

must be excited, that we may perform our duty. But if we may be thankful for victory, we may be more thankful, that we are no longer constrained to strive for victory, or for defence.

Many of us have thought, that our cause was not right; or, at the most, that it was far from being sufficient for involving the country in the evils of hostility with the nation, the most powerful in the world with respect to us. These undoubtedly rejoice greatly in feeling a release from the *moral*, as well as the natural evils of the contest. And indeed, whether it were deemed right or wrong, I doubt not, that we can all rejoice very heartily together, that the war is ended, and peace restored.

We are relieved also from great difficulties and dangers in our internal situation. We are relieved from many and heavy burdens, though many must still remain; from many wants and sufferings; from the necessity of defending ourselves on all our coasts and borders; from violent measures, and violent exertions; from great questions and dangers respecting our rights, and the Constitution, and the principles of the Union, and the interests of the particular members. If our internal order and peace may now be preserved with equity, this is a great reason for rejoicing to patriotick minds.

II. The blessings of peace, then, are first perceived and felt in a discharge from the evils and miseries of war. We scarcely know the good, that we possess, till we have lost it; and we most feelingly perceive it, when it is restored. Yet it would not be very natural, or not very wise, to plunge ourselves into misery, merely for the pleasure of being delivered. We all felt a strong sensation of joy, we raised a tumult of joy, when the sudden and glad sound of peace greeted our ears. We stopped not to doubt, or to inquire into circumstances, or conditions. Peace of any kind was joyful news. We were delighted with the very name of peace. We had experienced enough of the calamities of war, and expected deep-