

**PROCEEDINGS AT THE
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF CONCORD FIGHT,
APRIL 19, 1875**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649507641

Proceedings at the Centennial Celebration of Concord Fight, April 19, 1875 by James Russell Lowell & George William Curtis & Ralph Waldo Emerson

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**JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL & GEORGE
WILLIAM CURTIS & RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

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CONCORD, MASS.
PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN.
1876.

TOLMAN & WHITE, Printers,
33 Washington St.,
Boston.

PREFACE.

THE committee chosen by the town of Concord at the March meeting, 1874, and clothed with full powers to prepare for and carry out a centennial celebration of Concord Fight, deeming the occasion worthy of a more complete and permanent record than could be obtained in the columns of the newspapers, and wishing to furnish to those who were attracted to Concord by the national importance of the first Centennial of the American Revolution, and by the patriotic memories it awakened, an opportunity of preserving in a permanent form an official history of our ceremonies, and feeling it to be their duty also to render to the town an account of the manner in which they executed their trust, delegated to the undersigned the task of preparing and publishing such an account, which is herewith respectfully submitted as the Report of the Committee of Arrangements. Their financial statement appears in the Town Report for 1875-6.

The Nineteenth of April, 1775, has always been regarded by the people of New England as the national birthday; and its fiftieth and seventy-fifth anniversaries were celebrated at Concord by the towns of Middlesex, Essex, and Norfolk, whose men shared with the men of our town the dangers and glories of that day.

But the people of Concord believed that the hundredth anniversary of the opening of the Revolutionary War would be recognized universally as of national interest, and that their preparations for the celebration of it should be on a scale commensurate with the importance of the occasion.

We have thought it best, in writing this report, to adhere to the chronological order of events; and therefore — as the preparation for the Centennial began with the project of a monument to be placed

where Davis and Hosmer fell, and Buttrick gave the first order to fire on the king's troops—we have begun with a brief account of the Minute-man and its origin.

The religious services on the morning of Sunday, April 18, were held in the Old Meeting House, where the first Provincial Congress assembled. As these services were memorial in their character, and were attended by the President and his Cabinet, and by many other honored guests of the town, it may properly be said that the commemoration began on that day.

Although the ball was not a part of the celebration for which the Committee considered themselves authorized to expend the money of the town, yet any account of our proceedings would be sadly incomplete, that should omit all mention of that brilliant and beautiful scene. We have, therefore, concluded our report with a short account of the ball.

Appended hereto is a carefully prepared abstract of the literature of the Nineteenth of April, kindly furnished at our request by our townsman, James L. Whitney, the assistant superintendent of the Boston Public Library; including a heliotype facsimile of the famous Diary of Rev. William Emerson.

We have used our best endeavors to make this chronicle of a day so dear to us a complete and true one. Yet we are conscious that there was much in our celebration—the proud and tender memories, the sympathy, the spirit, the thanksgiving that moved the hearts of our people—of too fine and evanescent a quality for any record, however vivid or faithful, adequately to convey.

SAMUEL HOAR,
EDWARD W. EMERSON, } *for the Committee.*
CHARLES H. WALCOTT, }

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THE MINUTE-MAN AND THE BRIDGE.