

"Spirit of Liberty"—Memorial Day Address Delivered Tuesday By Albert E. Martin, This City

Addressing the G. A. R., Sons of Veterans, the Army and Navy union, Spanish-American War Veterans, assembled at the city cemetery for Memorial day exercises, Atty. A. E. Martin said:

"The Spirit of Liberty." We have met today to honor the heroic deed; to commemorate the heroism of the brave boys in blue and to instill in the minds and hearts of the American people greater patriotism and a higher regard for the institutions of our land.

We have visited the graves of our dead comrades. Loving hands and tender hearts have decorated those graves with beautiful flowers. We have placed the flags on the little green mounds; we have wreathed the monument for the unknown dead; we have scattered roses upon the waters in honor of the brave boys who sleep beneath the waves; we have ceased our labors, forgotten our cares, and are living over again the scenes from '61 to '65, and now we gather together this afternoon in public halls, in theaters and auditoriums, in public buildings and private groves to listen to memorial addresses. This all is the spirit of liberty.

Beginning of Liberty. Three centuries and nine years ago our forefathers left home, friends and native land and braved the dangers of an unknown sea, the wild beasts and hostile savages of a new country, the massacre and the brutal influences of an unbroken forest, in order that they might found on this continent a new nation, conceived in political and religious liberty. They came to the land of opportunity where they might worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences and where men might enjoy the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The men who landed on Plymouth Rock and Jamestown beach brought with them the Bible, the guide book and sole-star of their private and public life. Every colonial charter, every state constitution and our great national constitution bears the impress of the teachings of that imperial book, and these instruments are but a reflection of the thought and life of God-fearing men. They breathe forth the cause of freedom—the spirit of liberty.

The spirit of liberty from the dawn of creation to the present hour has dominated man's every action. It has urged him to strive to be free; to gain the mastery over the forces of nature and make them subservient to his every need; to free himself from the slavery of ignorance, superstition and poverty; to free superstitious and enthrallment of slavery; to free himself from the dictatorial rule of church and state, of priest and ruler; to free himself from rites, ceremonies, castes and creeds; to stand forth a free, independent, noble-browed, fair-countenanced, intelligent creature of the great God of the universe. This same spirit prompted Moses and Aaron to plead with the Pharaoh of Egypt to let the children of Israel go up out of a land of bondage across the Red sea into the land of freedom—the land of Canaan.

Growth of Liberty. This spirit of freedom and loyalty to one's native land immortalized the 300 Spartans who fell at Thermopylae as they beat back the Persian hordes; it has made famous the names of Plataea and Marathon; it spurred our Anglo-Saxon ancestors of the German forces on to greater efforts in the resistance and overthrow of the tyranny and oppression of imperial Rome; it forced from successive rulers of England the Magna Charta, the Declaration of Rights and the Bill of Rights; it drove the Puritans and Cavaliers of England, the Huguenots of France and liberty-loving people of England across the Atlantic to American shores; it wrote the Declaration of Independence, the constitution, the Monroe doctrine and the Emancipation Proclamation; it drove Spanish tyranny from Cuba, the pearl of the Antilles, gave republican form of government to South American colonies and taught by precept and example the lasting benefits of free institutions, free government and free people to the countries of Europe and Asia, until today we have the republics of Switzerland and France in Europe and China in Asia, and a constitutional form of government among the majority of the other nations of Europe.

Our forefathers had fought and struggled for years for political, civil and religious freedom. They had suffered, endured and protested against the divine rights of kings, the tyranny of the Stuarts, the union of the church and state, taxation without representation, the inquisition and wars of personal aggrandizement. After centuries of struggles in England and seeing no chance of success, they turned their eyes toward the western hemisphere, the land of opportunity. They were willing to leave luxury, home and the tombs of their ancestors and risk their all in a new and untried world for the sake of a principle, eternal and everlasting freedom. They counted the cost, the privations, hardships, dangers and flirted with death without murmur or waver, without a sigh or regret. And when we catch the spirit of the early settlers of America we can readily understand and appreciate the lives, the deeds and thoughts of those old revolutionary heroes.

We thrill with pride as we read the words of John Adams when he said, "Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish"; of Patrick Henry when he said, "Give me liberty or death."

Slavery and Revenue. But now the war is over and America is free. The great problem of government now confronts the colonists. A convention was called and the articles of confederation were drafted, which proved ineffective and inadequate. Dissatisfaction arose and another convention was held and the constitution of the United States was struck off. In this convention one great question confronted the delegates and it seemed to be the rock upon which they were sure to split, and that rock was the slavery question. Ever since the formation of this government there has been two great problems before the American people—the slavery question and revenue question. Upon these two great questions the people of America have been divided into hostile camps. The former question was settled by the Civil war; the latter question is still the bone of contention of politicians, law-makers, statesmen, leaders, reformers, business men and experts.

Members of the Grand Army of the Republic, I have not as yet said much about the Civil war in which you were engaged. I do not care to wave the "bloody shirt" or even open afresh the old wounds caused by the late unpleasantness, but I would be remiss in my duty to you as a speaker were I not to recount a few of the incidents and achievements of the greatest civil war in the history of the world: a war in which the number of enlisted soldiers were 2,350,272; in which war 110,670 soldiers were killed in action, 275,185 died from wounds inflicted upon the field of battle, 212,688 were taken prisoners, 71,306 died in southern prisons, 334,453 are buried in national cemeteries, 1,248,599 widows and orphans were left to mourn the loss of loved ones who never returned. It cost in money \$2,754,431,571. I am informed that today there are about 378,287 soldiers alive and that they are dying at the rate of 50,000 a year.

The heroism displayed by you boys in blue is not surpassed by the heroism of any soldiers in the world. Your courage, your endurance, your fighting qualities, are unsurpassed. You are worthy sons of worthy sires. Your ancestors made famous the names of Bunker Hill, of Saratoga, Trenton and Yorktown, and immortalized the revolutionary leaders. The blood of the heroes of 1776 flows through the veins of heroes of '61. You shirked no duty, shunned no task, left no part unprotected.

Not all these incidents and experiences of war were dangerous or sad. There were many amusing and interesting experiences which still linger in your memory. And as oft as you gather together in conventions, encampments, memorial occasions and elsewhere, you recount with pleasure the incidents of war. At any time you were on a foraging expedition, either for fuel, drink, food or tobacco. At another time you were on picket duty and some belated private or officer appears who has forgotten the password or countersign. Now you are sitting around your campfires cracking jokes, spinning yarns, swapping stories, playing various games, engaging in contests and tests of strength and skill.

Boys of '61, as you assemble to participate in the exercises of this day you are living over again the days of '61 to '65. The southern states have seceded from the Union.

the confederate government has been formed. Fort Sumpter has been fired upon; Lincoln is heard and good-byes are still fresh in your memory. You met an enemy worthy of your steel, men not of an inferior race, position or condition of servitude, but your equals in every respect. The brave boys of the south believed in the justice of their cause the same as the "boys in blue." No people will pour out their fortunes and their lives lastingly in a cause in which they do not believe. This was a civil war of unequal magnitude.

State Honors Soldiers.

We would be remiss in our duty if, on an occasion like this, we did not emphasize the lessons to be learned from the Civil war. In the first place it teaches the lesson of patriotism. It also teaches that America honors, defends and respects her defenders. Since the war the people have honored the soldiers by giving some of the leaders public offices of profit and trust in city, county, state and nation; also by a system of pensions to the soldier, his widow and orphan children; by the erection and maintenance of soldiers' homes, both state and national; by the erection of monuments, memorials; by setting apart one day out of each year for people to cease from their labor, out of honor to the brave defenders of home, families and their native land. Men, we will never forget you, nor your brave comrades who sleep beneath the sod, nor the great service you rendered your country, but we will sing your praise in story and song so long as the nation lasts.

Members of the G. A. R., you are growing old, your numbers are decreasing at the rate of 50,000 each year. You belong to an army that has no recruits. The ceaseless artillery of Time, by its resistless force is gradually thinning your ranks and the Civil war veteran with his little bronze button is becoming scarcer and fewer as the days go by. But, men, you have fought your fight, you have done your work, you have performed your mission. What of the rising generations? Have they any warfare to wage, any battles to fight? And if so, what of the results?

Passing of Old Guard. A half century has passed since you were mustered out. The years have come and gone and you are growing old, the hair is silvered over until your locks are hoary with age, the eye is losing its luster and is growing dim, the cheek and brow have lost their freshness and are wrinkled over with care; the step has lost its sprightliness and is tottering, but yours is an honorable old age.

Your lot has been cast with the greatest nation in its greatest era of any nation or any era in the world's history. The flag you carried, the flag you loved, the flag you respect and would defend, even in your old age, with the last drop of your blood, has become the leading emblem of the civilized world. It is respected, revered and loved the world over, because it is an emblem of a nation of opportunity, of the brave and the free. An emblem of a nation whose every institution teaches, fosters and proclaims liberty to every being under the sun. The Union you fought to save has grown in size, population, wealth, resources, institutions, principles and men, until today it is recognized as the greatest, grandest and best nation on God's footstool. You will leave to your heirs a rich inheritance, bought at a great price.

In closing, my soldier friends, I want to say that you have passed the meridian of your life; you are going down the western slope and are gazing into the golden west. The campfires of your life are smoldering. You are about to break camp, the bugle call to take up the march beyond the river will soon be sounded. You were brave soldiers, faithful to every command, true to every duty and shirked no responsibility, however arduous or dangerous. You served your country with distinction, made a splendid record and were honorably discharged. May you have served the God of this nation and of battles as faithfully, loyally and true as you did your country and your flag. May you have kept every command of Prince Immanuel as well, and have espoused the cause of your Christ, just as ardently as you did your country's cause.

WON'T JEOPARDIZE COLONEL'S LIFE Tuberculosis Hospital Plan Near Roosevelt's Home Balked by County Supervisor.

MINEOLA, N. Y., May 31.—Rather than permit the erection of a tuberculosis hospital at Oyster Bay, the home of Theodore Roosevelt, Supervisor James H. Coombs of Nassau county threatened today to resign. To establish an institution of the kind in proximity to Sagamore Hill, as has been proposed, Mr. Coombs declared, would be a menace to Col. Roosevelt's health and also would endanger the lives of thousands of others from all parts of the country who come to visit Col. Roosevelt.

"While I disagree with Col. Roosevelt politically, I consider him one of the greatest living Americans, and I, for one, would not vote for anything that might subject the colonel to the possibility of being infected with tuberculosis germs," said Supervisor Coombs.

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