

# Bunker Hill Monument Association.

REVEREND SIR,

The Committee of the Directors of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, regarding the exploits of our fathers on the memorable 17th of June, 1775, as highly instrumental in bringing about the Independence of America, and with it the distinguished *Civil* and RELIGIOUS blessings, which that Independence, under PROVIDENCE, has secured to us, have thought that the day of the Annual Thanksgiving would furnish an appropriate occasion of presenting the objects of their association to the attention of their fellow citizens, throughout the Commonwealth. They have therefore directed me to furnish you with a copy of an Address, which they have already sent to the Selectmen of the different towns in the state, desiring you, if you think proper, to read it to your people, on the day of the Thanksgiving, or to make such other use of it, as you may deem expedient.

By order of the Standing Committee,

EDWARD EVERETT, Sec'y.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION may be justly considered as one of those remarkable events, designed by a wise and beneficent PROVIDENCE, to change, and to improve the condition of mankind. Its original causes lie far back in the history of our fathers. Its consequences are gradually disclosing themselves, throughout the civilized world. But its immediate causes, and the AGENTS by whom they were directed, are the peculiar objects of our attention, at present.

We all know that the PARENT COUNTRY exercised its power over these remote Colonies, in a manner, which its inhabitants held to be unjust, unreasonable, and intolerable. A series of complaints, petitions, and remonstrances, produced no other consequence, than to bring over an armed force, to awe the Colonists to submission. They soon found themselves subjected to an odious tyranny of hired soldiers. The indignation, universally felt, could not be always restrained; and sometimes broke forth in acts of hostility, between the Colonists, and the military power. As the spirit of resistance increased, the number of soldiers was augmented, until, in the Spring of 1775, several regiments, as well as some ships of war, were assembled at Boston.

The thoughtful Colonists foresaw, that scenes of violence and bloodshed must follow, unless they submitted themselves unconditionally, to the will of the Mother Country. They could not, they would not, so submit. But they knew, that the country was not prepared for an appeal to arms. There was no armed force but the militia; no magazines, no military stores, no ammunition but the little, which was provided in the time of profound peace; no experienced men qualified to meet a trained, and well prepared foe. Certainly, no means could be imagined, of contending against the whole power of Great Britain, which might be brought to act on the country. In this desponding, and hopeless state, it pleased THE ALMIGHTY to inspire their hearts with courage, according to their necessities; what they wanted in numbers, and in preparation for war, was abundantly made up to them in confidence in the righteousness of their cause, and in the manly resolution to die with honor, if they could not live without disgrace.

On the 19th of April, '75, the British sent a body of troops from Boston, to destroy some powder and provisions, at Concord. These troops, while passing through Lexington, wantonly fired upon, and killed a number of the inhabitants. Some hastily assembled militiamen, ventured to oppose themselves to the Regulars, at Concord, and there the first blood was shed between the British, and the armed Americans.

The dreadful scenes of this memorable day, roused the spirit of the country; and the militia came from different quarters, with any and whatever means they had, for conflict.

To divert the British from fortifying themselves on Dorchester heights, it was deemed necessary to send a force, from the head quarters at Cambridge, to take possession of the heights in Charlestown.

Under cover of the night of the 16th of June, 1775, this detachment proceeded silently, and cautiously, with such arms and implements as they had, and with a very small supply of powder, to take possession of the hills, and spend the night in the hurried labor of preparing for themselves, some intrenchment, against the probable attack of the British. Poorly prepared, and wearied with labor, they met the shock on the following day, of the picked and chosen men of the British army.

The consequences of the cool, undaunted, astonishing bravery, displayed on that day, we now feel and enjoy; and they will continue to be felt, and enjoyed, so long as we, and our descendants, shall be worthy of the name of FREEMEN.

It is among these consequences, that we are now the citizens of a free and independent republic, not the degraded and despised subjects of despotic Royal power;—

That we live under Laws made by Rulers chosen from among ourselves; not under the orders of arbitrary authority, enforced by a ferocious soldiery;—

That we dwell in security in our peaceful homes, in the full enjoyment of the fruits of our labor;—instead of being liable to arbitrary taxation, and to personal service in wars of ambition, in which we could have no advantage, though subject to the most distressing evils;—

That the community, of which we are members, is thriving, and expanding with the impulses of civil freedom; not creeping through a humble existence, in the constraint of colonial dependence.

In short, that we are citizens of a free, powerful, and increasing nation; not a remote, and insignificant appendage to a kingdom, and ruled by mandates issuing from a Throne, three thousand miles from our homes.

What of gratitude, reverence, and affection, do we not owe, fellow citizens, to our countrymen, who assembled, and met the British on Bunker Hill on the seventeenth of June! It is to their manly resistance, that we owe the precious blessings, we call our own; ALL, ALL, that we hold dear! Had they turned, and fled, as the British believed they would; had a panic spread through the country from their flight; might not the germ of liberty have been crushed in the bud; and the history of our country have been stained with disgraceful military executions, instead of being read, as it now is, with emotions of inexpressible thanksgiving and praise!

It is in honor of that GLORIOUS DAY, that it is now proposed to raise a monument, worthy of those we commemorate; and to remind successive generations of the deeds of our Fathers, and to erect the just and heartfelt gratitude of the present time. It is known to you that the design of erecting a monument has long been in contemplation. It has been held to be some reproach to us all, that it has been so long delayed. As the FIFTIETH YEAR from the day of this memorable battle is to close on the next seventeenth of June, it has been deemed, by a number of citizens, highly desirable that an effort should be made to purchase the battle ground, and to be prepared to lay the corner stone, on that day. These citizens, animated by the assurance that their patriotic efforts would be readily seconded by all other citizens throughout the State, assumed the labor and responsibility of carrying this design into effect.—They obtained an act of incorporation to enable them to purchase, and to hold the land, on which the battle was fought, with a provision to cede it to the State, when it shall have been adorned with a monument, raised by the grateful contributions of the people throughout the Commonwealth.—It is the design of the Corporation to erect a column of two hundred and twenty five feet in height—of hewn granite, containing, in its centre, a circular stair way, by which it may be ascended to the top.

The corporation cherish the hope, that the means of accomplishing the object in view will have been so far realized, that the land will have been purchased; and that after suitable notice of the occasion, by public address, and after solemn thanksgiving to THE ALMIGHTY DISPOSER of human events, the CORNER STONE may be laid on the seventeenth of June next, in the presence of the VENERABLE AMERICANS who fought this battle, and who may yet be living. How affecting must this scene be to THEM, contrasting, as they must do, their feelings on that day of peril, and destruction, with those that will rush on their noble minds, in beholding this solemn tribute of gratitude and honor!

It is a part of the design of the corporation to collect, and preserve, all printed, and manuscript, and personal histories, of these early scenes of the Revolutionary War; and the arms and implements which were used in these scenes, and which will otherwise soon be lost in the destroying progress of time. It is greatly to be regretted that this labor has not been earlier undertaken. It

is not too late. Individuals yet live, who can describe facts, which they saw, and scenes in which they acted, so strange and heroic, that they resemble ingenious fables, or the dreams of romance, rather than the realities of authentic history. A suitable apartment for the deposit and preservation of these various relics, and histories, will be established on the place of the battle; and there also will be deposited, and preserved, the original subscription books, arranged according to counties, and towns, that the names, and places of abode, of those who join in this tribute of respect and gratitude, may be forever known. It is also intended to erect a suitable monument at Concord, where the first conflict was had, bearing proper inscriptions to commemorate the glorious spirit of independence, which manifested itself there; and the names of the men who fell there, and whose memory should be forever cherished and honored.

It is ascertained, as nearly as can be, by careful computation, that the purchase of the land, and the entire completion of the whole design, will require an expenditure of SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. To raise this sum, a subscription book has been prepared for every town in the state, and transmitted to the care of the selectmen in each town, accompanied with a circular letter respectfully recommending the mode of obtaining subscriptions, and of collecting and transmitting the money to the Treasurer of the Corporation.

Lately, when GENERAL LAFAYETTE was on Bunker Hill, the nature of the Bunker Hill Monument Association was explained to him. He expressed his wish to subscribe. His name stands at the head of the list. He was requested not to place any sum against his name—and so it remains. It was the intention of the Association, that the sum to be placed against the name of Lafayette, should be the whole amount of all the sums, which the little children throughout the state might subscribe, or give, to the erection of the monument. We thus give to these little ones an opportunity of testifying their gratitude to this EXCELLENT MAN, and NOBLE BENEFACTOR of their country, while the aggregate amount, so placed as his subscription, will, probably, be such a sum, as would well become the munificent heart, and patriotic wishes of LAFAYETTE.

It is with exceeding pleasure, that the citizens who have taken the responsible labor of organizing and giving effect to the public sentiment, can declare, that they have received every desirable support and encouragement from all persons, whose attention has been called to this object.

There is no longer a doubt, that a monument will rise on the spot where the battle of the seventeenth of June, '75, was fought. As it will commemorate the GREATEST EVENT in the history of civil liberty, it should be, and shall be, the GRANDEST MONUMENT in the WORLD.

Such a monument will not only carry down, to distant ages, the memory of illustrious deeds; it will also remind the generations, as they rise, of the origin of their social rights; it will proclaim to them, with awful grandeur, the sacred duty of preserving unimpaired, the FREEDOM, which was purchased with PRECIOUS BLOOD.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society, on the seventeenth of June, 1824, the officers chosen for the year ensuing, were the following:

PRESIDENT.

HONORABLE JOHN BROOKS.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

HONORABLE THOMAS H. PERKINS.

HONORABLE JUDGE STORY.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER,	Hon. JESSE PUTNAM,
Gen. W. SULLIVAN,	Professor EDW. EVERETT,
Hon. BENJ. GORHAM,	" GEO. TICKNOR,
Hon. GEORGE BLAKE,	Gen. THEODORE LYMAN,
Dr. JOHN C. WARREN,	ISAAC P. DAVIS, Esq.
Gen. H. A. S. DEARBORN,	Col. SAMUEL D. HARRIS.
Hon. SETH KNOWLES,	

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

Hon. RICHARD SULLIVAN,  
Hon. FRANCIS C. GRAY,  
FRANKLIN DEXTER, Esq.

TREASURER.

NATHANIEL P. RUSSELL, Esq.

SECRETARY.

FRANKLIN DEXTER, Esq.

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Society, encouraged by the public sentiment, have proceeded with steady, and effectual steps, in this great enterprise. It may be truly said, that there is but one sentiment, one feeling, throughout the State, and that there is not a heart, in all Massachusetts, in which that sentiment and feeling, will not be found.

We pray leave to refer to the letter of advice which accompanies the subscription book.

Gentlemen, we have had the honor thus to explain the views of the Association. If you, and your townsmen, accord in these feelings and sentiments, this Society desires your aid, your approving sanction; and such co-operation, as your own feelings and sentiments may dictate.

There is no limitation as to the amount which any individual may contribute. No sum will be too great; none too small. As the blessings of social life belong exclusively, neither to age, nor to sex, all who dwell in this favored land are alike interested in the proposed monument. But as many of our fellow citizens may desire to be members of this Institution, the Directors have established one general rule, alike applicable to all, viz.—That all persons who subscribe the sum of FIVE DOLLARS or more, shall thereby become members of the Society, and shall be entitled to a certificate of membership, containing an engraved sketch of the action of June 17th.

With great respect,

Your friends,

And fellow citizens,

JOHN C. WARREN,  
WILLIAM SULLIVAN,  
HENRY A. S. DEARBORN,  
EDWARD EVERETT.