THE TWO-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BIRTH OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN:
CELEBRATION BY THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND THE CITY OF BOSTON IN SYMPHONY
HALL, BOSTON, JANUARY 17, 1906

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649726431

The Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Benjamin Franklin: Celebration by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston in Symphony Hall, Boston, January 17, 1906 by Various

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AND THE

CITY OF BOSTON

IN SYMPHONY HALL, BOSTON

JANUARY 17, 1906



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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT
AND THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

1906

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es es ²² INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

THE first step toward a formal recognition in his native town of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin was taken in the Massachusetts General Court on January 26, 1905, when a resolve was offered by Representative Joseph J. Leonard, of West Roxbury, for the appointment of a committee of five by the Governor to arrange for a proper celebration to be held in Boston, on January 17, 1906.

This resolve passed in due course its various stages in the Legislature and became a law by the approval of His Excellency William L. Douglas, Governor of the Commonwealth, May 1, 1905.

The appropriation which this resolve carried was made conditional on concurrent action and a like appropriation by the City Council of Boston. On October 9, 1905, Acting Mayor Daniel A. Whelton sent a message to the City Council recommending such action, which was promptly taken, in the form of an order authorizing the acting mayor to appoint five citizens of Boston to cooperate with the committee on the part of the Commonwealth in arranging for the celebration, and also making a suitable appropriation.

Under the authority thus given Governor Douglas, on September 13, 1905, appointed as the committee on the part of the Commonwealth: —

The Hon. Samuel Abbott Green, the senior ex-mayor of Boston and the librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society, chaliman; Lindsay Swift, Esq., of the Boston Fublic Library; Patrick J. Guerin, Esq., secretary of the Franklin Typographical Society; C. B. Tillinghast, Esq., librarian of the State Library, and Edward H. Clement, Esq., editor of the Boston Evening Transcript.

October 28, 1905, Acting Mayor Whelton appointed as the committee on the part of the city of Boston: —