



Importance of Philip Freneau in American Revolution Poetry

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Annotation: The article gives data about the importance of Philip Freneau's poetry in American Revolutionary, his contribution to poetry in American Revolution and the main themes of his poems by giving clear explanation and brief analysis of his several poems. Obviously, during the paper life and literary career of the poet is given so that the environment and society he lived in had a noticeable influence on his poems, works and political works.

Key words: poet, revolutionary, freedom, poem, politics, work, literature, movement.

I. INTRODUCTION

Philip Freneau was an American poet, journalist, and political activist who lived during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He is considered to be one of the most important poets of the American Revolution, and his poems played a key role in shaping the political and cultural landscape of the young nation. Born in New York in 1752, Freneau grew up in a family of French Huguenot descent. He attended Princeton University, where he became interested in literature and politics. After graduating, he worked as a teacher and a journalist, and he became involved in the revolutionary movement that was sweeping across the colonies.

Freneau's literary career began in earnest in the 1770s, when he started writing political poetry that was critical of British rule. His most famous poem, "The British Prison Ship," describes the horrific conditions faced by American prisoners during the Revolutionary War. Freneau's poetry was widely read and helped to galvanize support for the revolutionary cause. In addition to his poetry, Freneau was also a prolific journalist and editor. He founded several newspapers and magazines, including The Jersey Chronicle and The National Gazette. He used these platforms to advocate for democratic principles and to criticize the policies of the Federalist government. Despite his importance to American literature and politics, Freneau's legacy has been somewhat overshadowed by that of his contemporaries, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. However, his contributions to the development of American poetry and political thought cannot be overstated. His "The British Prison Ship" - a powerful and haunting poem that describes the inhumane conditions faced by American prisoners during the Revolutionary War, "The Wild Honey Suckle" - a nature poem that celebrates the beauty of the natural world and the fleeting nature of life, "To Sir Toby" - a satirical poem that pokes fun at the pretensions of the upper class, "The Indian Burying Ground" - a poignant poem that reflects on the tragic history of Native Americans and their relationship with the land, "The House of Night" - a dark and brooding poem that explores the themes of death and mortality.

II. METHODS

As one of the most important poets of the American Revolution, Philip Freneau played a significant role in shaping the literary and cultural landscape of his time. His poetry was infused with a sense of patriotism and a commitment to the ideals of liberty and freedom, and it helped to inspire and rally support for the cause of independence. In this essay, we will explore the life and work of Philip Freneau, examining his themes, styles, and impact on American literature. One of the most important themes of Freneau's poetry was the idea of liberty and freedom. He believed that all people had the right to govern themselves and to live free from oppression and tyranny. In his poem "The Rising Glory of America," he celebrated the potential of the new nation, writing:

*"Behold! The rising glory of our land,
The dawn of Freedom, spreading far and wide;
Her rays exulting strike the mountain's side,
And o'er the valleys shed their golden light."*

Freneau's poetry also reflected his commitment to the ideals of democracy and self-government. He believed that the people should have a voice in their own governance and that they should be able to participate in the political process. In his poem "On Mr. Paine's Rights of Man," he wrote:

*"The Rights of Man! What are they but the laws,
Which every man may feel, and every cause
May plead, with equal justice? These alone
Are Liberty's bright basis, which have shown
To all mankind how Freedom's heights to gain,
And fix her empire on a lasting plain." [1]*

Freneau's poetry was characterized by a simple, direct style that emphasized clarity and accessibility. He believed that poetry should be accessible to all people, not just the educated elite, and he wrote in a style that was easy to understand and appreciate. His use of simple language and vivid imagery helped to make his poetry popular with a wide audience, and it helped to inspire and rally support for the cause of independence.

III. RESULTS

Freneau was also an important journalist and political commentator. He wrote articles and essays that criticized British policies and actions, and he helped to shape public opinion in favor of the revolution. His newspaper, *The National Gazette*, was one of the most influential publications of its time, and it played a crucial role in shaping the political and cultural landscape of the new nation. Freneau's impact on American literature and culture was significant and enduring. His poetry helped to inspire and support for the cause of independence, and it helped to create a sense of national identity and pride. His commitment to the ideals of liberty, democracy, and self-government helped to shape the political and social values of the new nation, and his influence can be seen in the work of later writers such as Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Philip Freneau was one of the most important poets of the American Revolution, and his work had a significant impact on American literature and culture. His poetry reflected his commitment to the ideals of liberty, democracy, and self-government, and it helped to inspire and rally support for the cause of independence. His simple direct style and vivid imagery made his poetry accessible to a wide audience, and his influence can still be felt in American literature today. Freneau's legacy is a reminder of the power of poetry to shape the world around us and to inspire us to strive for a better future.

IV. DISCUSSION

Even Freneau stresses that the rebels will not get mercy if they cannot conquer Britain. When they are buried in the grave they cannot get mercy although grave is a friendly place to get peace or a

place where the woes of men will come to an end. It implies that Freneau further states that the corpses will be raised and hanged like what they have done in war. It suggests that the dead soldiers have responsibility if America is conquered by Britain. Then Freneau also shows that the dead soldiers are like devils that swell the soul of Americans with anger. It means that death of the soldiers will induce Americans to fight against the British.

Vengeance will search-and buried corpses there

Be raised to feast the vulture of the air-

Be hanged on gibbets! such a war they wage-

Such are the devils that swell our souls with rage!-

If in their struggle for freedom American soldiers are conquered, Americans will ask for God's help. Americans have strong hope to be free from the British they seek God's help to achieve their hope. This implies that Americans have strong hope to be free from British and they want to escape from this world because if Britain wins the war, Americans will disappear and American land becomes a killing field in which the children's blood will be shed. Americans will moan if their country is defeated by British monarchy because when they were still alive, they had justified that American land belonged to them. In stanza five, Freneau believes that the war between America and Britain will kill American soldiers. Here, he uses the expression "HANGMAN'S CORD" to show the people who will die in the war. The use of the capital letters in this expression implies the more intention toward the death of many people caused by the war. Freneau asks Americans now to struggle to search "desperate freedom". If Americans keep the call for the honor difficulties in the war, such as frozen lake and snow will disappear from their mind. Freneau adds that hard work will not daunt the Americans and thus they will fight against British harshly to get freedom[2].

V. CONCLUSION

Then what the poet wants to say is about the temporariness of human existence. Man is nothing but a witness of changing times. He has nothing to gain or lose in his time of life. There is a time-space continuity in the last verse. For the poet, the present time seems more important for the prosperity of America, and the progress of America as an independent nation is gradually shining. Liberty, in Freneau's poetry, refers to the idea of individual freedom and self-determination. He believed that people should be able to make their own choices and pursue their own goals without interference from external forces. This idea was particularly important to Freneau as an American, as the country had recently fought for its independence from British rule. In his poem "The British Prison-Ship," for example, he describes the suffering of American prisoners of war who are denied their freedom by their British captors. The poem is a powerful indictment of tyranny and oppression, and a celebration of the human desire for liberty. Nature, in Freneau's poetry, represents the natural world and the beauty and power it contains. He was deeply influenced by the Romantic Movement, which emphasized the importance of emotion, imagination, and the natural world. In his poem "The Wild Honey Suckle," for example, he describes the delicate beauty of a flower in the forest, and uses it as a metaphor for the fleeting nature of human life. The poem celebrates the beauty and power of nature, and reminds us of our connection to the natural world. Freneau's poetry is characterized by its celebration of individual freedom and the natural world. He believed that these two ideas were intimately connected, and that both were essential to human happiness and fulfillment.

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