

**AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
AT THE CELEBRATION OF ITS  
SEVENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY,  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1876**

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An Address Delivered Before the New-York Historical Society, At the Celebration of Its Seventy-Second Anniversary, Tuesday, December 19, 1876 by Frederic De Peyster

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**FREDERIC DE PEYSTER**

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# An Address

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

AT THE CELEBRATION OF ITS

*SEVENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY,*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1876.

BY

FREDERIC DE PEYSTER, LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.



*NEW YORK:*

PUBLISHED FOR THE SOCIETY.

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## SEVENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

At a special meeting of the **NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, held in its Hall, on Tuesday evening, December 19, 1876, to celebrate the Seventy-second Anniversary of the founding of the Society, the First Vice-president, **WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT, I.L.D.**, presided.

In accordance with the course observed on similar commemorative occasions the Rev. **WILLIAM ADAMS, D.D., I.L.D.**, and President of the Union Theological Seminary, New York, at the request of the presiding officer offered up a very impressive and appropriate prayer.

Mr. Bryant then introduced the President of the Society as the orator of the evening, and said:

Gentlemen of the New York Historical Society—The gentleman whom your suffrages have constituted the President of this Society needs no formal introduction from me when about to appear before you. Lately we listened with interest to a discourse of his, which may be designated as a monograph of William the Third. This evening he will conduct us through what I may call a gallery of the intellectual portraits of the representative men by whom the reign of that monarch was illustrated. I present to you Mr. de Peyster, who will address you.

The President, **FREDERIC DE PEYSTER, I.L.D.**, then delivered the Anniversary Address, the subject being: "Representative Men of the English Revolution."

On the conclusion of the address, **HON. JAMES W. DEEKMAN**, Second Vice-president, submitted a resolution, and spoke as follows:

I submit to the Society a proposition which I am sure will meet with an unanimous response:

To the wise care of the Dutch Stadtholder, who was afterwards William the Third of England, the Colonies that became these United States of America owed much.

Education and liberty of conscience, brought over by him from Holland into England, were in turn transmitted under his government to the Western Continent.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel into Foreign Parts was chartered by William III., and was the crowning glory of a ruler who had vetoed the Massachusetts law that punished witchcraft with death, had established William and Mary College in Virginia, originated the Society Library in New York, sent Halley the astronomer to America, and instructed the Earl of Bellomont to educate the people at large, including the Negroes and the Indians.

Such a sovereign drew around him men of like ability, and for the admirable commemoration just given us of John Locke, Sir Isaac Newton, Dryden, Dean Swift, Bishop Stillingfleet, Sir William Temple, and Marlborough, our hearty thanks are due.

It is fitting that a descendant of Col. Abraham de Peyster—who, as Senior and Presiding Member of the King's Council, administered *pro. tem.* the affairs of this Province, in 1700—should remind us of these illustrious contemporaries and subjects of the Great Hollander who secured in England the liberty of the press and of religion, and who established there honest finance and ministerial responsibility.

Abraham de Peyster, as Alderman, Mayor of New York City, Colonel commanding the Militia, Horse and Foot, of the City and County of New York, Judge of the Supreme Court, and Treasurer of the Provinces of New York and New Jersey, was eminent as a defender of popular freedom in the Colonies. He was virtually the Finance Minister on whom a succession of the Royal Governors relied, and he deserves to be ranked among the ablest public men of the reign of the Third William of England.

I move, therefore, the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the President of the Society, FREDERIC DE PEYSTER, Esq., LL.D., for his learned and able address delivered before the Society this evening, and that a copy be requested for publication.

Mr. Bryant, on putting the question, said:

You have heard the resolution, gentlemen; it is seconded, and I am sure will meet with your hearty approval. The profound attention which you have given to the discourse of our President testifies to your sense of its merits, and you will readily adopt a resolution which so well expresses the pleasure it has given us.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

[Extract from the Minutes.]

ANDREW WARNER,  
*Recording Secretary.*



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY, 1876.

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