GOD'S RULE IN AMERICA A SUB-

JECT OF THANKSGIVING. A SERMON

Delivered in the M. E. Church, of Milford, Thursday, November 25th, 1801, by REV. WM. E. ENGLAND.

"Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, rule thou ever us, both thou and thy son, as on, also; for thou hast delivered ut, from the hand of Midian. And Gideon said I will not rule over you, neither shall my sou rule over you." —Judges, VIII. 22-23.

Gideon,known in history as Jerublual or Jerubesheth, was the fifth judge of or Jerusalets, was the first plugge of large, and the first one whose history is circumstantially recorded. He was a stative of Gilcad beyond the Jordon.—During his residence here, the Midlanites, with the Amlikites and some other tribes invaded the country every year, about the time of harvest. Very much like the Bedouin Arabs of subsequent times, or the fierce Druises of our day, they des-olated the gardens and vineyards, seland the extile and plundered the country -After seven years chastisement in this way, Israel was delivered in a marvelous manner by the hand of the Lord and of Gideon. Prompted by gratitude for their deliverance the people said unto him,-"rale thou over us," &c. If this offer had been made to some of our time serv. ing politicians doubtless it would have been instantly accepted. But my text informs us that Gideon declined, informing them that God should rule over them Being a true patriot he sought the wel-fare of his countrymen; and from his re-ply we learn the relation of the Jewish people to God—they were His people in a peculiar sense, and he was their Roler Jehovah has always had a people. Even in the most idolatrous period of Isreal's history when it was thought even the prophets were destroyed, there were many who had not bowed the knee to Ba Thus it was in the dark days; thus is it sent. God has a seed upon the

Great events involving the destiny of nations, are attended by impressive cir-cumstance, which in their details mark singularity of the events, and evolve important moral lessons. When Israel was led out of Egypt a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night conducted them. When the Saviour was born, earth for the first time heard the song of angels; and when he expired preturna-tural darkness prevailed. When the spirit of Cromwell was passing away a fearful storm strewed the coast of Eogland with wrecks. When Gideon delivered Isreal from the hands of Midian there was a divice interposition, and subsequently the people of Succeth and Penuel were "taught with thorns of the wilderness and briars"-Judges VIII. And while an autocratic government, the last leading monarchy of the prophetic drama, was arising in the Northern temperate zone of the old world, our Repub-lic-the "stone" of the "mountain" according to Daniel—young and healthy was arising in the Northern temperate zone of the new world. While the wife of the grandson of Peter the great, was settling the policy of the most powerful despotic government on earth, Washington was laying the basis of the most liberal and christian-like government under the sun. These events are not acridental and volceless

Viewed in the light of Providence they speak of destiny. Nay, more: The Ruler of nations speaks. And at his voice let the earth tremble and the mountains shake; let the floods lift up their woice; let the bills clap their hands and the fields be joyful together; for the Lord reignoth and righteousness is the habitation of His throne. Our theme at

GOD'S BULE IN AMERICA A SUBJECT OF THANKSGIVING. THANKSCIVING.
The history of our colonies indicates a providential interference to populate the land with a people disciplined, by a severe process; to an appreciation of civil and religious immunities, and antipathy to anarchy and oppression. What could have induced Israel to propose a reor-ganization of their government by ap-pointing Gideon and his family their ruilers, but a conviction of the wrongs they thad suffered, and the hope of consolidation, under the rule of a chieftian who might successfully resist aggressions ?-And what could have amalgamated the sympathies of the colonists into a great national heart but the oppressions they Indured and the prospect of united strength to repel invasion and enjoy a bilasful Independence?

wealth and military science were against them. But Providence helped them. While difficulties were thickening at

every step, the heavens grow dark with improbabilities which bomed up like massive clouds upon the political horizon Fearful odds were against our fore-fath ers But as England was straining every nerve to crush a people attempting to throw off the poke of despotism-as she instigated the bloody Indians with toma-hawk and scalping-knife, against helpless women and children, offering to the infuriated savages a pound sterling for every scalp, whether taken from the aged sire, the affectionate matron or the in-fant of days-Providence was touching fant of days—Frontenee was touching cords of sympathy for America in the breast of a powerful European nation— The day-star of liberty smiling through the clouds preciaimed the rising sun. Success was a political miracle. And as the turbulent elements subsided, and

sions were made to the original thirtee

ritory to the general government as it re samed the responsibilities of a state was "Rule thou over us," in all those general matters which involve the welfare of the consolidated Republic, the prosperity of commerce, the successful resistance of op-pressive aggressions, and the good of the whole, without violating the interest of my of its parts. In this there were no stipulations by which the constitutional authority of the general government could be ignored, and independent sectional sovereignties be established. Each member of the family of states entered the Federal relation, with the understanding that they were to be loyal subjects of the great power acting under the limits of a wholesome Constitution, and the engle eye of an intelligent public. Their domestic interest was to be carefully guarded, and no local institution annuled or even clinuscribed, unless found to be repugnant to the spirit and true meaning of the gen eral Constitution, or the interest of the while the several states reserved to them selves the right of passing such laws and regulations, within the limits of the general Constitution, as in their judgement might be proper for internal improvemen and security. Nor has the general government a right to interfere with such laws, however detrimental they may be to the interest of said states. It was also understood that such states were to have a perpetual voice in framing the general laws by which they consented to be governed. The tulers acting for them were to come from among the people and not from ranks of transmitted royal ty. Nothing exists in the genius of our government, to provent the most obscure ceasant boy from ascending the ladder

which we are indebted to Providence. DELAWARE.
Little did the Swedes and Finns who me to our Peninsula two hundred and thirty-four years ago, and who formed a colony under the nuspices of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, think of the future glory of their adopted country .westown was founded in 1630 : but the Dutch claiming the country in twen-ty-five years from that date, it passed into their power. In 1664 the colony or the Delaware fell into the hands of the English, and was granted by Charles II to his brother, James the Duke of York, who in 1682 conveyed it to William Penn. But it was not until 1704 that Delaware became properly a separate colonial establishment. This relation it maintained until the revolution. Its con-

of fame and occupying the highest execu-tive chair is the nation. To live under

a government offering such encourage ment for the development of talent, the

cultivation of virtue, and untiling enter

prise is an incomparable privelege, for

stitution was formed in 1776. Delaware has always been loval to her self and her pledges to the government And although some of her Legislative acts may cast obliquity upon the moral rectified and fidelity of her representatives, yet it is believed the Intelligence o the masses, reprobates their principles and condemns their action. Lotteries and treason find no place in the sympa thies of the better class of Delaware We cannot culogize too highly the action of the last Legislature, which rejected To their successful contest, the hand of roridence is equally clear. The prob-

of thankfulness ? MORALS.

Perhaps no State in the Union is less wicked than our own. That there is much corruption among us cannot be denied. But, how will it look compared with the same number of population in other States? During the past year we have noticed but comparatively few atro citles. Considering the exciting elements around and among us, we may well ask Why is this? The speedy and some times summary justice which is visited upon the perpetrators of crime is not

without luffuence. But the onewer may not be found in it. Although our schools for the education of youths both male and female are of a respectable class, we do not find the answer in them. We may find it only in the enterprise of the friends of Christianity, who originate organiza-State: It would be exceedingly difficult to travel ten miles in Delaware without finding a Christian Communication of the control of the cont the country began to assume a definite position, and a permanent busis, acces-States. And the language of each terfinding a Christian Church. Ours is State of Churches. These with their various Sabbath schools, their weekly ministrations and other appliances do much toward moulding public opinion, while the " Delaware State Bible Society" penetrates every nook and corner of the State. This Society is working nobly for the moral culture of the lower classes Under its direction during the year ending September 12th, 1861, in Susse and Kent alone, six thousand sever hundred and sixty-two families wer visited, one thousand three hundred and thirty-nine Bibles and Testaments distributed. Can we not see the hand o Providence in these moral resources ?-They may not be the exclusive privilege of Delaware; but do they not challeng our gratitude and demand thanksgiving The Lord shall rule over thee."

HEALTH.
Health is a blessing imparted by the Lord-2 Kings, -xx. 5,-and for the past twelve months has crowned our State. No pestilence has breathed upor us ; and the usual diseases have not been more than ordinarily prevalent or futal. While some hearts are mourning departed loved ones, the great body of ou people are cheerful, healthy, and com paratively happy. Let us for this, also give thanks to the "Father of lights om whom cometh every good and per fect gift."

one, and so clearly is this seen that even the prospect of a failure in the ctups produces saduess and depression under the smiles of a kind Providence our crops have been commensurate with if they have not exceeded, our anticipa tions. Nor do these remarks apply ex-clusively to the grain, which is said to be equal, if not superior, in quality to that generally raised; but other products are reported to be abundant. Thus the Lord crowneth the year with his goodness." The market price of produce, especially grain, while it has not fallen below the grain, while it has not lauen occor us poet of octain while it has given a allied is not invisible.

The expense of the government in although there is, owing to our present plate of raiare in their crops, or country of government do not come from Dela, ranta twenty years before he obtained boosts; of a sport-boundance. In this aware or any other State, now is the Delaware. That gave us just hittend respect II buth put joy and gliddees almount tranvnitted beyond the circle of the contract the contract that the time when the great family of States.

In the midst, therefore, of our troubies Western boundary of this Iracel by callrespect He bath put joy and gladness into our hearts more than the time when their corn and their wine increase.

of the common scientific of the shed and deristation of property. The necessary expenses of the government, and in its triumph the will replace. And a healing halm, and the thander storm is now that the inclement weather is ap- purifying the atmosphere; while earth is proaching, her rolunters are not forgot made to pour her produce and her min-ten. The prayers and other blessings of eral wealth into the lap of the nation. lored ones at home are with them, while Blind, indeed, must be the man who canthe angels of mercy have pledged perpet- not discover the hand of Providence in

your cause is a wrong one, and hence we lence than those of their brethern, and can give you no official bencourage their sympathetic intaitions more active ment. Do we not find in this converge. Do we not find in this some cause They are the finer specimens of humanity. Nevertheless they must pardon us, when we express the impression that they are instruments in the hands of Providence, instruments in the hands of erroritence, to comfort those who are engaged in note cause—that of self defence and Justice in sustaining the "Powers ordained of God." With such patriotism wanted of God." With such patriotism we need no legal delegation to plead with a heaghly foe, no aged matron to prostrate herself before her victorious son, and with tears intercede for our willing if need be-like the mother of Cariolinus—to pour their tears and blood abundant proof. May we not hope that at the feet of the foe for the salvation of the property distress of our country may their country are not a few in Delaware.

The effects of the war upon the com-

seriously affected the current of trade, and in many cases produced individual

trade under the guidance Providence, we believe, is undergoing a revolution.-

While the large amount of gold coming from California, Australia, England and

France, excite the hope that business cannot long remain prostrate. The ex-

penses of the war can nover imporeri-h

the country. Were we on foreign soil the case would be different, as our funds

would be exported-but now they are retained. With the One Hundred Million dollars already saved by curtailed importation, during the last year, and the nearly three millions emitted weekly by only one of our mints, added to the influx of foreign specie what amount of money may we not possess in a few years from this day. It is argued that this money does not come into the Treasury Depart-ment, and consequently that must become exhausted. We answer-What is the Treasury Department? Without the people it is nothing but a name. move the industry and wealth of the masses, and what will the national Treasury be worth? If therefore, the money be among the people, so much the better. "But the taxes will be high." Under an pressive. Suppose the price of produce, merchandise and labor advance, as it must ere long, and the credit system be gradually destroyed, or at least limited as it will be, and money be more generally circulated, will not the expenses be more easily met than they now are ?-Our State is chiefly an agricultural would create a wholesome equilibrium Be our remarks correct or otherwise on this subject we may be safe in asserting that the fiscal consequence of the war, will not be commensurate with the fearful apprehensions of many friends of the coun try. The most revolting feature of the present distress, as to its permanent effects, exists in the southern department of the country. The almost universal prostra tion of basiness—the destruction of property-and the meneral decommendent domestic happiness—are not to be under-rated. But even to the South the pros-

without oppressing the consumer. And constructing various buildings, fortifications, telegraph lines, railroads, &c., will national difficulties, some stagnation in doubtless, under the expanding necessicontain amounts, none attenanon ja doubtiess, under the expanding mecesal-contain anaches of business, Delaware lies of the country, he as profatable in-plemental productions and the proposition of the production of the her catter populations and a least, and, should the war continue long, the Added to this is the proport of the production of the pro of Business. At a State we nate meen scores or pront to the people; giting state of the state of land, Belgium and Russia, and in fact South, East and West. The millions of the greater part of the old world, commoney weekly required for the necessities plain of failure in their crops, our country of government do not come from Dela-

in the fastice of their cases. Steading bloodshed by, faction on our own soil, latery specified and a world in the spirit of logally and lings and other places, in the form of glores, stock written upon every page of American bloody and a world list targegithmed and experienced are and land constituted to unity of zero estimates. If it results to the discovery of the control of the proposition and even the follows of the proposition of the propos perior power.

> in Egypt,produce a great national heart, Among the American ladies suffering and the hope of mutaal tri- silesion.
>
> If need be—like the mother of unph? Of this their history smooths! If our the present distress of our country may their country are not a few in Delaware. be the destruction of sectional fanatics. John the Revelon—and if it be the merce of the country as, also, the general falousy, and that it will purify the change of business produced by it, have national conscience, thus preparing the sectional valued the current faces. country for higher and nobler destinies, in all pertaining to the strength and embarrassment. But we judge these glory of a nation, designed to mould the exents to be only temporary. Our home kingdoms of the earth to a religious and liberal government. In this hope we are not guided by human forethought. That a nation so powerful as ours and occupy-ing such a prominent relation to the world's destiny, should be omitted in the prophetic programme of earth's history, while others of inferior altitude are minutely delineated is, to say the least of it, unlikely. But we are not now pre-pared to endorse in detail the Baldwinan or Pittsonian theory in applying the prophecies to this country. Still, how-ever, it is more plausible and more ap-plicable, according to the signs of the times, than the Smithsonian or Bergean meditations upon the same prophecies.
> These works however are valuable and truthful in their general scope. The elearest prophecies applying to this com-try are, perhaps, those which refer to its discovery, its form of government, and its destiny. These indicate that the 'Lord shall rule over us."

The Jewish economy was chiefly typical. Such was the case with its sacrifices, its alters, and even its temple-see new Testament; so with Israel as a na-As the temple was a type of the increase of money they will not be op- Saviour's humanity-John, 11. 18-21and Jerusalem a type of the Christian Church-"I saw the new Jerusslem," &c. -so the nation was typical of a great Christian nation. And as all its population were not plous, so all in its antitype will not be pious. In this respect "the wheat and the tares" must grow together until the end of the world. But our nation is the only one on earth in which the types of Israel meet and find their fulfilment. To believe in Christ is to be the modern seed of Abraham. Gal. 111. 14-29. Does any nation so generally acknowledge Christian faith as ours?— But let us consider some points of analogy between the Jewish and American nation.

1. The Israelites were prepared by their afflictions in Egypt to appreciate a intionality accuring to them an unmolested enjoyment of the natural rights of men. So our Pilgrim Fathers were prepared by the oppressions of the Stuart Dynasty to appreciate their untrammel-led position in the new world.

2. The land of Israel was distributed into thirteen distinct positions-" Ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions." In that country the twelve tribes possessed one portion each; but to Ephraim and Manassab. Wm. Penn hold the charter of Pennsylvania twenty years before he obtained

an ten make terre was nurrense. The state of As an integran pare of the duning income ance are any on the curves "sources" spines ignal characters of the thirteen United aware cannot be uniterated in the press send wild gloons to clearly rule over catwars. She enders a small proportion of the common solverings of the country, excited with more elemency and less blood- of the cast and the Pacific on the read, and the control of the common solverings of the country of the common solverings of the country of the common solverings of the country of the countr The as their, boundaries. But we have no time to enlarge.

.4.0 "The promised nationality of modern or latter day lerael was to be a republic." "Their nobles shall be of themselves and their governor shall proceed from then,"-Jer. xxx. 21 .- "They To their acceptable contest, the head of Providence is equally clear. The probabilities of success existed nowhere but is much trouble, and pertage prevented with appears at Fortress. Monroe and text, "The Lord shall rule over thee," is fulfilled as in our own hand.

bonm and his condjutors may find their rifor power.
THE COUNTRY'S FUTUR.
That her future will be glorious, must laded host. But for the interdict of Jeneral the forence would be removed the forence as the present he evident to every intelligent mind --The events now passing indicate we think a process of discipline and purification, Administration intends treating the latinportant to the future career of Ameri- ter. But the Lord choose to make their ca. National affliction is designed to fully its own chastisement, and the means produce national sympathy and direct of their destruction. We may be parhe mind to the Supreme Ruler, who doved for this reference; for we are sure patteth down one and setteth up au- that if Jeroboam and his neferious ac other." Did not the suffering of Israel complices are not disgraced, the Presi-in Egypt, produce a great national heart, dent of the so-called Confederacy and comented by the remembrance of mutual his disaffected party are flattered by the

> If our government be the modern Israel of God, in its national capacity, it it be the "man child" spoken of by St. generations. Nor will it ever be broken Firm amidst the destroying, elements around it, it will become the leaven, which will personate the political economy of earth, upheave her monarchies, elevate her masses, and usher in the christain-like government of the Lord of Lords, who shall reign king of nations. The contest may be severe. Terrible retricontest may be severe. Terrible retri-bution will fall upon the oppressive nations of the earth. The present war may soon subside, and the rebellion be quelled; but the martial spirit infused may not so easily die. What means the present war? Why the change of trade in favor of the government? Why this unprecedented influx of wealth? How may we account for these unmistakable indications of Providential approbation l May not the Lord be preparing America for some greater struggle, some no-bler desting? May it not be her mission ere long to test the power of her principles in battle array before the com-bined despotism of the world? And as God assisted the ancient Israel to vanquish their wicked foes, may He not also assist America in destroying obnoxious forms of government, and in extending the civil and religious immunities most nearly allied to the scriptural code of morals, and the spirit of christianity?

> But such a warfare as will, according o prophecy, settle the destiny of earth, will not be sought by the American peo-ple. It will be forced upon them. The nations of the earth will say "let us go up and take their spoils ;" but the "Lord will call for a sword throughout his holy monatain," and will break in pieces the bow and the spear of the mighty, and bow and the spear of the mighty, and they shall consecrate the gain of the whole earth imto tha Lord. The strug-gle will be fearful in the extreme. The political sun shall be darkened, and the moon turned to blood and the stars shall fall. But in the midst of the scowling heuvens, like Jove's thunder heaver in the lightning of the skies, will stand Michael the Prince, and his angels, to

defeud God's chosen people. If we understand the prophetic destiny of America she will come forth like a pulished gem from the firey ordeal, fledged with victory and radiant with glory. Then will the millennium star dawn upon the world and the world of God be unbound, and all people learn that righteousness exalteth a nation. Subsequent to this event no monarch will sway a sceptre. But it will be said to the people, in the language of my text-

"The Lord shall rule over you. We have shown that our country is marked by Providence as a great courtry, with facilities of soil, climate, geographic position, and resources of wealth, rendering it capable of great destinies. We have also hinted at a few of the many prophecies applicable to the American nation. We do not rejoice that she is now agitated with war, but as a State we assemble to-day to thank God that amidst the desturbing element of our common country we can see his hand guiding our destiny. The bow of promise is still in the heavens, the pledge of glorious hope. Brethern, the destiny of the Union is the destiny of Delaware, Its interest is our interest. And when purified from its national crimes, it shall have accomplished its mission to other nations and shall stand forth a monumen of greatness and of virtue, Delaware will sparkle in the constellation of States with proud delight, while from every kindred and people and tribe shall be heard the exclamation; "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Then will be ful-filled in the deepest, highest and most