Address
Delivered at the
Reunion of the
Matthew Hall
Reunion
Nov 28th, 1898

No. 7.

Subject
Matthew Hall
ADDRESS of General Howard, U. S. Army at the Dedication of the statue of NATHAN HALE, in City Hall Park, New York, November 25th, 93.

NATHAN HALE was born in COVENRY, Conn., June 6th, 1755. Slain in New York City, September 22nd, 1776.

There is something in Coventry that is ever premonitory of evil, and certainly it is dangerous almost any time to head for New York City, for no man knows what fate awaits him at that center of all mundane things.

Tall, handsome, manly, strong—these are some of the recorded items of our hero. A face beaming with intelligence, voice musical, graceful and charming of manner, so much so, that he won all hearts, except that of the brutal Cunningham and the imperious Sir William Howe.

It is further said that, he was ever ready to lend a helping hand to any one in distress.

He brightened any circle of acquaintance when he entered it.

He answered the call of his country among the first. He was prominent at Boston during the siege; and later from the East-River of New York, he led a party which snatched a supply vessel from under
the protection of the enemy's guns. The great Washington sent him in disguise to New York to make
the protection of the enemy's guns. The great
Washington sent him in disguise to New York to make
observations, and to bring back most important in-
formation.

Almost without a trial, after being denied the
privileges always accorded to the vilest criminal
before death, he was executed the next morning
after his capture.

His last speech, as he ascended the platform,
is the expression of a hero-heart, a noble soul,
a patriot of the highest type:--

" YOU ARE SHEDDING THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT;
" IF I HAD TEN THOUSAND LIVES, I WOULD LAY THEM
" DOWN IN DEFENCE OF MY INJURED, BLEEDING COUNTRY";
and his last words were:-- " I ONLY REGRET THAT I
" HAVE BUT ONE LIFE TO LOSE FOR MY COUNTRY."

If war is to continue, let neither of the two
nations at variance, condemn to ignominious death
such a man !! Contumely does not belong here. The
bravest of the brave, the noblest of the noble
should be highly honored among men, and will be
when right principles prevail.

Accordingly, let international law be altered,
to better express the genuine sentiment of mankind.
Imprison heroes, if need be, but never attempt to
cover their names with infamy and degrade them by
an accursed death and a dishonored grave !!

Hale staked all—fortune and life—for
human liberty. How well the poet's words
apply:

" Whether on the scaffold high,
" Or in the Battle's van,
" The noblest place for man to die
" Is where he dies for Man ! " 
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