

**AN ADDRESS TO THE CITIZENS OF  
BOSTON ON THE XVIIITH OF  
SEPTEMBER MDCCCXXX, THE CLOSE  
OF THE SECOND CENTURY FROM THE  
FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE CITY**

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An address to the citizens of Boston on the XVIIth of September MDCCCXXX, the close of the second century from the first settlement of the city by Josiah Quincy

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# **JOSIAH QUINCY**

**AN ADDRESS TO THE CITIZENS OF  
BOSTON ON THE XVIIITH OF  
SEPTEMBER MDCCCXXX, THE CLOSE  
OF THE SECOND CENTURY FROM THE  
FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE CITY**



*with respect of*  
AN *Josiah Quincy*  
**ADDRESS**

TO

THE CITIZENS OF BOSTON,

ON THE XVII<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER, M DCCC XXX,

THE CLOSE

OF

THE SECOND CENTURY

FROM THE

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE CITY.

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BY JOSIAH QUINCY, LL. D.  
PRESIDENT OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

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BOSTON:

J. H. EASTBURN, PRINTER TO THE CITY.

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1830.



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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CITY OF BOSTON.

*In Common Council, Sept. 17, 1830.*

ORDERED, that the Committee of Arrangements for the Celebration of this day be, and they are hereby, directed to present the thanks of the City Council to the Honorable JOSIAH QUINCY, for the learned, eloquent, and appropriate Address, this day delivered by him, and respectfully request a copy of said Address for the press.

Sent up for concurrence,

B. T. PICKMAN, *President.*

*In the Board of Aldermen, Sept. 17, 1830.*

Read and concurred.

H. G. OTIS, *Mayor.*

*A true copy, Attest,*

S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*

*Boston, Sept. 17, 1830.*

Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY,

THE undersigned, the Committee of Arrangements for the Centennial Celebration of the Settlement of Boston, have the honor to enclose you an attested copy of a vote of the City Council, and respectfully ask your compliance with the request contained therein.

H. G. OTIS.  
BENJAMIN RUSSELL.  
WINSLOW LEWIS.  
J. EYELETH.  
TH. MINNS.  
B. T. PICKMAN.  
J. W. JAMES.  
JOHN P. BIGELOW.  
WASHINGTON P. GRAAG.





## ADDRESS.

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Of all the affections of man, those which connect him with ancestry are among the most natural and generous. They enlarge the sphere of his interests; multiply his motives to virtue; and give intensity to his sense of duty to generations to come, by the perception of obligation to those which are past. In whatever mode of existence man finds himself, be it savage or civilized, he perceives that he is indebted for the far greater part of his possessions and enjoyments, to events over which he had no control; to individuals, whose names, perhaps, never reached his ear; to sacrifices, in which he never shared; and to sufferings, awakening in his bosom few and very transient sympathies.

Cities and empires, not less than individuals, are chiefly indebted for their fortunes to circumstances and influences independent of the labors and wisdom of the passing generation. Is our lot cast in a happy soil, beneath a favored sky, and under the shelter of free institutions? How few of all these blessings do we owe to our own power, or our own

prudence ! How few, on which we cannot discern the impress of long past generations !

It is natural, that reflections of this kind should awaken curiosity concerning the men of past ages. It is suitable, and characteristic of noble natures, to love to trace in venerated institutions the evidences of ancestral worth and wisdom ; and to cherish that mingled sentiment of awe and admiration, which takes possession of the soul, in the presence of ancient, deep-laid, and massy monuments of intellectual and moral power.

Under impulses thus natural and generous, at the invitation of your municipal authorities, you have assembled, Citizens of Boston, on this day, in commemoration of the era of the foundation of your city, bearing in fond recollection the virtues of your fathers, to pass in review the circumstances which formed their character, and the institutions which bear its stamp ; to take a rapid survey of that broad horizon, which is resplendent with their glories ; to compress, within the narrow circle of an hour, the results of memory, perception, and hope ; combining honor to the past, gratitude for the present, and fidelity to the future.

Standing, after the lapse of two centuries, on the very spot selected for us by our fathers, and surrounded by social, moral, and religious blessings greater than paternal love, in its fondest visions, ever dared to fancy, we naturally turn our eyes backward, on the descending current of years ; seeking the causes of that prosperity, which has given this city so distinguished a name and rank among similar associations of men.

Happily its foundations were not laid in dark ages, nor is its origin to be sought among loose and obscure traditions. The age of our early ancestors was, in many respects, eminent for learning and civilization. Our ancestors themselves were deeply versed in the knowledge and attainments of their period. Not only their motives and acts appear in the general histories of their time, but they are unfolded in their own writings, with a simplicity and boldness, at once commanding admiration and not permitting mistake. If this condition of things restrict the imagination in its natural tendency to exaggerate, it assists the judgment rightly to analyze, and justly to appreciate. If it deny the power, enjoyed by ancient cities and states, to elevate our ancestors above the condition of humanity, it confers a much more precious privilege, that of estimating by unequivocal standards the intellectual and moral greatness of the early, intervening, and passing periods; and thus of judging concerning comparative attainment and progress in those qualities which constitute the dignity of our species. Instead of looking back, as antiquity was accustomed to do, on fabling legends of giants and heroes,—of men exceeding in size, in strength, and in labor, all experience and history, and consequently, being obliged to contemplate the races of men, dwindling with time, and growing less amid increasing stimulants and advantages; we are thus enabled to view things in lights more conformed to the natural suggestions of reason, and the actual results of observation;—to witness improvement in its slow but sure progress;—in a general advance, constant and unquestionable;—