Address
delivered at
Sheridan Memorial
Sunday Evening
Aug 19th 1888

No. 12.

Subject
General Sheridan

On the 6th of August (this year of our Lord 1888) the President, in a letter to Congress, used these words: "

> It becomes my painful duty to announce to Congress and the people of the United States the death of Philip H. Sheridan, General of the Army, which occurred at a late hour last night at his summer home in the State of Massachusetts.
>
> The death of this soldier and patriotic son of the Republic, though his long illness has been regarded with anxiety, has nevertheless shocked the country and caused universal grief. He had established for himself a strong hold in the hearts of his fellow-countrymen, who soon caught the true meaning and purpose of his soldierly devotion and heroic temper. His intrepid courage, his steadfast patriotism and the generosity of his nature inspired with peculiar warmth the admiration of all the people.
>
> Above his grave affection for his name and pride of his achievments will struggle for mastery, and too much honor cannot be accorded to one who was so richly endowed with all the qualities which make his death a national loss.

" We have come together tonight to respond particularly to the last sentiment of the President touching our worthy chieftain, who has been so recently translated from his high ~~place~~ station among us to ~~a place~~ scenes beyond ~~the reach of~~ our vision. We would both show better affection for his name and evince a justifiable pride in his achievements. We would accord to ~~him~~ his memory all the honor we can, and ask of our Heavenly father strong consola

tion for his little family in these sad hours of its bereavement.

Perhaps those of us who have been long associated, at the academy & about the same age & in all the eventful subsequent years, have too much knowledge of detail to be the best judges of real history; so let me not attempt a portraiture of his 39 years of eminent service; but merely write a few impressions.

His comrades justly accord to him a soldierly completeness. As company officer, quartermaster, commissary, regimental, brigade, and division commander, positions which he successively held, he ever did his whole duty and with zest. His valuable experience enabled him to grow in knowledge & strength as he was advanced.

His successful command of mounted men when a lieutenant in Indian warfare led to his selection for a cavalry regiment, and this in turn to the cavalry corps. After Grant & Sherman he had his

dark days — but to see a division caught in flank & broken never made Sheridan falter for an instant. That was the time for intensified resolve and for plans & efforts to recover lost ground, as at Chickamauga and Winchester. ~~Second, was~~ ~~The~~ There was not only the impulsive energy of a Murat; but the power to make his own energy everlasting; ~~Strong~~ Dis. some obstinate spirit in an adding ~~Sheridan's~~ magnetic ~~action~~ repel ~~the~~ influence the same had to give place or be disgraced.

~~That~~ But with all his life-power & drive, Gen. Sheridan was kind hearted! When, he was made to see that he had done a comrade a wrong, he quickly acknowledged it & ~~he~~ did all he could to make reparation.

~~Fourth~~. To Meade's caution Sheridan ~~would~~ added daring enterprise. To Grant's sententious reticence he gave voice — to ~~Thorne~~ Thomas' solidity and certainty of movement, he contributed celerity, and to Sherman's unequalled strategy, he ~~Sheridan~~ ~~he~~ added the rapid execution.

Others will give you transcripts of history, to me his exhibit of the officer, the soldier, the man; but ~~I write simply~~ let us each cast ~~my the~~ a comrade's heart felt portion of incense upon the altar of his praise —

those last days, after General Sheridan had been raised up almost from the dead, were wonderful days. He doubtless lived upon in communion with God. His friend Cardinal Gibbons says:

"Gen Sheridan did not only at peace with all mankind, but with his God also, for Sheridan was not only a soldier & citizen but he was also a christian."

This declaration gives his life-long friends great ~~consolation~~ satisfaction. Let him & Grant & Thomas & Meade & McClellan & McPherson and a host of other friends who freely offered their blood for their country & died in the christian faith meet in heaven & be clothed in ~~the garments~~ in such shining garments as the Master ~~can~~ wears.