hovers over the region of their hopes. They had heard the mournful strains and seen Liberty like the fabled bird, consumed by the fire of her own emotions on the fields of her former flight. Patriotic ardour dared to hope, that fired by some spark from some more happy land, its ashes would yet blaze forth with regenerated light, and live in embodied form. That spark is the spirit of our government, and that country is our own. The present charter of France is the consummation of their prayers. The intelligence that it exists, is the herald of their triumph.

Space will not permit, nor will time allow, a critical examination of the great features of Liberty, which that record of their power offers to the people of that now happy land. It claims, however, all the respect of which the occasion admits. Emanating directly from the spirit of the nation, it points to a King reigning by the will of the people, and not by the grace of God. When the combined armies of Europe had terminated the imperial sway, and forced a Monarch on the throne of France, he approached his subjects professing a spirit of feeling for their rights. In the charter of that day, specious devices were framed to captivate their hearts with a show of freedom, while the means were in preparation to enslave their minds by the gradual approaches of power. In the first violation of the rights of the press, guaranteed on its face—in the diversion of property by the newly devised doctrines of descent—in the great and sweeping effort to control the elective franchise of the people, aiming at the very soul of free government, France witnessed the symptoms of a tyranny as despotic, as that which marked the reign of a King, who boldly proclaimed he "was the state." These gradual efforts to undermine all the great pillars, upon which the fabric of human liberty rests, terminated in a series of measures, which announcing that the cup of her sorrows was full, aroused all the latent energies of the people of France, which burst with indignation on the fortunes of their infatuated King. An odious ministry, rendered still more hateful, as the willing instruments of his

power, becoming the captive subjects of vindictive resentment, gave a new incentive to the expulsion of arbitrary rule. You have lingered with admiration upon these spirited efforts for liberty in France, and marked with enthusiastic applause the moderation and firmness with which they are peculiarly distinguished. Let us then hope, that the farther effusion of blood may be stayed, and that the lives which may be the gift of popular mercy and forbearance, may yet be spared to repent of their follies, and wash out the stains of their guilt, at the only legitimate fountain of power.

Learn then nations of the Earth, that the charter of France is hereafter to be a sacred truth. It rests upon a firm demand of the people, and the willing submission of the present King.—It has been consecrated to their purposes by the unanimous voice of the French people, and is recognised by the nations of Europe at large. It lays its broad foundation on the imperishable rights of man. In the right of extension of the elective franchise, at pleasure, by the people—in the security to personal liberty and property, by jury trial—in the protection of the press, from the power of the Crown—in its open and avowed declaration that resistance to oppression is the duty of man—it aspires, under the forms of a Constitutional Monarchy, to preserve all the essence of Republican Liberty. The doctrines of Religion are separated from the principles of instruction; and the education of their rising youth, is confided to the civil state. It has been sealed with the oath of the King, who is enrolled with his subjects to defend the Throne. They have resumed the colours which were once the terror of Europe, and the admiration of the world; and, fired with enthusiastic ardour, they now look to the prophetic vision, which signified that, as emblems of Liberty and Light, they would wave in triumph over all the Kingdoms of the Earth. They have the breath of the friends of Liberty throughout the world; they have the blessing of Heaven, and the prayers of Lafayette.

Fellow Citizens—If we have already too long delayed to recognize the debt of gratitude which we, in common with the people of France, owe to this distinguished veteran in the

MdHS 1974 [1351-1087]