

## VERMONT'S SONS HONORED

THE CENTENNIAL EXERCISES AT  
BENNINGTON.

THOUSANDS OF VISITORS TAKE PART IN  
THE BATTLE MONUMENT DEDICATION  
AND LISTEN TO EDWARD J. PHELPS  
AND TO PRESIDENT HARRISON.

BENNINGTON, Vt., Aug. 19.—In the presence of the dignitaries of the Nation and State, and participated in by the Chief Magistrate of the country, the dedication ceremonies of the Bennington Battle Monument and the centennial of the admission of the Green Mountain State into the Union were celebrated here to-day.

The day dawned clear and beautiful, and at an early hour all was bustle and stir, with the arrival of many thousands of visitors to join the thousands already here, the martial music of marching bodies, and the hurry of preparations for the parade. It seemed as if the surrounding country for miles had emptied its entire population into the historic town.

Col. W. Seward Webb, accompanied by a mounted Grand Army post, escorted President Harrison from Gen. McCullough's house to the Soldiers' Home, where Gov. Page and all the living ex-Governors of the State were waiting to greet him. The President spent a few moments in the house, where he was introduced to the distinguished guests, and then resumed his place in the carriage, which, with the other vehicles, took its place in the line.

At 9 o'clock the guns of Fuller's Battery boomed the signal for the formation of divisions. The column, except the carriages, formed on the parade ground and was slow in getting into position, so that it was 10:30 o'clock before the procession moved, with the Putnam Phalanx of Hartford in the position of honor as escort to the President in the van and with a score of carriages following, containing the distinguished guests.

The camp grounds, where the Soldiers' Home is situated and where the Vermont National Guard has been in camp for several days, were filled with people when the procession moved. The President doffed his hat in salute to every manifestation of applause, and to keep the fierce rays of the sun from his head Col. Webb held an umbrella over him. The President and many features of the pageant received generous applause, the Thirty-second Independent Company of Hoosac Falls and the Tibbett's Cadets of Troy, N. Y., coming in for a large share of the demonstrations of approbation. The cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point formed a prominent and attractive feature of the procession and were the recipients of many hearty plaudits along the line. Cushing's United States Battery from Newport, R. I., also made a fine appearance and was frequently applauded.

The column moved through North, Gage, Safford, and Main Streets to the reviewing stand, where a short halt was made, and the column then passed in review before President Harrison. The procession continued its march through Main Street and Monument Avenue to the massive and lofty pillar which will tell generations yet unborn of the patriotism of the Green Mountain Boys of 1777. Here the first division, except batteries, was massed on the west side of the monument; the second and third divisions, except carriages, on the east side.

While the batteries were firing a national salute of twenty-one guns the President and party, the orator of the day—the Hon. Edward J. Phelps—Gov. Page, and other distinguished speakers and guests, with the representatives of the press, about forty people in all, took positions on the platform at the base of the monument. When all were in their places and quiet had been secured, Wheelock G. Veazey, ex-Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, made a brief introductory address to the vast concourse. In speaking of the battle of Bennington, he said:

"Measured by the numbers engaged, or by the experience of thousands of men to-day standing on this ground, it was a small affair. Measured by consequences and the verdict of history, it was a battle of surpassing importance. It is this fact that accounts for the erection of this massive structure a century after Burgoyne had the sudden attack of heart failure, when he heard of the result at Bennington. It is this fact that accounts for the presence of President and Cabinet, of Governors and statesmen from so many parts of the broad land that now constitutes our country."

The Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D. D., of Boston, editor of *Zion's Herald*, offered prayer, and then Gov. C. S. Page delivered the formal address of welcome. The Governor's remarks were handsomely applauded. Ex-Gov. B. F. Prescott of New-Hampshire, President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, was received with enthusiasm as he stepped forward to transfer the monument, the result of the association's many years of effort, to the care and keeping of the State. The ex-Governor spoke briefly of the events which led up to to-day's exercises, and made the formal transfer. Gov. Page accepted the offering in an equally brief speech, in which he said:

"It shall stand here untouched, save by the finger of time, to tell to our children and our children's children the story of the struggle for liberty, and to inspire all who may come beneath its shadow with a deeper love of country, and a higher appreciation of those men whose sacrifices made possible the priceless blessings we are to-day privileged to enjoy."

Music followed, and the President of the day, Gen. Veazey, came forward, leading the distinguished scholar, diplomat, and orator, Edward J. Phelps. A roar of applause greeted their appearance. When the last murmur had died away, Mr. Phelps delivered the oration of the day.

"Vermont consecrates to-day," he said, "her first historic monument. But not her's alone. New-Hampshire and Massachusetts, who fought with her and for her at Bennington, have joined in erecting this memorial of their common history. And they are here by a splendid representation to share in the triumph of its completion, and to give to the occasion by the distinction of their presence a higher dignity, a more generous grace. The day has a still larger significance. It is trebly fortunate. It marks not only the anniversary of the battle, and the happy consummation in this structure of the exertions of fifteen years, but likewise the centennial of the entrance of Vermont into the Federal Union."

History was full of battles, Mr. Phelps said, instruments for the most part of ambition, of tyranny, and of crime. But there had been battles whose smoke went up like incense, consecrated in the sight of Heaven by the cause they maintained. Such was that for which the Bennington shaft should henceforth stand. Battles were not to be accounted great in proportion to the numbers engaged. It was the cause that was fought for, the heroism and self-sacrifice displayed, and the consequences which followed, moral and political, as well as military, that gave significance to conflicts of arms. Judged by these standards, Bennington might well be reckoned among the memorable battles of the world.

It was the people's fight. No Government directed or supplied it. New-Hampshire sent her hastily-embodied militia and John Stark. Vermont and Massachusetts assembled a band of rural soldiery. The march of Burgoyne from Canada had been till then a continuous victory. Ticondeoga had fallen with a blow. The retreating VermonTERS had been utterly defeated at Hubbardton. Even Washington was in despair. The people of the Hampshire grants had been left by Congress to take care of themselves. They called and kept a day of fasting and prayer, and then gathered a scantily armed and equipped little army, under John Stark. "With the eye of a born soldier he saw the that the Vermonters were right when they declared that there could be no frontier but a frontier of armed men. That the Hampshire Grants must be held, because no enemy could be resisted to whom the gates of the country were thus thrown open. And that the effectual blow against Burgoyne must struck on his flank."

"Full justice has been done in history and tradition to the bravery and the patriotism of John Stark. But his great qualities as a general have not been set forth as they deserve. No better piece of military work was seen in the Revolution than he did in that brief and sudden campaign. He concentrated the scattered militia at Charlestown with a rapidity that was marvelous. He was impeded by the want of the most necessary and ordinary supplies. Receiving his orders on the 22d of July he was out of Charlestown with the last of his forces on Aug. 3. On the 9th he was at Bennington with his own forces, and the Massachusetts and Vermont men organized and in hand. On the 13th he engaged the enemy; on the 16th the battle was fought."

The speaker paid a deserved tribute to the heroism and self-sacrifice of the women of the Hampshire Grants, who sent their husbands and sons to the general defense and themselves supplied the provisions for the troops in large part and maintained the home establishments in the absence of the men. "That conflict," he said, "was the last hope of the Hampshire Grants. They were fighting for all they had on earth, whether of possessions or of rights. They could not go home defeated, for they would have had no homes to go to. The desolate land that Burgoyne would have left New-York would have taken. Not a man was on the field by compulsion, or upon the slightest hope or expectation of personal advantage or reward."

"The story of the victory of Bennington, imperfectly preserved, comes down to us only in flashes, but they are flashes of glorious light. Its consequences were immediate and far reaching. It was the first success of the Revolution which bore any fruit. Its guns sounded the first notes in the knell which announced that the power of Great Britain over the colonies she had created and had sacrificed was passing away. Burgoyne heard it and knew what it meant; Washington heard it, and, hearing, took heart again. Gates succeeded Schuyler at Saratoga and the militia poured into his camp. The invincibility of the British commander was gone. He fought desperately, but in vain. On the 17th of October he surrendered. If Bennington had not been fought, or had been fought without success, the junction between Clinton and Burgoyne could not have been prevented, and his surrender would not

have taken place. 'If I had succeeded there,' he wrote his Government, 'I should have marched to Albany.'

Mr. Phelps spoke of the eight years' struggle for independence against New-York, which claimed jurisdiction over the territory as far east as the Connecticut River, and would not surrender her claim until long after national independence had been won. He closed with an elegant peroration, prophetic of increasing honors for the State and the Nation.

After the applause which followed the conclusion of Mr. Phelps's oration Gen. Veazey introduced President Harrison, who arose amid prolonged cheers and spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: There are several obvious reasons why I should not attempt to speak to you at this time. This great audience is so uncomfortably situated that a further prolongation of these exercises cannot be desirable, but the stronger reason is that you have just listened with rapt attention to a most scholarly and interesting review of those historical incidents which have suggested this assemblage, and to those lessons which they furnish to thoughtful and patriotic men. A son of Vermont, honored by his fellow-citizens, honored by the Nation which he has served in distinguished public functions, honored by the profession of which he is an ornament and an instructor, has spoken for Vermont, and it does not seem to me fit that these golden sentences should be marred by any extemporaneous words which I can add.

I come to you under circumstances that altogether forbade preparation. I have no other preparation for speech than this inspiring cup of good-will which you have presented to my lips. The most cordial welcome which has been extended to me to-day makes it unfitting that I should omit to make a cordial acknowledgment of it. Perhaps I may be permitted, as a citizen of a Western State, to give expression to the high regard and honor in which Vermont is held. Perhaps I may assume, as a public officer representing in some sense all the States of the Union, to bring to-day their appreciation of the history and people of this patriotic State. Its history is unique, as Mr. Phelps has said.

The other colonies staked their lives, their fortunes and honor upon the struggle for independence, with the assurance that if, by their valor and sacrifice, independence was achieved, all these were assured. The inhabitants of the New-Hampshire grants alone fought with their fellow-countrymen of their colonies for liberty, for political independence, unknowing whether, when it had been achieved, the property, the homes upon which they dwelt, would be assured by the success of the confederate colonies. They could not know—they had the gravest reason to fear—that when the authority of the confederation of the States had been established this very Government, to whose supremacy Vermont had so nobly contributed, might lend its authority to the establishment of the claims of New-York upon their homes, and yet, in all this story, though security of property would undoubtedly have been pledged by the royal representative, Vermont took a conspicuous, unselfish, and glorious part in achieving the independence of the United Colonies, trusting to the justice of her cause for the ultimate security of the homes of her people.

It is a most noble and unmatched history, and if I may deliver the message of Indiana as a citizen of that State, and, as a public officer, the message of all the States, I came to say, "Worthy Vermont." She has kept the faith unflinchingly from Bennington until this day. She has added, in war and peace, many illustrious names to our roll of military heroes and of great statesmen. Her representation in the National Congress, as it has been known to me, has been conspicuous for its influence, for the position it has assumed in committee and in debate, and, so far as I can recall, has been without personal reproach.

We have occasionally come to Vermont with a call that did not originate with her people, and these have been answered with the same pure, high consecration to public duty as has been the case with those who have been chosen by your suffrages to represent the State, and I found when the difficult task of arranging a Cabinet was devolved upon me, that I could not get along without a Vermont stick in it, and I am sure you have plenty of timber left in each of the great political parties.

The participation of this State in the war of the rebellion was magnificent. Her troops carried to the fields of the South that high consecration to liberty which had characterized their fathers in the Revolutionary struggle. They did not forget on the hot savannas of the South the green tops of these hills, ever in their vision lifting up their hearts in faith that God would again bring the good cause of freedom to a just issue.

We are to-day approaching the conclusion of a Summer of extraordinary fruitfulness. How insignificant the stores that were gathered at Bennington in 1777 compared with these great storehouses bursting with fullness to-day! Our excess meets the deficiency of Europe, and a ready market is opened for all our cereals. We shall grow richer by contributions which other countries shall make as they take from our storehouses the food needed to sustain their people. But, after all, it is not the census tables of production or of wealth that tell the story of the greatness of this country. Vermont has not been one of the rich States of the Union in gold and silver, and its lands have not given the returns that some of the fertile riverides of the West give. There has been here constant effort and honest toil; but out of all this there has been brought a sturdy manhood, which is better than riches, and on which, rather than on wealth, the security of our country rests.

I beg you to accept my sincere thanks again for the evidence of your friendliness and my apology that the conditions are not such as to enable me to speak as I could wish.

It was late in the afternoon when the President finished, and the literary exercises, long to be remembered in the Annals of the Green Mountain State, were brought to a close with music and the benediction.

The divisions then re-formed in proper order, with the carriages of each division in its rear, and marched through Monument Avenue, Main and North Streets, to Camp Vermont, where the troops and other organizations were dismissed. The escorts and carriages went to the large tent near the Soldiers' Home, where the banquet was served. The tables had been set for 3,500, but that number was insufficient to accommodate all who desired to participate in the festivities. Before the speaking began a great number of persons from the outside were permitted to flock into the tent and occupy the space in the aisles.

There were probably 5,000 persons present when the President was introduced. The President's voice was quite hoarse, but he was evidently enjoying good health, and what little cold he had was not of a serious kind. Seated at the table with President Harrison were Gov. Fage, Gen. Veazey, ex-Minister Phelps, the Rev. Charles Parkhurst, Gov. Russell of Massachusetts, Gov. Tuttle of New-Hampshire, Gen. Alger of Michigan, Adjt. Gen. Peck, Col. B. B. Smalley, Major Valentine, ex-Gov. Prescott of New-Hampshire, ex-Gov. Rice of Massachusetts, Attorney General Miller, and others prominent in civil and military circles.

In calling the company to order Gen. Veazey said:

"The voice of the President of the United States has, as you may have occasion to notice, been 'used up in the service,' to use a military phrase. It will be difficult for him to use it any more to-day. It will be impossible for him to be heard by this great audience unless the utmost silence is preserved by all who are here present. He has kindly consented, notwithstanding this debilitated condition of voice, to stand up and say a single word to you this second time to-day, and I now have the honor of presenting the President once more."

Mr. Harrison spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: Whatever temporary injury my voice has suffered was not at the hands of Vermont. New-York is responsible. In Albany I spoke in the rain to a large assemblage. Perhaps, if it were worth while to trace this vocal infirmity further, I might find its origin at Cape May, for I think started on this trip with the elements of a cold that has some degree marred the pleasure which I had anticipated to-day. But notwithstanding what my friend Gen. Veazey has described as the "dilapidated condition" of my voice, I will respond to his request to say a word to you.

I knew that Gen. Veazey had been put in charge of the transportation lines of the country, but I did not expect to find him in charge of what the boys used to call the "cracker line." It seems that his capacity for usefulness in the public service is so great and so diversified that you have called upon him to conduct the exercises of this magnificent occasion. He is a most excellent Inter-State Commerce Commissioner, an honor to your State, and I have no criticism of him as President of the Day, except that he calls too much attention to me.

This scene, these tables so bountifully and so tastefully spread, was one full of beauty when we entered, but it seems now to have taken on some of that "dilapidation" which Gen. Veazey ascribed to my voice. I am sure if the supplies gathered at Bennington to-day had been here in 1777, that struggle would have been much more obstinate. But, my fellow-citizens, there is much in this occasion that is full of instruction to the strangers who by your hospitable mention have the privilege of meeting with you. Wherever men may have been born within this galaxy of great States, which makes the greater Union, there is respect and honor for the New-England character. It has been a source of strength to the Nation in its development in material things. It has furnished to literature and to invention some of the largest contributions; and more than all this, it has done a great work for all the States, and especially those States of the West and Northwest, in which its enterprising sons have found new homes, in establishing everywhere a love of social order and a patriotic devotion to the union of States.

If we seek to find the institutions of New-England that have formed the character of its own people and have exercised a stronger molding influence than that of any other section upon our whole people, we shall find them, I think, in their temples, in their schools, in their town meetings, and in their God-fearing homes. The courage of those who fought at Bennington, at Concord, Lexington, Bunker Hill, and Saratoga, was born of a high trust in God. They were men who, fearing God, had naught else to fear. That devotion to local self-government which originated and for so long maintained the town meeting, establishing and perpetuating a true democracy, an equal, full participation and responsibility in all public affairs on the part of every citizen, was the cause of the development of the love of social order and respect for law which has characterized your communities, has made them safe and commercial abodes for your people.

These migrations between the States have been to your loss, but there is now a turning back to these States of New-England and to some of its unused farms, which I believe is to continue and increase. The migration which you have sent into the South to develop its industries, to open its mines, to set up factories and furnaces, is doing marvelous work in unifying our people. As I journeyed recently across the continent this oneness of our people was strongly impressed upon me. I think these centennial observances which have crowded one upon another, from Concord to the centennial of the adoption of the Constitution and the organization of the Supreme Court have turned the thought of our people to the most inspiring incident in our history, and have greatly intensified and developed our love of the flag and our Constitution. I do not believe there has been a time in our history when there has been a deeper, fonder love for the unity of the States, for the flag that emblemizes this unity, and for the Constitution which cements it.

"I believe we have come to a time when we may look out to greater things. Secure in our own institutions, enriched almost beyond calculation, I believe we have reached a time when we may take a large part in the great transactions of the world. I believe our people are prepared now to insist that the American flag shall again be seen upon the sea, and that our merchants and manufacturers

are ready to seize the golden opportunity that is now offered for extending our commerce into the States of Central and South America. I believe that conservative views of finance will prevail in this country. I am sure discontent and temporary distress will not tempt our people to forsake those safe lines of public administration in which commercial security alone rests. As long as the General Government furnishes the money of the people for their great business transactions, I believe we will insist, as I have said before, that every dollar issued, whether paper or coin, shall be as good and be kept as good as any other dollar that issues. The purity, the equality of what we call dollars must be preserved, or an element of uncertainty and of bankruptcy will be introduced into all business transactions. This I may say without crossing lines of division. How this end is to be attained I will not attempt to sketch, but I do not hesitate to say that I feel myself, in the public interest, pledged so far as in me lies to maintain that equality between our circulating money that is essential to the perfect use of all.

"I have gone beyond the promise of the President of the Day, and have been betrayed by your friendliness into speaking two or three words. May I, in closing, tender to these good women of Vermont my thanks for the grace and sweetness which their services and their presence have lent to this happy occasion? May I say to them that the devoted services of their mothers, their courage and patience and helpfulness shown by the women in the great struggle for liberty cannot be too highly appreciated. It was an easier fate to march with bared breasts against the Hessian ramparts at Bennington than to sit in the lonely homestead awaiting the issue with tearful eye uplifted to God in prayer for those who periled their lives for the cause. All honor to the New-England mother, the queen of the New-England home! There in those nurseries of virtue and truth have been found the strongest influences that have molded your people for good and led your sons to honor.

At the conclusion of the President's remarks John B. Carney, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee of Thirry, presented Mr. Harrison a gold medal as a memento of the celebration. "It needed not this memento," said the President, "to remind me of this auspicious occasion."

Gov. Russell of Massachusetts spoke eloquently of the mutual love and esteem of the old Bay State and Vermont, and Gov. Tuttle spoke for New-Hampshire. President Veazey called on Major Gen. Howard to speak for New-York in the absence of Gov. Hill. Gen. Howard spoke with refreshing abandon and humor, keeping the sitters at the tables in the best of spirits.

Gen. Russell A. Alger of Michigan was introduced as one who had married a Vermont lady, and the greater part of his speech was devoted to eulogy of the women of Vermont. "The only difficulty about raising a monument in their honor," said Gen. Gen. Alger, "is that the skies are not high enough."

Secretary of War Proctor received a great reception when he was presented. His remarks were very brief and largely facetious. Attorney General Miller talked earnestly of the valor of the patriots of the Mohawk Valley and the part they played in the wars of the Revolution. Gen. Alexander H. Webb, President of the College of the City of New-York, paid a feeling tribute to the valor and heroism of the man of Vermont who participated in the battles of the war of the rebellion. Gen. John G. McCullough spoke for the people of Bennington, and also as a representative of the Battle Monument Association.

Ex-Gov. Rice of Massachusetts made a spirited speech, and Col. Albert Clark of Boston spoke for Vermonters who reside outside of the State. E. H. Sherman of Chicago, Gen. Bartlett, commanding the Amoskeag Veterans, and E. B. Barrett, President of the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution, also made brief remarks.

After leaving the banquet the President was driven to the home of Gen. McCullough, in North Bennington, where he was entertained at dinner. The other guests of Gen. and Mrs. McCullough were ex-Minister and Mrs. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. John King and daughter of New-York, Attorney General Miller and wife, Secretary Proctor, Senator Morrill, Messrs. Seward and Webb, Horatio Loomis and wife of Burlington, Charles Phelps, Russell Harrison, Secretary Halford, and Messrs. Cale and Tibbott. The President will spend the night at Gen. McCullough's house, and will leave at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning for Mount McGregor.

A meeting of the representatives of the several State societies of the Sons of the American Revolution was held at the Soldiers' Home, and Mr. Barrett was elected President and L. L. Tarbel of Massachusetts Secretary. It was voted that a testimonial signed by all the representatives be presented to the Vermont society for the splendid hospitalities extended to-day.

A fine display of fireworks was given on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home this evening. A notable feature of the display was a grand historical pageant of fire pictures, representing heroic scenes in Vermont's past history.