

**ORATORY: AN ORATION.
DELIVERED
BEFORE THE NATIONAL
SCHOOL OF ORATORY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649330225

Oratory: an oration. Delivered before the National School of Oratory by Henry Ward Beecher

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HENRY WARD BEECHER

**ORATORY: AN ORATION.
DELIVERED
BEFORE THE NATIONAL
SCHOOL OF ORATORY**

ORATORY:

AN ORATION

BY

REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

National School of Oratory,

UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS THIRD ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT,
HELD IN THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC,
PHILADELPHIA, MAY 29, 1876.

PRINTED FROM THE AUTHORIZED REPORT OF
MR. T. J. ELLINWOOD.

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT,
THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ORATORY.
PHILADELPHIA,
1880.

INTRODUCTION.

The National School of Oratory was organized September 1st, 1873. The exercises of its public inauguration were held in the American Academy of Music, June 11th, 1874. The honorary oration constitutes a prominent feature of the Annual Commencement in connection with the prize contest, and the presentation of diplomas. The first was delivered by Hon. John W. Forney, and the second by Dr. J. G. Holland. We publish herewith the oration of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, delivered upon the occasion of the Third Annual Commencement, held May 29th, 1876. The

following from the opening report of the Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph* will best introduce this interesting occasion.

“Despite the inclemency of the weather last evening a fashionable and appreciative audience assembled at the Academy of Music for the purpose of welcoming and listening to an oration by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, on the occasion of the third annual commencement and grand prize contest of the National School of Oratory, of which Professor J. W. Shoemaker, A. M., is Principal. The body of the house was filled, and many were forced to ascend to the galleries in order to secure seats. While the audience was gathering, Carl Sentz’s Parlor Orchestra discoursed *Banditenstriche*, *Cagliostro*, and selections from the opera of *Fra Diavolo*, in a manner to call forth rounds of applause.

“ Shortly after eight o'clock, the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, General John F. Eaton, Prof. J. W. Shoemaker, Rev. John Peddie, the members of the Faculty, and the graduating class of 1876, consisting of eighteen ladies and eighteen gentlemen, filed on the platform, and as they proceeded to the positions assigned them, were rapturously applauded. The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, who was the cynosure of all eyes, was escorted to a position near the desk.

“ The exercises were opened with prayer by the Rev. John Peddie, D. D., at the close of which Prof. Shoemaker, said:—

“ We are very greatly honored to-night, ladies and gentlemen, by the presence of the first official representative of our great American system of education, who will introduce to you the first

of American orators. I introduce to you General John F. Eaton, United States Commissioner of Education.'

"When the applause had subsided, General Eaton stepped forward and said: 'It is most fitting, in connection with the proposed oratorical contest, that the first orator of the country, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, should address this large and refined audience. I take pleasure in introducing this distinguished gentleman, who will now address you.'"

PHILADELPHIA, June 1st, 1876.

ORATION

BY

REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

I congratulate myself, always, for the privilege of appearing before a Philadelphia audience—intelligent, sympathetic, appreciative; but never more than now, when the audience is assembled both to behold, and to bear witness to, one of the noblest institutions that could be established in your midst; one of the most needed; and one which I have reason to believe has been established under the inspiration of the highest motives, not only of patriotism in education, but of religion.

itself. This city—eminent in many respects for its institutions, and for its various collections which make civilization so honorable—I congratulate, that now, at last, it has established a school of oratory in this central position, equidistant from the South, from the West, and from the North, as a fitting centre from which should go out influences that shall exalt, if not regenerate, public sentiment on the subject of oratory ; for, while progress has been made, and is making, in the training of men for public speaking, I think I may say that, relative to the exertions that are put forth in other departments of education, this subject is behind almost all others. Training in this department is the great want of our day ; for we are living in a land whose genius, whose history, whose institutions, whose people, eminently demand oratory.