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Speech at Commence ment, fune 1861 by Showas

The national (monument, The thought of being forgother is ac. king mant to our very nature; that of being remembered is dear to every heart. To provide against the one, & to secure the other has always been a most desirable object to both individuals to nations. Indeed to perpetuate the memory of departed friends, is regarded as an imperative duty, imposed upon every one by the constitution of his nature. For this he raised the simple mound, & creeks the humble tomb stone or The lofty killar, And the same principle holds in respect to nations. They too regard it as binding on them, to keep in perpetual rememberance illustrious deeds, & memorable names. For this the talents of the historian to the skill of the Doubleton are both combine They mutually aid each other in accomplishing The desired biject, History has performed the part, nobly. It's pages have abounded with descriptions So graphic, & delineations so striking, what The seenes have been brought distincly before our minds, I we have recognized the actors. Sculpture

too has contributed the kower in recalling the events of former days, by preunting to the eight the very forms of the kersons, who figured most prominently in them, get not to there alone has mankind entrusted the keeping of the past Egypt has its catacombs, its granted pyramide its towering obelisks, & indeed every country has its monuments & national memorials, & these, also remind us of the occurences of by gone days What feelings are kindled? What emotions excited by a view of Bunker Hill & the monument there creeted, thus Situated we are overwhelmed with the thoughts that auch upon our minds, we are transporte back to the time of conflict, are presentat The scene of tattle, we hear the the war of cannon, the thunder of actillary, we behold warren & his brave associates, foremost in the fight, exposed to the hothest fire to one after another sacreficing themselves on the alter of their country's liberty. The thought of this battle suggests that of the whole American revolution; our basoms ewell with indig nations

at the injustice & oppression of England i with foolings of love & admisation, with dentiments of gratitude we contemplate the bold resistance of our forefathers, we land to the skies their noble Katrotism & unflinkling integrity in The cause of frudom. So great is the effect of This single objects, this monument raised on old Bunker Hell. So kowerful is the influence of local association. Le natural is A for us to imbody our thoughts in some external object, Who can visit, wishout encotion The interior of West minuter et bley When the States men, the poets, & she thislosophers of lengland "sleep with her kings In chiquity the seeme. To couse his country men to any greator noble action she Athenian States man, had only to koint the In the Accropolis crowned with the results of former acheivements. The Romens at rached a superstitions reverence to the rock of the Capital i and manlins when brought before their tribunal of justice answered the sharges preferred againsthim only by bidding his judges, gaze whon that

Consecrated eminence, where he had fee red his life in his country's cause", This was Inflicient to withstand the combined force of the cloquence to intrigue of his acensert. He too would rear a monumental kile exect assational monument as a hibate to the memory of the immortal Washington, a pledge of our attachment to our Country & like the Roman Capital a monument of her former great nees a pe security of her fur ture glory". Jet our object is not to preserve a martial spirit. This befit & Characterizes past ages when bloodshed, rakine & cruelty marked the progress of nations, I when fame & reputation varied only with The number slain in battle. We indeed cherish & ever will cherish the memory of the hero of the revolution, but at is not because, he figured prominently in scenes of battle, but because of the glo rions principles which he advocated, she

spirit which he manifested alike in the councils of war & the halls of legislation, you . This reason may his memory belive dear, his virtues imitated by every American & the monument which is to perpetuate & signalize his services as lasting as his own immortal name, May it rise high obove all Structures ancients or modern, & as a stone from each State in the confederacy is placed in its made Live sides may it only Lerve as another tie to bind them into addissoluble union At this critical period As foundation has bean laid, what time could be moreakpropriate what place more suitable Man the City of Washington, & for its Construction what delign more beautiful than the one Contemplated to rear it as the free will offering of a grateful to liberal people to the honor to renow not the paternal wash ington, the man first in was first in peace to first in the hearts of his coun. Aymen" & combining in his character

all that is virtuous, or desirable, I like The masterpeice of the grecian artist exhibiting in one glow of associated beauty she pride of every model she perfection of every master". We only pray that it may be accomplished the Jaray that this next conal monument "using roward heaven among the pointed Spires of Ro merry temples dedicated to god may contribute also toproduce In all minds a prions feeling of dependence I gratitude, we wish that the last object on the sight of him who leaves his country's cafetol & the first to gladden his who revisits it may be Some thing Is remind him of the glory Thiberty of his country. Let it rise Till it meet the sum in his comin gold The earliest lights of the morning gild it & Karting day luger & klayon its Rummits"

Commencement Oration of James S. Thomas, Class of 1851 Transcribed by Chris Altieri, May 2008

The National Monument

The thought of being forgotten is repugnant to our very nature; that of being remembered is dear to every heart. To provide against the one, & to secure the other has always been a most desirable object to both individuals & nations. Indeed, to perpetuate the memory of departed friends, is regarded as an imperative duty, imposed upon everyone by the constitution of his nature. For this he raises the simple mound, & erects the humble tombstone or the lofty pillar. And the same principle holds in respect to nations. They too regard it as binding on them, to keep in perpetual remembrance illustrious deeds, & memorable names. For this the talent of the historian & the skill of the sculptor & the wisdom of the architect are all both combined & they mutually aid each other in accomplishing the desired object. History has performed its part nobly. Its pages have abounded with descriptions so graphic, & delineations so striking, that the scenes have been brought distincly before our minds, & we have recognized the actors. Sculpture

too has contributed its power in recalling the events of former days, by presenting to the sight the very forms of the persons, who figured most prominently in them. Yet not to these alone has mankind entrusted the keeping of the past. Egypt has its catacombs, its gigantic pyramids its towering obelisks, & indeed every country has its monuments & national memorials, & these also remind us of the occurences of bygone days.

What feelings are kindled? What emotions excited by a view of Bunker Hill & the monument there erected? Thus situated we are overwhelmed with the thoughts that rush upon our minds. We are transported back to the time of conflict—are present at the scene of battle, we hear the roar of cannon, the thunder of artillery, we behold Warren and his brave associates, foremost in the fight, exposed to the hottest fire & one after another sacrificing themselves on the altar of their country's liberty. The thought of this battle suggests that of the whole American revolution: our bosoms swell with indignation

at the injustice & oppression of England; with feelings of love & admiration, with sentiments of gratitude we contemplate the bold resistance of our forefathers, we laud to the skies their noble patriotism & unflinching integrity in the cause of freedom. So great is the effect of this single object, this monument raised on old Bunker Hill, so powerful is the influence of local association, so natural is it for us to imbody our thoughts in some external object. Who can visit without emotion the interior of Westminster Abbey where the Statesmen, the poets, & the philosophers of England "sleep with her kings & dignify the scene" To rouse his countrymen to any great or noble action the Athenian statesman, had only to point them to the Accropolis crowned with the results of former achievements. The Romans attached a superstitious reverence to the rock of the Capitol: and Manlius, when brought before their tribunal of justice answered the charges preferred against him only by bidding his judges to gaze upon that

consecrated eminence, where he had periled his life in his country's cause: this was sufficient to withstand the combined force of the eloquence & intrigue of his accusers. We too would rear a monumental pile—erect a national monument as a tribute to the memory of the immortal Washington, a pledge of our attachment to our country & like the Roman Capitol "a monument of her former greatness a security of her future glory". Yet our object is not to preserve a martial spirit. This befits & characterizes past ages when bloodshed, rapine & cruelty marked the progress of nations, & when fame & reputation varied only with the number slain in battle. We indeed cherish & ever will cherish the memory of the hero of the revolution, but, it is not because he figured prominently in scenes of battle, but because of the glorious principles which he advocated, the

spirit which he manifested alike in the councils of war & the halls of legislation. For this reason may his memory be ever dear, his virtues imitated by every American, & the monument which is to perpetuate & signalize his services as lasting as his own immortal name, may it rise high above all structures ancient or modern, & as a stone from each state in the confederacy is placed in its massive sides, may it only serve as another tie to bind them into indissoluble union. At this critical period its foundation has been is laid. What time could be more appropriate, what place more suitable than the City of Washington, & for its construction what design is more beautiful than the one contemplated to rear it as the free-will offering of a grateful & liberal people to the honor & renown of the paternal Washington, the man "first in war, first in peace & first in the hearts of his countrymen" & combining in his character

all that is virtuous, or desirable, & "like the masterpeice of the Grecian artist exhibiting in one glow of associated beauty the pride of every model, the perfection of every master". We only pray that it may be accomplished we pray that the national monument "rising toward heaven among the pointed spires of so many temples dedicated to God may contribute also to produce in all minds a pious feeling of dependence & gratitude. We wish finally that the last object on the sight of him who leaves his country's capitol & the first to gladden his who revisits it may be something to remind him of the glory & liberty of his country. Let it rise till it meet the sun in his coming; let the earliest light of the morning gild it & parting day linger & play on its summit."