Virginia, the Carolinas. All but Rhode Island have pledged to send delegations.

GW: Then I must attend also!



The Federalist

660 Words

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton

[Fall '87 - Summer '88. Alexander Hamilton was six years younger than I was. Born on a tiny island in the Caribbean to a poor mother and a father who soon left them. He was brilliant and worked his way into being General Washington's closest aide, a very prosperous lawyer, and was elected to Congress.]

JM: Our initial intention had been to say nothing about the Constitution, and let the states make the wise decisions to ratify it by themselves. However, a number of people started writing articles against its ratification, so a different tack seemed called for.

AH: I decided that a series of articles detailing the constitution and the logic for the decisions we made would be useful. We would publish them in the New York newspapers twice a week. I enlisted the aid of John Jay who wrote four articles, then fell sick. So I turned to Madison for help.

JM: I concluded that this was a project of great value and committed myself to writing a great number. Congress was meeting in New York City at the time. Hamilton lived on Wall Street. I lived a few blocks away in Maiden Lane, so we spent a good amount of time together.

By the end, out of the 85 articles, Jay wrote 5, I wrote 26, and Hamilton the remaining 51.

AH: On October 27, 1787, in Federalist #1, I laid the blueprint for this set of articles. We all signed ourselves "Publius." Nobody could be certain who we were.

JM: In Federalist #2-5, John Jay talked about why it was so vital for us to be a single nation. Primarily, so we wouldn't go to war with each other.

AH: In #9, I warned about how Political parties might form and endanger the Republic. We did not want political parties.

JM: The battle in the state legislatures were starting. By June, eight states had ratified, but both New York and Virginia which were essential, were looking like they'd refuse it.

In Federalist #10, I talked about how different factions grow in a population.

"The most common and durable source of factions has been the various and unequal distribution of property. Those who hold and those who are without property have ever formed distinct interests in society."

AH: In #23, I talked about how the Federal Government needed to have the power of War and Taxation. If the Federal Government can collect taxes, that gives it a great deal of power, and the State Governments lose a great deal of power.

JM: #47 discusses the Checks and Balances between the three branches. My objective was to force men of ambition to compete against other men of ambition, hence reducing their power to control the rest of us.

AH: #59 was about elections.

JM: In Federalist #54, I defended the Constitutional compromise on Slavery.

How could I, who was so adamantly opposed to slavery with every fiber of my body, write in its support?

I couldn't really. I hid behind the screen of what a "typical Southerner" would say. I ignored the question of Slavery itself and gave only the logic for a slave counting as 3/5 of a free man.

But I know what my Southern Brethren would say about slavery itself.

He would quote the Bible. Ephesians 6:5 "Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ."

He would explain how the Black Man was in need of direction by the White, how they would starve if left to their own devices. How it was a kindness of the Masters to care for their Slaves.

AH: In #84, I explain why there was no need to amend the Constitution by adding a Bill of Rights. Each state had its own Bill of Rights. What more could a federal one do?

JM: At this point the battle for ratification came to Virginia.

Patrick Henry Part III

609 Words

JM: In June of 1788, the battle over ratification came to Old Dominion.

JM: Wednesday, June the 4th, 1788. PH takes to the floor of the Virginia chamber to speak...

PH: "I consider myself as the servant of the people of the commonwealth, as a sentinel over their rights, liberty, and happiness. I represent their feelings... They are exceedingly uneasy, being brought from that state of full security, which they enjoyed, to the present delusive appearance of things."

JM: The people were enmeshed by his words. They grew apprehensive when he warned against the dangers of the Constitution, they grew incensed when he described our underhanded dealings, they followed his every dip and flow of dialogue.

We struck back with logic and facts. We quoted the Federalist extensively.

We were the Federalists. We were FOR something.

They were the Anti-Federalists. They were only opposed to something.

PH: Only opposed to things? I say that you do your fellow citizens a disservice by lacking a Bill of Rights.

JM: What use is a Bill of Rights? It's as weak as the parchment that it's written on. A mere piece of paper will not stop a tyrant.

PH: But it is ESSENTIAL that man's rights be spelled out, loudly and clearly! Without such a document, I shall rally the entire state against your cursed Constitution.

JM: Fine, then. I shall support a Bill of Rights.

Let us pass the Constitution as it stands today, and I shall guarantee that a Bill of Rights be amended in the first session of Congress.

PH [to audience]: What??! Now he is going to *support* a Bill of Rights? He has stolen my strongest weapon and turned it against me! That Madison is a VERY DANGEROUS man.

JM: We fought over each paragraph of the Constitution. We spent three solid weeks debating and talking all night and talking more.

On June 24th, the final day of discussion, PH rose...

PH: "He tells you of important blessings which he imagines will result to us from the adoption of this system. I see the awful immensity of the dangers with which it is pregnant.

I see it--I feel it--*beings of a higher order* anxious concerning our decision.

[shouting] We have it in our power to secure the happiness of one half of the human race!"

JM: BOOM!

"A storm suddenly rose. It grew dark. The doors came to with a rebound like a peal of musketry. The windows rattled; the huge wooden structure rocked; the rain fell from the eaves in torrents, which were dashed against the glass; the thunder roared."

Was this God expressing his concerns?

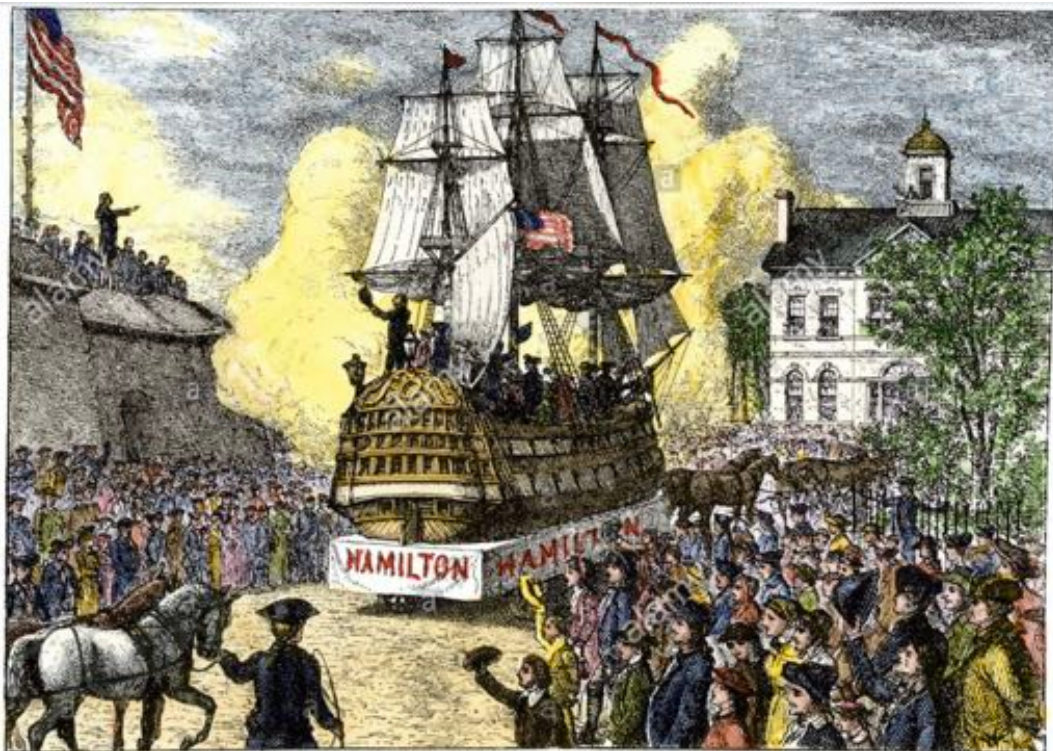
Many people believed it so, but then what was he expressing?

As the storm subsided, so did Patrick Henry's influence.

The vote was held the next day and the Constitution won, 89 to 79.

I sent an express rider to Hamilton in Poughkeepsie, where the convention was being held. A month later New York ratified the Constitution by a minuscule margin.

The citizens of New York City did not wait for the official announcement, but held a grand parade on the 23rd of July, including a 27 foot frigate built on a wagon.



PROCESSION IN HONOR OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

*Behold the Federal Ship of Fame;
The Hamilton we call her name;
to every craft she gives employ;
Sure cartmen have their share of joy.*

Alas! Alexander did not get to see it. He was still in Poughkeepsie, working.

With 11 states ratifying, there was no other possible course of action for North Carolina and Wrong Island, who ratified two years later.

The United States was a Country.