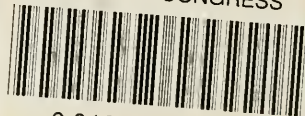


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...m, read in Independence Hall
at the

PHILADELPHIA CONGRESS

103

THE Society Sons of the American Revolution
Hall, 1905.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:

A TRIBUTE TO THEIR MEMORY.

BY HARRY O. HALL.

Let every brow be bared, and every head be bowed
With reverential awe this day,
In solemn tribute to the memory of those brave men
Who pledged within the precincts of this ancient hall
Their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor."
The work is done.
How well 'twas done we do not need to ask.
If we but lift our eyes and gaze where'er we may,
From North to South, or East, or West,
Across the smiling bosom of the fertile plains
Of the free land of ours;
Or listen to the busy hum of factory and mill —
While we behold the happy throngs which fill our streets
And rejoice in their contented whereso'er they will,
Enjoying their "inalienable right
To life, and liberty and the pursuit of happiness,"—
We have their answer.
Had they not lived, and died,
Had they not pledged their all with courage unexcelled,
And fought for what they pledged —
Had they not laid the firm foundation on the solid rock
Of Human Rights and Liberty;
The building which they planned with skill consummate
(The while with sword and flintlock by their side,)
Would long ere this, perchance, have crumbled to decay.
How well they builded, they themselves
Did not perhaps, foresee:
But we, who now enjoy the fruits of all their labor,
Do know how full well.
"It therefore is our right — it is our bounden duty,"
To render homage and full mead of praise
To those great men this day,
As humbled as we are, and honored so to be,
Whose words of eloquence
Which fell from lips now made immortal,
Which found a lodging place upon the parchment roll
Which bears their honored names,
Which they proudly called and baptized with their blood:
The unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of
(Prolonged applause.)

the following cablegram from

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