

**EULOGY ON THE CHARACTER AND
SERVICES OF THE LATE DANIEL WEBSTER,
PRONOUNCED AT THE REQUEST OF THE
SELECT AND COMMON COUNCILS OF
THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY
18, 1853, PP. 3-47**

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WILLIAM H. ALLEN

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EULOGY

ON THE

CHARACTER AND SERVICES

OF THE LATE

DANIEL WEBSTER,

PROFOUNDED AT THE REQUEST OF THE

Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia,

JANUARY 18, 1853,

BY WILLIAM H. ALLEN, LL. D.,

MEMBER OF THE BOARD COLLEGE FOR PHYSICS.

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1853.

EXTRACT

FROM THE

JOURNAL OF COUNCILS.

Thursday, November 4, 1852.

Mr. Poulson offered the following resolutions:—

Whereas, The principles and opinions which Daniel Webster so nobly advocated and sustained throughout his eventful life, according to his own words, are essential to the preservation of the Union, the maintenance of the Constitution, and the advancement of the country to the highest stages of prosperity and renown:—and these objects have constituted his Pole-star during the whole of his political career, which extended through more than half the period of the existence of the government, and

Whereas, When in the dispensations of His Providence, it is the will of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe to withdraw, by death, from amongst us, and from amidst his career of usefulness, such a man, such a friend, such a gifted lover of his country, as Daniel Webster, we cannot but severely feel and deeply deplore the event as a national affliction: it becomes us to bow in reverential and prayerful submission before Him who gave, and who hath taken away: and

Whereas, In the character and services of Daniel Webster, as a Statesman, and as a Patriot, the people of this country have examples of pure devotion to the public good at home, and of the just preservation of the dignity and honor of his country abroad,—examples, to be cherished and imitated;—and

although the bitterness of grief be upon us for his loss, yet the memory of his deeds will be the more deeply enshrined, and live in brightness in the hearts of his countrymen—encouraging, sustaining, the determination never to depart from those glorious precepts he inculcated and practised alike with the great fathers of this republic, Washington and his associates,—and never forget the lessons taught by such wisdom and experience :

Therefore, Entertaining these sentiments and feelings, the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, do

Resolve,

First, That it is expedient and proper, in further testimony of their respect and veneration of the character and services of Daniel Webster, the great expounder of our National Constitution, and the advocate of those principles of government which have secured the unexampled prosperity and happiness of our beloved country,—that, a day be assigned wherein we will devote our minds to the contemplation of the life and labors of Daniel Webster—a blessing to the people—to Daniel Webster's death—a nation's loss;—and they further

Resolve, That a Joint Special Committee, consisting of two members from each Council, be appointed, who are hereby authorized to fix the day for the purpose set forth in the foregoing resolution: to invite a citizen to pronounce on that day, an oration on the character and services of the late Daniel Webster; and to make such further arrangements as may be deemed suitable and proper in order to effect the objects and purposes of these proceedings.

Which were read twice and passed.

The above preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted at a meeting of Select and Common Councils, held on the 4th day of November, A. D. 1852, and the following Joint Special Committee appointed in accordance therewith: Charles A. Poulson, *Chairman*, Samuel R. Randoll, Albert G. Waterman, and Joseph M. Thomas.

(Attest)

CRAIG BIDDLE,
Clerk of Common Council.

COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL,

November 26th, 1852.

WILLIAM H. ALLEN, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—The undersigned on behalf of a Joint Special Committee appointed in pursuance of certain proceedings in Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, in relation to the death of the lamented Daniel Webster,—a copy of which, contained in a portion of their Journal is herewith enclosed,—respectfully take the liberty of waiting on you, to express their desire, that it may be convenient and agreeable to you to pronounce the eulogy suggested therein, on the character and services of that eminent statesman and benefactor.

We have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

CHARLES A. POULSON,

A. G. WATERMAN,

Sub-Committee, &c.

Girard College, November 29, 1852.

GENTLEMEN:—Though deeply conscious that I am not equal to the honorable duty which you have assigned me, I am constrained by a sense of my obligations to yourselves and to the Select and Common Councils which you represent, to comply with the request which you have so courteously made.

I have the honor to remain,

Most truly and respectfully, yours,

WILLIAM H. ALLEN.

To Messrs. CHARLES A. POULSON,

A. G. WATERMAN,

Sub-Committee of Arrangements

Committee Room, January 30, 1853.

WILLIAM H. ALLEN, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—The undersigned, a Special Committee appointed by Select and Common Councils in furtherance of the objects of a preamble and resolutions passed by Councils on the 4th of November last; have peculiar gratification in requesting from you a copy of the eloquent and appropriate Eulogium, illustrative of the life and character of the lamented Daniel Webster, pronounced by you before Councils, and a large assemblage of our fellow-citizens, on Tuesday, the 18th inst., at the Musical Fund Hall.

The Committee desire to see this eulogy preserved in a permanent form, and especially because an opportunity will thus be presented to all of participating in the pleasure and advantage which was enjoyed by those who were present at its oral enunciation.

We have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

CHAS. A. POULSON, *Chairman.*

A. G. WATERMAN,

SAMUEL J. RANDALL,

JOSEPH M. THOMAS,

Special Committee of Select and Common Councils.

EULOGY.

THE exit of an unusual number of illustrious men, both at home and abroad, has given a mournful interest to the past year. It was observed long ago, that there are periods of peculiar brilliancy in history, when many distinguished men cluster together; and it would seem that there are also periods of gloom, when the great depart together. In 1832 many bright lights of literature and science went out—Goethe, Spurzheim, Cuvier, Champolion, Crabbe, Walter Scott, Jeremy Bentham and Adam Clarke; and now, at the close of a cycle of twenty years, death has again aimed at shining marks, and has selected this time a constellation of statesmen. Among these, Wellington, Clay, Webster, and Philadelphia's loved and honored Sergeant, stand forth as names of mark—historical men—who have done much to shape the destiny of