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Spalding, Rufus Payne

Oration ... with an account of the celebration
of the anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie ...

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE.

The tenth of September dawned inauspiciously. There had been a heavy rain the previous night, throughout the whole Lake coast, and in the morning the clouds were lowering,—but the people, in the enthusiasm of their patriotic feelings, were not to be restrained, by the indications of a stormy day. Whatever misgivings there may have been, among the crowds at the different towns and cities, at the time of their embarkation for Put-in-Bay, it was dispelled on their arrival. It is impossible to give any satisfactory estimate of the numbers present. Perhaps the best idea may be formed, from the number of steamers and other water craft which conveyed the multitude. They were loaded to their guards, and some of the Sandusky boats made several trips. The Western Metropolis from Buffalo—May Queen, North Star and Gov. Cushman from Cleveland—Bay City, Arctic, Granite State, Island Queen, Bonnie Boat and Pearl of Sandusky—Sea Bird, Forester and New York from Toledo, and the Ocean from Detroit; making, in all, with the United States Steamer Michigan, anchored in the Bay, fifteen steamers. Besides these, there were two United States Revenue Cutters, the Jacob Thompson, Capt. Martin, and the Jeremiah S. Black, Capt. Ottinger, two steam tugs, and innumerable sail crafts, forming a semi-circle about the passenger steamers. The scene was the most imposing ever witnessed on the chain of lakes, and cannot be described. The roar of cannon, the strains of music from a half score of brass bands, the shouts from thousands of persons whose enthusiasm knew no bounds, the waving of handkerchiefs by the ladies, the wilderness of streaming flags, the steamers and large sail craft lying at rest, the multitude of small sails with their white wings spread to the breeze, flitting hither and yon on the sparkling waters of the Bay, and the swaying mass of human life, combined to produce an effect indescribable. He who could witness all this unmoved, is indeed a lamentable stoic. In him whose bosom did not glow with honest national pride and patriotism, our country has an enemy. We, as a people, are safe so long as we hang with such enthusiasm upon the noble deeds of those, whose

bravery and blood have purchased and perpetuated to us the national liberty and independence we now so fully enjoy.

At two o'clock the Monument Association was called to order by Capt. Lanman, of the U. S. Steamer Michigan, who officiated as temporary President, in the absence of Hon. Lewis Cass, President of the Association, and Hon. Ross Wilkins, one of the Vice Presidents, who was designated to act as President in case of the regular President's absence.

Maj. Gen. James B. Steedman, Grand Marshal, with assistants from all the Lake Cities.

Dr. Bronson offered up a touching and eloquent prayer, giving, in the name of the assembled thousands upon the ground, hearty thanks for the success which Almighty God had given to the American arms whenever they had been arrayed, in the name and for the cause of liberty and justice, against the hosts of oppression and tyranny. That the monument, whose corner stone they were that day to lay, would rise in graceful proportions, from the everlasting foundations of the rock upon which it would stand; and as long as the memory of the Hero of the Battle would be found in the American heart, so long would the eye turn with pride to that structure which, while it would be a land-mark to the sailor, would, standing as it did between two great countries, serve as a protection against wrong doing, in that it rose to commemorate so great a triumph of right over wrong. That it would be a memorial to Great Britain and the United States, that as their language, their religion and their God were the same, so the same eternal principles of truth and righteousness should govern both nations, and both should have the same interests in the promotion of the good of mankind and the glory of God.

After the music from one of the brass bands present, Wm. S. Pier-son, of Sandusky, Treasurer of the Association, was introduced, who made the following remarks:

Ladies and Gentlemen: I am requested by the Board of Management, to occupy your time for a few moments, in a statement of their doings since the last anniversary. As soon as it was practicable, after the permanent organization of the Association, under such favorable auspices, at this place, a year ago, a meeting of the Board was convened at the City of Sandusky. It was made the duty of the Board, consisting of fifty members, in different parts of the country, by the Constitution, to appoint an Executive Committee. Among the other acts of that meeting, the Board appointed A. H. Moss, F. T. Barney, and J. A. Camp., Esqs., of Sandusky, Hon. Samuel Starkweather, of

Cleveland, M. R. Waite, Esq., of Toledo, Hon. J. V. Campbell, of Detroit, Capt. Stephen Champlin, of Buffalo, and Capt. W. W. Dobbin, of Erie, as their Executive Committee.

One of the first and most important duties which devolved upon them, to which they gave much time, attention and study, was the procurement and adoption of a suitable plan for the monument. H. P. Merrick, an architect of Sandusky, furnished to the Committee different designs for the monument, which were exceedingly creditable to his taste, his attainment and skill. They were in the form of an obelisk, and were highly appreciated by the Committee, and indeed thought worthy of adoption. About this time, however, there was a person in Ohio, the fame of whose genius had taken such hold of the public mind, that your Committee, advised by discreet friends of the measure, believed it would not be doing justice, either to the talent in our midst, or to the enterprise, not to give him a commission. I need hardly mention his name, who will share in the fame of our venerable President, the Secretary of State of the United States, of our most worthy Vice President, the Chief Magistrate of the State of Ohio, in having given to their noble brows and commanding features almost the immortality which their exalted virtues and patriotic services have given to their names.

The Board of Management issued a commission to T. D. Jones, Sculptor. How well he fulfilled that commission, let the spontaneous and unanimous voice of thousands answer, in their expressions of approbation and admiration of his design. It has been declared by many, who, with cultivated taste, have had the opportunity of foreign observation, to vie with the proudest monuments of the Old World, in beauty and appropriateness of design. The Board of Management congratulate the Association on the eminent success of Mr. Jones, in the conception and perfection of his plan; and they feel proud, that the progress of the arts in our country is so illustrated, by his genius, in the West. Don Rivera St. Jago, an accomplished Spanish gentleman of the city of New York, the proprietor of these islands, has contributed as a free gift, one half of Gibraltar, with a declaration that the Association can have the whole, if necessary, for the site of the monument; and the Board of Management would thus publicly express their acknowledgements and obligations to him, and the thanks of the Association, for his generous deed.

Your Committee have devoted much time, to the location of the exact site of the monument, the laying of the foundation, the preparation of the corner-stone, the arrangements for this celebration, the correspondence with friends of the enterprise throughout the country, and to the

other duties of their appointment, which I cannot take time to relate. With regard to the solicitation and collection of subscriptions, which have been volunteered, your Treasurer has felt very great sensitiveness, which has been sympathized with by the Committee, in making any call on the public, before the object of the Association had progressed so far as to command the deserved confidence of the country. They preferred, therefore, that the expenses, by no means inconsiderable, should be otherwise defrayed, and not until quite recently made collections—not until the site was procured, the plan of the monument adopted, and arrangements made for laying the corner-stone. What they are now doing meets with encouragement.

Ladies and Gentlemen—Next to the teachings of Scripture and that internal consciousness which pervades the human breast, is that great argument from design, addressed to our reason, in proof of a great originating cause. This manifestation of design presents itself throughout all physical nature, and in the great and important events among the nations of the earth, there is sufficient to convince the reflecting mind of an over-ruling Providence.

When the God of nature made the world, and planted amid the waters of Lake Erie these beautiful islands, in such juxtaposition that they form this quiet Bay, and there let them remain in undisturbed repose, for thousands of years, used only as the fishing and hunting ground of the Indian, he did it with the express design that it should be a covert for our little navy, in that day of our nation's peril.

Cast your eye on yonder beautiful island, where we are about to lay the corner-stone of the monument. Observe the symmetrical formation of Gibraltar—how its rich verdure extends to its rock-girt base. Behold its elevation, high above the waters of the Lake—higher than is necessary, to protect the waters within the Bay from the turbulence of the waves without, when maddened by angry winds. See! what a look-out there is, and that all around it can be seen, as far as the eye can reach. Mark well its firm foundation. It is made of everlasting rock; and resist the thought, if you can, that it is the design of God's Providence, that it shall be a mission of this age, when the people have become refined and wealthy, grateful to God for the rich heritage of blessings which we enjoy, as the fruit of the sufferings and sacrifices of our fathers—reverencing the memory of our fathers for their pure virtues and heroic deeds; that on this foundation of rock a monument shall arise, towering aloft towards Heaven, to be seen by every mariner, and every traveler, and every seeker after pleasure, or of health, up and down the

Lake and amid these islands, worthy of the Battle of Lake Erie—worthy of Perry's Victory—worthy of a nation's abounding gratitude.

The Board of Management most cordially and earnestly invite you all, that you co-operate with them, and unitedly and individually do your part, in this patriotic duty.

After a short intermission, filled up with music, Hon. Rufus P. Spalding, of Cleveland, orator of the day, was introduced to the audience.

ORATION.

Fellow Citizens:

It has been very properly said, that "among the noblest of a nation's possessions, is the memory of her great men."

With equal propriety, it may be affirmed, that the chief claim of a country to enduring fame, is the evidence of its great deeds.

The wonderful Pyramids of Egypt are still standing as monuments of human grandeur: They are as nearly indestructible as any production of man's art and invention. But tell me the name of the mighty potentate who projected the plan, or put in requisition the incalculable amount of muscular and mechanical force necessary to their completion!

Yea; tell me, if you can, in what age of the world, and for what significant purpose, they were created?

You may conjecture: Many have conjectured. But,

"'Tis far off;

And rather like a dream than an assurance,

That my remembrance warrants."

In Grecian history, "the retreat of the ten thousand" is made more enduring than marble by the writings of Xenophon; but who does not perceive that "Marathon" and "Salamis" will be synonyms with heroism and patriotism long after the names of Miltiades and Themistocles shall have faded from classic lore.

In our own youthful land, we have no lack of historic men or historic deeds, but who will not bear me witness, that, while the battle of BUNKER'S HILL will continue to be the "key note" to our country's patriotism, there is reason to believe that the name of PRESCOTT may be forgotten?

The occasion which calls us together, fellow citizens, is intended to perpetuate the knowledge of one of the most brilliant and beneficial

"feats of arms" that has signalized any nation—the battle of Lake Erie, in our last war with England.

It will be pardoned me if I shall advert to one or two causes of bitterness that preceded the declaration of hostilities made by the United States against Great Britain, on the 18th day of June, 1812.

We may be permitted to justify our national character, and to indulge in sober exultation upon a signal display of American valor, without doing violence to the friendly relations that now so happily subsist between the people of the two nations.

During her long continued and stupendous struggles with the French Republic and Empire, England had increased her naval force, until she assumed a superiority upon the seas, that no single European power had the ability to question.

The romantic heroism of her "Nelson and Bronte," and his triumphant success in the "Battle of the Nile" and at "Trafalgar," had rendered the English armed-marine, in the judgment of all christendom, *invincible*.

True, they had a rising competitor for the ocean-scepter, in that hardy and enterprising people of whom their great orator said, when speaking of their whale-fisheries:

"While we follow them among the tumbling mountains of ice, and behold them penetrating into the deepest frozen recesses of Hudson's Bay and Davis' Straits,—while we are looking for them beneath the Arctic Circle, we hear that they have pierced into the opposite region of polar cold—that they are at the Antipodes, and engaged under the frozen serpent of the South. Falkland Island, which seemed too remote and romantic an object for the grasp of national ambition, is but a stage and resting place in the progress of their victorious industry.

"Nor is the equinoctial heat more discouraging to them than the accumulated winters of both the poles. We know that while some of them draw the line and strike the harpoon on the coast of Africa, others run the longitude, and pursue their gigantic game along the coast of Brazil. No sea but what is vexed by their fisheries. No climate that is not witness to their toils.

"Neither the perseverance of Holland, nor the activity of France, nor the dexterous and firm sagacity of English enterprise, ever carried this most perilous mode of hardy industry to the extent to which it has been pushed by this recent people—a people who are still, as it were, but in the *gristle*, and not yet hardened into the *bone* of manhood."

It is believed, that during the years that distinguished the latter part of the administration of Jefferson, and the first part of the term of Madi-

son, her great naval superiority had rendered England supercilious in her intercourse with other nations: She was especially so with the United States, which last government had never been regarded with favor by George the Third, since the event had occurred which so essentially lessened his royal importance, and to which poetic allusion was had by the elder Pitt, when he said, in the British Parliament—

“If his majesty continues to hear such counselors, he will not only be badly advised, but undone. He may, indeed, continue to wear his crown; but it will not be worth his wearing:—Robbed of so precious a jewel as America, it will lose its lustre, and no longer beam that effulgence which should irradiate the brow of majesty.”

For a series of years, the commerce of the United States had been subject to depredations by both the great belligerent powers of Europe. They both, in their treatment of neutrals, totally disregarded their rights, and adopted principles of policy unknown to the law of nations, and subversive of the plainest maxims of justice. Each claimed the right of destroying the commerce of the other, by interdicting the trade of neutrals with their opponent.

Hence the British orders in council, and the French “Berlin and Milan” decrees of 1806–7, under which millions of property was wrongfully captured and confiscated, belonging to citizens of the United States. Great Britain put forth, and attempted to enforce another claim, which threatened to destroy our commerce, and sap the foundation of our national independence.

She insisted upon the right of boarding and searching the vessels of all nations, and taking therefrom any of the sailors who might be suspected of being British subjects.

The enforcement of this claim upon vessels of the United States, operated with peculiar hardship, on account of the difficulty of distinguishing between the citizens of our country and the subjects of Great Britain; their language and manners being alike.

Hundreds of native born Americans were thus impressed into the English navy, and were there made to drag out a miserable existence.

Not unfrequently, the manner of its enforcement indicated an entire insensibility, on the part of the British cruisers, to the convenience or even safety of the vessels overhauled. The just national pride of an American citizen, was, in every way, set at naught, and contemptuously disregarded.

On the 25th of April, 1806, the British ship of war *Leander*, while off Sandy Hook, fired upon the sloop *Richard*, a coasting vessel of the United States, and killed the man at her helm. The sloop proceeded

to New York, where a jury of inquest was held upon the dead body, and a verdict of wilful murder pronounced against the captain of the British ship.

The excitement occasioned by this barbarous act of aggression, upon a defenceless and unoffending coaster, was immense.

But insolent and aggressive assaults like this, were not confined to the unarmed merchant vessels of the United States.

On the 22d of June, 1807, the American frigate *Chesapeake*, Capt. Gordon, bearing the broad pennant of Commodore Barron, got "under way" from Hampton Roads, bound to the Mediterranean.

The *Chesapeake* was a small frigate of thirty-eight guns. She is said to have been roomy and convenient, but not sufficiently strong for a vessel of her dimensions, and her sailing qualities were indifferent: so much so, in fact, that she had received from the sailors the sobriquet of "the old wagon."

A British squadron was then lying at anchor in Lynn-haven bay.

At the time the *Chesapeake* "let fall her courses," one of the vessels of this squadron, the *Leopard*, of fifty guns, lifted her anchor, and stood out to sea. When three leagues distant from Cape Henry, the *Leopard* having the weather guage, bore down upon the *Chesapeake* and hailed her, saying "she wished to place on board of her, despatches for the Mediterranean." Commodore Barron replied that he would "heave to," and receive a boat.

Both ships came to the wind, when Captain Humphreys, who commanded the *Leopard*, sent an officer on board and demanded the surrender of a portion of the *Chesapeake's* crew, whom he claimed as deserters from the British squadron.

Commodore Barron replied that he had given orders to his recruiting officer to enlist no man who might be supposed to be a deserter from the English navy, and he had no knowledge that he had any such persons on board his ship. He said, further, that he would not suffer his crew to be mustered by any but his own officers.

So soon as this reply was communicated to Capt. Humphreys, he opened a fire upon the *Chesapeake*, which was kept up for about fifteen minutes, and resulted in the surrender of his ship by Commodore Barron, after the return of a single gun, which was discharged by a gallant son of Rhode Island, Lieut. Wm. H. Allen, by means of a coal, taken from the galley, and held in his fingers. So wholly unprepared was the *Chesapeake* for action, that "no matches, locks or loggerheads" were in readiness for the occasion.

After she had struck her colors, the Captain of the *Leopard* sent an

officer on board the Chesapeake, who mustered the crew and took from them four persons, claimed to be deserters from British men-of-war.

Three of these men were afterwards proved to be native American citizens, who had been wrongfully impressed into the English naval service.

The Chesapeake had three men killed by the fire of the Leopard, and eighteen wounded: she was so much cut up, in her hull and rigging, as to be unable to proceed on her voyage.

We are now prepared, I trust, to understand the full import of the rallying cry, afterwards flung to the breeze from many a gallant ship—

“FREE TRADE AND SAILORS’ RIGHTS!”

The motto is, in itself, an epigrammatic exposition of the points in contest between England and the United States, in the war of 1812.

The original plan of operations for this war contemplated the speedy subjugation of Upper Canada by the United States army; and if this project had been crowned with success, there would have been no such marked event in the history of our country as “Perry’s Victory on Lake Erie.”

The inglorious surrender of the North Western Army, by General Hull, at Detroit, and the disastrous defeat of General Winchester at the River Raisin, had filled the border inhabitants of Ohio and the Western Territories with anxiety and alarm.

Large numbers of Indians were now seen going over to the British, who, under other circumstances, would have remained neutral from choice, or have been awed into submission by force.

The situation of the people on the borders of Lake Erie was especially alarming. The British army, under the lead of Proctor, with its savage allies led by Tecumseh, was in force at the head of the Lake, with all its navigation subject to their control.

The enemy was accustomed to spare neither age, sex nor condition; and there was not a village, nor a dwelling, within twenty miles of its southern shore, where the inhabitants could rest in security for a single night.

It became, then, a matter of weighty importance, that a competent force should be put in requisition to command the navigation of the Lake, whether considered as a measure of defense or of aggression.

The important and arduous task of creating a fleet, armed and equipped for the emergency, was confided to Oliver Hazard Perry, Esq., Master and Commander in the U. S. Navy.

Commodore Perry was born at South Kingston, in the State of Rhode

Island, on the 23d day of August, 1785. He was the son of Christopher Raymond Perry, who was himself a Post Captain in the Navy, appointed during our troubles with France in 1798.

The subject of our notice received his warrant as a midshipman in April, 1799, and made his first cruise at sea with his father, on board the U. S. Ship Gen. Green, a small frigate of 28 guns.

The beginning of the year 1813 found our hero at Newport, Rhode Island, in command of a flotilla of gun boats. Possessing an ardent patriotism, and eager for an opportunity to acquire distinction in his profession, young Perry addressed a letter to Commodore Chauncey, then in command at Sackett's Harbor, and tendered his services, wherever they could be made useful to the country.

On the first of February he received a letter from Commodore Chauncey, informing him that an application had been made to the Secretary of the Navy to have him ordered to the Lakes. "You are the very person," writes the Commodore, "that I want for a *particular service*, in which you may gain reputation for yourself, and honor for your country."

On the seventeenth day of February, he received orders from the department to proceed to Sackett's Harbor, and report for duty to Commodore Chauncey, the senior naval officer upon the lakes.

He continued at Sackett's Harbor, with his senior in command, until the sixteenth of March, when he received orders to repair to Erie, Pennsylvania, and hasten the construction and equipment of a squadron of armed vessels, at that port.

He arrived at Erie on the twenty-seventh of March, where he found two gun boats nearly planked, one gun boat nearly ready for planking, and the keels of two twenty-gun brigs just laid. These were under the charge of sailing-master Dobbins, who had commenced the building of the vessels, and Mr. Noah Brown, who was the master shipwright.

On the 28th of May, Commodore Perry was directed to repair to Black Rock, and take from thence to Erie some small vessels, belonging to the government, which were intended to form a part of his fleet.

With almost incredible labor, those vessels were taken up against the current to Buffalo, and got under way, at that place, for Erie, on the 14th of June. They consisted of the brig Caledonia, the schooners Somers, Tigress and Ohio, and the sloop Trippe.

By the most watchful vigilance and expert seamanship, Commodore Perry succeeded in avoiding the superior force of the enemy, then on the alert to intercept his progress, and reached Erie with his little squadron on the evening of the eighteenth of June.

During the previous month of May, the two twenty-gun brigs, one called the "Lawrence" and the other the "Niagara," and the three gun-boats, had been launched, and were now in a rapid state of completion.

The timber that entered into the construction of these vessels was found in the trees growing on the spot; and it was no uncommon thing to chop down a sturdy oak in the morning, and use it for planking in the evening.

On the fifteenth of July, Commodore Perry received orders from Washington, to co-operate with General Harrison in the movements he was about to make for the recovery of Michigan, and for the invasion of Upper Canada.

His fleet was equipped and ready for sailing, but he had *no men*.

He remained in this state of embarrassment several weeks, and employed his time in writing letters, and supplicating both Commodore Chauncey and the Secretary of the Navy to send him officers and men.

In the mean time, the enemy had been essentially re-inforced: Their fleet had received a new commander, in the person of Captain Barclay, a naval officer of great experience and undaunted courage, who had fought at Trafalgar, and acquired distinction under the eye of Nelson. He had brought with him several accomplished officers, and a goodly number of prime sailors.

Our young Commodore was sufficiently restless under the neglect of those whose duty it was to supply him with men: but when Commodore Barclay showed him the British ensign off the harbor of Erie, his impatience knew no bounds. He snatched his pen, and thus he addressed his chief-in-command at Sackett's Harbor.

"The enemy's fleet of six sail are now off the bar of this harbor.— Give me men, Sir, and I will acquire both for you and myself honor and glory, on this Lake, or *perish in the attempt*.

I hope that the wind, or some other cause, will delay the enemy's return to Malden until my men arrive, and I WILL HAVE THEM."

After many and severe trials and disappointments, Commodore Perry received his men, passed his vessels over the bar in the face of the enemy, and made his way to the bay of Sandusky; where, on the nineteenth of August, he entertained General Harrison and his staff, and Generals Cass and McArthur, on board his flag-ship, the Lawrence.

From this time until the engagement, the general place of rendezvous for our little fleet was "Put-in-Bay," the beautiful sheet of water here spread out before you. The Commodore occasionally left his moorings, and ran down to Sandusky, to communicate with the army, or up to

Malden to look after the enemy, but Put-in-Bay was his favorite roadstead.

Here, on the tenth of September, it was ascertained by the look out that the British fleet, in battle array, was approaching. It was made up of the Detroit, of 19 guns; the Queen Charlotte, of 17 guns; the Lady Prevost, of 13 guns; the Hunter of 10 guns; the Little Belt of 3 guns; and the Chippewa of 1 gun: a total of 63 guns, with an effective force of five hundred men.

So soon as the fact of the enemy's approach was reported to Commodore Perry, he ordered the signal made—"Under way to get!"

Directly, the whole squadron was under canvas, beating out of the harbor, with a light wind from the south west, and boats ahead to tow. It consisted of the Lawrence, of 20 guns; the Niagara, of 20 guns; the Ariel, of 4 guns; the Caledonia, of 3 guns; the Scorpion, of 2 guns; the Somers, of 2 guns; the Porcupine, the Tigress and the Trippe, of 1 gun each: making a total of 54 guns, with a nominal force of 500 men, —one hundred of the number being on the sick list.

To get the weather gauge of the enemy, it was important to pass to windward of yonder island. The wind was ahead and baffling, and the Commodore became impatient. He ordered his sailing master, Mr. Taylor, to put up his helm and pass to leeward. "In that case," replied the master, "we must fight the enemy from the leeward." "I don't care," cried our hero, "to windward or to leeward, *they shall fight to-day.*" As they were about to fill away, the wind suddenly hauled to the eastward, and the fleet was enabled to weather the island, as they desired.

At ten o'clock Commodore Perry had his line of battle formed, with the Scorpion, Captain Champlin, ahead, and the Ariel, Lieut. Packet, on his weather bow. Then came the Lawrence, to engage the flag ship Detroit. The Caledonia, Capt. Turner, followed next to try her mettle with the Hunter; then came the Niagara, Capt. Elliott, whose business it was to engage the Queen Charlotte; and, lastly, the Somers, the Porcupine, the Tigress and the Trippe, which were to engross the attention of the Lady Prevost and the Little Belt.

At this time the British fleet was distant about five miles.

When about to bear down upon the enemy, Commodore Perry mounted a gun-slide, and unfurling his battle flag, called his crew around him, and said, "My brave lads! this flag contains the last words of Captain Lawrence; shall I hoist it?" "Aye, aye, Sir!" was the unanimous response; and instantly from the royal mast head, streamed forth the blue field, inscribed with letters of light,

"DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP!"

The flag was hailed with loud and repeated huzzas from the whole line, and then—*all was still*. The hostile fleets were closing.

"Closer, still closer creep the squadrons on,
Nearer, yet nearer frowns the shotted gun;
And now the sea-bird's wild, prophetic scream,
(As o'er the waves his snowy pinions gleam,)
A moment starts each palpitating crew,
And bids all hearts express *the last adieu*."

At a quarter to meridian, the notes of a bugle on the deck of the Detroit, which bore the Commodore's pennant, called forth cheers from the whole British fleet. Then a gun from the same ship told that the battle had commenced. A second shot took effect upon the Lawrence, when the firing became general along the whole British line.

Commodore Perry ordered his ships to close up and engage; and immediately crowded the Lawrence into action, and she became the mark for the greater part of the enemy's guns.

He was most nobly sustained by the Ariel and Scorpion on his weather bow, and the Caledonia had gallantly closed with the Hunter; but the Niagara did not engage with the Queen Charlotte.

For a time, the Lawrence received the fire from the long guns of the Detroit, and the Queen Charlotte, with occasionally the shots from the Hunter. She continued the unequal contest for more than two hours, directing her batteries, now against the Detroit, and then against the Queen Charlotte, and at times an after gun at the Hunter, until her rigging was shot away, her sails torn to pieces, her spars wounded and falling, her braces and bow-lines cut away, and all her guns but one were dismounted.

Then, and when twenty-two of his brave men were killed, and sixty-one lay wounded, out of a hundred and one that were reported for duty in the morning, our hero did not shrink from the bloody contest.

He called to his assistance the purser and chaplain, and with his own hands worked the spare gun until it, too, was dismounted, and then—he gave up the ship. He gave her into the hands of Mr. Yarnall, his gallant first Lieutenant, and, gathering his battle-flag around him, descended to his boat.

He was rowed to the Niagara, and as he planted his foot on her deck, the cheers of the enemy proclaimed the surrender of the Lawrence. The triumph of the foe was of short duration.

Our gallant Commodore, finding himself in a sound ship, run up his flag, hove out his signal for close action, and bore down upon the Brit-

ish line. As she approached the Detroit, that vessel attempted "to ware," and in doing so "fell foul" of the Queen Charlotte, when both vessels received from the Niagara a deadly fire of grape and cannister, at half-pistol shot from her batteries.

Almost at the same instant, the Niagara poured her larboard broadside into the Lady Prevost and Little Belt. Her marines, too, were taking off every Englishman that showed his head above the railing of his vessel.

Commodore Perry now passed under the lee of the two ships that had been foul, and bringing the Niagara upon the starboard tack, poured a tremendous broadside into the Queen Charlotte and the Hunter.

By this time our small vessels had come up, and the contest was decided. At three o'clock the Queen Charlotte displayed a white flag, and

—THE BATTLE WAS WON.

Commodore Perry retired to his cabin, and wrote the famous despatch to General Harrison, which has no parallel in any language save one:

"*Dear General:*—We have met the enemy, and they are ours. Two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop."

On the morning of the eleventh, the American fleet, or rather *the combined British and American fleet*, made sail for Put-in-Bay, where the next day, the officers who had fallen in battle were interred, with suitable solemnities, equal respect being paid to those of both nations.

In the battle, the British had forty-one killed, and ninety-four wounded; the Americans twenty-seven killed and ninety-six wounded.

The naval action of Lake Erie was productive of great results. The first and more immediate was, the defeat of the British and Indians, under Proctor and Tecumseh, in the battle of the Thames; and the restoration of a sense of security to the defenseless inhabitants of our widely extended frontier.

The more extended and general benefit was found in the fact that England, who had so long and so loudly proclaimed herself "MISTRESS OF THE SEAS," was thenceforth content to hold a divided empire on the ocean with the young American Republic.

"FREE TRADE" was respected, and "SAILOR'S RIGHTS" were secured.

A word of respectful salutation to the honored survivors of the brave men who were so eminently their country's benefactors, on the day we meet to commemorate.

Venerable men! You need no welcome, in words, from the grateful thousands who now surround you. The throbbing of the heart—the beaming of the eye—the pressure of the hand—all give evidence that you are here regarded as no ordinary men. They look upon you—as

the pilgrim looks upon his shrine, or the devotee upon his idol—with ardent love and reverential homage.

The people of the Lake country have been taught for years to regard Perry's Victory as the great *palladium* of the bold pioneers, who encountered the hardships of the wilderness, and made "darkness light before them, and crooked things straight." They regard the victims of the battle as martyrs to the cause of public peace and *domestic* security; and the survivors they look upon as being in the likeness of "JUST MEN MADE PERFECT." They know not how, sufficiently, to do them honor.

"Some shout him—and some hang upon his car,
To gaze in his eyes and bless him; Maidens wave
Their 'kerchiefs, and old women weep for joy."

Venerable men! This countless multitude greet you on this joyful occasion: They desire to make an offering of their hearts' devotion for the unspeakable blessings that were vouchsafed to their fathers, and, by inheritance, to themselves, and to succeeding generations, through the sufferings, and sacrifices, and heroic exertions, of Perry and his compatriots, on the 10th of September, 1813.

Fellow Citizens: The association having in charge the grateful work of making a monument of stone, significant of the men and deeds that have now been faintly delineated, have adopted a design, presented to their hands by T. D. Jones, Esq., a distinguished sculptor of Cincinnati. It represents a naval column, one hundred and sixty feet in height, adorned with a capital of "ship's prows," and surmounted by a statue of Perry, standing on a "capstan."

If carried to completion, it will rise two hundred feet above the surface of Lake Erie, and speak "in granite tones" to myriads yet unborn, the story of its great naval battle.

They have chosen this anniversary occasion as the time, and yon Gibraltar Rock as the place, from which the monumental pile shall begin its rise.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, finding the corner stone to be "WELL FORMED, TRUE AND TRUSTY," will this day lay it in its resting place, with that peculiar skill

"That none but craftsmen ever knew."

"With solemnities suited to the occasion; with prayers to Almighty God for his blessing, and in the midst of this cloud of witnesses, we have begun the work."

By the united efforts of a great and prosperous people, let the shaft ascend, in ample dimensions and in chaste proportions, until the comple-

ted structure shall be significant of the strength of virtuous resolution, and the loftiness of heroic enthusiasm, and the purity of patriotic devotion, that so pre-eminently distinguished our beloved countrymen, who enacted the achievement it will serve to illustrate and perpetuate.

At the close of the oration, the Cleveland Glee Club was called forward by the President of the day, and sung the following patriotic song, written for the occasion by Ossian E. Dodge. It was received by the vast audience with the most enthusiastic cheers, which told how each heart throbbed with fire, as the singers poured forth their voices in the grand chorus. Every breast throbbed in sympathy with the song, which is as follows:

Just forty-six years now have fled,
Since Perry, young and bold,
Fought bravely, and for freedom bled,
And thus his victory told.

CHORUS.

Hurra! hurra! tra la la la la la,
We freely brave the tyrant's powers,
Hurra! hurra! tra la la la la la,
We've met the enemy and they're ours.

Applause or praise with flattering tongue
Brave Perry ne'er did court,
But when the victory he had won,
This was his plain report—

CHORUS.

Hurra! hurra! tra la la la la la, &c.

Whene'er opponents of the free
Are on our waters found,
Our gallant sons of liberty
Will thus the air resound—

CHORUS.

Hurra! hurra! tra la la la la la, &c.

But now with England we're at peace,
And free from toil and care;
We'll strive the Union to increase,
And fill with strains the air—

CHORUS.

Hurra! hurra! tra la la la la la, &c.

Our love for peace and brotherhood
Comes from the God above;
For evil let us render good,
And conquer all with love.

CHORUS.

Hurra! hurra! tra la la la la la, &c.

A benediction was then pronounced by Rev. J. B. Walker, of Sandusky, after which there was a grand display of the military present—the Cleveland Grays, Detroit Light Guards, the Sandusky Yagers, an artillery company from Cleveland, and one from Toledo, the Sandusky Artillery Company, and other companies—under the direction of Major General J. A. Jones, Norwalk, of the 17th Division Ohio Volunteer Militia, accompanied by his own staff, and Brig. Gen. H. N. Bill, of Sandusky, and staff.

Upon the stand, with many distinguished persons, there were four old soldiers who were with Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie:

Dr. W. F. Taliaferro, of Kentucky, who was in the Somers.

Wm. Blair, of Pa., who was in the Niagara, and has a silver medal presented by the State of Pennsylvania.

Benj. Fleming, of Erie, who was in the Niagara.

John Tucker, of Kentucky, who was in the Caledonia.

Wm. Coleman, of Euclid, was in the war, but not in that battle.

The Masons, under direction of Foster M. Follett, Esq., Assistant Marshal of the day, then proceeded, in full regalia, with all their appropriate emblems, to Gibraltar, where the corner-stone of the Monument was duly laid, with the imposing ceremonies peculiar to that order, by J. N. Burr, D. G. Master, of the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Ohio, assisted by the craft. The following articles were placed in an air-tight copper box within the corner-stone.

BY THE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

Declaration of Independence.

Constitution of the United States.

Constitution of the State of Ohio.

Constitution of the Battle of Lake Erie Monument Association.

Names of the President, Vice President of the United States, members of the Cabinet, and the principal officers of the Army and Navy.

Senators and Members of Congress of the United States.

Governor and other officers of the State of Ohio.

Officers of this Association.

History of the Battle of Lake Erie.

Programme of this day's proceedings.

Coins of the United States.

Papers of the day.

BY THE MASONS.

Holy Bible.

Book of the Masonic Constitution.

Constitution and By Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

By Laws of Science Lodge No. 50 Free and Accepted Masons, Sandusky City.

Papers of the day.

And so ended the celebration, which was a right noble one, worthy its hero, and worthy the attention of the many thousands who joined in it. May each succeeding one be more and more fully attended, and more full of interest.







