

Our rights are but what Nature does confer,
And she from Truth and Justice cannot err ;
She tells us we are equal in her sight,
And teaches us to spurn th' oppressor's might ;
The galling yoke of tyrants she disowns,
And teaches us to laugh at kings and thrones ;
The only inequality that she
Admits, or will allow, is in *degree* :
'This is her law—" where e'er you merit find,
Give honor and respect, if uncombined
With guilt, mere rank, and riches disregard,
And you will feel my full and free reward."

At present, my dear friends, 'tis but too clear
That nature's law is disregarded here.
Was it but acted on in this our land,
We all the laws would make and understand ;
Or (which would be the same) in making choice
Of law makers we all would have a voice ;
Or better did we rightly comprehend
What best to our own interests would tend,
Intelligence would be the only test
Of fitness in the voter, and the best.
Our representatives would then you see
Be men of wisdom and ability.

Here, then, my creed political you have ;
'Though short 'tis ample, and destined to save