

(CONTINUED FROM SIXTH PAGE.)

Memorial Day.

derstand the other, instead of magnifying, mimefy these opposing notions. Distrust the politician and office seeker, who has his own ends to further with no regard for anyone else. Sumpter would never have been fired upon or the confederacy organized, but that professional politicians fostered the idea of separation and the people followed their lead believing the stories told to be correct reports of the feeling among the people of the North; as those of the North believed what they heard of the South, both Blue and Gray were misinformed. The same kind of politicians are abroad in the land now as hurt us so much then; believe them not they are fooling you. They are inventing stories to deceive you. Give very little credence to any man whose business is politics and his sole occupation office seeking, judge for yourselves and cultivate independent thought. Remember that loyalty to the flag and loyalty to a political party are not necessarily identical.

I cannot end, without speaking a word of women in war. The presence of the Woman's Relief Corps with you my comrades, calls to my mind as it does to yours the welcome presence of women in the hospital. We remember those whom we personally knew. Where would some of us be had it not been for their kindly ministrations as we lay stretched on the hospital cot? What could we have done when convalescing, but for the stores supplied by the sanitary and christian commissions, the first presided over by a Unitarian clergyman the second under the leadership of an Evangelical layman? Those stores were gathered almost entirely by the efforts of women. And when we returned home, for many of us there would have been no home, had it not been for the women, by the hardest kind of work preserved those homes. But for the women the country could not have survived the tremendous convulsion. To woman the nation owes as great a debt as to man. The man has been partly paid with a pension; to the woman as a tardy recognition of her service let there be given a voice in the administration of public affairs. And since the war how much has been done for the comfort of the old soldiers by the Relief Corps. We certainly should value the services of woman and admit the great debt which the country owes to the loyal women of America. To the young and to the middle aged I say, reverence the old soldier; our ranks are rapidly thinning and the time will soon come, when on memorial day our sons must take our places and drop the flowers on our graves. I am rejoiced to note that on this day not only are the graves of the old

soldiers flower strewn, but that all the dead are remembered, which firmly fixes this day among the National holidays. Reverence the old soldier, not for what he is, sometimes a tramp, sometimes a beggar, sometimes a burden, but for what he did. So far as human eye can see, but for them there would be no United States and the glorious flag, of which we are justly so proud, would no longer float over a great nation. As we go tomorrow to the cemeteries look kindly on us.

The Memorial service in which we engage tomorrow, is in the highest sense a religious service. The memories called to our minds, though of blood and carnage, are yet of love and self sacrifice, of honor, of moral as well as physical courage. Anything, which turns a man from selfishness, to self-sacrifice is religious; whatever enlarges toleration, increases charity and emphasises fraternity is religious. Religion is something more than repeating my creed, praying my prayer, giving to my church, it is so said Jesus, "Loving God and ones neighbor as oneself." John well says, "unless a man love his brother whom he hath seen how can he love God, whom he hath not seen." To promote human love and the brotherhood of man is the grand purpose of Memorial day and of the Grand Army of the Republic. This is pure religion says James "to visit the widows and the fatherless in their affliction and keep yourselves unspotted from the world." Comrades our remaining days are but few; soon we shall answer to roll call in the other land whither the most of our Grand Army has been mustered. Let us make the most of these last days, filling them with holy thoughts, gentle words and loving deeds, so that when we go, we shall leave behind a memory fragrant with goodness and love.

Comrades and friends, the graves which we decorate tomorrow, hold only a handful of dust, yet even that dust once formed a body in which a hero soul lived and is worthy our reverence, much more the patriotism, the self sacrifice, the manliness, which were the attributes of that soul. These virtues are a precious heritage which all may enjoy. May the services of Memorial day strengthen our devotion to our common fatherland, may we be inspired by the holy memories called so vividly before us to devote ourselves to her best interests and in time of peace to sacrifice as our friends sacrificed in times of war. May the sons and daughters of veterans, for the old soldier is not of much use now save as an object lesson; count no sacrifice too great, which shall ensure true prosperity to our native land, and may they see to it, that it remains, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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