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VETERANS OF '61 AND '98.

An Address Delivered by Henry T. Alkire Before a Joint Meeting of Meyer Post G. A. R. and the Young Veterans of the Spanish American War, Saturday Evening, March 25th. 1899.

MR. COMMANDER, SOLDIERS AND CITIZENS:—

It is unnecessary for me to attempt this evening to deliver a fitting eulogy upon the heroism shown by my countrymen in each of the various wars through our country has passed, for I am utterly unequal to such a task. I am willing, however, at any time, and at all times, to add my weak voice to swell the volume of praises and thanks to our citizen soldiery for their patriotism, heroism, bravery, valor and devotion to their country, shown by them upon a thousand battle fields. Their honor is so great already, Mr. Commander, that I can scarcely hope to ever do or say anything that will add to the lustre of the grand record which they, during the many dark hours of their country's need, have made for themselves, and which will be left as a resplendent legacy to their posterity.

"Take my life: It is as but nothing. My only regret is that I have but ONE life to lose for my country." These were the words of one of the Revolutionary heroes, (Nathan Hale) just before his execution by the British, and this is the spirit that has pervaded the breasts of our people from that time to this. No people since the world began have ever shown such patriotism, devotion to, and willingness to make sacrifices for their country, as has been shown by the people of these United States for theirs. It has been the wonder of all the nations of the old world.

The history of the world, both sacred and profane, is largely made up of accounts of wars, and wars, and wars; and yet the soldiers in those wars were not self-constituted. Indeed a careful study of all the past history of our race will disclose that prior to the American Revolution, war was inaugurated and battles fought at the mandates, caprice and behest of kings, emperors and petty tyrants only; and that the Declaration of American Independence was the first real manifeste of war conceived and brought about for and by the people themselves, for the common good of themselves and their countrymen—(and never was such a thing even dreamed of, as one country going to war with another for the sake of humanity, and to rescue a suffering and bleeding colony from the despotic rule of a decaying monarchy, and its mercinary underlings, as was that war of last year when these young men before me tonight willingly, yea anxiously, offered themselves in willing sacrifice that Cuba might be free.)

Yes, the Declaration of Independence was the first impeachment of the Heaven-born(?) rights of kings, and disclosed to the world that the liberty of the people was inherent in themselves and not subject to the caprice of royalty, or dependent upon the grace of kings.

The result of this Declaration of principles and the establishment of a republic by the people and for the people was an innovation upon the science of government as theretofore known that aroused the wonder and excited the envy, even ridicule, of European monarchies.

That a people whose ancestors from time immemorial had acknowledge the divine right of kings should attempt self government was a proposition so monstrous, so at war with human experience and (supposedly) divine ordination, that the effete aristocracies of Europe looked on with pity and contempt, and pressed disaster and destruction.

But the ship of state freighted with the new born liberties of a patriotic people sailed on unmindful of their jeers, derisions, and predictions of calamity.

My friends, in our imaginations, we can stand on some vantage ground in harbor, and looking far out upon the dark blue ocean, view the innumerable vessels with their sails set to catch the breezes that are to carry them across the mighty deep that lies beyond; at their various mast heads flags are flying and flapping, whereby the practiced eye can distinguish and point out representative ships from all the nations of the civilized world.

Among them is a ship of rew and unique design and construction whose mast head is tipped with a banner strange to them. To the old sailors of the other crafts this new boat is viewed as an intruder and to them seems not to be seaworthy. Many are the predictions made by them of the disasters, that, in their judgment, await her. But she sails gracefully on in the race, and in a short time bids fair to out strip all her competitors. Her voyage is peaceful and prosperous until she has reached mid ocean, when lo, at the Southern horizon a portentious cloud appears. It gathers quickly and beare threateningly down upon the noble ship. Muttering thunders and lurid lightenings are seen and heard. That dauntless crew watch its approach with breathless anxiety. Their faces are pale, but there is a look of determination upon them which says. "We'll take her safely through the tempest of rebellion or perish with her." The storm bursts upon her with startling and tremendous fury. The good ship staggers at the shock. Her sails are torn, her spars are shattered and her masts are bent until their pennants kiss the waves. The tempest is cruel as Juno and as relentless as Nemesis, but the gallant crew stand steadfast and firm to their posts. The liberties of a free people are in their keeping and death alone can wrench the treasure from their hands.

Gallantly, manfully, heroically they face the storm, nor tremble at the shock. Such was the storm that struck our ship of state in 1861. For four years it raged with unabated violence and undiminished rancor. At last the storm abates, the sky is clear, and the battered old ship again rides the waves, with her crew deceminated and redeceminated it is true, but, thank God, her precious freight, the liberties of the people and the integrity of their country are still preserved.

Look at her now: Before she was beautiful, sublime majestic. Now she is noble, grand, heroic.

Members of the Grand Army: You constituted the crew that carried our grand old ship through that storm of rebellion. Others doubted her capacity to resist the rage and fury of the storm, but you never faltered. In the gloom of the darkest night you turned your faces to the Orient, and awaited the dawn. By your unflinching trust in the right and your heroic defense of it, you conquered the gloom and hailed the dawn of peace. With a peace purchased by your valor and hallowed and sanctified by the blood of your dead comrades, this grand old ship today rides the waves upon the sea of time, the pride of all our people and the wonder of the civilized world.

Who will say that the results were not worth the sacrifices you made? Not one; nay, not even your former enemies. It was a fearful struggle, but was followed by glorious results. The legacy of a united country has been left to posterity. Will it be appreciated and defended by your children in a measure commensurate with its value and with your sacrifices? Will your children and your children's children exhibit a spirit of courage and enthusiasm in its defense worthy of their sires? We need only to refer to recent history for an answer to this. But last year when the first threatening alarm was heard at the door of our country, and that first muttering roar came up from the explosion in Havanna harbor, which sunk the Maine one-half a million young men of our country sprang to arms in their country's defense. Thousands and hundreds of thousands more stormed the recruiting offices in all the various states for admission to the army and ten millions of free men would have enlisted if need be, within three months, to drive the invader from our shores and bring freedom to suffering Cuba.

It must have been gratifying in the extreme to you old soldiers to view as you did last year, the willingness of these young men before you, and of the young men all over this country, to offer any sacrifices necessary in defense of the country which you gave some of the beet years of your lives to save.

You had no real distrust of them, of course, but that exhibition of patriotism by them last year, surely gratified your hearts beyond expression, nevertheless. They showed themselves to be worthy scions from most worthy sires, and no doubt made many an old soldier feel that he now could die content.

Your baptism of blood in the war of the rebellion made you realize the extent of these young men's patriotism, and helped you to appreciate and realize the dangers and sacrifices which they so willingly offered to encounted. All this only made you the more proud of them and of your country, the only country on the blobe that has such willing, enthusiastic, and determined defenders.

Are you not proud of the part you took in saying the government as a heritage to such appreciative children? Who would not be proud to be numbered as one of those who took honorable part in that furious struggle which brought victory to your standard and left a reunited country as a heritage to your posterity?

The most precious heritage the nation has is the laurel of that victory won by our soldiers from 1861 to 65. A victory covered with blood, and plucked from soil, watered by the tears of widows and orphans. What tears, what agonies, what wails of sorrow, and shrieks of despair, that war entailed, only God and the recording angels know. What broken lives and bleeding bodies, what heart aches and heart breaks, still lie quivering in its crimson trail, will never be known, until eternity shall afford time to reveal their number. Numberless hearth-stones are yet cold, never to be warmed here again on earth forever; numberless chairs are yet empty that will never be filled, numberless hearts retain only the memories of cherished forms, because of the blight of that struggle that swept over them all, and in which you old soldiers all had honorable participation. It is well that we all may learn of the particulars of that struggle, that we may in part realize its cost and the price of the thing for which you fought.

Historians have explained or endeavored to explain the reason of that tremendous contest between the brothers of a single nation.

Some lay the blame on slavery, some attribute it to the principle of states rights. Strong, however, as both these may have been yet they do not afford adequate reason for its fury, and extent of suffering. There was a principle involved that dates back to the time when Moses stood before Pharaoh and in the name of God demanded the release of the children of Israel from bondage, that they might enter the promised land.

And the same principle was that enunciated again last year, when America said to Spain. "The slaughter of your people in Cuba must now stop. We demand that you let the Cubans free."

It is to the glory of this country that in all her wars an effort is made for the freedom of some enslaved people for the betterment of the condition of some down trodden race for the civilization and Christianization of our unfortunate and benighted fellowmen, where ever our influence is made to be felt. Indeed I believe that it is the arduous but splendid mission of our race to ultimately govern the world, in the name of righteousness, Christianity and civilization. Undoubtedly the dominant notes in American life will henceforth be civilization and world-improvement. In my judgment, it is our duty to assume the responsibility and liability of our every act, and, if need be, even without awaiting the co-operation of other civilized nations, to bear aloft the torch of Christianity to every dungeon of barbarity where the midnight of slavery and superstition have reigned for thousands of years.

And neither is it for "Imperialism" that we shall go forward in this great work. No, far from it. "Imperialism" is not the word with which to designate the kindly offices and beneficent influences which will be extended by us to the benighted races of mankind that place themselves without guardian care. Imperialism means oppression and monarchy, but we shall not oppress, and monarchy, in its every form, is despised by us.

Neither is the fervent moral resolve throughout our nation that our influence shall be felt and recognized for the civilization and Christianization of the races within our influence in other parts of the globe. "A fever of expansion" as some have seen fit to designate it. No, it is not that. It is but a tremendous and patriotic awakening of the people to a realization of their duty under the circumstances confronting them, and a resolve by our young men to follow wherever their country's flag leads them. Our flag is the only flag that has never known defeat, and I am one of those who believe that the hand that bears it forward is the unseen hand of God. Our forefathers followed that flag and independence was theirs. You old soldiers followed that flag, the shackels fell from four million slaves and a re-united country was yours. These young men followed thot flag and the oceans are ruled, tyranny has fallen and barbarism is subdued. That flag was gallantly followed at Trenton and Valley Forge, at Saratoga and upon the crimson seas, at Beuna Vista and Chapultepec, at Gettysburg and Missionary Ridge, at Santiage and Manila and everywhere and always it means larger liberty, nobler opportunities and greater human happiness, for every where and always it means the blessings of the greater republic.

No, it is no "fever of expansion" that leads us on. It is but the warm blood of the most magnificent young manhood of all time; a manhood begotten while yet the splended moral passion of the war for national life filled the thought of all the land with ideals worth dying for and charged its very atmosphere with noble purposes and a courage which dare put destiny to the touch.

A manhood which contains a million Roosevelts, Schleys, Sampsons, Shafters and Deweys, who grieve that they too may not so conspicuously serve their country, civilization and mankind.

Indeed these heroes are great only because they are typical. American manhood, today, contains the master administrators of the world. And they go forth for the healing of the nations. They go forth in the cause of civilization. They go forth for the betterment of mankind. They go forth, and the word on their lips is Christ and his peace not conquest and pillage. They go forth to prepare the peoples, through decades and maybe centuries of patient effort, for the great gifts of civil and religious liberty, enlightenment, freedom of speech press and thought, equality before the law, and all the other beneficent appurtenances and advantages of American civilization and American institutions.

Faint hearts may announ their fears with the hopes that American administration of affairs in the Philipines soon may cease, but, my friends, these islands are ours forever. God has given us this Pacific empire for civilized administration and Christianization, and there is no power beneath the skies, nor under the earth that can gainsay the voice and power of our beneficent government in the administration of affairs in these islands. We are told that there are 12,000,000 of people in the Philipine islands divided into thirty tribes. Aguinaldo is of the Tagal tribe of less than 2,000,000 souls, and he has but an intermittent authority over less than 500,000 of these. To deliver these continental islands over to him and his semi-barberous horde would be to invite a war of conquest therein by the powers of the earth, would license spoliation, and be an unpardonable disgrace to our nation. For us to abandon these islands to their fate, would, in my judgment, be the master cowardice of history, the betrayed of a trust as sacred as humanity itself, and would mark the beginning of the decadence of our race.

To be sure the end of the war and our possession of the Philipines have brought us some difficult problems, but shall we act weak and cowardly upon this account? No; let us be patient, patriotic and charitable, as it becomes us under all circumstances to be, and the divine will of God will aid us in the settlement of all these questions.

Often the end of a war brings demands and obligations which are more perplexing and difficult to meet than those which the actual period of conflict itself entains. In fact this has been true of all the wars in which the United States has ever been engaged. The peace treaty of 1783, which separated the thirteen colonies from Great Britain, threw upon the American people a task far more delicate and difficult than the war itself; that of establishing a credit at home and abroad, and welding those new and crudely governed states into a nation. The second war with England that of 1812-15, supplemented the political independence which the earlier struggle gave by a severance of the vassalage which the United States had borne to Europe in commercial matters along to that time and forced upon this country the necessity for numerous ingenious acts of legislation to meet the many perplexing questions suitable to the new conditions.

The question as to whether slavery should or should not be admitted into the territory which we gained from Mexico in the war of 1846-8 incited longer and fiercer conflicts in congress and in the country at large, than those which the armies of Taylor and Scott fought, and in the end brought on the war of 1861-65, while the adjustments after the latter struggle closed took a longer time to consummate than the interval which elapsed between Sumter and Appomattox. The war which has just officially closed by the ratification of the treaty of peace by the Queen Regent of Spain will be no exception to this rule. When the military and diplomatic phrases of such a struggle are closed, then the political aspects begin.

But we are told that the Philipine islands are "alien territory," and that they are inhabited by a foreign race of people. My friends, Louisana and Florida were alien territory when acquired as was also that vast acquisition which came to us as a result of the Mexican war. So also was the Gadsden purchase and Alaska; and with all these annexations the country encountered foreign languages as well as foreign races, and these involved in each case a civilization widely different from our own. The problems which these absorptions caused were easily mastered, and, in my judgment, no well informed person seriously doubts that we shall be equally fortunate in the cases of Porto Rico, Hiawaii, and the Philipine islands.

It is to be hoped, however, that all reason for the settlement of differences between the nations of the earth by armed conflict soon may cease, that the nations of the earth may in fact hold such a Peace congress as was recommended by that most war-like spirit of the world, the Czar of Russia, last year, and that said congress may indeed reach an universal peace agreement which shall be permanent. This would be in keeping with the advanced spirit of the age and of the higher civilization and Christianization of the world. The 8,000 miles of railroad from St. Petersburg to Vladivostock is now rapidly nearing completion, whereby the great interiors of eastern Europe and western Asia will be opened up to civilization. In China alone more than 2,000 miles of this road have already been finished, and nearly 5,000 more are in operation across Siberia. It is estimated that within the next twelve months it will be possible for the travellor to encircle the globe within from thirty to thirty five days. And still some say that the Philipine islands are so far from us that we do not want them. They forget that within the memory of men before me tonight, yea, even within the memory of some of the younger of us, it took six months for a person to make the trip to California, a part of Mr. Jefferson's purchase in 1803. No, the Philipines are not far from us, in the light of modern improvements and modern facilities for travel.

Modern means of transportation have proven, indeed to be amongst the greatest auxiliaries of our enlightened races in civilizing and Christianizing the world. The English speaking peoples are great travellers, and especially is this true of Americans, and everywhere they go they improve their associates both socially, morally and in a business way. Already thousands of young men from both Europe and America are penetrating the darkest Asia and taking up their abode along the line of the Czar's great railroad. One instance of the energy displayed by the young men of our country is particularly striking.

A great city called Chulanchen has sprung up along the line of this road where one year ago there was but a small Chinese village of but fifty souls. It seems almost incredictable. This city has sprung up almost in a night, and a population of nearly 100,000 people is now employed there. Railroad shops are in operation with several thousand hands, and immense steam ship wharves are finished along the river front. The new city already has electric lights, asphalted streets, fine churches, and public buildings. People from every nation on the globe are to be found in this city. Railway construction gangs work westward and eastward from the city, and thousands upon thousands of needy and deserving people find employment there. Seventeen American firms are already established in that city with a capital of more than $2,000,000, and it is estimated that fully 5,000 young men from the United States are already there.

Another instance. Where now stands Imau, a thriving city, second only to Chulanchen in importance, the wolf was hunted a year ago.

This today, is a city of 100,000 inhabitants, and a commercial center with busy ship yards, iron foundries, and great supply depots.

Many Americans and Englishmen help to give to the new city a international air. Schools are in flourishing condition, and there are two hospitals well equipped with American appliances and manned by American physicians.

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It is impossible to overestimate the importance to the world at large of all the great movements that are now progressing in the ancient east. The tribes of Siberia, and the benighted million of Mongolia and Manchuria, are destined soon to feel the benefits of a change which cannot be fraught with othe than beneficent possibilities. China dominien as old as the pyramids, is breaking to pieces, and the empire, shattered by the forces of modern civilizatioo, will shortly be thrown open to the whole world. All these things can but exert a powerful Christianizing influence upon the benighted peoples of the east. Heathen darkness will disappear before the light of Gospel civilization and I predict that the present generation will see the heathen natives of Eastern Asia reading newspapers and Bibles printed in the English language.

And why not apply these civilizing and Christianizing influences to our new possessions? They furnish just as inviting a field to energetic young Americans with brains as does the so called "Far East." There is no reason why they should not, and in my judgment you will find these young Americans in but a few years in the Philippines, and everywhere, introducing the electric and magnetic telegraph, the iron horse, the public schools and every modern improvement that follows in the wake of the Bible and civilization.

Even from a business point of view we could not give up the Philipines. The purchase by us of Alaska in 1867, at a cost of but $7,500,000 was opposed by a large number of our citizens—many of them the same persons who are today crying out against our retention of the Philipine Islands and still Alaska has more than repaid us an hundred times for the outlay we made in her behalf. Her seal fisheries alone have enriched us more than $50,000,000. Her gold fields are said to be inexhaustible and it is estimated that her forests are suf

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No. 15, B & M Leaves Forest City at 1:30 p. m.
No. 27—Omaha passenger, leaves at 8:12 a. m. every day.
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GOING SOUTH.

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No. 22—Leaves at 2:50 a. m
No. 12—St. Joseph passenger, leaves at 9:30 a. m.
No. 16, B & M—Leaves Forest City at 5:24 p. m
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JASPER will stand the present season of 1899 on George Gelvin's farm, 1 miles east of Oregon, Mo., and 1 mile west of Richville, on the Fillmore road.

JASPER is a coal black, with 3 white feet, and star in forehead. He is 8 years old, and weighs about 1,050 pounds. Is of a kind disposition, has good style and action.

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