AN ORATION DELIVERED AT CONCORD, APRIL THE NINETEENTH, 1825; PP. 1-56

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An Oration Delivered at Concord, April the Nineteenth, 1825; pp. 1-56 by Edward Everett

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EDWARD EVERETT

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ORATION

Delivered at Concord,

APRIL THE NINETEENTH,

1825.

BY EDWARD EVERETT.

BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY CUMMINGS, HILLIARD, AND COMPANY.

1825.

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO WIT:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the twenty-first day of May, A. D. 1825, in the forty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America, Cummings, Hilliard, & Co. of the said district, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, to wit:

" An Oration delivered at Concord, April the nineteenth, 1825. By Edward Everett."

Edward Everett."

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned:" and also to an Act, entitled, "An Act, supplementary to an Act, entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical, and other prints."

JNO W. DAVIS,

Clerk of the District of Manachusetts,

University Press .- Hilliard & Metcalf.

Concord, April 19, 1825.

Hon. EDWARD EVERETT,

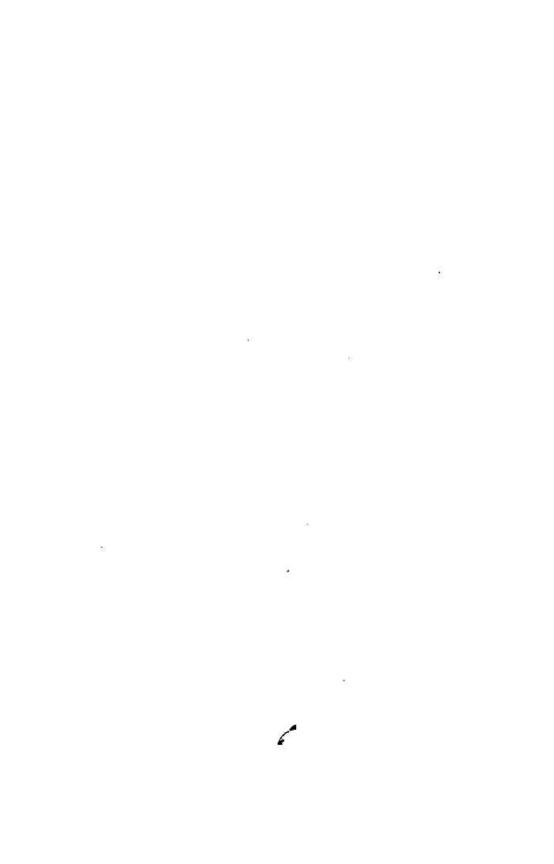
Dear Sir,

The Committee of Arrangements have instructed me to express their thanks to you, for the very interesting address delivered by you this day, and to request you to favor them with a copy for the press.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

N. BROOKS, For the Committee.



ORATION.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

The voice of patriotic and filial duty has called us together, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of an ever memorable day. The subject, which this occasion presents to our consideration, almost exceeds the grasp of the human mind. The appearance of a new state in the great family of nations is one of the most important topics of reflection, that can ever be addressed to us. In the case of America, the interest, the magnitude, and the difficulty of this subject are immeasurably increased. Our progress has been so rapid, the interval has been so short between the first plantations in the wilderness and the full development of our political institutions; there has been such a visible agency of single characters in affecting the

condition of the country, such an almost instantaneous expansion of single events into consequences of incalculable importance, that we find ourselves deserted by almost all the principles and precedents, drawn from the analogy of other states. Men have here seen, felt, and acted themselves, what in most other countries has been the growth of centuries.

Take your station for instance on Connecticut river. Every thing about you, whatsoever you behold or approach, bears witness, that you are a citizen of a powerful and prosperous state. just seventy years, since the towns, which you now contemplate with admiration as the abodes of a numerous, increasing, refined, enterprising population, safe in the enjoyment of life's best blessings, were wasted and burned by the savages of the wilderness; and their inhabitants by hundreds,-the old and the young, the minister of the gospel, and the mother with her new born babe,-were wakened at midnight by the warhoop, dragged from their beds, and marched with bleeding feet across the snow-clad mountains,-to be sold as slaves into the cornfields and kitchens of the French in Canada. Go back eighty years farther; and the same barbarous foe is on the skirts of your oldest settlements, at your own doors. As late as 1676, ten or twelve citizens of Concord were slain or carried into captivity, who had gone to meet the savage hordes in their attack on Sudbury, in which the brave Captain Wadsworth and his companions fell.

These contrasts regard the political strength of our country; the growth in national resources presents a case of increase still more astonishing, though less adapted to move the feelings. By the last valuation, the aggregate property of Massachusetts is estimated at something less than three hundred millions. By the valuation made in 1780, the property of Massachusetts and Maine was estimated at eleven millions.

This unexampled rapidity of our national growth, while it gives to our history more than the interest of romance, leaves us often in doubt, what is to be ascribed to the cooperation of a train of incidents and characters, following in long succession upon each other; and what is to be referred to the vast influence of single important events. On the one hand, we think we trace a series of causes and effects, running back into the history of the dark ages in Europe, and visibly exerting an influence on the American colonies;