

Lincoln Lyceum Address

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As a subject for the remarks of the evening, the perpetuation of our political institutions, is selected.

In the great journal of things happening under the sun, we, the _____ Proper Noun _____ People, find our account running, under date of the nineteenth century of the Christian era.--We find ourselves in the peaceful possession, of the fairest portion of the earth, as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate. We find ourselves under the government of a system of political institutions, conducing more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty, than any of which the history of _____ Adjective _____ times tells us. We, when mounting the stage of existence, found ourselves the legal inheritors of these _____ Adjective _____ blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or establishment of them--they are a legacy bequeathed us, by a once hardy, brave, and patriotic, but now lamented and departed race of ancestors. Their's was the _____ Noun _____ (and nobly they performed it) to possess themselves, and through themselves, us, of this goodly land; and to uprear upon its hills and its valleys, a political edifice of liberty and equal rights; 'tis ours only, to transmit these, the former, unprofaned by the _____ Noun _____ of an invader; the latter, undecayed by the lapse of time and untorn by usurpation, to the latest generation that fate shall permit the world to know. This task of gratitude to our fathers, justice to ourselves, duty to posterity, and love for our species in general, all imperatively require us faithfully to perform.

How then shall we perform it?--At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it?-- Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant, to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow?

Never

!--All the armies of Europe, _____ Proper Noun _____ and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a _____ Noun _____, could not by force, take a _____ Noun _____ from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.

At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its _____ Noun _____ and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by _____ Noun _____.

I hope I am over wary; but if I am not, there is, even now, something of ill-omen, amongst us. I mean the increasing disregard for law which _____ Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present _____ the country; the growing disposition to substitute the wild and furious passions, in lieu of the sober judgment of Courts; and the worse than savage mobs, for the executive ministers of justice. This disposition is awfully fearful in any community; and that it now exists in ours, though grating to our feelings to admit, it would be a violation of _____ Noun _____, and an _____ Noun _____ to our intelligence, to deny. Accounts of outrages committed by mobs, form the every-day news of the times. They have pervaded the country, from New England to Louisiana;--they are neither peculiar to the eternal snows of the former, nor the burning suns of the latter;--they are not the _____ Noun _____ of climate--neither are they confined to the slave-holding, or the non-slave- holding States. Alike, they _____ Verb _____ up among the pleasure hunting masters of Southern slaves, and the order loving citizens of the land of steady habits.

--Whatever, then, their cause may be, it is common to the whole country.

It would be tedious, as well as useless, to recount the horrors of all of them. Those happening in the State of _____ Proper Noun _____, and at St. Louis, are, perhaps, the most dangerous in example and revolting to humanity. In the Mississippi case, they first commenced by _____ Verb - Present Tense _____ the regular gamblers; a set of men, certainly not following for a livelihood, a very useful, or very honest occupation; but one which, so far from being forbidden by the laws, was actually licensed by an act of the Legislature, passed but a single year before. Next, negroes, suspected of conspiring to raise an insurrection, were caught up and hanged in all parts of the State: then, white men, supposed to be leagued with the negroes; and finally, strangers, from neighboring States, going thither on business, were, in many instances subjected to the same _____ Noun _____. Thus went on this process of hanging, from gamblers to negroes, from negroes to white citizens, and from these to strangers; till, _____ Adjective _____ men were seen literally dangling from the boughs of _____ Noun - Plural _____ upon every road side; and in numbers almost sufficient, to rival the native Spanish moss of the country, as a _____ Noun _____ of the forest.

Turn, then, to that horror-striking scene at St. Louis. A single victim was only sacrificed there. His story is very _____ Adjective _____; and is, perhaps, the most highly tragic, if anything of its length, that has ever been witnessed in real life. A mulatto man, by the name of McIntosh, was seized in the street, dragged to the suburbs of the city, chained to a _____ Noun _____, and actually burned to death; and all within a _____ Adjective _____ hour from the time he had been a freeman, attending to his own business, and at peace with the _____ Noun _____.

Such

are the effects of mob law; and such as the scenes, _____ Verb - Present Tense _____ more and more frequent in this land so lately famed for love of law and order; and the stories of which, have even now grown too familiar, to attract any thing more, than an _____ Adjective _____ remark.