

**INDEPENDENCE  
DAY: AN ADDRESS,  
PP. 1-53**

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Independence Day: An Address, pp. 1-53 by Edward E. Hale

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DAY

AN ADDRESS

BY EDWARD E. HALE

Philadelphia  
HENRY ALTEMUS



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HENRY ALTEMUS, MANUFACTURER  
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## THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of our Independence stated a fact in history.

It declares that the Thirteen States agreeing to it ARE free and independent states.

In making this declaration, it announces an existing fact. "These states *are* independent" of any foreign power: this is the statement of the Congress. The members of the Congress do not say that the states will be independent, or that they propose to be independent. They state the fact of history, known to them, known to the Thirteen States which they represent, that they *are* free and independent.

We speak of to-day as the one hundred and seventeenth anniversary of Independ-

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### *The Declaration*

ence. We are more accurate when we say that to-day is the one hundred and seventeenth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. To say the truth, most of these colonies had been independent of England almost from the moment when the first settlers planted their feet upon American soil.

The Declaration differs thus—it differs by the whole sky—from the declaration by which Texas announces that it will be independent of Mexico. It differs from any declaration by which Athens or Sparta, seventy years ago, might have said, "We will be independent of the Sublime Porte." It differs from any declaration by which Venezuela or Peru might have said, "We will be independent of Spain"; or Brazil, "We will be independent of Portugal."

Such declarations are very noble and very grand. But they state a purpose

*of Independence.*

and a hope only. The Declaration of the Thirteen States states a square fact of history: "These United Colonies ARE and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States."

It is with peculiar pleasure that I find myself invited to speak of this Declaration thus, as a simple record of history. It is at the beginning of the summer work of the People's College that this great anniversary recurs. It is this accident, shall I say, which gives me the opportunity to speak of it as one of the historical memorials of the time. Very naturally, in the exultation of a century and more, men have been glad to exhaust their rhetoric in enthusiasm for the prophetic vision of the fathers who signed it,—signed it with the ropes around their necks. It is natural, seeing that such a poet as Jefferson was the author of it, that men should read, between the lines,

### *The Declaration*

Jefferson's forecast of the noble realities which have followed fast upon the Declaration. I do not pretend to speak in censure of any such enthusiasm in the utterance of to-day or of the last hundred and twenty years. But none the less am I glad that it falls upon me, in the few minutes for which I shall ask your attention, to speak of this distinctive characteristic of the great Declaration—that it declares a fact, and not a hope alone. These Thirteen States ARE independent.

The old Greek word *metropolis* represented a condition of things which was quite familiar in history. From the metropolis to the colony there went forth supplies, stores, soldiers, munitions of war. The sovereign in the metropolis was supposed to exercise a condescending paternal care over the colonies which were growing up under his protection and advice. As matter of practice, noth-