

**AN ADDRESS PRONOUNCED IN THE
REPRESENTATIVES' HALL, MONTPELIER,
24TH OCTOBER, 1850,
BEFORE THE VERMONT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, IN THE PRESENCE OF BOTH
HOUSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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An Address Pronounced in the Representatives' Hall, Montpelier, 24th October, 1850, before the Vermont Historical Society, in the Presence of Both Houses of the General Assembly by Daniel P. Thompson

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DANIEL P. THOMPSON

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1850.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, }
Montpelier, Vt., Oct. 29, 1850. }

HON. DANIEL P. THOMPSON, Montpelier.

SIR: We have the pleasure to communicate to you the following resolution, adopted on the 25th inst:—

“Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives:

“That the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives be instructed to solicit from the Hon. Daniel P. Thompson a copy of the interesting and valuable Address pronounced by him before the Vermont Historical Society, in presence of the two Houses, on the evening of the 24th inst., and that the Secretary and Clerk procure two thousand copies thereof to be printed, and distributed under the direction of His Excellency, the Governor.”

We take occasion to express the hope that you will comply with the unanimous desire of the two Houses, in which the entire audience, on the occasion alluded to, participated.

Very respectfully, Your ob't serv'ts,

D. W. C. CLARKE, Secretary of the Senate,

C. F. DAVEY, of the House of Representatives.

MONTPELIER, Vt., 30th October, 1850.

GENTLEMEN:

It was not my intention to publish the Address, of which the two Houses have taken such flattering notice, as I thought of embodying it, with further amplifications of the subject, in a work I have in preparation for the press. But perceiving no valid objections to its publication in this form, though it may soon substantially appear in another, and being anxious to make every consistent response to a demonstration, of which I fear neither myself, nor my imperfect effort, is worthy, I can do no less than comply with your request, and that which seems involved in the resolution, a copy of which you have forwarded to me. I, therefore, place the manuscript at your disposal, and, with the assurance of my personal regard, remain

Your friend and ob't serv't,

D. P. THOMPSON.

To Gen. D. W. C. CLARKE, Secretary of the Senate,

CHALON F. DAVEY, Esq., Clerk of the House of Representatives.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent data collection procedures and the use of advanced analytical techniques to derive meaningful insights from the data.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in data management and analysis. It discusses how modern software solutions can streamline data collection, storage, and analysis processes, thereby improving efficiency and accuracy.

4. The fourth part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data management, such as data quality, security, and privacy. It provides strategies to mitigate these risks and ensure that the data remains reliable and secure throughout its lifecycle.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes by summarizing the key findings and recommendations. It stresses the importance of a data-driven approach in decision-making and the need for continuous monitoring and improvement of data management practices.

ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

VERMONT was ushered into political existence midst storm and tempest. We speak both metaphorically and literally : For it is a curious historical fact that her Constitution, the result of the first regular movement ever made by her people towards an independent civil government, was adopted during the darkest period of the Revolution—at an hour of commotion and alarm, when the tempest of war was actually bursting over her borders and threatening her entire subversion. And, as if to make the event the more remarkable, the adoption took place amidst one of the most memorable thunder storms ever known in Vermont, but for the providential occurrence of which, at that particular juncture, that important political measure, as we shall soon make apparent, must have been postponed to an indefinite period, and what is more, to a period when the growing dissensions, which, as soon as the common danger was over, New York and New Hampshire contrived to scatter among her people, must have defeated it, and thus destroyed all their prospects of the blessings of an independent civil government forever.

The whole history of the settlement and organization of this State, indeed, exhibits, when compared with those of another, the most striking anomaly. She may emphatically be called the offspring of war and controversy. The long and fierce dispute for territory between the colonies just named, had sown her soil with Dragon teeth, which at length sprang up in a crop of hardy, determined, and liberty-loving men, who instead of joining either of the contending parties, soon resolved to take a stand for them-

selves against both. And that stand they maintained with a spirit and success, to which, considering the discouragements, difficulties and dangers they were constantly compelled to encounter, history scarcely furnishes a parallel. But though every step of her progress, from the felling of the first tree in her dark wilderness to her final reception into the sisterhood of the States, was marked by the severest trials, yet the memorable year of '77, was incomparably the most trying and gloomy as well as the most glorious of her history. Within a period of forty days, indeed, from the first landing of the vauntful Burgoyne on her shores at Ticonderoga, on the 6th of July, to the 16th of August, when his Lion Flag was seen trailing in the dust at Bennington, her whole destinies seemed crowded; but it was in those very days of darkness and dismay, that she settled them all, and ensured her independence forever!

Conceiving this eventful period, therefore, to be the turning point in the destinies of Vermont, as a separate State, we shall confine our remarks to this important part of her history, and endeavor to unfold the secret and hitherto little known, but, in our estimation, the main springs of action, by which such momentous results were accomplished.

In the beginning of this memorable year the people of Vermont by their delegates in formal Convention assembled had declared themselves Independent,

"Independent of all save the mercies of God,"

to use the significant language which the poet has put into the mouth of one of their numbers. And having taken measures for publishing their declaration to the world, this Convention closed its proceedings by appointing a committee to draft a Constitution to be submitted to a new Convention which the people were invited to call for the purpose. In response to that call, a new Convention assembled at Windsor about the first of July following, and proceeded, with that diligence and scrupulous regard to the employment of their time, for which our *earlier* public bodies were

noted, to take into consideration the important instrument now submitted to them as a proper basis, on which to erect the superstructure of a civil government suited to the genius and necessities of an industrious and frugal people—a people who, though keenly jealous of their individual rights, and exceedingly restive under all foreign authority, had yet declared the wish to receive and obey a system of legal restraints, if it could be one of their own imposing—a people who had said to their leaders :

“Tho’ we owe no allegiance and bow to no throne,
We will yield to the law if that law be our own.”

For five days, from rising to setting sun, this Convention employed the best energies of their enlightened and practical minds in discussing and amending the document before them. But their labors had well nigh been lost, for the present certainly, and, for reasons before given, probably forever. For soon after they had assembled on the 6th day of their Session, and while they were intently listening to the reading of the instrument for the last time before taking a final vote on its adoption, their proceedings were suddenly brought to a stand by the alarming news, loudly proclaimed from an open despatch from the gallant Warner by a herald who appeared on his foam covered horse before their open door, that Ticonderoga, the supposed impregnable barrier of frontier defence, had fallen, and our scattered troops were flying in all directions before a formidable British army that was sweeping unopposed along the western border of the State, flanked by a horde of merciless savages, from whose fearful irruptions not a dwelling on that side the mountains would probably be spared ! This intelligence, so unexpected and so startling, too nearly concerned the members of this body as men as well as patriots, to permit their entire exemption from the general feeling of consternation and dismay which was everywhere spreading, on the wings of the wind, around them ; and many a staid heart among them secretly trembled for the fate of the near and dear ones left at home, in which the red tomahawk might, even at that

moment be busy at its work of death ; while the bosoms of all were burning to seize the sword or musket and fly to their relief or mingle in the common defence of their endangered country. Any further proceedings with the subject on hand, at such a moment was soon found to be impossible, and the greater number began to clamor for an immediate adjournment. But while a few, who had shared less than others in the panic, or were more deeply impressed with the importance of accomplishing an object, at this time, now so nearly attained, were vainly attempting to resist the current, till time was gained for reflection, an unwonted darkness, as if by special interposition of Providence, fell suddenly upon the earth. The lightnings began to gleam through the dark and threatening masses of clouds that had enveloped the sky, and the long, deep roll of thunder was heard in every quarter of the heavens, giving warning of the severe and protracted tempest, which now soon burst over them with a fury that precluded all thought of venturing abroad. The prospect of being thus confined to the place for some hours, if not for the whole day, taking from the movers all inducement for immediate adjournment, they now began to take a cooler view of the subject ; and soon, by common consent, the business on hand was resumed. The reading of the Constitution was finished, and, while the storm was still howling around them, and the thunders breaking over their heads, that instrument was adopted and became the supreme law of the land.* One thing more, however, remained to be done ; and that was to constitute a provisional government to act till the one pointed out by the Constitution could be established. This was now effected by the appointment of that small body of men, 13 in number, it is believed, since known as **THE OLD COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF VERMONT**, and noted alike for the remarkable powers with which they were invested, and the remarkable manner in which those powers were exercised : **For from the**

*This Constitution was never submitted to the people for ratification, but by general consent acquiesced in without that usual formality.