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AN ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

AT PRINCETON, N. J.

*JUNE 27th, 1876.*

COMPILED BY REQUEST,

BY

REV. WILLIAM C. ULYAT.

PRINCETON:  
THE PRESS PRINTING OFFICE.

1877.



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# Princeton Centennial.



The Citizens of Princeton  
have the honor to invite you  
to unite with them in their  
Centennial Celebration  
on the twenty seventh inst.

Mayer, Francis T. Conover,

George Sheldon,

Lyman W. Steadler,

Henry C. Cameron,

George C. Vanderbilt.

F. T. Conover, Chairman

Geo. C. Vanderbilt, Secretary.

Princeton, N. J.

June 16<sup>th</sup> 1876.





# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

## AT PRINCETON.

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### WARRANT FOR SUCH A CELEBRATION.

So many distinguished citizens of Princeton, and so many former students of the College, having taken a prominent part in the Revolution of 1776; and the battle fought here during that period having been one of no inconsiderable influence on the destinies of our country, it seemed to our citizens eminently appropriate that we, who were in the enjoyment of the blessings our ancestors' self-sacrifices had helped to procure, should, after the lapse of a century, when time had established, and history had recognized, the splendor and beneficence of their action, review our privileges and commemorate in some way these men and their deeds. As far as possible, therefore, it was ordered, through a Centennial Celebration, that of the men of that trying period whose deeds had been so powerful a lever to lift our country into magnitude and well-being, there should be no forgotten graves, no dim vision of the patriotic good will which they had shown.

And as, in all ages and by all people, to awaken the dormant feeling of patriotism and kindle anew the fires of devotion to country has been esteemed a solemn duty, into this same line of thought and channel of action we seemed to be thrust, and shut up to the belief, that no more honorable work could be pursued than to approach with reverence and gratitude those altars of the past, and there do obeisance.

It were impossible, at this late day, to enumerate the names even, much less the deeds, of greater or lesser heroism, of all those of Princeton who took part in the Revolutionary struggle. Families do not generally perpetuate the exploits of their ancestors. Nor do communities, except in very striking instances. The dangers and

sufferings undergone by the common soldier on the tented, perhaps untented field, on the march, and on the scene of carnage; of the officer of high birth, wealth, luxury, and social position; of the women at home toiling and agonizing, and of the children capable of appreciating the exposure and sacrifice of fathers and brothers, lover and friend, lie very much in the world's unwritten history. It would not be our object, however, here to rehabilitate these, even were it possible, nor even to mention, in any detail, men and deeds which have been rescued from the jaws of oblivious time, but only to give a few names and a brief outline, as a warrant for the commemoration that was held. Further mention of these will occur in the progress of this narrative. While for a full exhibit, reference must be had to the larger and more complete histories of those times.

In proposing a celebration our citizens felt that there were two Princeton men whose names were worthy of the first and of tenderest remembrance. As members of the Provincial Congress, and afterwards as members of the Continental Congress, these men exposed their property to confiscation, their families to penury, and their lives to the hangman. One was John Witherspoon, a Scotchman by birth, President of the College, a philosopher, divine, and learned man, whose mortal remains are with us in our cemetery. He sat in both the local and general Congresses. And under the immortal instrument of the Declaration, forerunner and assurer of our liberties, stands his name. The other was Richard Stockton, a native Princetonian, a large land-holder, graduate of the College, a lawyer, a gentleman of the olden time, a Christian elder of the First Presbyterian Church, whose mortal remains lie in the Quaker burying ground. He, too, was a signer.

There were, likewise, graduates of the College, men who had their residence here for a while, who imbibed the spirit of patriots, who did good service in the general cause both here and elsewhere, whose names were felt to be worthy of honorable mention and loving remembrance. There was, for example, Benjamin Rush, son-in-law of Mr. Stockton, a surgeon in the army, and afterwards an eminent professor and practitioner in Philadelphia. There was Joseph Reed, who was guide to Washington at the Battle of Princeton. He was an Adjutant General in the army, and besides being a graduate of Princeton, had studied law here under Mr. Stockton. There, too, was Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, a grandson of Jona-



than Dickinson, first President of the College, and himself a lawyer in Princeton. Besides these were others alike worthy of remembrance.

The undergraduates, also, of the College, during the war, who partook of the spirit of their honored President, Dr. Witherspoon; the patriotic citizens of Princeton of that day; the uses made of our town by both armies and by public bodies; and above all, the battle of January 3d, 1777, planned and executed with so much skill and bravery that it became, as has often been said, and is generally admitted, the turning point of a war which secured our present civil liberties; all these, it was felt, demanded of us careful, joyous and grateful remembrance, to show ourselves worthy of our inheritance, and to animate us to still nobler endeavor.

These are our apology, if any is needed, for the celebration which was had; and a simple narrative of which is the object of these brief memoirs.

#### PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION.

The credit of the initiation of the celebration, is due to the late James M. Macdonald, D. D., son of a General in the war of 1812, and for nearly a quarter of a century pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Princeton. Both by descent and in name,—for he was named after one of our Presidents, James Madison, himself a graduate of Princeton,—he was an American patriot. In public and in private, and on committees, and with the authorities of the College, and the Seminary, and with his townsmen, he was indefatigable in his labors to inaugurate the celebration. He lived to see it assured, but only so far. For ere its consummation he was numbered with the dead whom he would honor. Others, however, lived to carry on what he had begun.

The first public step towards a realization of the project was taken by the Common Council of the borough. At their regular monthly meeting, in January, 1876, in response to a petition presented by Dr. Macdonald, and seconded with a speech by Hon. Geo. O. Vanderbilt, who intimated that the State itself might be inclined to aid with funds and take other part in the matter, they authorized the Mayor to call a mass meeting of citizens who should give expression to their views as to whether such a celebration should be had, and if so when, and how far they would sustain it.

On January 15th, the contemplated meeting of citizens was held, in Cook's Hall, at which the Mayor presided. Speeches were made by Dr. Macdonald, Professor H. C. Cameron, Hon. John F. Hage-

man, Hon. Geo. O. Vanderbilt and others. These questions were especially agitated, whether the celebration should take place in June following, near the time of the birth both of the State and of the Nation, or in January ensuing, on the anniversary of the battle; also, whether an attempt should be made to make it a State affair. It was decided that it should take in more than the battle, and that the State should be invited to participate, and that the celebration should be in June. At the close of the debate the following preamble and resolution which had been offered by Mr. Hageman, were passed :

WHEREAS, in the opinion of this meeting, it is eminently proper and desirable that the Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence should be celebrated in Princeton, around which cluster many thrilling historic events and immortalized names, calculated to inspire the highest enthusiasm in such an object—a place whose central position and whose eminent citizens, then residing here, have made it a controlling power in the politics of New Jersey in the Revolutionary period, and whose representatives in both the Provincial and Continental Congresses, and in Committees and Constitutional Conventions, were pre-eminently distinguished and efficient, two of them signing the Declaration of Independence; the place where the Council of Safety held many if not most of their sessions, where the State government, under the Republican Constitution, adopted July 2d, 1776, was organized under Governor Livingston, and held its first session, passing important laws and giving to the State its *Broad Seal*; the place where the first victorious battle of the Revolution was fought under General Washington in an open field contest, in which he routed the enemy, turning back the tide of war which had been checked at Trenton, and giving heart and hope to the country; the place where both armies were successively quartered upon our people, occupying our college and church for barracks and stables, and preying upon our farmers; the place where, just before the close of the war, the Continental Congress and Government sat and held sessions in the College library, with Washington in attendance; *and whereas*, it is represented that our State contemplates holding a State celebration, and we wish respectfully to suggest whether any place is more central and better adapted than Princeton to unite the civil, the religious, the academic and the military elements of the people, all of which should be blended in such a celebration; therefore,  
*Resolved*, That a Committee of Thirteen be appointed by the chairman, Mayor of the borough, to designate the day and make arrangements for such celebration, endeavoring first to secure the co-operation

of the Common Council, and of the faculties of our institutions ; and that before making definite arrangements, they shall cordially invite the Governor and Legislature of New Jersey to join with us and make it a State celebration worthy of the occasion.

The following Committee of Thirteen was thereupon appointed by the Mayor :

Hon. John F. Hageman, Chairman,	Rev. Jas. M. Macdonald, D. D.,
Hon. Geo. O. Vanderbilt,	Leavitt Howe,
Leroy H. Anderson, Esq.,	Wm. C. Vandewater,
Capt. Aaron L. Green,	Capt. Wm. V. Scudder,
Richard Runyan,	Thomas A. Seger,
Josiah W. Wright,	J. Gordon Vandyke,
	Lyman S. Atwater.

This Committee, soon after their appointment, commenced the work assigned them, choosing at their first meeting an Advisory Committee from gentlemen of the town, of which the following were members :

Mayor Francis S. Conover,	Prof. Lyman H. Atwater, D. D.,
Prof. Henry C. Cameron, D. D.,	Prof. John S. Schanck, LL. D.,
Prof. W. Henry Green, D. D.,	Rev. George Sheldon, D. D.,
Rev. William C. Ulyat,	Elisha Clarke,
	Henry E. Hale.

As needed, the following Sub-Committees were appointed :

1. To prepare a plan for a Celebration—Rev. James M. Macdonald, D. D., Hon. George O. Vanderbilt, Rev. George Sheldon, D. D., Mayor Francis S. Conover, William C. Vandewater.

2. To confer with the Borough Council—Richard Runyan, Josiah W. Wright, William C. Vandewater.

3. To confer with the Faculties of the College and Seminary—Rev. James M. Macdonald, D. D.

4. To confer with the State Authorities and the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Historical Society—Hon. John F. Hageman, Hon. George O. Vanderbilt, William C. Vandewater.

5. On Ways and Means—Richard Runyan, Josiah W. Wright, William C. Vandewater.

6. To lay a bill before the Legislature to legalize Taxation to defray the expenses of the Celebration—Mayor Francis S. Conover, Rev. George Sheldon, D. D., Hon. George O. Vanderbilt, Leroy H. Anderson, Esq., Rev. William Harris.

7. On Correspondence and Invitations—Mayor Francis S. Conover, Rev. George Sheldon, D. D., Rev. Lyman H. Atwater, D. D., Prof. Henry C. Cameron, Hon. George O. Vanderbilt.

8. To select a place for the Exercises and provide a Tent—Rev. William Harris, Josiah W. Wright, Thomas A. Seger, Leavitt Howe, Joseph Priest.

9. On Music—Richard Runyan, William C. Vandewater, Alexander Gray, Esq., John J. Stryker.

10. On Odes and Songs—John F. Hageman, Jr., Esq., William J. Gibby, Rev. William C. Ulyat, Augustus Macdonald, Lieut. George T. Emmons, U. S. N., Leroy H. Anderson, Esq.

11. On Public Decorations—Ernst Sandoz, Joseph S. Schanck, Bayard Stockton, Cornelius A. Terhune, Charles S. Robinson.

12. To designate and mark Historic places—Charles O. Hudnut, Elisha Clarke, James L. Briner, John Murphy, William L. Hankins.

13. To have charge of the firing of Guns and ringing of Bells—Capt. Aaron L. Green, James Leggett, John H. Margerum, Capt. William V. Scudder, E. Carpenter.

14. On a Collation—Edward Howe, Josiah W. Wright, Joseph H. Bruere, Capt. William V. Scudder.

15. On a monument to General Mercer—Capt. William V. Scudder, Thomas A. Seger, J. Gordon Vandyke.

16. To provide an Orator—Rev. James M. Macdonald, D. D., Rev. George Sheldon, D. D.

17. To act as an Executive Committee—Rev. Henry C. Cameron, D. D., William C. Vandewater, Josiah W. Wright, Joseph S. Schanck, Edward Howe, Hon. George O. Vanderbilt.

18. To publish a history of the Celebration—Prof. Henry C. Cameron, D. D., Hon. Geo. O. Vanderbilt, Rev. William C. Ulyat.

In the midst of these preparations, Dr. Macdonald, who had hitherto been a leader, was unexpectedly called from us by death. At the first meeting after his death, the following minute was offered which was unanimously adopted :

With deep sorrow the Centennial Committee record the death of their associate, the Rev. James M. Macdonald, D. D., which occurred in Princeton on the 19th ult. In an eminent sense, Dr. Macdonald was a Christian gentleman and patriot. Descended from a distinguished Revolutionary ancestry, and as a minister of religion occupying the place of one who signed the Declaration of Independence, he was keenly alive to the elevated and noble spirit which should mark and

pervade our National Centennial. The suggestion of our proposed celebration, it is believed, originated with him. In all the measures in view of it, he bore the leading part. We greatly miss him. He died honored, beloved, lamented.

Dr. Macdonald having taken so large an interest in the celebration had been appointed to preside on the occasion, and to deliver the Address of Welcome. After his decease, Governor Bedle was appointed to preside and Dr. Sheldon to deliver the Address.

The committee charged with designating and marking historic places denoted, Morven, the residence of Mr. Stockton, which had been the headquarters of Cornwallis, Tusculum, the residence of Dr. Witherspoon, the graves of these men in their respective cemeteries, the battle field, and especially the spot where Mercer was bayoneted and the room where he died, the Church and the College building—Nassau Hall, which were used for barracks by the Revolutionary soldiers of both parties, and the room where Congress and other public bodies held sessions.

It was intended that the celebration should be not merely a local but a State one. Accordingly, the Committee on Correspondence and Invitations sent out invitations to the President of the United States and his Cabinet, to the General of the Army, William T. Sherman, to the Senators and Representatives of New Jersey in Congress, to the Governor of New Jersey and other officers of the State, to the ex-Governors living, to both houses of the Legislature, to the Judiciary, to the Historical Society of the State, to Rutgers College and Seminary, to the Washington Headquarters Association at Morristown, and to the Society of the Cincinnati. The letters of invitation, besides the letter press, contained engravings of the coat-of-arms of the State, a battle scene, Nassau Hall, and a facsimile of the old Liberty Bell of 1776, in Independence Hall.

The Committee on Ways and Means reported Taxation as the only feasible way of securing funds to defray the necessary expenses—that the people of the Borough be asked to vote money for the purpose to the amount of \$1,500, at the Spring election; and that the Legislature be asked to legalize the tax. The people did vote, when the time came, they asked for sum, by a handsome majority; and the Legislature gave authority to the Council to impose the tax.

The committees to confer with the faculties of the College and Seminary, the Borough Council, the State authorities, and the New Jersey Historical Society, were all successful in securing their desired

co-operation. From the College authorities was obtained the permission to use their grounds, from the Council an order for a tax and a provision for special police to serve on the occasion, from the State authorities a legal enactment authorizing taxation, a promise of their presence, and of a large detachment of Military at the expense of the State Government. The Historical Society commended the movement.

In executing all the preparatory work for the celebration, in which the authorities, both of the Town and the College united, a large amount of time was consumed by committees, travel performed, and correspondence conducted. This was necessary to the success of the undertaking; and the citizens who served us are worthy of all praise. To some of them, as Mayor Conover, who advanced out of his private means funds until such time as the tax could be collected, and opened his field for the dinner tent and soldiers, and Hon. George O. Vanderbilt, who was especially assiduous with the Legislature, Governor, and State authorities, and Dr. Sheldon, for his efforts to secure an orator, and Lyman S. Atwater, Esq., who acted a long time as Secretary of the Committee of Thirteen, special votes of thanks were given. The names also of Dr. Cameron, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, Hon. John F. Hageman, Joseph S. Schank, and William C. Vandewater, deserve special mention.

#### THE CELEBRATION.

The day on which the celebration was to be had—Tuesday, June 27th—dawned auspiciously. It was hot and dusty, but no rain fell. The Town was full of strangers,—friends of the College, many of whom, beside their interest in the Institutions, now had doubtless been attracted hither by the extra inducements offered by our Centennial Celebration. In the course of the morning, immense crowds flocked in from the country round about, and came by railroad from a distance.

At sunrise a national salute of thirteen guns was fired, and the bells of the town were rung.

In anticipation of the celebration a military company had been organized in Princeton at the beginning of the year. They styled themselves the Washington Continental Guards. They were handsomely uniformed in Continental style, well disciplined, and on parade made a fine appearance. They numbered in all forty-five men.

These were early on the street, and received our visiting military, and became their escort during the day. Their conduct generally was highly commendable.

About 9 A. M. the military from abroad began to arrive. These consisted of two regiments, the 1st from Newark, Colonel William Allen, numbering about 600 men, and the 7th from Trenton, Colonel Angell, numbering about 400. These, at the request of the Committee, had been sent here by Governor Bedle, who by virtue of his office was Commander-in-chief of the National Guard of New Jersey. They went through their drill on the front Campus of the College, paraded the streets and were reviewed toward the close of the day's exercises by the Governor and his staff. Each regiment was accompanied by its respective band, and made a fine and inspiring appearance.

Among the distinguished visitors from abroad during the day were Governor Joseph D. Bedle and his Staff, Adjutant General Wm. S. Stryker, General J. Augustus Fay, Colonel John Vought, Colonel A. Q. Garretson, Colonel C. D. Hendrickson, Colonel B. W. Spencer, Colonel Wm. E. Hoy and Colonel G. M. Johnson. Besides these, of military rank, were Major General Mott, Major General Sewell and General Lewis Perrine, Q. M. G.

Of the civilians present might be distinguished Ex-Governors Daniel Haines, Marcus L. Ward and Joel Parker, Judge L. Q. C. Elmer; Senators W. J. Sewell, W. J. Magie, John Hill and Charles Moore; Hon. James Chestnut, Ex-U. S. Senator; Rev. Drs. John De Witt and D. D. Demarest, of Rutgers Theological Seminary; General N. N. Halsted and P. S. Duryee, Esq., of Newark; John A. Stewart, Esq., and Rev. Cyrus Dickson, D. D., of New York; Rev. Dr. A. A. E. Taylor, President of Wooster University, Ohio; Judge J. T. Nixon, members of the General Assembly of N. J., and many others.

#### EXERCISES AT THE STAND ON THE COLLEGE CAMPUS.

At noon a procession of the military and of civilians was formed on Nassau street, and proceeded under the order of Colonel A. M. Cumming, Marshal of the Day, assisted by Major A. F. Allen, to the place on the College grounds appointed for the delivery of an Address of Welcome and an Oration. The place was the South Campus, in the neighborhood of the historic cannon captured from the British in the Revolutionary war.

After music by Petermann's Band, of Trenton, PRAYER was offered by the Rev. James McCosh, D. D., LL. D., President of the College.

Following the prayer, a choir consisting of nearly one hundred students of the College, led by Jno. F. Hageman, Jr., sang WHITTIER'S CENTENNIAL HYMN.

Rev. George Sheldon, D. D., then, by appointment of the Committee, delivered the ADDRESS OF WELCOME. It was substantially as follows :

#### ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

The citizens of Princeton have felt they could not suffer this memorable year to pass without at least a feeble expression of their gratitude to the God of their fathers, and to their fathers themselves for what they have done for us.

To put honor on the memory of those wise and brave men, and to pass it down to a still later posterity with undiminished reverence and love, they have arranged the simple ceremonial of this day. It is made my pleasant duty to welcome you. You know you are always welcome to Princeton—but much more on an occasion like this, whether you come from homes more or less remote, in our own honored State, the home of patriots and statesmen—a State whose soil was the battle field of the Revolution, a State that, in the measure of its population and means, did more in the country's cause than any other, or whether you come from other honored commonwealths of the original thirteen, or from those since carved out of our vast domain, and never dreamed of in the infancy of the Republic, but now component parts of our great and glorious Union, or whether, perchance, some of you are from far away and represent other nationalities—we welcome you.

Princeton extends a warm welcome to the Chief Magistrate of our State and those associated with him in the administration of our affairs ; to members of both houses of the Legislature ; to the Judiciary of the State of New Jersey ; to the Trustees and other officers of Rutgers College and of the Theological Seminary connected with that venerable Institution ; to the officers and members of the various patriotic, literary and historical societies represented here, and to the brave soldiers who honor us with their escort on this occasion.

We welcome you to Princeton ; to Princeton full of patriotic memories and associations, where the very atmosphere bears the



double inspiration of the past and the present; to old historic Princeton, a hundred years ago as now, the seat of learning and religion—a hundred years ago, in the dark formative days of the Republic, the centre and source of patriotic counsel and valor.

We are assembled on classic, sacred ground. Memorials are all around us.

Near by was fought the Battle of Princeton—in an important sense the turning point in the great struggle for the liberty of our people. Here the patriots had their first inspiration of success; here Washington was exposed to greater personal peril than in any subsequent combat; here the heroic Mercer fell, and has left his life-blood stains on the floor of the house (now standing) into which, mortally wounded, he was carried.

This is the man of whom we are told, when the House of Burgesses, in Virginia, was considering the raising and officering of a *third* regiment, a plain but soldierly-looking man sent up to the Speaker a scrap of paper on which was written, “Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted country, and the cause of liberty, in any rank or station to which he may be appointed.”

Our town for some weeks had been in possession of British troops, who converted these Halls of learning, and the very Church of God near by us, into barracks and stables.

The patriot forces coming up dislodged them, but the College edifice was left penetrated and scarred by shot.

Here, before the war, the Committee of Safety, and our first State Legislature, met, and after the war, the Continental Congress, in quiet scenes of peace, when Washington was present on a Commencement occasion.

Here lived Richard Stockton, who served his country when it cost something to do so. His estate was ravaged and despoiled; he was dragged from his bed at night and put in the common jail in New York, where he was treated with such barbarity as to hasten his death. Here, also, was Dr. John Witherspoon, President of the College, and pastor of the church in this town, scholar, patriot, divine. He fearlessly espoused the cause of his adopted country, and became the counsellor and guide of our people. To him, the great objective point was *a free church in a free State*. These two men, with John Hart, whose home was in this neighborhood, subscribed the immortal Declaration of Independence, the

principles of which were vindicated and established on this continent through the battles of the Revolution.

We come to honor the memory of these men, and of all those associated with them, from the highest in council to the humblest soldier and citizen. To honor them, and to trace the results that have for a hundred years flowed from their action, as touching free government, wise legislation, human liberty and human happiness, is the purpose of this celebration, as well as to consider by what means these blessings may be continued.

“ The place we tread is holy ground,  
Since that far winter morn,  
When out of storm and battle sound  
A mighty hope was born ”

At the close of this address, the large choir sang to the air “*La Marseillaise*,” the following ODE TO LIBERTY, which had been specially prepared for the occasion by Rev. Charles W. Shields, D. D., a Professor in the College :

O Liberty ! again thy story,  
Which oft before thy sons have told,  
The rolling cycles swell with glory,  
The story that can ne'er grow old :  
How Truth and Right have batt'ld Error,  
How patriots rush'd to martyrs' graves,  
How freemen scorn'd the chains of slaves,  
And tyrants fell with rage and terror.

Rejoice, O Liberty !  
Take courage from the past :  
Press on ! press on ! till victory  
Shall crown thy brow at last.

Lo ! on these western waters drifted,  
In flying bands across the main,  
A chosen race of heroes sifted,  
As from the chaff is thresh'd the grain :  
They come, the van of eastern sages ;  
They bear the richest spoils of Time,  
And hail the new, imperial clime  
Adorn'd of old for riper ages.

Rejoice, O Liberty !

Hark ! hark ! what groans and shouts are blend-  
New England calls with struggling breath !  
Virginia's tongue of flame is sending  
The cry of “ Liberty or Death ! ”  
While Jersey sees the war-clouds lower,  
Her face by hireling legions marr'd,  
Her dauntless brow with battles scarr'd,  
Till victory gleams on Nassau's tower.

Rejoice, O Liberty !

Ah ! bitter, bitter and defiant  
The surges of the civic strife,  
Ere like a full-arm'd infant giant,  
The nation struggled into life !  
And long, O long shall be recited,  
What glories shroud the fallen brave,  
How virtue blossoms from their grave,  
In arts increased and states united.

Rejoice, O Liberty !

Nor yet, O Liberty, is ended  
Thy march of glorious agony :  
Not till all tongues and peoples blended  
At length acclaim, The world is free !  
Not till one nation to another  
Around the globe shall roll the strain,  
The West rejoin the East again,  
And man hail every man his brother.

Rejoice, O Liberty !

O Liberty ! then be thy story  
Still, still with quenchless fervor told  
As rolling cycles swell its glory ;  
The story that can ne'er grow old,  
While yet the radiant face of Nature  
Is darken'd by a single slave,  
As long as Virtue claims the brave,  
And man has faith in his Creator.

Rejoice, O Liberty !

Take courage from the past ;  
Press on ! press on ! till victory  
Shall crown thy brow at last !

His Excellency, GOVERNOR JOSEPH D. BEDLE, the Presiding Officer, now introduced REV. JOSEPH T. DURVEA, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., THE ORATOR OF THE DAY, a graduate of the College and Seminary, and connected with Princeton by other ties, who proceeded to give a very fervent, patriotic and interesting address. The following outline will afford some glimpses of what Dr. Duryea said :

COUNTRYMEN AND FRIENDS:—The historian at the end of each century looks back, and gathers up those principles which have been the laws giving direction to its events, and ordering our metes and bounds. The fulfillment of the past does not terminate with this. But instinct looks for some worthy fulfillment of such a period. We are doing this thing this year in the history of our country.

We are not here now to review events simply, or to celebrate an accident. We are here to see wisdom, thought, and intention in the past—a divine heart and mind even. It is the divine element and self-sacrifice, the self immolation of the wise and good that makes history sacred. We are not here atheists. If there be no God, no wise, controlling, directing intelligence in the past, let us court oblivion of it rather than this remembrance. Let all the past be engulfed forever. Let us welcome the nightfall and not the dawn. Man came into being by the intention of God. God wished sympathy, and to be known and loved, and all the past is full of his intelligence, his thought in and for us.

The signal events and things of this world are not oceans, prairies, and rivers, not material wealth, agriculture, mines and oil of the earth, nor railroads, telegraphs, &c. We are not here to celebrate such. The establishment of a nationality, the multiplication of colonies in North America, the consolidation of these colonies into States, the development of national unity, the removal of the sin and burden of servile labor, these are the signal events in the past of our country.

And what does all the past of development of our country mean; what is its worth to us? Does it mean for us coal, grain, silk, purple, mere material advance? No. It is rather that we should recognize in these unfoldings the foundations of good for us, of our prosperity; and it becomes us to-day, above all things, to swear that these blessings shall be perpetual. What claim will you have on the generation of a hundred years to come? what claim on their gratitude and veneration as those of a hundred years ago have on you to-day, if you

do not conserve the good which you have inherited? If we do not conserve it we shall have no memorial, and the generation to come will curse rather than bless us. Our first duty then, the lesson which we are to learn from this hour is to be true to the inheritance we have received, to the fathers which went before and to the sons which shall come after us.

We commonly labor under a misconception which is fatal to our well being. We believe we are in accord with truth. We have wills and know our freedom. We occupy each a sphere which we feel cannot be invaded. We further believe that government is best which gives the individual the greatest scope. But we make a mistake when we think that such a government is necessarily self-perpetuating. If our institutions are good we should work them. This we have failed, through misconception, to do. A partisan spirit among us has been allowed such sway as to destroy individuality. We should stick to our party no longer than it represents principle. Let party perish when it deserts or loses principle. The people should destroy it. Look at the government of New York City. There are good men enough in that city to wipe out the shame that is hers, through such men as Bill Tweed and Jim Fisk. But wealthy men and good men stand by and let hell rule and the devil inspire. We are a Republican government, say they! And so they let the wicked rule. After reading your Bible and praying, GO VOTE: or you read and pray to little account.

The educated and good must teach the common people. They are led too much by demagogues. The people of this hemisphere were nearly ruined in the late war through their ignorance of the absolute incompatibility of two governments existing in peace together on this continent. God carried us through, however. Mothers and school teachers should teach the principles and methods of our government,—rear the generation that is to come after them in love of country. We should labor to make them as loyal to it as the Catholic is to his church.

#### THE COLLATION AND SUCCEEDING EXERCISES.

With the conclusion of Dr. Duryea's Oration, the exercises on the Campus were ended. The procession was re-formed, and proceeding to the grounds of Mayor Conover, on Bayard avenue, the Military and invited guests sat down to a collation, at tables capable of accommodating over one thousand persons, under the large

ment of the New Jersey Agricultural Society, which had been procured for the purpose. About twelve hundred partook. Here Governor Bedle presided, assisted by Dr. Cameron and Hon-George O. Vanderbilt.

After the removal of the cloth, a series of toasts was offered. The following are those toasts, together with an outline of the responses made :

I. THE UNITED STATES.

This was to have been responded to by President Grant. Not being able to be present, he caused to be sent the following letter which was read by Prof. Cameron :

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, June, 1876.

DEAR SIR :—The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your kind note of the 22d inst., and to express his sincere thanks for the invitation to attend the Centennial Celebration in Princeton on the 27th inst. He desires me to assure you that it would afford him great pleasure to accept this invitation so cordially extended, but his engagements will not permit him to be absent from the Capital at that date.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

U. S. GRANT, JR.,

Private Secretary.

After the reading of this letter, Prof. Cameron made the following remarks :

President Grant is a man of deeds rather than of words. We rejoice that he, who in the hour of danger saved our country, is now its President. No man is perfect. But better a diamond with a flaw, than a perfect pebble. The men who led our country through its perils are now receding from our view. And to-day they remind us of a story of Ancient Greece. A statue was needed for a particular place. Two were produced. One was a thing of perfect beauty ; the other was rude of outline and even had faults. The first was accepted and placed on the pedestal. But when raised to its position its beauty and even its outline disappeared. It was removed and the second was set up. As it receded its rudeness disappeared and it stood forth in all its grandeur. Then there was a shout of admiration for the second statue. And this is what we now see of the men of the past. Lincoln and Grant, prepared by the hand of God for their elevated positions, stand upon a platform but a little lower than that of Washington. Beside the Father of his country are, under God, its Saviour and its Defender.

## 2. THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

To this, Governor Bedle responded, and most happily. It could not but be, he said, but that the State of New Jersey should be represented here to-day. The Legislature had ordered, at its last session, that some of the National Guard should be sent here to aid in this commemoration. It was fitting that, at this centre of learning, the place where so many of the men of the country of intelligence and patriotism were reared, should be this demonstration. It had been the home of Witherspoon, that man of piety, learning and patriotism. Here, in 1775, the Committee of Safety sat, and often afterwards. Here the first Legislature, under the first Constitution of the State, convened. Here the first Governor under this constitution was, by joint ballot of that Legislature, elected. Here, in 1783, driven hither by a riot, the Congress of the United States assembled. Here was one of the battles of the Revolution. It, and that of Trenton, were pivots of that trying period. Washington was fleeing from New York. The time was a perilous one. Enlistments were running out. The people were growing weak. But at Trenton the Hessians were vanquished, and the British subdued. Here the tide of victory was turned; and cheer in the hearts of the Americans ensued. The foe was gathering detachments. But while they were at Trenton, Washington appeared at Princeton, routed them and saved both places. The State would have been derelict to its duty had it not aided in this celebration. The Constitution under which we lived until 1844 was formed at that time. The exact date was July 2nd, 1776. The President of this college helped to form it. The new Constitution of to day is no improvement over that old one. Not even that much better, said the Governor, snapping his finger and thumb, and bringing down his arm with an emphatic gesture. The Governors under the old Constitution were Livingston, Paterson, Howell, Bloomfield, Ogden, W. S. Pennington, Mahlon Dickerson, Williamson, Vroom, Southard, Seeley, Philemon Dickerson, William Pennington and Haines. Whether they were better or not than the Governors under the new Constitution, I will not say, since so many of the latter are around me. Let us then aim to derive some benefit from this celebration. Let us learn to discourage men who are hungry after office. It is a law, on our statute book to-day, that if a man will not accept the office to which he has been elected he shall be indicted. There has been no case lately, I

believe, of indictment under this law. Men nowadays are too anxious for office. We want no skim-milk patriots such as these. But I must break off somewhere. I thank you for your attention.

### 3. THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY.

Senator and President W. J. Sewell first responded to this toast. He had had an experience of four years in the Legislature. It had, he believed, reflected public sentiment—done all required of it by the people. If it was not as good as it might be, it was because of the people who elected them.

Senator W. J. Magie followed. He returned thanks for the resolution; spoke of the fitness of having this celebration; was proud of New Jersey as one of the old thirteen, proud of its historic fields and heroic deeds, its legends and traditions. Here, where is a great seat of learning, which was scarred and marked by the foe; here, where the Provincial Congress one hundred years ago to-day was sitting; here, where August 27, 1776, the Legislature of the State first met, of whom we are the successors, it is fitting we should be to-day. The part New Jersey took in bringing about the intimate union of the States enjoyed by us to-day, the provision made in the constitution of the State, and continuing therein till 1844, for reconciliation with Great Britain, and the adoption of that instrument, were points the Senator dwelt upon, closing with expressions of strong hope for the century to come.

Senator John Hill followed. He spoke of loyalty to country, of religion and of education, of their maintenance, of the evidences of these in Princeton, of the freedom we enjoy. He then alluded to our past history as a State, spoke of the first Governor as re-elected fourteen successive years, of some, to us curious, things contained in the old Constitution, as £1,000 being required in the early times to make a man eligible to the Senate, £500 to the Assembly, £50 proclamation money to enjoy the right of suffrage. He rejoiced that to-day any man honest, capable and of good common sense, could enjoy these privileges. He spoke of a fine being imposed in the olden time for intoxication, profane swearing, violating the Sabbath, and telling a lie, and wanted to know what would be manifest, if these fines were now imposed. He counselled the coming generation to "be honest and try to do right," spoke of the value of a good name, and alluded to the fact that the soldiers of the Revolution often went without stockings; while after our late war, 2,500,000 overcoats were in possession of the government.

#### 4. OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY.

This was responded to by Judge L. Q. C. Elmer. He represented the Jersey line of officers. His father was the last of the officers of the Revolution. The Society of the Cincinnati now represented these. The general Society was founded on the Hudson, before the camp broke up. The New Jersey Society was formed at Elizabeth, in 1783. One month's pay was contributed to sustain it. This amounted to \$8,000. The money is used for expenses and benevolence. They have a fund now of \$16,000. Originally there were one hundred officers and twelve societies. Now there are only six societies, one in each of the following States: Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and South Carolina. The order is hereditary. The general Society meets every third year. Hamilton Fish is President. The New Jersey Society meets on the Fourth of July. New Jersey had thirty-three members. There are only five sons of officers left. These are Messrs. Beatty, Halsey, Cumming, myself, and one other. There are twelve grandsons, five great-grandsons, two great-great-grandsons, four nephews, and four grand-nephews. The Jersey officers, at the beginning of the war, went northward, to Quebec. They were afterwards at Brandywine, Germantown, Trenton and Monmouth. None were at Princeton. From these men the early Governors were drawn—Livingston, Paterson, Howell, Bloomfield, Pennington. The principles of the Society are an inviolable preservation of our rights and liberties, the promotion and cherishing of union and honor between the States, and affection between officers.

#### 5. THE CONSTITUTION OF '76.

This was responded to by ex-Governor Daniel Haines, the last Governor under it. The toast and these scenes, said he, arouse my feelings. The old constitution was a good one. Good people formed it. It had some peculiarities, as noted by Senator Hill; but the people gave them a liberal interpretation. He closed by alluding to the amendment, which he had secured, that the Chancellorship should be separate from the office of Governor.

#### 6. THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH.

To this toast ex-Governor Joel Parker made response. He would, he said, confine himself to the toast. The battle of Princeton gave encouragement to the army. But it was only the beginning of the end. The battle of Monmouth, June 28th, 1778, gave the more



decisive blow. There were more troops in it than in any other battle of the Revolution. They amounted to 20,000. In 1777-8, Washington had been at Valley Forge, without food or clothing for his army. The enemy was living in luxury in Philadelphia. May 8th, '78, news arrived that France had acknowledged our independence, and signed a treaty of amity, and was about to send out a fleet to blockade the Delaware, and capture Lord Howe. On the 18th of June the British evacuated Philadelphia, passed over to Gloucester Point, and made their way to Haddonfield and Mount Holly. Then they divided into two bands, under Cornwallis and Knyphausen, and were making their way to their ships at Sandy Hook. At Englishtown, Washington determined to attack them: though his generals had advised against it. Lee, an Englishman by birth, was appointed to attack their rear. He was repulsed, but did not immediately inform Washington. Then Washington displayed his unparalleled generalship. He stopped the retreat, reformed the army, repulsed the British and achieved a victory. The British decamped at midnight, taking advantage, as they alleged to the home government, of the moonlight; though the moon that night set at 10 o'clock. Trumbull, in his *McFingal*, has immortalized this retreat in a piece which Governor Parker read. In this battle Molly Pitcher seized the ramrod of her fallen husband, and took his place. Women were forward in the contest. Lafayette, the youngest major-general in history, being only 20 years of age, was there. Lee had said to him, when the Frenchman wanted to fight—"You can do nothing with these British." To which Lafayette replied, "We have whipped them once and can do it again." Nathaniel Greene, the Quaker general, and Wayne, the hero of Stony Point, and Morgan, hero of Cowpens, a Jerseyman and noted rifleman, were there. But what do we see now? We see England at our great Exposition. She has made it international. For it is hardly likely that the other nations would have come here had not she taken the lead. This is an era of peace. The World, and the North and the South of our own country, after the late devastating war, are to-day meeting together in amity.

#### 7. THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY.

Rev. Dr. James McCosh responded. With pride, they had, that day, lent them the college grounds. You have seen what now is. One hundred years ago how different! Soldiers in war were here

then. In the library was a painting by Peale of Washington, the finest in existence, which had been placed in the frame in which George II. was hung, whose picture had, in the battle of Princeton, been pierced with a bullet. Those were days of valorous men. The students of Princeton took part in the Revolution. They were so eager, that Witherspoon had to restrain them. Princeton is a good place where to receive an education; for the spirit of '76 is here. He closed by alluding to the Puritans of New England as having achieved our liberties; and New Jersey and North Carolina, as having through Witherspoon and the covenanting spirit, organized the government.

#### 8. THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Rev. Dr. S. M. Hamill, its President, responded. Thirty-one years ago, he said, this society was founded in the City Hall of Trenton. He alluded to the noted men who had sustained it, and to the mass of historic matter which they had now gathered in Newark. A fire proof building, he said was much needed, and he hoped some man of wealth would be forthcoming to give them one.

#### 9. THE NATIONAL GUARD OF NEW JERSEY.

Gen. J. Augustus Fay responded. He returned thanks in behalf of the Guard for having been remembered. This Guard, he said, spoke for themselves to-day. They had met on the province line, a regiment from East Jersey and one from West Jersey. They had been glad to participate in these ceremonies. He was glad to find that ex-Speaker Vanderbilt had, to-day, recognized the National Guard as a good organization. They were a company of volunteers, affording a rallying point, in times of danger. He closed by returning thanks to the government and the people, who had taken in them so much interest.

#### 10. PRINCETON AND ITS BATTLE-FIELD.

This was responded to by Hon. J. F. Hageman. He alluded to the central position of Princeton in the State. Lying in Somerset and Middlesex counties, according to the division of that day, with Burlington and Hunterdon coming quite near it, it was a local point of conference among the leading men of those counties a century ago.

Princeton was influential before the Revolution, by reason of the College established here. Such an institution would give celebrity

to any country town. When the war broke out, this College, like all other colleges, was found espousing the cause of liberty. But not only the College, with its noble President, Dr. Witherspoon, gave earnest support to the Revolution in Princeton. There was a cluster of distinguished men resident in Princeton at and before the Revolution, whose names should not be forgotten on this grand occasion; whose services were linked with the heroic history of that period. They were such men as Richard Stockton, Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, Jonathan Baldwin, Enos Kelsey, Dr. Bainbridge, Dr. Beatty, Mr. Churchill Houston, James Witherspoon, son of the President—all graduates of Nassau Hall; and intimately associated with these men, Frederick Frelinghuysen and William Paterson, also graduates, who lived in Somerset, and mingled with Princeton men. There were others, too, who distinguished themselves by services in council or in war, among them Robert Stockton, Jonathan Sergeant, the elder, Jonathan Dean, Captain Longstreet, Captain Moore, Major Morford and John Johnson.

The trio of pre-eminent patriots in Princeton at that period, were Dr. Witherspoon, Richard Stockton and Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant. The first two were officers in the same College and members of the same Church, and both became signers of the Declaration, which alone would make Princeton immortal in history. Witherspoon is receiving his full share of honor, though nothing should be taken from it. But the names of Stockton and Sergeant should be held up to-day, to signal honor. They were both lawyers in Princeton, at the head of the bar in the State; pure, noble, elegant; of large property, and fine culture, and heroic Christians, of the Presbyterian School. Mr. Sergeant was a grandson of Jonathan Dickinson the first President of the College.

Mr. Hageman exhibited the incipient steps in the Revolution—the large and controlling representation of Princeton men in the first conventions and Provincial Congress of New Jersey, and in the Continental Congress. He referred to the zeal and concurrent votes of Sergeant, Kelsey, Witherspoon, Frelinghuysen and Paterson—on the most vital questions.

Mr. Sergeant resigned his place in the Continental Congress, in June, '76, that he might work up a State Constitution; he was on the committee for the purpose, and held the laboring oar, on that, as on all committees to which he was appointed.

Mr. Hageman protested strongly against the unjust aspersions,

insinuated by both of the Gordons in their histories, against Mr. Sergeant, William Livingston, and others, who resigned their seats in Congress in '76, when Witherspoon, Stockton, Hopkins and others were appointed in their places. Mr. Sergeant showed more courage in voting for carrying New Jersey into an independent government, before it was known that other colonies would unite in the movement, than he could have shown by voting for Independence in the General Congress. And Mr. Livingston never knew what fear was.

Mr. Hageman closed with an enumeration of the marked Revolutionary events which were connected with Princeton.

#### CONCLUSION.

Our citizens generally made a very large and costly display of bunting, and in the evening there was an extensive and tasteful illumination. At sunset the bells were again rung, and a salute of thirty-seven guns was fired. Nothing occurred to mar the festivities of the occasion. The whole affair was creditable to the State authorities, our ancient town, the committees, the military, and all engaged in making arrangements, and in their consummation. We now look back to it with pleasure, and feel no shame in transmitting a record of it to the generations to come. Not less than from six thousand to eight thousand persons took part in the celebration. It was worth all, and more, than it cost.



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