

Memorial Address

Delivered By Dr. D. WASHBURN, May 30th, 1903.

MEMORIAL TO THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

From time immemorial, which is ever since I can remember, it has been the custom to introduce a speaker. I think the custom originated principally for two reasons. First to make the speaker acquainted with his audience and second, to smooth off the rough places and give him a chance to get started.

I am reminded of a story which I think I had better tell for fear some of you might place me in a false position. There was a man called Tom who was the civil war who was fond of telling stories of his prowess and adventures but had fallen into the habit of using the personal pronoun I rather frequently. For instance he would say "I made the Johnnies get out of such a place."

Now, my friends, each and every one of our holidays has a peculiar significance of its own. Some are to perpetuate the deeds and memories of our great men like Washington's Birthday. Others are to give us some great historical event, such as the Fourth of July, Memorial Day is different from any of the others.

The founders of the republic, the framers of our constitution were wise for their day. They were men who looked back into all the years intervening back there is a kind of glamor, a halo that surrounds them that makes it difficult

to distinguish their mistakes; but mistakes they certainly made and of course being only human it was impossible that they should go otherwise. In our career as a nation, covering a period of only twenty years, we have made some mistakes, but we have amended our constitution but fifteen times which shows what wonderful foresight, what wonderful knowledge of human affairs those men had.

Immediately prior to and during the war I feel that I have heard plenty of persons who took an active part in those times say that no one thought for a moment that anything serious would come out of the differences between the north and south.

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from the ashes of that awful struggle; the wounds were bound with loving hands and the suffering, the orphaned and widows were cared for; the soldiers doffed the habiliments of war and donned the garments of peace. Once more united they put their shoulders to the wheels of progress and today the nation is the wonder of the world and the pride of every citizen.

Another question which will require the unpartial and best judgement of the American people to carry to a successful conclusion is the acquisition and government of alien people and territory. This was all agreed in an experiment; a departure from the settled course of our policy; and unless the problem is wisely handled it may be a source of danger to our institutions in the future.

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every year. As a result they are congesting our cities and manufacturing centers, creating a surplus of labor among our farming districts. Are there any here that want to go out and buy a piece of land in the Russian settlement in the western part of our state and live there? Are there any that want to buy a residence property in the Italian or Greek colonies and make a living there? I do not think so.

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My friends, I have endeavored to point out to you the questions as possible some of the questions that confront us today as a nation. By keeping these questions before us; by studying them carefully and intelligently we may avoid making the same mistakes in the future that we have made in the past.

have been fought for a principal. Among them is our civil war. No man or nation can ever forget the lessons of our civil war in a more righteous cause for a purer or nobler purpose than the Union soldiers in our civil war. For love of country? What a world of meaning is wrapped up in that one sentence.

Another thing that I have noticed is that history ignores altogether the part our women took in the civil war. I believe that women as a rule are braver than men and, if there are kinds and degrees of patriotism, that women stand first. They did a man's work and they did it as well as any man.

Gentlemen of the Grand Army of the Republic, we are glad to meet with you today, and of an opportunity to show to you and your comrades that we appreciate what you did for us. We come today with flowers in our hands and address in our hearts to pay our tributes to the dead and our respect to the living.

Today the membership of the Grand Army of the Republic comprises less than three hundred thousand, which shows to what the country rapidly approaching when it will be no Grand Army.

of the immaculate purity of their spirit and purpose. The brave represents the price to which they sacrificed and just as long as that same emblem of freedom waves over this land of the free, just so long will it inspire patriotism enough in our people to preserve and defend our institutions and to keep forever sacred this Memorial Day.

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