THE BIRTHDAY OF NATIONAL UNITY.

May 30, 1899.

UPON this anniversary, dearest and saddest to the hearts of all true Americans, I, in common with those who for four years helped to sustain one of the most historic conflicts that history has ever recorded, feel that the chasm which so long separated a people of a united country has been bridged, and that this Memorial day marks the beginning of the era of national unity, love and brotherhood. To-day will be memorable always as the beginning of a solemn, beautiful and touching feature in a mutual homage paid to our heroic dead, for to-day the blue and the gray are one in a common sentiment. To-day the hearts and hands of a united people do honor to those whose differences are buried in the oblivion of mutual respect, love and honor. Respect and veneration have ever characterized our observance of the rites of our soldier dead, and like the great people that we are, the more we enter into the spirit of appreciation of that which is worthy of all praise in the dead soldiers and sailors, without regard as to the cause which they espoused and for which they died, the closer are we drawn into a common faith and a fuller enjoyment of the united brotherhood which is ours. To-day, marking as it does the complete burial of the past, is also the birthday of our national unity.

WILLIAM R. SHAFTER,
Major General, U. S. A., Commanding Department of California.

the memory of their departed comrades. No fairer spot could have been chosen for the last sleep of those who had so well earned a rest. It is on the slope that ends with the cross on Lone Mountain and begins with the sands of the beach. In the center of the plat rises the single shaft fashioned to resemble a cannon and dedicated to the hero dead, and around this are the gray stones that mark where the veterans lie.

Among the monuments the speakers' stand was erected, and the veterans and their friends grouped themselves between that and the tall stone cannon. This had been hung with wreaths and flowers and against it the veterans had leaned their weatherbeaten old flag. Behind it was the flagstaff, with the flag, half hoisted, swinging lazily in the wind.

Below the plat and almost at the foot of the hill were stationed two guns from the Naval Militia's battery, and every minute until taps had been sounded their sharp report broke in on the speakers' words—a voice of war while all else was preaching peace.

Charles Edelman, president of the day, opened the programme with some remarks upon the nature of the celebration. He referred to the occasion as being one of special significance; not a day to mourn for the dead, but one to do honor to their memory. The glory they had achieved in the struggle for principle and liberty, he said, was far greater than any fame they could have won in the ordinary course of life. They had done their duty well and uncomplainingly, he said, and a nation's gratitude was their only recompense.

Rev. Charles Edward Locke delivered the invocation. It was an eloquent plea for the peaceful rest of the men who had given all for their country. He referred to the principles upon which the war of the rebellion had been fought, of the tremendous changes which it had wrought in history and of the peace and prosperity which had followed in its wake. That such a conflict could have torn the country and then that it could have settled into almost absolute peace and prosperity immediately afterward, said the speaker, was due to the character of the men who fought and the patriotism which actuated them. They fought not for revenge nor for personal ambition; they fought not in bitterness nor in anger; they fought for a principle, and having established that principle they returned to their homes and took up their neglected occupations just where they had laid them down. The courage of the soldiers of the American armies was bred from the pilgrims, and it had been handed down through all the wars for freedom and for unity until it had become a part of the American man.

The immortal words of Lincoln on the field at Gettysburg were recited by C. N. Harris and then the Burnett School Choral Band sang an ode to the "Nation's Dead."

The memorial poem by W. W. Stone, poet of the day, was then read. Its closing stanzas are:

Thy wrath, O God, tornadoes call,
And in the blast is death;
For sinful man must prostrate fall
Before thine angry breath.
Eternal God, remove our fears;
Be stilled the whirlwind's rack;
Let love descend these floral stairs,
To bear our tribute back.

Thy ancient temple ruined lies,
Let us thy temples be;
And in our hearts let altars rise
For sacrifice to thee.
Thy people sinned and freely bled,
Oh grant we shall not find
That comrades' blood was vainly shed
For freedom and mankind!

James G. Maguire, the orator of the day, was then introduced. His was a splendid effort. For over half an hour he held the attention of his audience, and the wind carrying his voice up the hillside, lost not a word. He spoke of the sacredness of the day and of its deep significance to the younger generation, for, he said, it is into their hands the celebration of the day must pass when the men of '61 have joined their comrades. He spoke, too, of the volunteer soldier; of the unique conditions of his education and the inheritance of courage which has come down to him through generations. "The American soldier is an American citizen even in the ranks," he said, "and he can never be reduced to the level of a mere fighting machine, which is the type of the European soldier." He paid, too, a graceful tribute to the wives and mothers left at home while the volunteers seek fame upon the battlefield. In part he said:

We come not to mourn the heroes departed, but to honor their memories, and to renew our pledges and sentiments of fealty to the cause and to the principles for which they died. We mourn them, not because we realize that length of years could not have increased the glory of their lives, nor could equal service have been rendered to mankind with less sacrifice. They fought the bloodiest war in the history of the world, contending upon every field with men of equal courage, equal skill and equal fortitude, and against men who were animated by the same high sense of duty by which they themselves were inspired.

That chapter in our nation's history is closed, and in fraternal spirit the sons and daughters of the Confederate Veterans, with sincere devotion to Union and Liberty, come "lovingly laden with flowers" to join in the national ceremony of this day. To the whole people the soldiers of the Union are heroes deserving universal honor, and, as we glorify their memories, we feel no trace or thought of gloating over those who fell in the cause of disunion, for "they banish our anger forever when they laurel the graves of our dead."

The volunteer armies of the Civil War shed a new luster upon the name of "soldier," and a new glory upon our country, which must ever be a source of pride to all the future generations of our people. They were soldiers in spirit and in discipline, comparing favorably in these respects with the trained soldiers of the regular armies of Europe. But they were something more than soldiers, and of some of these higher traits and qualities I think it fitting to speak in commemorating their services and their sacrifices.

Like their ancestors and prototypes of the revolution and of the intervening wars, they were men, inspired by the sentiments of individual duty and individual responsibility!

Even as a soldier in the ranks he was an American freeman filled with the inspiration of sentiment and with the self-confidence which is born of that noble station.

One of the most striking incidents in the whole course of the Civil War, to my mind, was the unwritten agreement based upon a common love of country, and of the character and services of Washington, that Mount Vernon farm, the home of Washington, should be neutral ground, to which the soldiers of both armies might freely go without fear of molestation and pay respectful homage at Washington's tamb.

But that was not the only startling and unusual evidence of our higher civilization. At the close of each fierce battle the passions of the contending soldiers cooled immediately, and sympathy for the wounded and the suffering prompted acts of tenderness and kindness to enemies such as were most rare in previous wars, and for the first time in the history of the world a great rebellion, involving millions of lives and billions of treasure, closed without one drop of blood being shed in vengeance by the conqueror, giving to mankind the highest example of civilized warfare in all the annals of war.

The Spanish-American war, in which and throughout which the sons and daughters of Federal and Confederate soldiers and the entire citizenship of our country, without regard to sectional or other divisions, brought undying glory to our country and our flag, has demonstrated beyond the possibility of question that we are a reunited people, in sentiment and in spirit, with no trace remaining of either the cause or the bitterness of the Civil War. To-day we delight in recognizing the ex-Confederate cavalry leader, General Joe Wheeler, as a hero of our common country just as truly as we recognize the national character of the fame of Admiral George Dewey, who in the Civil War served as a lieutenant under the immortal Farragut.

Henceforth there shall be no division of our country on sectional lines. Let us honor those who saved the Union, without unduly disparaging those who sought to destroy it, but who are now its loyal defenders.

The strewing of the flowers followed the orator's address, and when the graves had been transformed into banks of blossoms a firing squad from Lincoln Post stepped forward and gave the three volleys that speed the soul of every true soldier. Then the song "America" was sung by the people, a benediction was said and the mournful notes of "taps" ended the ceremonies.

OAKLAND'S TRIBUTE TO HER HEROES

Oakland Office San Francisco Call,
908 Broadway, May 30.

The observance of Memorial day in this city was more general than for many years past and the parade was composed of all the Grand Army of the Republic and allied organizations, including the Red Cross.

Grand Marshal L. S. Bixby had everything ready for a start from the Exposition building on time, and Chief Fletcher, Captain Wilson, Sergeant Peterson and a squad of sixteen officers headed the procession. Marshal Bixby was accompanied by his chief of staff, H. H. Kirby, and Aids Colonel C. L. Pierce, Major E. W. Woodward, N. S. Douglas and W. J. Cahill.

Major Hayes attended with Companies A and F of the Fifth Regiment, in command of Captains Poulter and Wenk.

After the young soldiers came the veterans, with the Veteran Reserves first in line. The following Grand Army of the Republic posts were represented: Lyon Post, Henry L. Longfellow acting commander; Appomattox Post, Peter Clarke post commander; Admiral Porter Post, S. P. Babcock post commander; Lookout Mountain Post, A. M. Hamlin post commander.

Hon. J. R. Scupham was president of the day and Professor T. O. Crawford read the Gettysburg address of President Lincoln.

Rev. Alexander Blackburn of Portland, Or., orator of the day, spoke in part as follows:

We stop an hour in our mad rush for wealth and power and ask what mean these flowers on graves? Why cut these stems or disturb these roots this day more than other days; for these graves more than for other graves? To make some answer to this question we set our thought. It is not enough to say that these graves hold the dust of soldiers. The world has always been full of soldiers. They bore the war clubs in the earliest barbaric times. They carried the bows and sped the arrows when tribe met tribe. They thrust the spear and hurled the javelin in Europe and they marched in solid columns under Xerxes. Soldiers' graves may be found in every land, whether they fell before Joshua's sword or were lighted to their death by the sun of Austerlitz.

Not because these men were brave then. Records of bravery belong to every age and country and are the possession of every cause. Goths were brave. The armies of Hannibal were almost fearless, and the troops of England who sought to hold America for George III were not cowards. Nor yet do we honor these graves because these brave soldiers were honest. They believed they were right, but so did the brave men of the rank and file who wore the gray.

Falsely educated and falsely led we may see in the thousands who carried the muskets of the South men whose impulses were true and whose motives were patriotic.

Not so of their leaders; they were willfully and wickedly and traitorously wrong. Their rebellion was not a blunder, but a crime, and all ages will hold them responsible. If they die unrepentant, let them die unwept, and never let the flag be lowered to half-mast for an unrepentant traitor.

No, comrades and fellow citizens. The men whose graves are strewn with flowers were not only soldiers, brave and honest, but they were more than these words describe. Another word must be added. They were, as judged by all laws, human and divine, right. Their cause was a right cause. The flag under which they fought and fell represented sentiments that were just and true. They stood for unity and not division.

These graves mark the campaign of an army of progress. Glorious were their achievements, grand their victories. Yet there is more to be done.

The richest possessions of the earth are the graves where the once living are buried. These heroes lie moldering, the soul of their work lives on. These graves of the dead and the wounds of the living call for a higher intelligence of the citizen, progress in the recognition of human right, a higher appreciation of American citizenship.

Thousands gathered at the cemetery to witness the decorating of the soldiers' graves and to see the salutes fired over each grave. Hundreds of school children gathered at Mountain View, and a quartet from the Central High School rendered "Our Flag Forever."

Special exercises were held at the Clawson School in North Oakland.

This evening the First Baptist Church was crowded. The programme was unusually fine. It was as follows:

Organ voluntary, Miss Gertie Kimball; remarks by president of the evening, Comrade E. M. Gibson of Lyon Post No. 8; prayer by Comrade A. H. Needham, pastor of Eighth Avenue Methodist Church, East Oakland; "The Meaning of Our Flag and Flag Salute," by pupils of Lincoln School, under the direction of Miss Caro True Boardman; recitation, "Barbara Freitchie," in costume, Cecil Cotton; duet, "The Vacant Chair," Miss Castle Hyde and Miss Hattie Sampson; oration, Hon. Frank McGowan; patriotic chorus, by pupils of Swett School; recitation, "The Unknown Dead," poem by Rev. Alexander Blackburn, recited by Charles King; bugle call, "Taps," by Bugler Carroll J. Orton of Company A, Veteran Reserves; national hymn, "America," by audience; benediction.

Mrs. S. M. Martin sang "The Star-spangled Banner" in such an inspiring manner that many in the audience rose to their feet.

Ended With a Luncheon.

After the memorial services at Odd Fellows' Cemetery, the officers of the day were tendered a luncheon by George R. Fletcher, superintendent of the cemetery.

City Cemetery Graves Remembered.

Three hundred veterans' graves at the G. A. R. plat in the City Cemetery were decorated with flowers yesterday by Liberty Post No. 133, G. A. R.

SONS OF ST. GEORGE PICNIC.

Interesting Athletic Games at Their Annual Outing in Santa Cruz Mountains.

The San Francisco, Oakland and Alameda lodges of the Order of Sons of St. George held their twelfth annual reunion at Glenwood, Santa Cruz Mountains, yesterday. Aout 2500 people were in attendance. There were no accidents to mar the pleasure of the day, the large crowd being handled without friction. James Hall was chairman of the day. A. W. J. Gibbs acted as official starter of the games. The results follow:

Boys' race—G. Howson first, H. Brecker second, A. Dingle third. Girls' race—Eva Leitch first, Ella Howe second, Emma Dunning third. Young men's race—G. J. Croll first, E. Edwards second, E. Christensen third. Young ladies' race—Genesta de Lancey first, Lucy Morel second, Ellen Dingle third. Race for members—Thomas Fake first, F. H. Orton second, D. E. Orton third, Archie Turnbull fourth, G. Watchers fifth. Race for Daughters of St. George—Mabel Carpenter first, Mrs. Orton second, Mrs. A. E. Creba third, Mrs. Chubb fourth, Mrs. Reier fifth. Three-legged race—W. Clark and H. Pope first, A. Perrk and Nick Smith second, A. Turnbull and F. Philips third. Sons of members (under 16)—W. G. Hasard first, G. H. Seebeck second, A. Dingle third. Daughters of members (under 16)—Miss de Lancey first, Corena Reier second, Miss Ellen Dingle third, E. L. Leitch fourth. Past presidents' race—P. Woodhouse first, A. Turnbull second, W. H. Fake third, A. J. Willson fourth. Men's race—A. Perry first, T. Fake second, S. Riga third. Ladies' race—Mabel Carpenter first, Lulu Rencurel second, Mrs. Rhodes third, Mrs. Orton fourth. Race for members of Albion Lodge—T. Fake first, F. Philips second, S. Watchers third. Race for committee—W. H. Fake first, A. Dingle second, J. B. Brown third, P. Woodhouse fourth, F. Philips fifth. Married ladies' race—Mrs. Gannon first, Mrs. Reid second, Mrs. Rhodes third, Mrs. Merrill fourth. Race for members of Britannia Lodge—Mrs. Creba first, Mrs. Chamberlain second, Mrs. Hinchcliff third. Race for members of Golden Gate Lodge—Mabel Carpenter first, Mrs. Orton second, Mrs. Chubb third.

SUICIDE ON THE TRANSPORT SHERIDAN

CLERK ROBERT CREIGHTON KILLS HIMSELF.

It Is Said That He Had Been Sick and Despondent for Several Weeks.

Robert Creighton, quartermaster's clerk on the United States transport Sheridan, now lying off Folsom-street wharf, was found dead in his bed at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. A bullet hole in his right temple and a revolver at his side told the story.

The officers on the vessel did their utmost to keep the facts from becoming public. The facts of the case were learned along the front and the Coroner was telephoned to for further particulars. At the Coroner's office nothing was known of the case and the wagon was at once sent out. At Folsom-street wharf Deputies Gately and Flanagan were met by Captain Bachelder, who told them he knew nothing of the case beyond the fact that the man was dead and that Coroner Hill had been communicated with, and had given the resident quartermaster permission to have the body taken to an undertaking parlors. When Coroner Hill was interrogated over the telephone he expressed considerable surprise, as he had heard nothing of the case. He gave the required permission, however, and the wagon went back without the body.

A rumor was circulated to the effect that the head bore wounds as if by a blunt instrument, giving color to the theory of foul play; but the presence of any such wounds was emphatically denied by the undertakers.

Captain Bachelder, who has charge of the vessel while she is at sea, refused positively to give any information regarding Creighton. He said he could not even guess at what his age was, although Creighton had served under him for several months. He admitted that he was an elderly man, but would not say within twenty years of what his age might be. Others of the Sheridan's crew were just about as wise. After close questioning they admitted that Creighton "was a pretty old man, who joined the vessel last February in New York, and had been sick and in low spirits for some time past." It was also learned that he had been in the Government employ a number of years and had a son 18 years old.

Hon. Mark D. Wilber Here.

The Hon. Mark D. Wilber, a prominent New York lawyer, ex-United States District Attorney, ex-president of the New York Society of California Pioneers and president of the Wilber Mercantile Agency, after an absence of nearly fifty years, is making a tour of the Pacific Coast and is now visiting Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. O'Brien and family at their country residence in Belvedere.

KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY A BRUTAL MOTORMAN

C. DAVIS HURT WHILE IN A HELPLESS STATE.

Charles Davis, who resides at 623 Tennessee street, was struck on the head by a motorman on the Folsom-street electric line yesterday and did not regain consciousness until he arrived at the Receiving Hospital. The injured man was intoxicated and boarded the car in company with Charles Hansen of 504 Twentieth street. Seeing Davis' condition the conductor refused to allow him to ride unless his friend went along to care for him. During the discussion the motorman showed his impatience by ordering Hansen off, but his fellow servant was more lenient.

Davis showed a desire to enter the interior of the car, but his way was blocked by the conductor, and during the dispute the motorman rushed in and struck the inebriated man over the head with the heavy handle used in controlling the car.

Despite the cries of "Shame!" from the passengers the railroad employe struck the helpless man again on the head, felling him to the floor of the car. The unconscious man was then hauled out on the street and carried to a nearby drugstore, while the car continued on its journey.

As Davis did not regain his senses Officer R. M. McDowell sent him to the hospital for treatment. It was feared he had sustained a fractured skull, but on close examination two ugly scalp wounds were found to be his only injuries.

E. C. Garbutt of 737 Howard street visited police headquarters last evening and stated he saw the motorman strike Davis. Up to a late hour the motorman who committed the assault had not been taken into custody.

Bitten by a Vicious Horse.

William Purdy, who resides at 2042 Howard street, had his hand bitten by a vicious horse at the Five Mile House yesterday. Purdy was about to put the bridle on the horse, when the brute reared and made a sudden plunge forward with open mouth and seized his hand. Purdy's cries for help attracted the attention of some men who were about the yard at the time. They came to his aid and with a broom handle beat the animal off. The injured man was conveyed to the City and County Hospital, where Dr. Tillman dressed the lacerated wounds. Fortunately no bones were injured.

GRAND MARSHAL L. S. BIXBY AND MRS. S. M. MARTIN OF THE OAKLAND CELEBRATION.

FORESTERS ENJOY A MERRY REUNION

PLEASANT DAY SPENT AMID THE GROVES.

Picnic at California Schuetzen Park Largely Attended—Prizes to Be Distributed.

The nation's holiday was taken advantage of by the Ancient Order of Foresters and its twenty-fifth annual picnic and reunion was held at California Schuetzen Park, San Rafael. Although the day was not as pleasant as recreation seekers could wish, a big crowd assembled at the grounds before the opening of the games and the dance. The first trains came to a stop at the park in the early morning and the picnickers made preparations for the noon luncheon. The hour came, the feast began, and when concluded the games commenced. The results of the games follow:

Race for boys under 10 years—Joe McCarthy first, Sherman Abrams second.

Race for girls under 10 years—Alma Ferris first, Helen Hafford second.

Race for boys under 14 years—Rafael Duffey first, W. Corcoran second.

Race for girls under 14 years—Katie Smith first, Emma Smith second.

Race for boys under 18 years—Charles Stram first, W. Nelson second.

Race for girls under 18 years—Maggie Quinn first, Rena Perry second.

Race for young men—Charles McFadden first, Dan Flannigan second.

Race for young ladies—Maud Wigham first, Chilla Brown second.

Race for married ladies—Mrs. Bryne first, Mrs. Kate O'Donnell second.

Race for married men—George A. Hanson first, J. Wilson second.

Race for past chief rangers—P. F. Hall first, J. R. Watson second.

Race for past chief companions—Miss Stevens first, Miss Marden second.

Race for members A. O. F.—J. Clark first, Lenord Kenard second.

Race for members C. O. F.—Mrs. H. Travers first, Rose Ambrose second.

Race for juveniles—John Falconer Jr. first, Henry Garrity second.

Race for chief rangers A. O. F.—M. S. Besson first, P. A. Perry second.

At the conclusion of the games the dance began. The old and the young mingled in the mazes of the waltz and on until the hour for return the merriment kept up. The committee having the picnic and reunion in charge neglected no details calculated to add to the fun, and in consequence an enjoyable day was the result.

Some half a hundred gate prizes are still to be distributed. After the return to the city the gate tags were taken to the lodge rooms and as soon as the winners can be determined they will be called upon to come and carry away their prizes.

A Sacramento Girl's Arrest.

Gracie Wise, a young woman who came from Sacramento two weeks ago, was arrested early this morning by Detectives Dinan, Reynolds and Cavanaugh on the corner of Mason and Turk streets. She is charged by John Bronsted, a carpenter, living on Third street, of robbing him of $120 at his room in a lodging-house. Bronsted says the girl was introduced to him by M. George at a saloon on Kearny street and that he was informed by the lodging-house keeper that for $70 he could have the $120 returned.

Howard Street Church Social.

A grand musical and literary entertainment was given at the Howard Street M. E. Church last evening for the purpose of raising a fund with which the indebtedness of the Boys' Brigade might be canceled. The programme, which included many vocal and instrumental numbers, was greatly enjoyed.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

"Two Heads Are Better Than One."

One, however, is the portion allotted to the average mortal. If this one aches and will not work properly, it is worse than none. Then the stomach is blamed, or the kidneys and liver are censured. But as a fact, the blood is solely responsible for the condition of these organs. Purify it and they will be made healthy.

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