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| **To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth** |
| By Phillis Wheatley (1753–1784) |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | HAIL, happy day, when, smiling like the morn, |  | | Fair Freedom rose New England to adorn! |  | | The northern clime beneath her genial ray, |  | | Dartmouth, congratulates thy blissful sway: |  | | Elate with hope her race no longer mourns, | *5* | | Each soul expands, each grateful bosom burns, |  | | While in thine hand with pleasure we behold |  | | The silken reins, and Freedom’s charms unfold. |  | | Long lost to realms beneath the northern skies |  | | She shines supreme, while hated Faction dies. | *10* | | Soon as appeared the Goddess long desired, |  | | Sick at the view, she languished and expired; |  | | Thus from the splendors of the morning light |  | | The owl in sadness seeks the caves of night. |  | |  |  | | No more, America, in mournful strain, | *15* | | Of wrongs, and grievance unredressed complain; |  | | No longer shall thou dread the iron chain, |  | | Which wanton Tyranny with lawless hand |  | | Had made, and with it meant to enslave the land. |  | |  |  | | Should you, my lord, while you peruse my song, | *20* | | Wonder from whence my love of Freedom sprung, |  | | Whence flow these wishes for the common good, |  | | By feeling hearts alone best understood, |  | | I, young in life, by seeming cruel fate |  | | Was snatched from Afric’s fancied happy seat: | *25* | | What pangs excruciating must molest, |  | | What sorrows labor in my parents’ breast! |  | | Steeled was that soul and by no misery moved |  | | That from a father seized his babe beloved: |  | | Such, such my case. And can I then but pray | *30* | | Others may never feel tyrannic sway?  \*        \*        \*        \*        \* |  | |