

Two Busts in Monticello's Hall

A Poem in Two Voices

Alexander Hamilton

Both

Thomas Jefferson

I believe I know the only way for America to prosper

While we have land to labor then, let us never wish to see our citizens occupied at a work-bench, or twirling a distaff.

We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt.

Those who do not industrialize become hewers of wood and haulers of water.

A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing.

When I look at people, I think man is

A rational animal, endowed by nature with rights and with an innate sense of justice.

The people are in truth the only legitimate proprietors of the soil and government.

A reasoning rather than a reasonable animal.

The people are turbulent and changing, they seldom judge or determine right.

No Government Is Perfect

We think experience has proved it safer for the mass of individuals composing the society to reserve to themselves personally the exercise of all rightful powers to which they are competent and to delegate those to which they are not competent to deputies named and removable for unfaithful conduct by themselves immediately.

Were we directed from Washington when to sow, and when to reap, we should soon want bread.

It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood.

You must first enable the government to control the governed, and in the next place, oblige it to control itself.

We Are Opposed in Death As in Life