

"FELLOW CITIZENS: CLOUDS AND DARKNESS ARE ROUND ABOUT HIM; JUSTICE AND JUDGMENT ARE THE

Those Were the Solemn Words With Which Garfield Believed the Tension of Men's Minds



SIEGE OF VICKSBURG—Storming the Confederate Embattlements.—From Thulstrup's Famous Painting.

GEMS OF ORATORY INSPIRED

SHORT--Preserve, Protect and Defend



These three men—Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley—were peculiarly the type and character of men that, even from an assassin's point of view, did not justify assassination. Each had advanced from the ranks of toil by the suffrages of his countrymen. Each, in his own way, but in an unusual degree, was kind, considerate, gentle and forgiving. It is true that during the administration of Abraham Lincoln the country was engaged in one of the most fearful and lamentable wars that ever afflicted any people. But what could have better illustrated the man, his real spirit and love of peace than the closing words of his inaugural address:

"In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assault you; you can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government; while I shall have the most solemn one to 'preserve, protect and defend it.'"

If this people and this nation had existed only to give birth to Abraham Lincoln, each would have justified its existence. So long as history shall endure he will stand as an unanswerable contradiction to all who claim or assume that rank or station, opportunity, or even special preparation are essential to the greatest usefulness and success in a position of the greatest possible responsibility and honor. No civilized man ever came into the world in greater loneliness or poverty. He was born upon the border and grew up along the ragged edges of civilization. Without schools or churches, except of the poorest and rudest, wholly without the supposed broadening influences of travel, knowing only the advantages of that universality of the outside world, that college common to all of the American people, he showed himself the equal in skill, patience, endurance and true statesmanship of any man of any age or country. When others, whose radical and sectional course had brought the country to the verge of war and separation, recoiled in alarm from the responsibility of that path, in the preservation of the Union as he found it, he was rock and oak.

In simplicity, in high character, in the possession of that characteristic we call humanity or human nature he was the greatest character of all history. Many of the great orations of the world have been preserved. Two of these are each, many times over, shorter than the others. Both of these were productions of Lincoln—his second inaugural and his Gettysburg address.—From Notable Speeches by Notable Speakers of the Greater West, published by the Whitaker & Ray Company.

MYERS--The Greater Grand Army



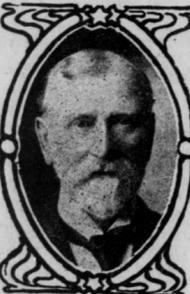
THE coming National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic promises to be an event of much greater magnitude than that held in this city in 1886, and owing to the fact that it will undoubtedly be the last of its kind held on this coast will possess an unusual interest to many thousands.

From the shores of the Atlantic, from the Northern Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, from almost every city, town and hamlet of that great domain lying east of the Rockies, will come the grim, grizzled and white-haired old veterans who fought during the eventful period of the Civil War, now ended nearly forty years ago. These will present an object lesson of patriotism to the young and growing generation, who will see in the bent and broken forms those who stood together in the shock of battle for the preservation of a Union handed down to them as a priceless heritage by their forefathers of a century and a quarter ago; will see the ones who fought—Americans against Americans, fathers against sons and brothers against brothers; fought those whose mistaken belief in State right doctrine influenced them to seek for the destruction of the Union, which has now become as dear to those valiant men who wore the gray as to the gallant defenders of Old Glory, who wore the blue.

Many empty sleeves and artificial limbs will this coming week bear silent testimony to the heroism of those who stood in the front ranks of battle ready to die and to the liberality of California and the citizens of San Francisco they will owe an obligation, for it permits the veterans an opportunity to again re-establish their bivouacs. May the glow of their campfires this week light up with joy the faces of those gallant soldiers and sailors of the Civil War whose imperishable deeds saved us a Union that is now leading the world in the light of civilization.
Commander Garfield Post, G. A. R.

Treasurable Excerpts From Brilliant War Speeches by Gen. N. P. Chipman, Newton Booth, Julius Kahn, Frank H. Short, Edward S. Salomon and Frank Elliott Myers

CHIPMAN--The Sacred Brotherhood

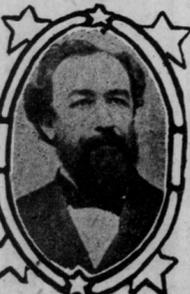


I do not think it is overstating the fact when I declare that the sentiment of comradeship among the Union veterans of the Civil War is stronger than any other bond of friendship known to the social relations of men; and among the numerous fraternal organizations in this country I know of none where so sacred a feeling of brotherhood exists as in the Grand Army of the Republic. I never meet a man wearing the bronze Grand Army button without experiencing an instinctive desire to exchange salutations with him. That little talisman awakens in my mind unconsciously a flood of memories the most precious in my life, and speaks to me of the most important epoch in our nation's history. That little, modest, unostentatious insignia, worn by our comrades as a badge of membership, has a significance far more honorable than any decoration or symbol worn by the members of any fraternal society to which men may attach themselves.

My friends, it is difficult to realize how rapidly the survivors of the Civil War are passing away from these earthly scenes. It is easy to fix the day, not far distant, when the last remaining veteran of the Union army will have been called to join his comrades in the realms of eternal life. The muster roll of the Grand Army in the year 1890 showed a membership of 400,483. The roll at the close of the year 1896 showed 276,862. In a decade 123,621 had ceased to answer roll call. Thirty per cent of our number died in a brief ten years.

There is something mournfully pathetic in the thought that a splendid organization like the Grand Army of the Republic, with such an illustrious history, should have so brief an existence; that post after post must surrender its charter; that department after department must close its headquarters; that the occasion for a national encampment must soon pass away, and that members of the Grand Army will be found only in small groups scattered over this broad land, until finally the nation will search out the small remaining band—the last remnant of that Grand Army that saved the Union—and will honor them as never men have been honored, and will tenderly guard them until the Great Reaper shall have summoned them to join their comrades "in that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns."

BOOTH--The Voice of Freedom



The place where we had assembled is eloquent with the voice of freedom. Liberty is nature's gospel, and the mountains are among the grandest of its teachers. Mountains were consecrated by the presence of God when he revealed himself to Moses upon Sinai; they were baptized with the blood of our Savior when he died upon Calvary. They are associated with the grandest passages of history. In their rocky fastnesses freedom has ever taken refuge in her weakness until she could grow strong enough to battle for her rights upon the plains. To-day, before these great altars nature has built to liberty, in this favored region that has never known the presence of a king or footprint of a slave, we have gathered together, without one pulse of trembling for our country's fate, without one thrill of fear for its destiny, with no overshadowing of eventual danger from lurking lightning in gathering clouds; we are here to celebrate a nation's birthday, not to contemplate its grave!

We are still laying bare the golden treasures of the mountains, and developing the agricultural riches of the plains, but our hearts are ill at ease. Again "our brethren are in the field. Every breeze that sweeps from the East brings to our ears the clash of resounding arms." Armies are mustering, such as the continent has never known before, not now to repel foreign invasion, nor carry the terrors of the republic into unfriendly lands, but sons of the sires who fought at Bunker Hill and Yorktown, at Moultrie and Saratoga, have met in deadly conflict over the torn and bloody garments of the nation's glory, around the tomb of Washington.—From "Notable Speeches by Notable Speakers of the Greater West." Published by the Whitaker & Ray Company.

SALOMON--The Mighty Conquerors



The annual encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic are of course of greater interest to the members of the organization than to others. This interest depends somewhat upon the locality where the encampment is held. The only gathering of this kind ever held on the Pacific Coast was the Twentieth National Encampment held in this city in August, 1886. California generally and San Francisco particularly established at that time a reputation for such magnificent and lavish hospitality that at every succeeding encampment it was talked of as the grandest and most memorable gathering in the history of the order. When, therefore, at the encampment of Washington last September our competitor offered to entertain the veterans every competitor for this honor dropped out of the field, and our city by the Golden Gate was almost unanimously chosen.

Of course, our Eastern comrades expect great things of us, and our committees are working day and night so that their expectations may be realized. Our hospitality is proverbial and its standard will not be lowered next week. Lincoln, Thomas, Garfield and Meade posts are making great preparations and will keep open house the whole week to entertain our visitors, and numerous

Two great parades, one of a general nature and one consisting of Grand Army men only, will be had on the 18th and 19th inst. Neighboring cities vie with each other for the opportunity to entertain our visitors, and numerous excursions are planned for the pleasure of the veterans.

A feature which adds greatly to the interest in this encampment among members of the Grand Army of the Republic is the fact that almost every organization of the great army and navy of 1861-65 is represented in the Department of California. In 1867-68 the writer was commander of this department, which showed that 1107 regiments of infantry, 153 regiments of cavalry, 129 batteries of artillery and 38 independent organizations, all volunteers, and 33 regiments of white, 23 regiments of colored and 2 regiments of marines of the regular army, as well as 125 ships of war—in all 1622 different commands were represented in the membership of the Department of California and Nevada. Late Lt. Brig. Gen. U. S. Vols., Chairman Parades Committee.

KAHN--Hail to the War Heroes



Hail to the heroes of the Civil War! A new generation has grown to man's estate since they performed their deeds of valor on many a hard-fought field, and as we read the pages of history that record their noble deeds our hearts throb in quicker pulsations, our cheeks burn with newborn pride, our eyes gleam with added luster, for we realize that these men, Americans all—if not by birth, at least in spirit—gave to the world an exhibition of valor, and enthusiasm, and patriotism, such as never before had been witnessed since time began! They are rapidly approaching the evening of life, for them the shadows are lengthening, the lights are growing dim, "taps" will soon be sounded, and all will be well with them! But their acts, their deeds, their unselfish devotion to their country's cause will be an inspiration and an example to millions yet unborn.

Two score years have rolled by since the scenes in which these men were the principal participants were enacted. The asperity, the hatred, the rancor of those days has happily been buried in oblivion. Men of the South have learned to understand better the men of the North, while those of the North have discovered that their Southern brethren were imbued with equally high motives as themselves. They saw things from different viewpoints, and the arbitration of arms was probably the only solution of the problems that distracted the nation. Possibly demagoguery in the North as well as in the South was responsible for much of the bitterness, and all too long protracted the struggle and kept alive the fires of enmity. But after the struggle was over our country, thanks to wise counsel, arose phoenix-like from the ashes of that fratricidal strife, and since then she has been soaring to higher and higher endeavors in the great cause of liberty and humanity.

May she, in every crisis, still have such noble defenders as she had during "those days that tried men's souls," when brother was arrayed against brother, friend against friend. May the God of battles still breathe his blessings upon American arms and American valor. May the American soldier forever stand as the champion of right, the guardian of his country's peace, the protector of his country's welfare. And we, on this Western frontier, with the broad Pacific rolling at our feet, proudly welcome the Grand Army of the Republic to our hospitable shores.

