

**THE HISTORY OF LIBERTY, A
PAPER READ BEFORE
THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 6, 1866**

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The History of Liberty, a Paper Read Before the New York Historical Society, February 6, 1866
by John F. Aiken

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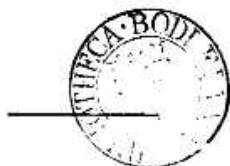
THE
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A PAPER READ BEFORE THE
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FEBRUARY 6, 1896.

BY
JOHN F. AIKEN.

WITH SELECTED NOTES.



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TO
EMILIO CASTELAR,
OF SPAIN;
STATESMAN, SCHOLAR, AND ORATOR;
FRIEND OF AMERICA, OF LIBERTY, AND OF HUMAN PROGRESS;
THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHOR,
WITH THE EARNEST WISH THAT HIS ARDUOUS EFFORTS FOR THE
WELFARE OF HIS COUNTRY MAY ERRLONG.
UNDER THE SMILE OF HEAVEN, BE ATTENDED WITH AN ABUNDANT
AND GLORIOUS HARVEST.



Figure 1. Relationship between the number of species (S) and the number of individuals (N) for 10 different species.

At a stated meeting of the New York Historical Society held in its Hall, on Tuesday evening,

The paper of the evening, entitled, "THE HISTORY OF LIBERTY," was read by Mr. John F. Aiken.

On its conclusion, the Rev. Samuel Osgood, D.D., submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Aiken for his interesting paper, read this evening, and that a copy be requested for the archives of the Society.

[Extract from the minutes.]

ANDREW WARNER,
Recording Secretary.

" I saw the expectant nations stand
To catch the coming flame in turn ;
I saw from ready hand to hand
The clear though struggling glory burn.

And oh ! their joy as it came near,
'Twas in itself a joy to see,
When Fancy whispered in my ear,
That torch they pass is Liberty ! "

MOORE.

" Thou, too, sail on, O ship of State !
Sail on, O Union, strong and great,
Humanity, with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate !

Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea !
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee,—are all with thee ! "

LONGFELLOW.

P R E F A C E .

It is now an acknowledged fact that nowhere among all the nations is there so great a degree of liberty as in the United States. To say this is not to speak boastingly, but truthfully, of our country. Yet this is the result of centuries of trial and experience, for all the conflicts against tyranny in Europe, whether successful or unsuccessful, have been preparing the way for the growth of "the fair consummate flower" of freedom upon this Western Continent, which shall shed its fragrance over the world.

In the following pages I have endeavored to show the various experiences through which different nations have passed where freedom has struggled for development; how great eras have powerfully affected the condition of the world, especially the Christian era, and the era of the Reformation, and also the influence of great and successful wars for human rights upon several nations;

That the fierce struggle in the Netherlands for