

**AN ORATION DELIVERED ON THE
FOURTH OF JULY, 1861, BEFORE
THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES
OF THE CITY OF BOSTON**

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An Oration Delivered on the Fourth of July, 1861, Before the Municipal Authorities of the City of Boston by Theophilus Parsons

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OF THE

CITY OF BOSTON.

BY THEOPHILUS PARSONS.

With an Appendix.

BOSTON:

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1861.



CITY OF BOSTON.

In Common Council, July 5, 1861.

RESOLVED: That the thanks of the City Council are hereby presented to the HON. THEOPHILUS PARSONS for his very eloquent and patriotic Oration before the Municipal Authorities of the City of Boston on the occasion of the Eighty-fifth Anniversary of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States of America, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication.

Sent up for concurrence.

JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, *President.*

In Board of Aldermen, July 8, 1861.

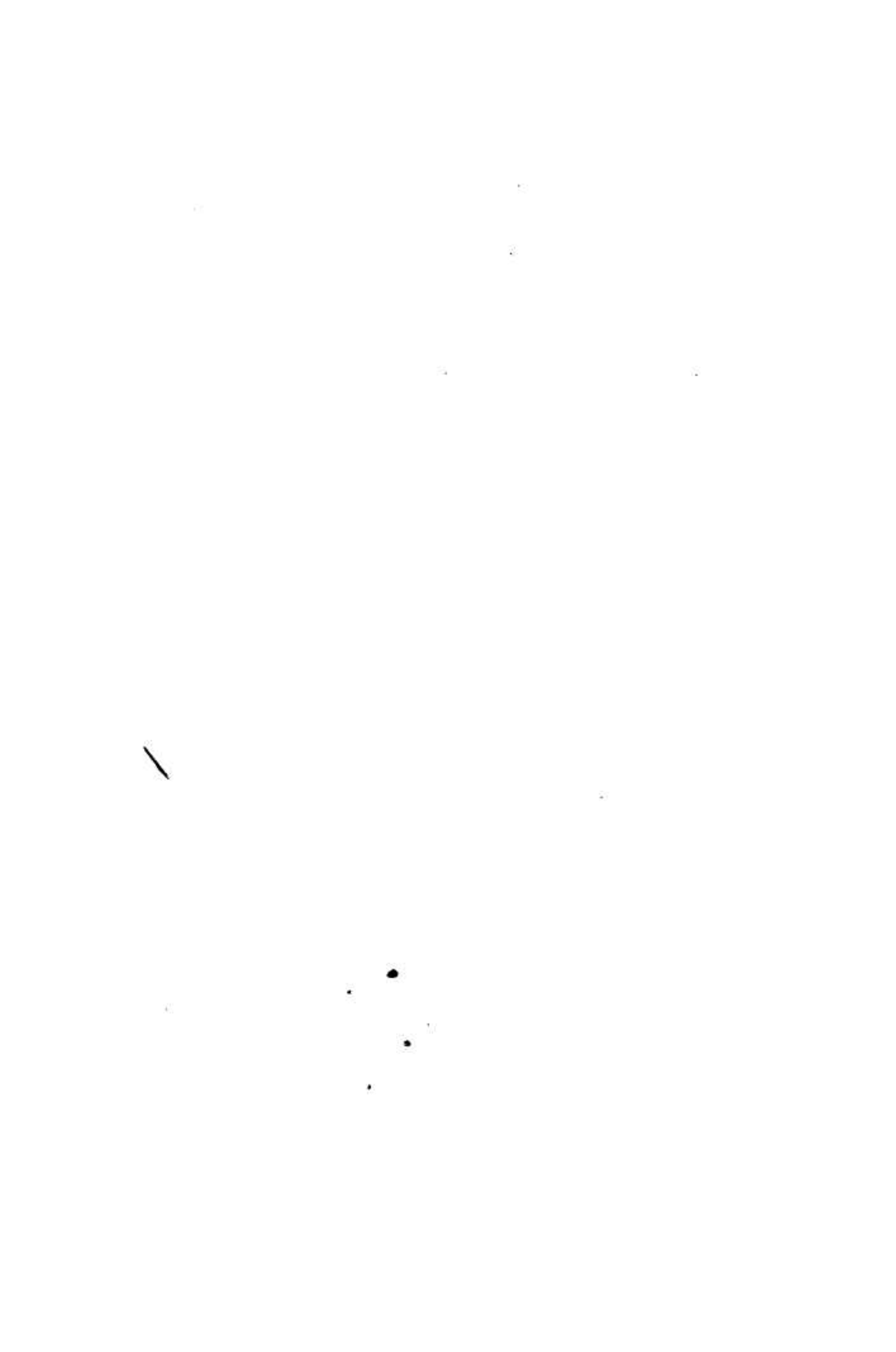
Concurred.

SILAS PEIRCE, *Chairman.*

Approved, July 10, 1861.

JOSEPH M. WIGHTMAN, *Mayor.*

Received July 12 1861



ORATION.



ORATION.

OUR fathers, in acquiring at great loss of life and treasure, their independence from England, had no intention and no desire to escape from government. They knew, for they were wise, that the absence of all government from masses of men is an absolute impossibility. They knew that anarchy itself is government; the government of passion, of selfishness, of folly intensified into madness; of wickedness developed to its highest power, and given up to the fearful work of self-punishment. They knew that government was not only necessary, but inevitable. And all their efforts were bent towards establishing the best government.

They were wise men. The annals of human thought exhibit nowhere a more profound, acute, far-reaching, and all-embracing sagacity on the subject of human government, than some of the writings of that day. But, if it was of Divine Providence that at this most important juncture in the history of mankind there should be wise and faithful men, able to cast