

and political freedom, are the rights of each individual.

Time moves on with its never ceasing changes. The rugged yet precious jewel is beginning to assume definite proportions; here and there can be seen the sparkle and scintillation of a polished face; still nearer comes the time of its perfection; small fragments have been chiseled off which in turn are worthy of the lapidary's attention; *now* "is the time that tries men's souls;" the blood of the first American Patriots has crimsoned the fields of Lexington and Concord; *there* was "fired the shot heard round the world" and whose echoes shall reverberate thro' endless generations. The critical moment is at hand, the jewel is almost completed; the Declaration of Independence is drafted and signed, and then and there "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," the Precious Jewel of the Occident, for the first time shed its radiance upon an astonished world.

The United States, the last born of the great nations, is first in all that makes a people renowned. It sprang from Christian parents; Christian manhood and valor have an unlimited opportunity to expand; and we are not yet old enough to forget the pious political heroes who framed the first laws and became the first executive officers of the young nation. Our nation, the greatest and grandest republic of the world, with her natural treasury of mineral and vegetable wealth, can indeed feel proud of her standing; in the height of her glory and power she sways the nations of the world. When our Forefathers fought for that liberty so dear to them and to us, they did not conceive of a republic so vast. The true import of our country was shown in the Civil War, when the North "Triumphantly vindicated the rights of humanity" and perpetuated our glorious union. What a wonderful change to the world if the South, believing that they were in the right, had dissolved the unity of states and trampled our glorious Stars and Stripes in the dust.

Through every clime, in every land, as the American