To Coach,

Response to the

Monthly Dinner of the
Queen Club
New York City
May 9th 1898

Secreter

"The Alley"
TOAST

by

General O. O. HOWARD, U.S. Army, delivered

at the monthly Dinner of the QUILL CLUB, in New

York City,      May 9th 1893.

Sponsor

The Army
TOAST

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General O. O. HOWARD, U.S. Army, at the monthly dinner, of the QUILL CLUB, New York City May 9, 1893

Your good Secretary, gentlemen of the Quill Club, is responsible for the Toast, which in substance is older than the English language, to wit:

THE ARMY.

JOSEPH E. WORCESTER, L. L. D., makes this significant remark concerning this very toast.

He says the ARMY is, "a large body of troops, distributed in divisions and regiments, each under its own commander. The whole being under the direction of the General, or Commander in Chief."

This comprehensive definition excludes everything belonging to our extensive country, except, the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES; and it is not seen how he can properly be embraced in the terms of Mr. Cleveland's definition, as he is not, never was, and probably never will be a General. These simple verities startle me at the very beginning of my oration, because I always begin with defining the toast, and I do not like to discourse of any other Army than our own, which every part of Worcester's aphorism
excludes. You say that, in time of war, we had an army. Yes, we had more than one, which came up to the definition. Our Confederate brethren, which extremists called by all sorts of incongruous names, and some ventured even to denominate them "Rebels," "Hostiles"; Confederates had a corresponding army, or opposing armies, in the which it would have made Dr. Worcester happy to see the comprehensiveness and completeness of his definition realized.

Oh, that we had at the present time such an army even in embryo, well organized, well appointed, and thoroughly drilled and disciplined, and under our own competent Commander to hurl against all the evil workers within and without our borders. Surely, if we had such an efficient force known to exist and ready like the Minute Men of the Revolution, or the Hermandad of Spain under Queen Isabella, to withstand the ballot-stuffing of New York, the family-feuds of Kentucky, the strikes of Carnegie in Pennsylvania, the Chinese opposition to registration in California, the prison emptyings of Tennessee, the gambling proclivities of New Jersey, the Negro ebullitions everywhere, and other intrinsic evils within our borders,—such a force to withstand old England, so much disposed to resist the McKinley
Bill at the Welland Canal and the Sault St. Marie, to capture our fish near New Foundland, and gather our seals in the Behring Sea, yes, to withstand not only the British Lion growling at us from every quarter, but also the representative wild beasts of other nations, which in their greed stand ready to spring upon our domain, or upon convenient ground north or south of us, with the distinct and conscious purpose of violating the famous and much cherished Monroe Doctrine.

This doctrine you know means not only that, the United States of North America belongs to us but that, all North America belongs to Americans. Without such an army, what would be the good to result from holding the Isthmus of Darien, or the acquirement of Cuba; of the Hawaiian Islands, or even of the North or South Poles. I know that in the case of these acquirements there should be a grand Navy, exceeding the Navies of the World; but let me remind you, that there would have to be in addition to our great central force, that is our Army indeed, small armies of occupation like those which purchased Mexico, and held Alaska in its arms while Alaska was young. But, why sigh and weep for that which we
The United States of North America proclaimed to be
not France, but North America. A name she is
without such a country, which would be the door to its
own nation. The States of North America: 1. The
States of North America. 2. The National Institute of
the United States of North America. I know that in the
case of these, social relations should be a charity
New York, and the United Nations at the head of the
world, and the recommendations of the United
States of North America are a success. For a
successful recommendation. I believe, would be
Mexico, and the United States in the United States.
have not, and can not have. Your Secretary, however, must have anticipated the difficulty of my subject in view of its almost limitless proportion and its hopeless definition, for he suggested to me in a confidential letter a charming limitation namely, "OUR NATIONAL DEFENDERS."

In one sense it is a limitation, but in another it is a magnificent extension. In order to satisfy ourselves as to who are our National Defenders, we inquire first: What is our Nation, spelling nation tentatively with a large N.

First we will venture a few negatives, our Nation if it be a nation, has in it intrinsically the sovereignty, so that our Nation is not a collection of Sovereign States. It is not a collection of official groups, whether we denominate the Courts, Congress, or Executive Officers and Employees; some stalwart clerks, spurred on by politicians, imagine that they are the Nation, but they are not. ABRAHAM LINCOLN seems to have condensed the idea in the phrase, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." It is then plain that all authority in this Nation is primarily derived from the people embraced within the Nation's boundaries. Therefore, properly speaking, Nation and People in
Your Secretary: John

have not, and can not have? The Secretary of your

understand the difficulty of my

subject is one of the most important properties of office. It is hopeless to ask for a

confidential letter of advice or information—

as "Our Nation's Defense," but it is a public duty to express our

concern for the welfare of our nation. The

information first. What is our Nation's essential

secretary with a letter of

inform me what seems to be your problem?

What it is, a letter of explanation and interpretation of

our concern. It is my duty, and I shall do so.

Collection of greater states. It is not a college

of official documents, nor are we concerned with

countries' contents or the accuracy of their

eyes: some secretaries of the people and some political

leaders plot to destroy the Nation, but they are not

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: "Government of the people, by the people, for the

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members in the future is primarily generated from

the people. Properly speaking, Nation may be

Temporary. Property, speech, Nation may be

property, speech, Nation, government, people.
this Republic, are interchangeable. Our Nation's defenders must then be men chosen by the people, to defend the people. For fear that even now we shall strike too broad a field, we will introduce the word, military; so it follows our Nation's military defenders are military men chosen to defend the people in their military sphere. Who have these defenders been? For the Revolution, WASHINGTON, his generals, his colonels, his captains, and the other soldiers who fought, who bled, who suffered privation and died to give this Nation its birth: WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, ANDREW JACKSON, SCOTT, WOOL, and other brave and self-sacrificing soldiers who defended the Nation's existence; TAYLOR and SCOTT with numerous other enterprising soldiers, who extended the Nation from ocean to ocean; and GRANT, SHERMAN, SHERIDAN, MEADE, THOMAS, HANCOCK, and many hundreds of thousands of other fearless and persistent soldiers, who now and then in conjunction, or contact with ROBERT E. LEE, JOSEPH E. JOHNSTONE, BRAGG, PEMBERTON, and their singularly energetic confederates succeeded in cleaning all the stalls which slavery had been centuries in filling with infectious material, and in purifying even the old Constitution of the Republic, and in removing the bones of
The People, the people, the people, the people, the people, the people,

to gather the people. For I mean that even now we
shall strive too produce a thrill we will introduce
the word "Military" so it follows our Nation's mi-
itary generations are military men chosen to gather
the people to greet military bands. We have these
generals, the colonels, the captains, and the other
soldiers who compose our splendid army. Let us
make and glad to have the Reunion. The President
HARISON, ANDREW JACKSON, SCOTT, WOOL, and
officers prove and establish into solitudes where get-

en the Nation's experience. TAYLOR and SCOTT with
immemorial power, extraordinary and solitudes, who exchanged
the Nation from ocean to ocean, and GREAT HICKS,
SHERRIDAN, MADEN, THOMAS, HANCOCK, and many others
of renown, to offer their lives and services for our country

with ROBERT E. LEE, JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, and
PREMIER and their services and their services and
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last of all, our countrymen in Little with Little
west and the brave men of California.

From of the Reunion, and in remembrance the pages of

William

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contention, which our fathers had every-where stowed away for this generation to snarl over. You see, that it is the soldiers sometimes grumbling, sometimes hungry, sometimes striking at each other in the dark, sometimes wading through the valley of the shadow of death, sometimes fighting amid white monuments and grave-stones, sometimes in the wilderness, sometimes in the passes of the mountains, sometimes above the clouds, sometimes in contact with the savages, and sometimes pushing through the ugly masses of city rioters; it is the soldiers, who are the Defenders of the Nation, that is, of the People. The people in their institutions, in their rights and privileges, in their life and happiness.

If you mention a great soldier's name, it is but a Type.—Here are some of our historic types:

In the face of WASHINGTON mankind catches glimpses of the strength of steel, the bow of promise, and the consummation of deeds; in HARRISON, energetic action and aggressive defense; in JACKSON, indomitable resistance to enemies and broad patriotism; in TAYLOR, carefulness, boldness and uniform success; in SCOTT, marvellous leadership with royal dignity; in THOMAS, unskilled devotion, sound judgment, and
who are the defenders of the nation, that is of the
people - the people in their institutions, in their
right and privileges. In brief, it is a question of
whether we accept a great society's name, or as

in the face of WASHINGTON memorial to A.

of the scientist of the past, the man of promise;

may the consummation of peace: NO THREAT, AND

for action and address to expenses our program but for

in TAYLOR, carefulness, persistence and within success.

in SCOTT, manufacturing leadership with Rapid创意;

in THOMAS, mechanical perfection, sound judgment, and

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rocky firmness; in SHERIDAN, energy, brilliancy, glory; in SHERMAN, knowledge, strategy, zeal with intense love of country; in HANCOCK, military gallantry personified; in GRANT, a singular combination of the soldier's qualifications; to wit; courage never flagging, reverence for rulers and for GOD, plans far-seeing, judgement clear-sighted, patriotism never doubted, terrible for War, true to friends, magnanimous to enemies, and cherishing his family while loving peace with a whole soul.

In our little nucleus of a standing Army, we have the treasures of name and character, if nothing more. Woe to the civil or foreign foe, who forgets these treasures and despises in our Defenders either the TYPES, or the expanded Armies of the future, which the Nation garners in her bosom.

BUT JOY AND BLESSING AND GLORY TO ALL OUR NATION'S DEFENDERS NOW LIVING AND TO LIVE FOR EVERMORE!