

fathers, mindful of the centuries-old struggle which the English people had won, answered the proposal to tax them with a demand for the rights which Englishmen enjoyed in England; and for those rights they fought. And from whatever country our fathers came that was the fight. Lafayette, Muhlenberg, Herkimer, Steuben, Kalb, Pulaski and Kosciusko did not fight for the rights of the French in France nor of the Germans in Germany, nor of the Poles in Poland, but they fought for the rights which Englishmen had won for themselves in England, and which as part of the British Empire were our heritage, along with the common law, trial by jury and *habeas corpus*. And this was Washington's opinion. "American freedom," he said, "is at stake; it seems highly necessary that something should be done to avert the storm and maintain the liberty which we have derived from our ancestors".

In the New York farm house in which I was born, great beams hewn from forest trees outlined the foundations; these were the sills. Other hewn timbers extended across from side to side, a few inches apart; those were the sleepers. This massive foundation, which a hundred years have not shaken, is all unseen, unless you go into the cellar. American children have never been taken into the cellar of their political history where they might see the sills and the sleepers which are the foundations of the marvellous and well-ordered liberty which they enjoy to-day. If they had been, the first gun of this war would have warned a united people of the danger of democracy. It is time to begin; and when the children ask who build these foundations of free speech, free press, right of petition, trial by jury and all the rest, with the two American exceptions, there can be only one answer—England. And when they ask, what of England to-day, they will have to be told that when George III. was trying to conquer us, the English people, led by Chatham and Burke and Fox, were struggling for the same ideals we were fighting for; and that what we won by the sword they won against the same enemy by years of political struggle until England stands to-day the government most responsive to the will of the people. And when they ask what race has preserved these foundations and spread civil liberty over the world, the answer will have to be—the English-speaking race.