

ADDRESS.

MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF ST. LOUIS: It is with singular diffidence that I rise to address you on an occasion which excites such a noble enthusiasm, and displays in your State such a laudable desire to commemorate the historic past.

The Queen City of the Mississippi valley, so rich in all the traditions and legends of by-gone days, with all its romantic associations, could summon many of her own sons, many from the proud State of Missouri, many an orator from the length and breadth of the Mississippi valley, who would invest the theme of this day's celebration with all the heaven-given genius of the orator and poet.

Before such an audience as I see gathered here I feel all the more deeply the great honor you confer upon me, and while I thank the Missouri Historical Society and the citizens of St. Louis for the distinction, I congratulate them that an eloquent son of Missouri is to address you, and by his glowing words make this anniversary indelible in your minds.

Called by your flattering choice from a scholar's seclusion on the shores of the Atlantic, I find myself in the midst of a brilliant assemblage, welcomed by the merit, the learning, the wealth, the culture, and refinement of the real centre of our great republic, the city of St. Louis.

You have dedicated this day to an event in our early history, but one so intimately connected with the greatness of the country that you evoke for it all that can kindle your enthusiasm and exalt it to a niche of honor and respect.

And yet there are few events in human annals that in the persons of the chief actors, or the attendant circumstances and accessories, seem so incommensurate with the wonderful