

they represented, and it was indeed a splendid tribute to the potential fighting forces of America—the mighty army that is still in the making.

And so it will be when our troops take their places in the trenches. They will gain compliments or contempt from friend and foe alike, not by the millions that they can marshal in battle array but by the manner in which the contingent, big or little, comports itself under fire. The war may end before our mighty hosts set foot on foreign soil. That will not reflect upon our prowess as a nation, provided our small detail acquits itself as become the American soldier. All our high pretensions and eloquent proclamations notwithstanding, the true test of our national character will be a man to man measurement under the fiery baptism of war itself. Our future claim to the decent opinions of mankind now reposes in the keeping of these men in uniform, as does the very destiny of the republic. It is the supreme trust. Pershing senses this awful responsibility and is making sure of his ground. God grant that he may make no mistake.

### The Nation's First Guest

WE wonder what Marshall Joffre really thinks of America. The tremendous ovation he received at our hands touched the heart of the grizzled old soldier and he must have carried home with him the most pleasant recollections of our appreciation and admiration. He is of a reticent disposition, so we can hope to learn but little from his own lips concerning his estimate of our people. But they say in France that when the stern old marshal can spare time from serious study and reflection, he loves most of all to talk with little children. And so some day, perhaps, the memory of his triumphal tour through the great republic may overcome his modesty for the moment and he may be tempted to reveal the treasure he holds in his heart. What a wonderful story it will be.

Strange to say, but one other foreigner since the birth of the republic has ever been accorded such a hearty reception, and he too was a Frenchman. It is almost a century ago that Lafayette returned to our shores as the "nation's guest." He came on invitation of President Monroe at the request of congress. For eleven months he toured the country and his journey was a continued triumphal procession. He was the guest of honor at the laying of the corner stone of the Bunker Hill monument and personally performed the ceremony. It was on this notable occasion that Webster during the course of his matchless oration turned to Lafayette and addressed him in the following words:

"Fortunate, fortunate man; with what measure of devotion will you not thank God for the circumstances of your extraordinary life: You are connected with both hemispheres and with two generations. Heaven saw fit that the electric spark of liberty should be conducted, through you, from the New World to the Old; and we, who are here to perform this duty of patriotism, have all of us long ago received it from our fathers to cherish your name and your virtues."

Congress voted Lafayette \$200,000 and a township of land, "in consideration of his important services and expenditures during the American Revolution." When finally, he was ready to return to France, the American frigate "Brandywine," named after the first battle in which he had participated in the cause of the colonies, was detailed by the government to convey him home.

Before leaving for France he visited Mount Vernon where, forty years before, he bade a last farewell to Washington whom he loved as a father. A most touching story is told of the incident. The adopted son of Washington presented him with a gold ring containing a lock of the patriot's hair. Then he was escorted to the tomb. He entered it

alone, kissed the caskets of Washington and his wife and reverently retired. For a long while afterward his grief was uncontrollable.

Although the bond of friendship between the two nations was sealed over a century ago, that sentiment still exists and strikes fire whenever worthy representatives of the two peoples come face to face.

### The Old Bay State

MASSACHUSETTS is the wonder state of the Union. Her devotion to the cause of human rights and free government has never wavered. She was the first to champion those eternal principles upon which this republic was founded and she has always been the first to spring to their defense when danger threatened. And so it is not surprising to learn that for more than a year she has been mobilizing her resources and fighting forces for ready participation in the great world conflict, and that she far out-ranks all the other states in the advanced state of preparedness which she has attained by virtue of her own initiative and enterprise.

The other states are probably as patriotic at heart as the old Bay State, but they are not so

### A FRIEND OR TWO

Wilber D. Nesbit.

HERE is all of pleasure and all of peace  
In a friend or two;  
And all our troubles may find release  
In a friend or two.  
It is in the grip of the clasping hand  
On native soil or in alien land,  
For the world is made—do you understand?—  
Of a friend or two.

Then brim the goblet and quaff the toast  
To a friend or two;  
For glad the man who can always boast  
Of a friend or two.  
The fairest sight is a friendly face,  
The blithest tread is a friendly pace,  
And heaven will be a better place  
For a friend or two.

intensely practical about it. We hold no brief for Massachusetts—she needs none. Her record is so clear that all may read it and gain inspiration from the illustrious pages she has written in her country's history.

She was first to enjoy local self-government in the town meetings which she established.

She was the first to resist "taxation without representation," and the Boston Tea Party resulted.

She was the first to propose the calling of a General Congress of the Colonies.

She organized the first council of public safety and defense.

The "Minute Men" of Massachusetts were the first Americans to spring to arms.

Her soil was stained by the first blood spilled in the Revolution.

Her sons started the first aggressive anti-slavery propaganda.

When Lincoln called for volunteers to defend the nation capital, a Massachusetts regiment was first to respond and to suffer the first bloodshed of the Rebellion.

Her statesmen have always been first to defend the honor and integrity of the nation from assault, and they have ever matched their high words with loftier deeds. A man from Massachusetts was the first American to raise his voice

against Germany in the halls of Congress two years ago, and since the declaration of war he has been the first congressman to tender his resignation and put on the uniform.

The citizens of the old Bay State are the "Minute Men" of 1917. Massachusetts has kept the faith for a century and a half and today she is as fit for the fight as on that memorable morning when she "fired the shot that was heard around the world."

### The Man With The Hoe

THE following lines aptly express the popular conception of the condition of the American farmer of a generation ago:

"Bowed with the weight of centuries he stands,  
Leans upon his hoe and gazes on the land—  
The emptiness of ages in his face,  
And on his back the burden of the world."

When Edwin Markham penned these words it was not generally felt that he had overdrawn the picture. But that was twenty years ago, when almost every farmer had a mortgage on his place, when he sold his wheat for 60 cents and his best horse for less than \$100. The writer can well recall how the farmers were wont to congregate and swap troubles. On such occasions the favorite texts for discussion were "The Grumbling Farmer," and "How to Keep the Boys on the Farm." Many reasons were offered for the existing state of affairs, but as a rule they were wide of the mark.

Fortunately, the old homestead no longer stands in disrepute. The passing years have dignified it beyond all measure and enhanced it in the estimation of men and women everywhere. But aside from the sentiment that surrounds the memory of the old farm, it has now achieved an economic significance that makes it of first importance to the nation. The modern farmer reaps richly from his labors, but along with his prosperity have come increased responsibilities. Circumstances have made him the bulwark of the country, and while millions of armed men are locked in mortal combat, the great leaders in the conflict are calling to the farmer for the relief that only he can furnish. Armies travel on their stomachs and the farmers of the country hold the destiny of nations in their hands.

And so, in an opposite but larger sense than the poet pictured, the farmer bears the burden of the world upon his back, but the emptiness of the ages no longer shows in his face. His responsibilities have sobered him, just as his rewards have made him more substantial. He has recovered his self respect, and with all has come a consciousness of power that knows no limits. His is the splendid duty of sustaining the mightiest movement in history and he has willingly accepted the task. Somehow or other, it would seem that the man with the hoe has undergone a transfiguration of late years, and in recognition of the change the poet ought to rewrite his lines.

### He Did His Bit

HE was just a little fellow attending school on the east side. The school had undertaken to buy a Liberty Bond and each pupil was requested to contribute ten cents to its purchase. On the morning set for the contribution the boy handed the teacher a one-dollar bill. The teacher expressed surprise at the amount and inquired if he could afford to contribute that much. The answer was that he had found the bill on the sidewalk and was unable to locate the owner, so he decided to give the money to his country.

One of the city teachers vouches for the truth of this narrative. It is the finest individual act of patriotism that has come to our attention since the call to the colors came.