

**PROCEEDINGS AT THE  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
OF THE BATTLE OF  
LEXINGTON, APRIL 19, 1875**

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Proceedings at the centennial celebration of the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1875 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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LEXINGTON CENTENNIAL.



LEXINGTON, MASS.

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OF THE

# Battle of Lexington,

APRIL 19, 1875.



LEXINGTON:  
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## NOTE.

THE Committee chosen to arrange and publish the speeches, correspondence, and other proceedings connected with the recent celebration at Lexington, have the honor to present the result of their labors in the following pages.

We congratulate ourselves and our associates on being able to furnish so full a record of an occasion which we believe reflects honor upon the town, and which seems to have awakened a generous spirit of patriotism throughout the country.

Knowing that it was the desire of the town to make the celebration national in its character, and worthy of the grand inheritance we have received from our Revolutionary fathers, the Committee issued their invitations to all branches of the General and State Government, to public institutions, and important societies, to the governors of all the States, and to distinguished individuals in all parts of the country.

Having no historical name to acquire, and being content with the honor long since accorded her, Lexington felt that she ought to use the advantages of her position by harmonizing public feeling, and reviving, so far as possible, the noble sentiments that inspired the hearts of our ancestors, and nerved them to heroic deeds in the early days of the Republic.

Actuated by these feelings, our principal speakers were selected as representative men of eminent ability, whose utterances on this historic ground would be widely recognized as expressing the broad and just views of loyal Americans of all parties and of every section.

As we see a general disposition to make our numerous centennials contribute to the peace and harmony of the country, it is a matter of satisfaction to us, that we were permitted to take the lead in this good work; and we rejoice that the voice from Lexington Common in 1875, like that which was heralded from the same spot in 1775, has done something to excite a genuine patriotic feeling in all parts of the land.

The foreign letters published in this volume refer to the honorable position which our country has won among the nations, during the first century of its existence.

The response of Mr. Gladstone shows a rare knowledge of the principles underlying our political system, and, by its mingled wisdom and kindness, has helped to strengthen the bonds of good-will that already unite us so closely with the people of Great Britain.

We have inserted several speeches which were prepared for the occasion, and which, but for the chilliness of the weather and the delays incident to so large a gathering, would have been delivered at the tables.

We have also given an account of the Sunday services; believing that the solemn sanctions of religion are highly important to enforce the duties of the citizen, and that patriotism is only one form of Christianity.

As our village clergyman, in the dark days of the Revolution, gave a moral and religious tone to the movement of the patriots, it was felt that we were following a good precedent in reminding the people of the close connection between love to God and love to our country.

The Historical Appendix is designed to give the general progress of the town, since the publication of the History of Lexington in 1868, and to furnish an epoch from which to estimate her future growth.

A few wood-cuts will be found at the close of the volume.

CHARLES HUDSON,  
EDWARD G. PORTER.

*Committee of Publication.*