

he may have achieved as an individual, it would, from my point of view, be neither modest nor seemly for his representatives to say more than that they were profoundly grateful to over-generous friends for the high honor and esteem in which the head of their house was held by those friends.

"But I am sure from what I know of the motives which have controlled and which underlie this presentation, that while the gentlemen who make it have for Mr. Starin respect, regard, awe, even affection, deep seated, heartfelt and sincere, nevertheless they had in mind the erection of this bronze not so much the man, as the grand type of American citizenship of which we can claim with all modesty that he is an example.

"If any man may say he is an American, *he* may make that claim. He was born among these Mohawk hills, as was his father, and his father, and his father before him. The conditions under which they lived and under which his early life was passed did much to mold him to that type of manhood which we honor to-day.

"His childhood was not an easy one. Their lives were spent fighting for life.

"Just think of it! Less than one hundred years ago this valley, this very spot upon which you have erected the choicest product of a Parisian workshop, though brought into being by an American mind, this valley was a wilderness; this spot the midst of a jungle. It is true that here and there upon the hill-tops a clearing had been cut, and hardy settlers, braving many dangers, literally battling for possession of the soil, had made for themselves primitive homes. But where great cities now stand, giant forest trees then towered; roads were almost unknown and the valleys were for the most part untrampled labyrinths.

"What a marvel! to be born surrounded by wild beasts, to watch the retreating footsteps of savage tribes, yet to live to witness not only the first steps, but the highest achievements of an advanced civilization. This was the lot of the father of the man whose statue you have just unveiled.

"Let me repeat that these remarkable conditions, the conditions under which his early life was passed, did very much to make of him the man who has since been found worthy to take a place in the nation's highest council. The people of his village, as it was then, were constantly engaged in a struggle to live. At the same time they were contented and hopeful; they were inspired by kindly sympathies which sprang from common needs. All intercourse was upon a level. No man envied his neighbor, for nowhere did the selfish or ostentatious display of ill-gotten wealth put poverty to shame. It was in such a community and under such conditions that