

Boston April 12 1875

Gentlemen:

For the cordial invitation to me in behalf of the citizens of Concord "to be present as their guest on the 19th of this month, & to join with them in celebrating the centennial anniversary of the opening of the Revolution War," I return my sincere thanks to them & to yourselves. Circumstances however will prevent my attendance.

The event to be commemorated, though only a local ~~affair~~ ~~event~~ ~~occasion~~ ~~stage~~ ~~sketch~~ ~~wish~~, bore such a relation to the seven years struggle for American independence

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ence as will forever invest it
with historical interest & impor-
ance. Probably it was not given
to any of those who participated
in to foresee what would be the
consequences, beyond the peril
of the hour and the liability
to seal with their blood their
resistance to tyrannical domina-
ions; but, with them sufficient
unto the day, was failure or
success, obscurity or renown.

They were not battling for fame
but for freedom; and whether
their patriotic uprising should
afterward be deemed to possess
- only a local significance or
whether it should prove as it
did, what the early dawn is
to the coming day, they knew
not & cared not. One purpose at

least animated their hearts:
it was to be enrolled among

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