

**JAMES RUSSELL
LOWELL: AN
ADDRESS, PP. 1-63**

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James Russell Lowell: An Address, pp. 1-63 by George William Curtis

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GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS

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An Address

BY

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



NEW YORK

HARPER AND BROTHERS

1893

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IN the letter of Augustus Graham, the founder of the Brooklyn Institute, dated July 4, 1848, accompanying the gift of the property to the Board of Trustees, he says: "I give this sum with the injunction to your Board . . . that one-half of the net income from the buildings apply to the increase and keeping in order of the free library of the Institute, the residue of said income to be applied in part to the expense of an address to be delivered on the evening of the 22d of February, the birthday of George Washington, on the character of that great man, or of some other benefactor of America."

Mr. Lowell had hoped, should his health permit, to deliver the address on the 22d of February, 1892. Upon his death, on the 12th

of August, 1891, it was decided that, in accordance with the provision of Mr. Graham's letter, the annual address of this year should be a discourse in commemoration of Mr. Lowell.

March 1, 1892.

Then from the hangpuckle pry,
The oird, with spivined quest,
Twidest the fibrous bast away,
The carlage of his hammock: waf,
An fule by tunces to frow a net
Ried as the orange of his threst.

FACSIMILE OF STANEA FROM LOWELL'S POEM, "THE NEST"



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JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.



HE birthday of Washington not only recalls a great historic figure, but it reminds us of the quality of great citizenship. His career is at once our inspiration and our rebuke. Whatever is lofty, fair, and patriotic in public conduct, instinctively we call by his name; whatever is base, selfish, and unworthy, is shamed by the lustre of his life. Like the flaming sword turning every way that guarded the gate of Paradise, Washington's example is the beacon shining at the opening of our annals and lighting the path of our national life.