

# Jefferson's Final Letter. . . *with Echoes of Paine*



[Reply to an invitation to attend the celebration in Washington on  
the 50th anniversary of the Declaration]

"May it be to the world, what I believe it will be ... the signal  
of arousing men to burst the chains under which monkish  
ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind  
themselves, and to assume the blessings and security of self-  
government. That form which we have substituted, restores  
the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and  
freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening,  
to the rights of man."

~June 24, 1826