

**AN ADDRESS, DELIVERED IN THE NEW  
COURT HOUSE, IN SPRINGFIELD,  
HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS,  
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE SAME,  
APRIL 28, 1874**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649435180

An Address, Delivered in the New Court House, in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, at the Dedication of the Same, April 28, 1874 by William G. Bates

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

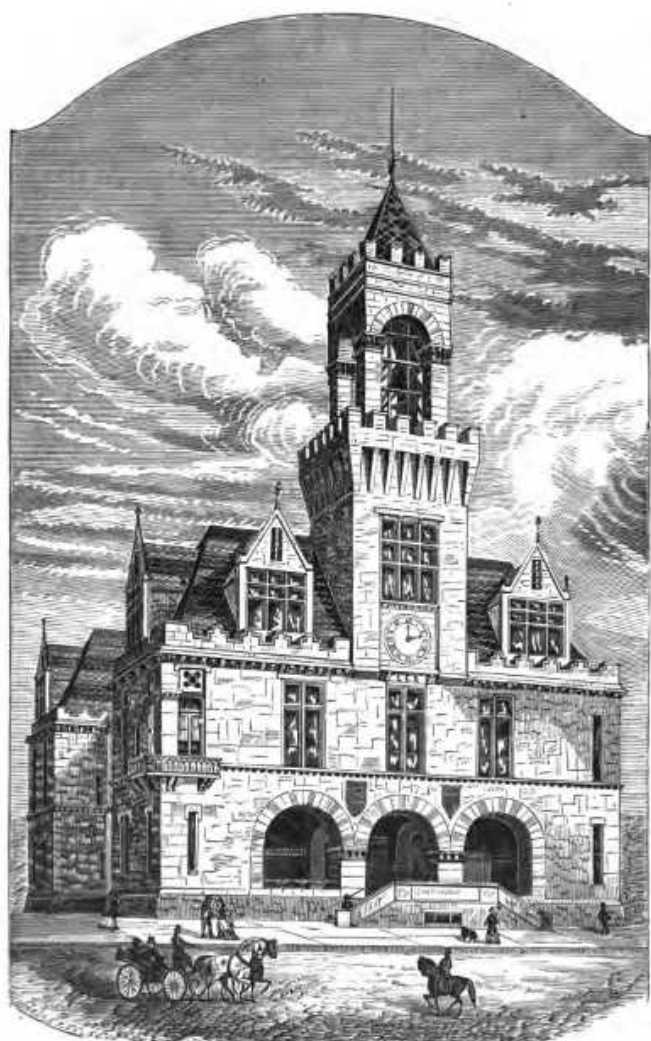
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**WILLIAM G. BATES**

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COURT HOUSE, IN SPRINGFIELD,  
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APRIL 28, 1874**





**NEW HAMPDEN COUNTY COURT HOUSE,  
ELM STREET, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.**

AN  
ADDRESS,

DELIVERED IN THE  
NEW COURT HOUSE, IN SPRINGFIELD,

HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS,

AT THE DEDICATION OF THE SAME, APRIL 28, 1874,

CONTAINING

SKETCHES OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE OLD COUNTY OF  
HAMPSHIRE AND THE COUNTY OF HAMPDEN, AND  
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BAR IN THOSE  
COUNTIES, WITH AN APPENDIX.

BY

WILLIAM G. BATES. *1865-1880.*

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PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BAR,  
BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

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SPRINGFIELD, MASS.,  
CLARK W. BRYAN & COMPANY, PRINTERS.  
1874.



SPRINGFIELD, APRIL 28, 1874.

HON. WM. G. BATES:

My Dear Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting of the Hampden Bar Association, held this afternoon, it was unanimously voted, that the thanks of the Association be presented to you for the very able, instructive and delightful address delivered by you, upon the occasion of the dedication of our new County Court House, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication.

In behalf of the committee, to whom that duty was assigned, I take pleasure in communicating that vote to you, with the earnest solicitation that you will comply with the request of your brethren of the Bar.

Very sincerely,

EDWARD B. GILLETT.

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WESTFIELD, JUNE 15, 1874.

HON. EDWARD B. GILLETT, OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE HAMPDEN BAR ASSOCIATION:

My Dear Sir,—I have received your notice of the unanimous vote of the Association, expressing their approbation of the address, which was prepared at their request, and delivered at the dedication of the new Court House; and I am pleased at the expression of their wish, that it is deemed worthy of being preserved as a portion of the history of the times. The men who have lived in the old County of Hampshire, during the last half-century, certainly were remarkable men, and deserving of an abler chronicler; but such commendation as my acquaintance with, and my observation of them, has enabled me to make, is cheerfully submitted to your disposal.

With my thanks to the members of the Bar for their long kindness and courtesy to me, and especially for this last expression of their regard, I am their and your friend and brother,

WILLIAM G. BATES.





## HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

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BY HON. WILLIAM G. BATES OF WESTFIELD.

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*Fellow Citizens, Gentlemen, Ladies,  
And my Brethren of the Bar:*

I FEEL grateful to you, my brethren, for this opportunity of professional and social speech. It is now almost one-half of a century,—good heavens! can it be so long?—since, as man and boy, I became connected with the legal profession. During that time, I have been almost a constant attendant at the sittings of the judicial courts in this County; and, although for a few years past I have been compelled to abstain partially from my accustomed participation in your forensic trials, and have been rather a “looker on here in Vienna” than an actor, I feel complimented by the assurance that your appointment gives, that you still regard me as one of your number; as one who has not yet passed away, out of sight, out of thought, adown behind the western hills of life; but, who is still with you, and of you, sympathizing with you in your toils, your anxieties, and in your efforts to render the profession of the law an honorable profession, in the estimation of all men.

I am gratified, also, in the audience, which the occasion has called together. Not only you, yourselves, are present, whose peculiar theater this place hereafter is to be, and where you are to labor and struggle in the intellectual contests of professional life; not only the learned jurist who has relinquished a remunerating professional practice to hold the scales of justice with a hand that does not tremble as he holds it, and whose unclouded eye watches its slightest preponderance; not only those who, having with you one passion, one interest, and one honor,

are here with you, with their hopes and sympathies ; but a large delegation of the staunch and solid men of the County, which bears the honored name of the great and fearless champion of the constitutional laws of England, have assembled with us, to manifest their respect for an institution upon which rest the pillars of every well-organized and stable government.

The occasion itself, also, is one of unmixed gratification. We are here to dedicate a magnificent structure to one of the most useful and magnificent of purposes. Having erected a temple to the administration of the law, we are here to consecrate it, as the forum where the law is to be meted out with Rhadamanthine impartiality. And with what more solemn earthly purpose could we come together ? Next to the consecration of a temple to the worship of Almighty God, what is there that can so imperatively command our reverence, as the accessories of an institution that He has founded, and that has been handed down to us through the hoary ages of the world ? And if we give but a little reflection to the subject, we shall realize, that we do but follow in the wake of all those hoary ages, in the respectful ceremonials of this day. We only show forth, by these evidences of our reverence, our concurrence in the sentiments of the people who have preceded us in the long annals of time.

The historical books of the Old Testament disclose the reverence of the peoples, whose histories are there recorded, for the immutability, the impartiality, and the wisdom of their laws. The trial of St. Paul, in the midst of a mob, clamoring for his blood, reveals to us how suddenly the words of the apostle, " I appeal unto Cæsar ! " hushed the violence of the maddened populace, changed the venue, and transferred the jurisdiction of his case, whose life they sought, from Jerusalem to Rome.

When Demetrius had stirred up the whole people of Ephesus to violence and tumult by an exciting appeal, not merely to their passions, but to their pecuniary interests, and the voice of reason was drowned in the absorbing cry, " Great is Diana of the Ephesians," how suddenly did the speech of the town clerk to the infuriated mob, announcing to them that " the law is open," and " if Demetrius and the craftsmen which are with him have a matter against any man, there are deputies : let them implead one another,"—how soon, I say, did this reference to the law appease the tumult and disperse the assembly. If we were to