

This is the fourth occasion upon which you  
 have bestowed on me the honor of filling  
 my present position at our annual reunion  
 to celebrate the declaration of <sup>their</sup> independence  
 by the United States of America, & in proposing  
 to-might the toast that formally proclaimed  
 our sympathy with that event I wish to give  
 expression more particularly to the reasons  
 which appear to me to justify so small  
 a company as we are assembling here

after years to commemorate it. <sup>and I am prompted</sup>  
~~to do so by the fact that you are a true patriot  
 whose heart is ever with the oppressed  
 and whose mind is ever with the  
 just followers that wherever two or three  
 of them should after his death meet together  
 and remember our invitation to join  
 in his home he would be in the midst of  
 the orientation of his language emphasizes beyond  
 the point of sympathy for men of words with a citizen  
 he gave that promise. He understood the power  
 of sincere conviction in the minds of a free  
 is that the measure of profit to ours in gathering  
 around the table of peace and justice~~

and sincerity of the convictions and opinions  
~~the speaker of most permanent durability~~  
~~which we project upon the people when~~  
But the strongest convictions & the most fervent  
enthusiasm of the individual require a response  
in the minds & hearts of others in order to impart  
to their possessor the confidence necessary to  
induce them to action. In this fact we find  
the rationale of all associations & organizations  
of men directed to the control of human conduct,  
& every gathering of individuals in the name of  
a common belief influences the subsequent action  
of those who take part in it in accordance with  
the measure of their faith & sincerity of their  
professions. We have met to fight in the  
name of the principles which were proclaimed  
by the founders of the Anglo-American Republic  
as those which justified them in throwing off  
their allegiance to an authority, resistance  
to a government which had violated them  
& a permanent repudiation of its authority;

or we do so because we believe those principles  
to be permanently applicable to the politics  
of the world or the practical application of them  
in the creation or modification of the institutions  
which constitute the organs of our social life  
to be our only safeguard against political  
retrogression. Unhappily, gentlemen, history  
teaches us that although perpetual progress  
is the law of humanity retrogression in  
special cases is possible; or it is the possibility  
of political retrogression in consequence of  
a forgetfulness or violation of the principles  
we have met to magnify which justifies  
us in assembling annually to remind one  
another of the worth of what we inherit  
from the struggles or victories of the forefathers  
of our kindred on the American continent.  
And the fewer we are the more earnest or  
more practical we ought to be in keeping



alive in each other's hearts the sentiments  
which bring us together at the present moment  
so that we may be preserved against the  
insidious contamination of the indifference  
or lethargy of the majority around us. This  
gentleman is the utility of our annual  
gathering on the anniversary of the day  
which we commemorate to-night; or I have  
confined myself on this occasion to a  
judication of our action in so doing in  
order to encourage the freest expression of  
sentiment in those of you who shall speak  
after me & trusting that the result which I  
have aimed at will be secured I give you

# Programme

1. The Day we celebrate      Chair
2. The President & Congress      Chair
3. The Progress of the Union      Mr Edwards
4. The Roll of Honour      Mr Swan
5. The Memory of President Garfield      Mr Clark
6. The French Republic      Mr Thomson
7. The Mother Land      Mr Rube
8. The Australian Colonies      Mr Johnson

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- 1. The Day we celebrate      Chair
- 2. The President & Congress      Chair
- 3. The Progress of the Union      Mr Edwards
- 4. The Roll of Honour      Mr Lory
- 5. The Memory of President Garfield      Mr Clarke
- 6. The French Republic      Mr McPherson
- 7. The Mother Land      Mr Rube
- 8. The ...      Mr Johnson