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

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| [From [*Poems on Various Subjects*](http://www.bartleby.com/150/22.html)*, Religious and Moral, by Phillis Wheatley, Negro Servant to Mr. John Wheatley, of Boston, in New England.—London,* 1773.] |

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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?\*        \*        \*        \*        \* |  |

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