

**THE BATTLE OF BUNKER
HILL: AN HISTORIC
POEM IN FOUR CANTOS**

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The battle of Bunker Hill: An Historic Poem in Four Cantos by William Emmons & Richard Emmons

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WILLIAM EMMONS & RICHARD EMMONS

**THE BATTLE OF BUNKER
HILL: AN HISTORIC
POEM IN FOUR CANTOS**

THE
BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL,

OR
THE TEMPLE OF LIBERTY;

AN
HISTORIC POEM IN FOUR CANTOS.

By Richard Emmons.

COL. WILLIAM EMMONS,

PROPRIETOR.

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
TO THE
FRIENDS OF RATIONAL LIBERTY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

TENTH EDITION.

© BOSTON:
SEVENTEENTH OF JUNE
1859.

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE publisher of this inspiring poem has appended several articles from the journals of the provincial Congress, relating to the early difficulties between the colonies and the mother country. Although *mother*, her conduct at that period was that of an *unnatural one*, yet had it been otherwise, instead of celebrating the day of our Nation's birth, in all human probability we should have been found among the worshippers of ENGLAND'S FAIR QUEEN.

Those documents will go far to show the rising generations, the real character of those *master spirits* that moved the mighty ball of the revolution, who, through smoke and fire, and cannon's ire, fought on Bunker's Hill—infusing a determined spirit throughout the whole colonies, to break their shackles, and like men be free, to tyrants longer not to bend the knee. Then guard the dear-bought purchase with your lives, and give it to your seed.

Should the circulation of this volume tend to cement us as a free people, in the bonds of union, without distinction, except that of virtue and vice; and to disseminate the broad principle, that the star-spangled banner should protect men of ALL NATIONS, and America be the asylum of the oppressed, and the home of the brave—my object will be effected.

The public's obedient serv't,

WM. EMMONS.

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BUNKER HILL.

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BUNKER HILL.

ARGUMENT.—Subject proposed—Invocation—The immediate effect produced through New England by the battle of Lexington—The position of the American forces besieging the enemy in the town of Boston—The council of war—Generals Putnam and Prescott advance and occupy the heights of Charlestown—Colonel Gardner is stationed behind Bunker Hill with the reserved corps—At daylight Putnam repairs to Cambridge to procure a fresh horse and to solicit reinforcements—An episode.

The scene is laid in Cambridge, Charlestown, and Lexington. The time is about sixteen hours—commencing at noon on the 16th of June, and ending at daylight on the 17th, 1775.

CANTO I.

Of Bunker's height, where chosen spirits stood,
And stain'd the folds of England's flag with blood.
Diffident I sing. My loos'd harp restrung,
Allures me to attempt the lofty song.

Indulgent Muse! with hallow'd impulse come,
And the dark chambers of my mind illumine—
Give me to feel thy visitations nigh,
And mount my soul on wings of transport high;

Grant me the power, past, buried scenes to see,
That I may trace their living imagery.
Place in my hand the silver key that throws
The bolts of memory back ; to me disclose
The hidden treasures of her secret cell,
That I her brilliant jewels may reveal.
And doth my heart thy influence perceive ?
Or does my mind a fancied charm believe ?
Thou ne'er hast left me drooping in despair,
But seem'd to nurse me with maternal care ;
Hence not will I thy guardianship mistrust,
That I estranged shall grovel in the dust—
Methinks from heaven I see thee stoop thy wing,
To bear me forth as I adventurous sing.

Now when that Lexington's immortal plain
Received from martyrdom the sanguine stain,
The patriots rose—their aspirations high,
To seek redress or in resistance die—
Th' ennobling cause was stamp'd on every brow,
They knelt to heaven—they pledged the solemn vow
To rid the land of tyrants and be free,
Or sing a death-song for their jubilee.