

**AN ADDRESS ON THE LIFE,  
CHARACTER AND  
SERVICES OF WILLIAM  
HENRY SEWARD, PP. 1-73**

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An Address on the Life, Character and Services of William Henry Seward, pp. 1-73 by Charles Francis Adams

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**CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS**

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AN ADDRESS

ON THE

Life, Character and Services

OF

WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD.

DELIVERED

At the Request of both Houses of the Legislature of New York,  
At Albany, April 18, 1873.

BY

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

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ALBANY:  
WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY.  
1873.

# An Memoriam.

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## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislature of the State of New York

ON THE DEATH OF

Ex-Governor William H. Seward.

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State of New York:

IN SENATE,

JANUARY 22, 1873.

On motion of Mr. PERRY:

RESOLVED, That a select committee of three be appointed, on the part of the Senate, to meet with a committee on the part of the Assembly, to report resolutions expressive of the sense of the Legislature, relative to the decease of ex-Governor WILLIAM H. SEWARD, and that, if the Assembly concur therein, the Senate will meet at 12 o'clock noon, on Friday, the 24th instant, for hearing the report of said committee.

The President appointed as such committee, on the part of the Senate, Senators PERRY, WOODIN and JOHNSON.

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IN ASSEMBLY,

JANUARY 23, 1873.

RESOLVED, That the Assembly do concur in the resolution adopted by the Senate, relative to the death of ex-Governor SEWARD; and that Messrs. CLAPP, VAN COTT, BLACKIE, BEEBE and MCGUIRE be appointed as such committee on the part of the Assembly.

The joint committee, to which the subject was referred, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, after the adjournment of the Legislature, at its last session, the country heard, with the deepest sorrow, of the death of WILLIAM H. SEWARD, ex-Governor of the State of New York; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of New York is profoundly sensible of the great loss which the State and the Nation have thus sustained.

*Resolved*, That while we lament such loss, we still experience a mournful satisfaction and a lofty pride in recalling the varied and invaluable services which he rendered to his country; the acknowledged ability and patriotic zeal with which he, on all occasions, maintained her rights and defended her honor; the purity of his character, the grandeur of his intellectual endowments, the variety and extent of his learning, and the industry, fearlessness and fidelity which ever marked his career, both in public and private life.

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of this State tender to the family of the deceased its sincere condolence upon the sad bereavement which has removed from the domestic circle its affectionate and illustrious head.

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*Resolved,* That the joint committee be and they hereby are authorized and requested to make such arrangements as they may deem proper for the commemoration of the solemn event, by the delivery of an oration before the two Houses by some distinguished citizen.

*Resolved,* That, as a testimony of respect, the two Houses of the Legislature do now adjourn.

*Committee on part of the Senate :*

JOHN C. PERRY,  
WM. B. WOODIN  
WM. JOHNSON,

*Committee on part of the Assembly :*

W. S. CLAPP,  
GEO. M. BEEBE,  
CHAS. BLACKIE,  
DAVID C. VAN COTT,  
J. McGUIRE.

In pursuance of the foregoing resolutions, the joint committee reported that they had tendered to the Hon. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS an invitation to deliver the memorial address, and that he had accepted the invitation.

The following is the correspondence :



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LETTER TO MR. ADAMS.

" STATE OF NEW YORK:

" SENATE CHAMBER,  
" ALBANY, February 8, 1873. }

" HON. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS:

" *Dear Sir*—I have the honor herewith to transmit an authenticated copy of the report of a select committee of our State Legislature, who were appointed under a concurrent resolution of the Senate and Assembly, 'to report resolutions, etc., expressive of the sense of the Legislature relative to the decease of ex-Governor WILLIAM H. SEWARD,' which report has been unanimously adopted.

" At a meeting of the two committees, held pursuant to the resolution contained in the report, it was unanimously resolved to invite you to deliver an address at some convenient time during the session, suitable to the occasion; and the undersigned chairman of the joint committee was instructed to communicate such invitation.

" Aside from other considerations, the committee, in rendering this invitation, beg leave to state that, inasmuch as the deceased, on the occasion of the death of your honored father, delivered an oration to his memory before our State Legislature, the committee feel that nothing could be more appropriate, and nothing afford the friends of the honored dead a greater degree of satisfaction than to have you, on this interesting and solemn occasion, reciprocate the favor by accepting this invitation.

" Requesting the favor of an early reply,

" I am,

" Yours, very respectfully,

" JOHN C. PERRY,  
" Chairman of Joint Committee."

MR. ADAMS' REPLY.

" 57 MOUNT VERNON STREET,  
" BOSTON, February 12, 1873. }

" Hon. J. C. PERRY,

" Chairman, etc., Senate of New York, Albany:

" *Dear Sir*—I have to acknowledge the reception, this morning, of your letter of the 8th instant, and of a copy of the resolutions adopted by the Legislature of New York, on the occasion of the decease of their eminent statesman, the late W. H. SEWARD.

" On behalf of the joint committee authorized to act under one of those resolutions, you, as their chairman, have been pleased to signify to me their wish that I should deliver the address contemplated.

" Profoundly sensible of the honor conferred upon me, I feel as if I could not decline the task, however unworthy to perform it.

" In accepting it, however, it becomes of some importance to me to know what period of time can be allotted to me within which to accomplish the work. As much of the material which I should wish to gather for the purpose must be found scattered

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far and wide, and the sessions of the Legislature are already considerably advanced, this becomes a question upon which my absolute decision must turn. I should be sorry to do a hurried or hasty thing upon so great an occasion.

"I am, very truly,

"Your obedient servant,

"CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS."

SECOND LETTER TO MR. ADAMS.

"STATE OF NEW YORK:

"SENATE CHAMBER,  
"ALBANY, February 15, 1873."

"HON. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS,  
"Boston, Mass."

"Dear Sir—Your letter of the 12th accepting the invitation contained in my communication of the 8th instant, to deliver an address on the life of WILLIAM H. SEWARD, before the New York Legislature, was received this morning, and laid before the joint committee.

"In reply, I beg leave to state that the committee have instructed me to tender their very sincere thanks for your prompt and cordial acceptance of their invitation, and to inform you that it is their opinion that the session of the Legislature will not terminate before the 10th of April.

"The committee, therefore, will set apart for the memorial occasion any day prior to that time, which you may be pleased to designate.

"Very respectfully and obediently yours,

"JOHN C. PERRY,

"Chairman of Joint Committee."

The day finally fixed upon for the memorial proceedings was Friday, the 18th day of April—the exercises to be held in the North Reformed Church.

On the day designated, the Legislature and invited guests assembled at the Capitol, and, headed by his Excellency, Governor JOHN A. DIX, and staff, proceeded in a body to the church, where the following exercises took place, his Excellency presiding, assisted by Lieutenant-Governor JOHN C. ROBINSON, President of the Senate, and the Hon. A. B. CORNELL, Speaker of the Assembly.

