

## David Daggett, Oration Delivered in New Haven, 4 July 1787

...We must consent to a change of government.—Whether this change shall be partial or general, is not for me to say.—A more energetic, a more coercive power than at present is felt, must be vested in some public body.—This matter is submitted to a convention of the states, now sitting at Philadelphia. The unanimity of the states, in choosing delegates to this convention, is a forcible argument of the full conviction that the people feel of the weakness of the present system.—This measure has justly exalted the hopes of every patriot.—A measure from which we have nothing to fear, but every thing to hope.—At their head, sits the illustrious WASHINGTON, in description of whose finished and complete character, language fails.—There is FRANKLIN, whose penetrating mind, looks thro' all the works of nature.—There are gerry, sherman, morris, clymer, wilson, read and wythe, who made a declaration of that independence which we this day celebrate, and whose fame is coeval with our national importance.—Why need I particularize any?—Such a band of venerable personages, baffle all description!—Yet I must not omit to congratulate Connecticut on the happy choice of her members.—This state can boast of many worthy characters, and we are peculiarly happy in our representation in this great council of the states.

There is the collected wisdom of the community.—There is virtue enough to incline them, and knowledge enough to direct them to adopt a system calculated to make us a happy people.—Could we once see a government firmly established over us, which should adapt itself to the genius, manners, customs and peculiar situation of this country, we might bid defiance to the malice of our enemies!—It is impossible for societies to exist without an energetic, coercive power; and the same principle which induced men, while in a state of nature, to enter into compacts, will soon compel these states to a change of government.—Shall we then suffer this change to be effected by our fellow citizens, by those who are with us, to enjoy the felicity of a well regulated society, or with us to experience the horrors of anarchy? Or shall we submit this alteration to capricious fortune?—We cannot hesitate in determining this question, unless we are stupidly inattentive to our own happiness, and criminally negligent of the interests of unborn millions....

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