

Mathew Carey: The Prayer of an American Citizen, Philadelphia American Museum, 7 November 1787

ALMIGHTY FATHER! ope thine ear!
Crown with success my earnest pray'r!

EFFICIENT GOV'RNMENT may we see
Establish'd here, this land to free

From threat'ning wars and anarchy!



MAY ADVERSE PARTIES CEASE TO WAGE
CONTENTION WITH SO DIRE A RAGE!
Here, henceforth, may no strife arise,
But who'll self-int'rest most despise!
May all our judges humane be,
From party, legislators free!
May just and equal laws be form'd!
May freedom's shrine be never storm'd!
May PRINTING PRESSES still abound,
To spread blest science all around!
May lux'ry, noxious pest, expire!
May temp'rance, honour, truth conspire
To raise a hardy, virtuous race!
Be this the reign of endless peace!
May mis'ry-want-desert the land!
May full employment at command
Await mechanics when they please,
As well as those who plough the seas!
May pious pastors ever keep
A watchful eye on all their sheep,
Teach them to shun the roads that lead
Unto the gloomy frightful shade;
To gain the paths that lead to heav'n,
Where "sure, though late, rewards" are giv'n:
All groveling, low pursuits contemn,
The torrent of the passions stem;
Forbear to quarrel with each other,
And live as brother should with brother.

May this free country evermore
Prove to th' oppress'd a friendly shore:
An ASYLUM from TYRANNY,
And DIRE RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY:
May they from Hants(a) to Georgia find
A welcome hearty, warm and kind!

May servitude abolish'd be,
As well as negro-slavery,

To make *one* LAND OF LIBERTY.



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