

**COMMEMORATION OF THE  
FOUR HUNDREDTH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BIRTH OF MARTIN  
LUTHER. NOVEMBER 10, 1883**

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**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Massachusetts Historical Society.

COMMEMORATION

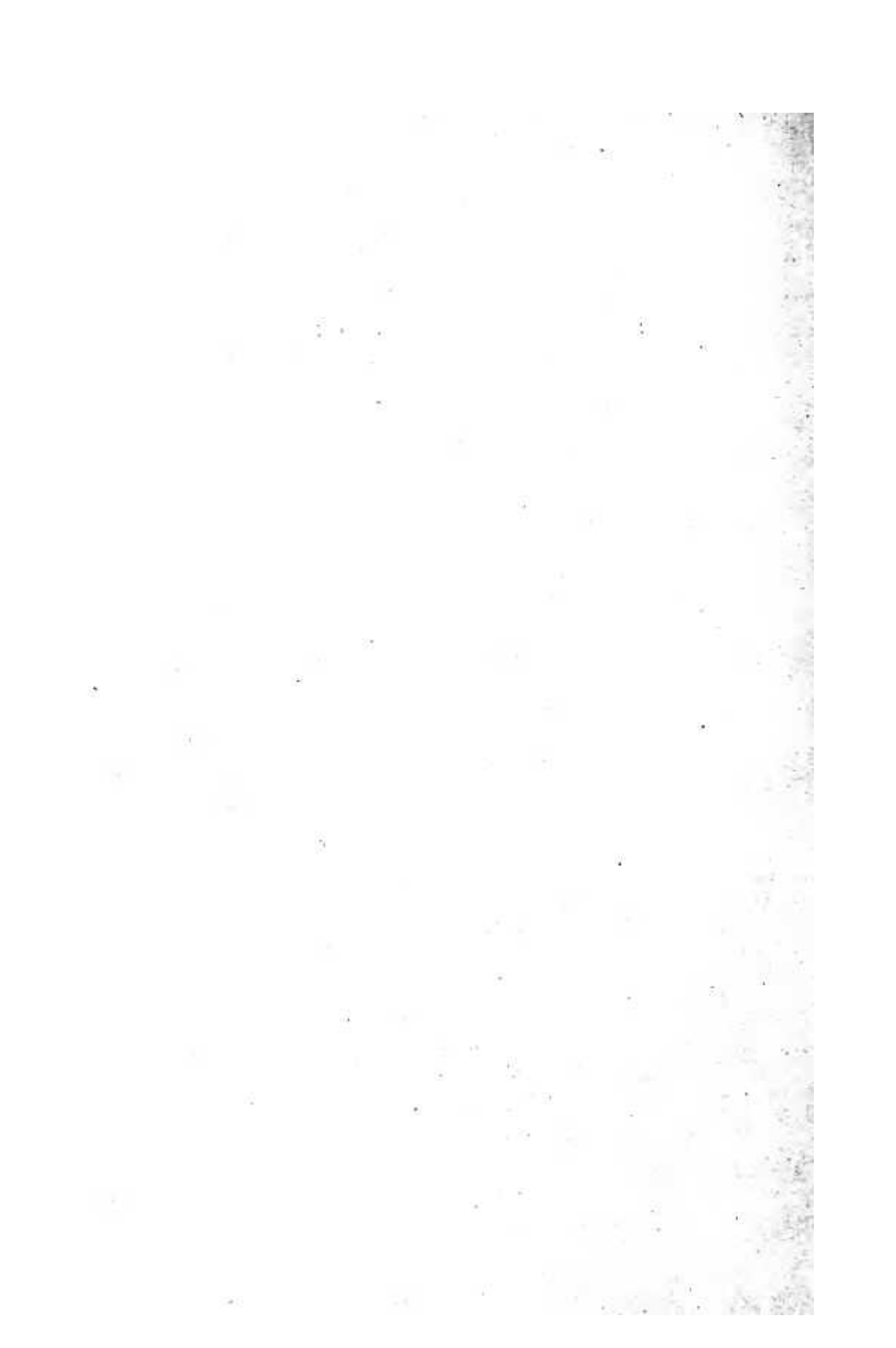
OF THE

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OF

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COMMEMORATION  
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AT a meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY held on Thursday, June 14, 1883, Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS said:—

The tenth day of November next will complete four centuries since the birth of Martin Luther. The signal influence of his life and career, among the most effective forces working through Christendom in that extended period of time, will find fitting recognition and observance in various parts of Europe. His own fatherland, rightfully taking the lead in grateful and elaborate offices of commemoration, will stir sympathetic observances among all the most advanced peoples on continent or island. On this northern half of the then New World—which, at the era of the birth of the great reformer, was veiled in darkness soon to be irradiated—there are millions of our race who will not be content with any merely responsive echo of foreign notes. It is eminently fitting that this Society, the oldest in the country in its special objects, should take not only a leading, but a prompting part, in promoting and securing such a recognition of that birthday as is in perfect harmony with our aims,—secular indeed, but not oblivious of higher interests. It offers us the broadest and most comprehensive themes and aspects, political, intellectual, philosophical, ecclesiastical, and popular.

Happily we have with us one who was for many years our associate in this Society, and a Professor in the University,— a German scholar, profoundly versed in the literature, the philosophy, the history, science, art, and broadest culture of the birth-land of Luther; and who is gifted with especial talents, with breadth of thought, and compass of view, for a brilliant rehearsal of his career, and of his place in the world's history and in the higher development of humanity. I would therefore propose to the Society the following motion:—

That we invite Dr. Frederic H. Hedge to prepare an address for delivery in some public hall in this city, on the 10th of November next, commemorative of the life, the career, and the influence of Martin Luther.

That the officers of this Society be a committee to make all the proper arrangements for the occasion.

The Resolution was adopted.

At a stated meeting held on October 11th, the President announced that the Council had decided that the exercises in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Luther should be held in Arlington Street Church, on Saturday, November 10, and that Dr. F. H. Hedge would deliver the oration, and Dr. Phillips Brooks would be invited to offer prayer.

The Recording Secretary, and Messrs. Charles C. Smith and Henry W. Haynes were appointed a committee of arrangements.

At a monthly meeting of the Society on November 8th, the Rev. EDWARD J. YOUNG, in behalf of the committee of arrangements, made the following remarks:—