

Address on the Centennial Celebration of the  
4<sup>th</sup> of July, 1876.

Introductory - Personal.

Mr. President,

and Fellow Citizens:

A Fourth of July celebration without an "Oration", would be like the play of Hamlet with the part of Hamlet left out. The committee were unable to secure the services of a speaker from abroad, and their partiality has assigned to me the duty of taking this part. I can promise you no studied rhetoric or polished oration; such as would well befit the occasion; but if you will give me your patient attention, I will try to give you a little plain

talk on ~~the~~ theme that is re-  
permost in all our minds and  
hearts to-day - the commemoration  
of the one hundredth birthday of  
our nation. It is an event, the  
anticipation of which has stirred  
the blood of the most sluggish,  
and kindled the enthusiasm of all,  
until to-day American patriotism  
finds expression in celebrations  
that fill the land with jubilant  
voices.

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[Our age compared with others.]

We celebrate the birthday of  
the youngest of all the nations of  
the earth.

It is true, that in our time we have seen all of Germany gathered under the flag of Prussia - but those States have before been in league.

It is true, that in our time we have seen the Italian nation emerge from the Papal dominions - but it was Italy reunited, not created.

The South American Republics are yet in a chaotic state. Under the strong influences radiating from ~~our~~<sup>our</sup> the successful experiment in the North, the Southern continent may, in our time, crystallize into a nation.

But to-day there is none to dispute with us the palm of youth.

A hundred years is a brief period, and compared with the age of other nations, we are but an infant.

Far back in antiquity nations arose, flourished through thousands of years, and fell to pieces by wars, calamities or the slow process of decay.

Others have survived all the vicissitudes of time, and still exist, hoary with <sup>many</sup> hundreds of centuries.

China, containing nearly 1/2

the population of the globe, has been a compact empire for four thousand years and over.

Egypt, under various rulers, has existed for more than three thousand years without radical change in territorial area or the character of the people.

Persia dates back to the same misty antiquity, and is Persia still.

The modern nations of Europe are from five hundred to twelve hundred years old. And away up in the northern seas - on the border-land of

that unknown Polar country, to discover which so many heroic lives have been sacrificed, only within the past year Iceland celebrated her one thousandth birthday, and it was the good fortune of America to be represented in the festivities of the Northmen by Bayard Taylor, who so well represents the courage, adventure and culture <sup>of</sup> his countrymen.

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Compared with maturity like this, we can realize the brevity of our single century; yet side by side with the nations which have grown gray and old,

we come to-day with our hundred years, and challenge the records of antiquity or of modern history to furnish a parallel to our marvellous growth and development.

"We boast our hundred years;  
We boast our limits, washed by either sea;  
We boast our teeming millions, and that we  
All, all are free!"

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[The Preparation.]

But while it is true that as a nation we are only one hundred years old, as a People we are much older.

The forces and ideas which culminated in the Declara=



tion of Independence and the Revolution, had been in operation on this continent for at least a hundred years; and the causes which resulted in the colonization of America had convulsed Europe for a hundred years before that. Civilization was then passing through the ordeal of a death struggle between ecclesiasticism and the toleration of individual thought. All the principles of civil, political and religious liberty, upon which the fabric of our government has been built, were fought for and died for under

the shadow of despotisms which exercised unlimited sway over the bodies and souls of men, while Columbus was ~~still~~ yet searching for the shores of the New World.

The seeds of American Liberty were planted in the dykes and ditches of Holland in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. When William the Silent - the Washington of the Dutch Republic - fought for and established religious toleration in the New Netherlands against the sway of Rome and the cruel Philip of Spain, the battle was for us and we have reaped the victory.

Although separate nationality and independence was not in the thought of the Puritans and Pilgrims, it was in their every act. The Declaration of Independence itself was foreshadowed in the spirit of that small colony which could put on record, while surrounded and occupied with nothing but hardships and dangers, <sup>the resolution</sup> that they would abide by the laws of God until they could find time to make better ones!

The hundred years of colonial life previous to the Revolution was a period of preparation. The circumstances and condition of the people were fitting them,

unconsciously, for an independent national existence. Necessarily they were trained to habits of self-reliance; and although they had no <sup>right of</sup> choice in the selection of their Governors and Judges; and no voice in framing the measures which affected their relations to the Crown or their intercolonial interests; yet they had almost unlimited control of their local affairs. Their religious, educational and material interests were confided to their care; and the Town Meeting became the source of power at the earliest period in our history greater than Parliament or Congress, and has continued such

to this day. It naturally follows that the habits of self-government thus formed should make them more and more restive under the restraints of ~~the~~ a Parliament and ~~the~~ King ~~was~~ separated from them by the vast ocean; and the rightfulness of their exclusion from the control of their own affairs in ~~the~~ larger matters, became a question of absorbing interest. Objection to taxation without Representation brought on the struggle for Independence.

But separation from the mother country was scarcely thought of, much less supposed to be prob-

able, except by a few prophetic souls. The right of representation — the right to a voice in the choice of colonial rulers — the right to levy their own taxes — these did not seem to imply separate national life. The kind of government that would have suited the colonies, under which they would, no doubt, have been willing to remain, and content and satisfied, — would have been some such system of parental government as that which the United States extends over its Territories to-day. Some of the best statesmen of England, with a strong popular sentiment to back them, entertained and advocated

views in favor of a radically modified colonial system of government. The hope that this result would be reached was ever uppermost in the minds of the ~~American~~ colonists; and their loyalty to King and attachment to mother country were of such a nature, that no Revolution could have been inaugurated had the issue been separation and independence. And even after the struggle had begun - after the great bell that was "to proclaim liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof", had been rung in Independence Hall for patriotic purposes -

there were not wanting earnest, able and honest men to assure the timid that separation was not the aim of the colonies. But George III. and his Ministers and the controlling element in power were inflexibly determined to rule America with a rod of iron. They entertained no ~~mild~~ notions of mild government for the colonies. And to their severity—to their uncompromising hostility to show anything like favor to the American colonies—more than to any other cause, are we indebted for the full measure of freedom and independence which we enjoy to-day.



[The Struggle for Independence.]

The story of the Revolution is a melancholy page of History. He does no good service to the rising generation, who, on this centennial anniversary, paint the picture of that seven years' struggle in brilliant colors. Since time began, there never was a people so little able to cope with a powerful foe and carry on a protracted war, as were the Americans of 1776. It ~~was~~ needed the Boston Massacre, the Destruction of Tea in Boston Harbor, and the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill to unite and solidify the patriot sentiment of the Colonies in favor of independence.

The country was without friends abroad or resources at home. The war was not a series of brilliant campaigns, of daring adventures, or great victories, but for the continental army was a series of reverses and weary retreats. The large cities of the country, were successively in the possession of the enemy, from which they emerged at their convenience to chase the "rebels." Oh the sorrowful sight that history presents of the patriot army with such a character as Washington at its head, flying, flying - retreating, retreating - almost continually, before the well-  
 fed, well clothed, well appointed ~~mercenary~~ British armies. His troops

were half naked, half fed, poorly armed, and not half paid. Their recompense, if it ever came, would be the gratitude of succeeding generations. For them there was only hardship, ~~poor~~ weary, wounded bodies, poverty and death. About most wars there is the glory and charm of "battle's magnificent stern array" - the "pomp and circumstance of glorious war" - to kindle the ardor of ~~the reader~~ and inspire the enthusiasm of those ~~within reach~~. But there was no romance in the Revolutionary war. It was ~~the~~ dreary, heart-sickening struggle of a down-trodden, desperate people.

Often the wretched army was

was on the brink of dissolution -  
often on the point of disbanding  
from sheer despair. ~~The~~ The body  
which by courtesy was called  
Congress was powerless to aid  
them. It could only appeal to  
the already beggared colonies for  
help for the famishing soldiers, and for  
recruits for their wasted ranks.

But for Washington, irretrievable  
disaster must have overtaken the cause.  
Through all the difficulties of those  
days, his patience and his serenity  
seem to us at this distance, almost  
divine. He held the country up to the  
work which it had put its hands to  
do. He never despaired or became

discouraged when everyone else  
 lost heart and hope. He snatched  
 victory from defeat. He bore <sup>the</sup> calumny  
 and ~~the~~ envious carping of disorgan-  
 izers calmly; never once losing sight  
 of the ~~real~~ interests of the country in  
 his ~~own~~ troubles.

American Independence would  
 at some period have been secured;  
 but to George Washington is <sup>almost entirely</sup> due  
 that the Revolution was successful  
 one hundred years ago.

It seems miraculous that  
<sup>have been</sup> success could ~~be~~ reached through  
 such a sea of difficulties. Even  
 the superhuman energies and  
 efforts of Washington must have

failed, for the time at least, had it not  
 been for the aid furnished by France  
~~in the~~ through the agency and personal  
 endeavors of Lafayette - a name  
 that will be pronounced <sup>even</sup> to-day with  
 quivering lips and moistened eyes - a  
 name forever honored in America,  
~~at her~~ ~~service~~ and forever en-  
 shrined in the hearts of her people.  
 The story is old - it is "as familiar"  
 in our ears as a "trice told tale" -  
 but we would be ingrates, indeed,  
 if on this day of all others we  
 neglected ~~again~~ to recall his services  
 and honor his memory with the  
 tribute, feeble though it be, of  
 our grateful praise.

[Close of the Struggle.]

The long struggle for freedom and independence closed, and victorious peace crowned the sufferings and trials of our forefathers. The foremost-nation in the world reluctantly conceded the independence of its colonies, and withdrew its forces.

The Continental army was not invincible, but it won a victory for progress and civilization, against difficulties that seemed insurmountable. Our hills and mountain fastnesses and the Southern swamps fought for us. Our inaccessible forests and bridgeless rivers were our allies. Our very feebleness,

which compelled us to worry and  
harrass the enemy, rather than en-  
gage him, except on fields of our  
own choosing, was our very strength.  
The King and Parliament of Great  
Britain, by their harshness and bit-  
terness against our cause, fought  
for us. It divided public opinion  
in England helped us. The God of  
Battles was on the side of the weak,  
and the weak won.



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[Condition of the Army and Country  
at the Close of the Revolutionary War.]

We come now to that period  
in our history about which the  
least is known — a period running  
over as many years of peace as there

had been of war, from the close of the war to the adoption of the new Constitution — a period which it has been said the historian would gladly consign to eternal oblivion.

We who have gathered here to-day have still ~~the~~ fresh recollections of the closing scenes of a war of far greater magnitude. It may therefore be worth our while to revert briefly to the condition of the Army and Country at the close of the Revolution.

The country had been drained of its resources, and was helplessly bankrupt. The people were wretchedly

poor, and the nation, if it could be called a nation, was without credit. Politics were in a chaotic state. The authority of the Confederate Congress had dwindled to a low ebb. It could ~~pass~~ votes to raise money, but the operation was like calling spirits from the vasty deep - would they come? The States were in<sup>a</sup> league, not in a union as we have it now, and so slight was the compact that it was seriously proposed each of the 13 States should send ambassadors to treat with foreign powers. They were distracted by jealousies of each other, and consumedly ~~unable~~ <sup>dampened</sup> ~~of~~ tardy in granting power of any kind

to the general government. Tax pay-  
ing was almost optional with the  
individual, and the tax gatherer  
was considered as a standing joke.  
The treasury vaults were empty - not a  
dollar in hand for the public ser-  
vice. The currency of the Confederacy  
was worthless. Two hundred millions  
of paper money had been issued by  
the Government, but 88 millions  
had been taken up and cancelled  
by the States in payment of taxes  
at the rate of forty dollars for one.  
Congress attempted to call in the  
balance by issuing new bills, but  
the new bills rapidly depreciated  
to par with the old. Down went the

paper money until it touched 500 for 1 in gold, and then lower and lower it sank until one thousand dollars of the Continental money was gladly exchanged for one dollar in gold or silver. A lower depth could not be reached, and when the slang phrase was invented by the Yankee patriots ~~and applied to the currency, that if we anything he worth a~~ "not worth a Continental!" the Red baby of the Revolution disappeared.

Our ambassadors in Europe - Franklin, John Adams and Jay - were begging on their knees for help, ~~from~~ thankful for every miserable pittance

that was doled out at exorbitant rates of interest; and our Minister of Finance had no other means of raising funds than to draw on the Ambassadors and sell the drafts. The private fortunes of the prominent patriots had been swallowed up to sustain the army. That was no meaningless exclamation - no "glittering generality" in the Declaration of Independence, where they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors. Their lives and their fortunes were freely offered upon the altar of freedom, and their sacred honor will remain untarnished to the end of time!

29. It was in this deplorable state of  
affairs that the

The patriot army was to be disbanded. The soldiers had not been paid for months or years, and the only prospect before them was starvation. No wonder they mutinied in Philadelphia and surrounded Congress with their determined bayonets! It was all that Washington and Gates could do to suppress the rising storm in their camps - and there is no more pathetic picture of the whole Revolution than that scene in camp where Washington, stood among the discontented veterans, eyes dimmed with tears, wiping his spectacles and speaking simply and pathetically, "Fellow

Soldiers, you perceive I have not only grown gray but blind in your service." -

The pageant at Washington - vivid rec.

They had fought the fight to the end, and instead of marching to their homes as victorious conquerors, to the sound of martial music and under the shadow of waving flags, with the plaudits of a grateful people cheering them on - the soldiers of the Revolution were penniless, in rags, and the object of fear and reproach by the people. On many obscure country roads and lonely by-paths, the "old Continental in his ragged regimentals" with his well-worn flint-lock on his



Shoulder and his empty haversack  
 by his side, trudged his weary  
 way from camp and garrison  
 to the home he had left years  
 before - to the home in ruins or  
 in wasteful decay, and to friends  
~~on~~ whom labor and care and poverty  
 had left their marks.

The Soldiers of the Revolution  
 went out from the army and down  
 into civil life - down into the toil  
 and struggles of rebuilding and re-  
 pairing the wastes of war - down  
 into poverty and drudgery, ~~and~~  
 and down into the pages of History, where  
 the record of their glorious services  
 will forever shine as a beacon light  
 for Liberty!

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[The Political Era]

Independence was achieved and liberty secured, but the union of the States was yet to be accomplished. The era of Statesmanship had arrived. Traditional policy must be supplanted by experiment in new lines of political action. Public opinion must be educated to accept radical changes in society and government. The ~~colonial~~ ~~era~~ ~~of~~ ~~political~~ ~~action~~

of the States was independent of each other. Each claimed and exercised sovereign power. Even in so important a matter as the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain, each State claimed and exercised the right of ratifying or rejecting so much as it saw fit. If the resources and ~~power~~ <sup>and assurance,</sup> of the 13 original States had been equal to their independence, they would have formed the greatest Confederacy the world ever saw!

It seemed a hopeless task to such Statesmen as Hamilton and Madison to convince the States that their very existence depended

upon a closer union, and they were denounced as monarchists for advocating a central government. Washington incurred wanton and severe abuse, and yet he said there were not ten men in the country who wanted a monarchy. John Adams drew maledictions upon his head by the remark that the English Constitution was one of the grandest achievements of the human race.

There was wide-spread opposition to a standing army, and a distrust that the recently disbanded soldiers would become a privileged, pensioned, idle class. The Order of Cincinnati, which the

officers of the Revolution formed at the close of the war, was fiercely assailed by civilians as the beginnings of a Military Aristocracy. So general was the apprehension that the military would overshadow the civil ~~power~~ authority, that the regular standing army of the United States was reduced to eighty men—25 of them at Pittsburg, guarding public stores, and 55 of them stationed at West Point; while the highest officer of the army was a captain!

The struggle of statesmen for national unity, vigor and power, was as long and as desperate as the strug-

gle of the patriot soldiers for  
 independence. The Constitution  
 which has been handed down to  
 us was a battlefield fought over  
 step by step and inch by inch.  
 It has its Concord and Bunker  
 Hill, its Valley Forge and Yorktown;  
 and ~~Alexander Hamilton~~ as Washington  
 led the forces and achieved the  
 victory in ~~the~~ one field of strife, justly  
 earning the title of Father of his Country,  
 so Alexander Hamilton marshalled  
 the forces in the other, carried the  
 day by the force of logic and states-  
 manship, and fairly earned the no  
 less honorable distinction of being  
 the Father of our Political System.

The right of the general government to collect the customs-duties; to maintain an army; to enforce treaties; to coin money; in short, every fundamental principle which has been engrafted into the organic law, giving the nation vigor and strength if not life itself, was vehemently opposed.

It was tedious work to get the consent of the States to the holding of a Convention to frame a Constitution for consideration; and the adoption of the instrument was altogether problematical. But finally, in 1789, six or seven years after the close of the Revolutionary war,

the States, or a majority of them, one after another, at wide intervals of time and with reservations and evident reluctance, adopted it. Then, and not till then, did the United States of America become a nation - then, and not till then, could it be said that "Liberty and Union were one and inseparable - now and forever!"

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We need to take a retrospective glance, to rightly appreciate our present advancement, and fully realize how wonderful and rapid has been our progress in the toleration of religious thought, in education, in literature, science, and material prosperity.

## [Religious Toleration.]

Although the impulse which led to the colonization of America was zeal for religious toleration, it is only in our day that it has become a fixed, ~~unal-~~  
~~terable~~ and practical principle.

Our forefathers of colonial times believed in the right of private judgment, provided private judgment coincided with their doctrines. They established and maintained a connection between church and state, and the influence of the religious system pervaded and dominated the rising political, educational, and social

institutions of the country. The reality and intensity of the feeling may be inferred from the declaration of John Adams: "that a change in the solar system might be expected as soon as a change in the ecclesiastical system of Massachusetts!" Massachusetts was not alone - in all the colonies there was a union of the political and religious systems, either directly, or indirectly in the way of religious tests as qualifications for citizenship or official preferment.

What a revolution in thought has occurred we realize to-day in

the complete abandonment of that system in every State of the Union - the only lingering relic to remind us that it ever prevailed being the exemption of church property from taxation - and that, too, must ere long cease even to be a relic - for the whole system was long ago "smitten with decay in the old world, and it cannot flourish in the new."

The sun still shines in the heavens, and the planets revolve with the same unvarying precision and serene indifference to our affairs that they did in the days

of John Adams; but the ecclesiastical system of Massachusetts, and all the other Colony States, has experienced a change; and more nearly than ever before conform to the requirement of the <sup>great</sup> Founder of Christianity, who solved the problem of Church and State, in one sentence, ~~eighteen~~ hundred years ago, when He ~~com-~~manded gave the advice to "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

The divorce of the nation from the ecclesiastical system has not made us a Godless nation; ~~or weakened our faith in that~~ on the

contrary, throughout the length and breadth of the land, to-day forty millions of people, irrespective of faith or creed, fervently respond to the invitation extended by the President of the United States in his Proclamation issued last week, "to mark the return of this day by some public religious and devout thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessings which have been bestowed upon us as a nation during the centenary of our existence, and humbly to invoke a continuance of His protection."

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## [Our Educational Progress.]

Our educational system is peculiarly American in origin, character and growth. Common schools were established in the Colonies at a very early date. Documents over 200 years old are found on record, respecting the establishment of schools, which presented a plan embracing "local responsibility; State oversight; moderate charges or free instruction, and recognition of the primary school, the grammar school and the University." The watchword of Connecticut one hundred years ago—"that the public schools must be cheap enough for the

poorest, and good enough for the best" — is our watch word to-day; and the Common School system of our fathers, expanded and improved, — "differing in details but the same in outline, — furnishes education to the children of our people in every State, from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

It is true there has been a controversy from the beginning in regard to religious instruction in the schools, and we are called upon at the close of the first Century of the Republic ~~just~~ to settle the vexed question. Can we doubt that it will be settled, so that



"instruction shall be free, unsectarian, non-partisan, and open to all, without distinction of race, birth-place, or social standing."

Perhaps we are not so well prepared as the older nations to confer the benefits of what is called the higher education; but our progress in this direction has been remarkable when we consider what an immense amount of pioneer work has had to be done. The nine colleges of 1776 have increased to five hundred and fifty in 1876, and millions of dollars in gifts are annually given to American institutions of learning.

In no other country in the world has a college been established for the education of deaf mutes. We have no less than forty-five institutions for the education of that class of unfortunates; and twenty-seven institutions for the education of the blind.— Our cities and towns are provided with free libraries; and the modern newspaper, grown to be a compendium of all knowledge ~~or~~ no less than the record of current events, finds its way to every home in the land.— As a nation, if we are not the best we certainly are the most generally educated of any people in the world.

## [Literature]

In literature our Shakespeare and Milton and Burns - our Dante and Goethe, have not appeared; but for the English Goldsmith we have Washington Irving; for the cynic Carlyle, Emerson the Thinker; for Chatham and Sheridan and O'Connell, we have Webster, Choate and Phillips; for the Historians Macaulay and Froude, we have Bancroft and Motley; and for the poets and song writers of all countries and climes we have our Songfellow, Bryant, Whittier and Holmes.

## [Science.]

If the work that has been done in this country in the field of original scientific research and discovery will not compare with that of Germany, France and England, it is because we have not had the leisure to devote to the patient, monotonous, and apparently objectless labor, without which results are not reached. For the most part the business of our lives has been to get roofs to shelter us, and food and raiment to sustain us. — If it was literally true that our forefathers secured a foothold and

established a home on this continent, with -

"One hand on the mason's trowel,  
And one on the soldier's sword,"

It is no less true that we their descendants have had to fight and build and struggle to subdue the mighty West.

"We crossed the mountains, as of old  
The Pilgrims crossed the sea,  
To make the West, as they the East,  
The homesteads of the free."

Yet Franklin, Ritterhouse,  
Kulton, Morse, Henry, Howe and  
"Old Probabilities" are American  
names suggestive of discoveries and

applications in Science without which the civilized world would be much more than a century behind its present progress. Our science has been immensely practical, not abstract; and we have applied the science of the age and of all ages, until we outstrip the oldest, the largest and the most powerful nations of the world in the extent of our material prosperity.

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What a growth has been ours!  
What prosperity we have reached!  
In no spirit of vain boasting, but  
with grateful hearts and joyful  
pride, do we point to the blessings  
that crown this Centennial year  
of the Republic!

~~that crown this centennial year  
of the Republic.~~

The inventive genius of the world has been laid under contribution to aid our mighty enterprises and to relieve our overburdened hands and brains of much of the drudgery of labor. Our resources have been developed at a marvellous rate and to an extent that has made us prodigal of wealth; but yet they are practically inexhaustible. Our territorial area embraces <sup>nearly</sup> the <sup>whole</sup> continent. Our commerce spreads over every sea, the grimy smoke of our Steamships curling <sup>up</sup> <sup>ward</sup> from <sup>every</sup> port in the known world;



and the steam whistle which calls the mechanic to his daily labor in our villages, is heard in the remotest interior of Japan as the key note of a newer and better civilization. — The three millions of people who one hundred years ago were inconceivable in the holy cause of liberty, have multiplied to nearly fifty millions; the thirteen States to thirty-eight; and our national wealth ~~is~~ <sup>practically</sup> beyond computation.

Emigration  
so rapidly

The borders of the Great West have been pushed from the Alleghenies to the lakes, and from the lakes to the prairies — from the prairies

to the plains, and from the plains to the mountain ranges on whose farther slopes the surf of the Pacific beats a perpetual rhythm.

Our telegraphs and railroads have annihilated time and space. Where the emigrant of '49 trudged for months beside <sup>his</sup> the heavily loaded wagon crossing the American desert to reach the Eldorado of California, the steel locomotive and palace cars of the Fast Train now speed over the same distance in three days and a half, and the telegraph fairly transmits to our ears the whir of its wheels, as it flies from station to station.

It is said of us that we are a nation ~~of~~ given to boasting; but how can ~~the~~ story we recount the story of our progress so that it shall not seem to imitate the romance of Aladdin's lamp? Our most severely simple record tells of achievements that winged Mercury with pride could have recounted to the Gods; or Puck, girdling the earth in forty minutes, could have joyfully repeated to the astonished <sup>people of fairyland!</sup> ~~fairies!~~ Our soberest ~~simplest~~ words seem like wild exaggerations. <sup>our prosperity has indeed been</sup> unexampled.

Embarrassments and periods of depression we have had; but they have been temporary, and in the end

beneficent, - as the one will be  
through which we are passing  
now.

Our youth, the principles  
underlying our system, the arts of  
peace we have cultivated, and ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup>  
community of interest and simplicity  
of social customs, ~~and usages~~, have  
been <sup>measurably</sup> our safeguards against national  
misfortunes and calamities which follow  
national  
~~the~~ departures of ~~nations~~ from the laws  
of Right. But we have not escaped  
the penalty of any wrong action. Our  
brief and inexpensive war of conquest  
resulted in increased sectional  
strife, and only gave us a viper that  
stung the bosom that ~~had~~ warmed it.

By the sacrifice of the best blood of the nation and the expenditure of untold treasure, we extirpated Slavery, and atoned for our former neglect of the rights of the black race. History will bear testimony to the redeeming fact that during all the years the system of slavery disgraced our civilization, it was only tolerated, not-protected, by the organic law of the land, and that the judgment and conscience of the larger part of our people held the practice in abhorrence.

To-day the nation is free in reality as well as in name. The hands that were raised to dismember

it for the sake of perpetuating a  
 crime against humanity, were  
 beaten down by the uprising of  
 a people determined that the  
 Union founded upon justice and  
 liberty, and cemented by the blood  
 of the patriots of the Revolution,  
 should not be impaired or destroyed.  
 "The ship is now over and done", but the  
 The tattered battle flags of our loyal  
 regiments - the flower-strewn mounds  
 in our graveyards - the armless vet-  
 erans on our streets; speak eloquently  
 of the terrible earnestness of the struggle.  
 The amended Constitution, guaran-  
 teeing the rights of the enfranchised  
 race, and their elevation to citize-  
 ship and equality before the law, tells of

our reparation for their wrongs. And this flag, "with not a stripe erased or a Star obscured," waves over the length and breadth of the land to-day, the symbol of beauty and glory, vindicating our courage and honor before the whole world.

It would be recreancy to the great memories of this day to leave unsaid that there are blots on our record the odium of which can never be effaced - crimes against liberty, against humanity, against civilization. The Treason of Benedict Arnold - the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln - the torture of our soldiers in the

prison pens of the South - and ~~the~~  
 sympathy ~~of~~ ~~northern~~ men for  
 the cause which demanded and  
 the miscreants who ~~perpetrated~~ com-  
 mitted the atrocity, are crimes that  
 deserve and to the end of time will  
 receive the execration of the civilized  
 world. - Over the memory of  
 individuals, whose misdeeds are  
 committed from <sup>sudden</sup> impulse, passion, or  
 the ordinary motives of depravity, we  
 throw the mantle of charity and  
 oblivion; but for those whose  
 crimes, like these, humiliate and  
 involve a nation in their consequences,  
 "History has no forgiveness and the  
 memory of man no forgetfulness."



~~the interests~~  
of all parties

~~In conclusion,~~ Fellow citizens,

I trust to violate none of the proprieties ~~which~~ which all parties on this day cordially unite in observing, by conjuring you to let your condemnation rest with emphasis upon corruption, intrigue, and faithlessness in the administration of public affairs. Demand the unconditional abandonment of practices not strictly in accordance with the dictates of simple truth and plain honesty. Corruption, prostitution of power to purposes of self-aggrandizement, fraud, and a long catalogue of vices ~~and~~ of a darker hue have fastened