

# **AFTER-DINNER AND OTHER SPEECHES**

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After-Dinner and Other Speeches by John D. Long

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**JOHN D. LONG**

**AFTER-DINNER AND  
OTHER SPEECHES**



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SPEECHES

BY  
JOHN D. LONG



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA

BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
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1897

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TO VINU  
AIRROTIAO

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*These speeches, made when I was in public life, may have some value as a partial reflection of the public sentiment, and of the topics and occasions, of a generation in Massachusetts, which is now more past than present, and to which, mindful of the kindnesses and opportunities it gave me, I gratefully inscribe them.*

*Hingham, February 22, 1895.*

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UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

DANIEL WEBSTER.

THE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH, MARSHFIELD CLUB,  
PARKER HOUSE, BOSTON, JANUARY 18, 1832.

It is but a poor tribute that even the most eloquent voice, least of all mine, can pay for Massachusetts to the memory of her mightiest man of state and her greatest orator. Among her sons he towers like the massive shaft on Bunker Hill, upon the base and crest of which his name is emblazoned clearer than if chiseled deep in its granite cubes. For years he was her synonym. Among the states he sustained her at that proud height which Winthrop and Sam Adams gave her in the colonial and provincial days. With what matchless grandeur he defended her! With what overwhelming power he impressed her convictions upon the national life! God seems to appoint men to special work; and, that done, the very effort of its achievement exhausts them, and they rise not again to the summit of their meridian. So it was with Webster. He knows little of written constitutions and frames of government who does not know that they exist less in the letter than in the interpretation and construction of the letter. In this light it is not too much to say that the constitution of the United States, as it existed when it sustained our country through the recent and greatest peril that ever tested it, and as it reflected the popular sense, was the crystallization of the mind of Webster. It came from its framers, and was accepted by some of our own, in New England, as a compact of states, sove-