

cestors; we think the better of them for frequently recalling the noble characters, and mentioning the heroic achievements of those from whom their advantages come. And you, brethren of New England, delight to do the same.

The patriotic John Adams remarked, that "the Fourth of July, 1776, was a memorable epoch, to be commemorated as the day of deliverance,—to be solemnized with pomp, shows, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of the continent to another, throughout all generations." He was, doubtless, correct. But to my mind the day we celebrate—the 22nd December, 1620,—the day when the national existence of New England began—marks a grander epoch, still more worthy of being commemorated by us, and by our successors for ever. Lord Chatham's remark respecting the members of the first Continental Congress, is even more true of those who on this day landed at Plymouth: "he had never," he said, "heard or read of any body of men superior, or indeed equal to them, in all that constitutes mental greatness and moral worth."—This we may honestly say of the Pilgrims. On this account, the anniversary of their disembarkation has long been regularly celebrated in prose and in verse, in sermon, in oration, and in poem—a patriotic and religious duty, to which have been consecrated the highest efforts of many of the noblest and purest minds ever produced by the country to whose colonization they led the way. And you, gentlemen, though residing prosperously and contentedly under the honored flag of Old England, would not forget the virtues or the deeds of those to whom we and the world are indebted for much of our virtue and nearly all our happiness. By this annual celebration you would teach your children to know and reverence the stock from which they are sprung, and to glory in the name of American.

In your first annual address, you listened to an eloquent discourse on the vision of the Pilgrims. Your second one was a most searching analysis representing individuality, originality, and conscientiousness as the sources of the Pilgrim's character. Your last was an exhi-