

Tract-

Response to tract-
"The Army & Navy"
probably delivered before the
St Davids Society
Met. House
New York City
March 20 1891

No 26

Subject-
The Navy

1,
Mr. President:

After dinner speeches are made the world over; but they appear shambling or exotic in any country but the United States.

Here in New York they are certainly indigenous and except where a guest himself is involved they are delightful. But here and now a guest is involved who approaches his toast with fear and trembling.

Perhaps it is appropriate to have "fear and trembling" in the presence of an armed force, as did one Fourth of July, Confederate Pemberton's people in the presence of Grant's on the bluffs of Vicksburg.

But, my trouble is not so much at the character as at the antiquity of my toast. Everybody has tried his hand at the Army and Navy.

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However, a recollection of Daniel Webster's
proverb for lawyers, that "there is room enough
in the upper story;" *yet* there is not in this case
an upper story at all to flee to.

A consoling remark of a distinguished Admiral
the other day made to me after a labored mili-
tary address of mine in which I had ~~been~~ neg-
lected to speak for the Navy, has helped me to
a new thought, which it is hoped will in a
measure relieve the present afflictive situa-
tion.

The Admiral said: "General, I want to make
a bargain with you that hereafter, for after-
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Now comes the suggestion in view of our an-
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Now comes the suggestion in view of our an-
 nual feast of "Army and Navy", to wit:

Reverse the order and make it read "the Navy and the Army;" never mind the want of euphony, or the proper procession of the letters N and A. Who has not known in heart-issues the "nay" to come before the "aye"! And surely in all close fighting ^{under} sea-operations, against foreign powers the Navy must precede the Army.

It is indeed the universal opinion, judging by the all powerful press, that our land forces have become so numerous, so brave, so unconquerable, that nothing rearing from Canada on the one hand, or South America on the other need be feared. The only wars to be dreaded are from across the ocean; that Germany or Portugal may come with an Iron-clad Navy, beat our marine forces; approach our large cities on the Atlantic coast; bombard our sub-treasuries, and capture all the bread sites of them including

Reverse the order and make it read "the Navy
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the suburbs. While China and Japan, preceded by the King of the Sandwich Islands, are making a combined movement which shall swallow up our Pacific Naval Squadron; seize and hold the ports and railroad approaches and connections of San Francisco.

You perceive in all this dire sea-struggle the Army could play but a small part; certainly none at all unless the people enable us to re-build and re-arm with *our permanent works* "ten or twelve mile" guns, not neglecting to use the discriminating telescopic sights.

There are Sundry long neglected "permanent fortifications"; and ~~should~~ should the forts be re-built and re-manned, and the mouths of rivers and harbors be properly planted with enormous guns, suggestive torpedoes and square rigged mortars, still all these prepared defenses would

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be of no use until our gallant little Navy had been thoroughly whipped, which Heaven forbid, and forced to retire under the cover of the Army's solid protection.

So, it is plain that in ^{our} ~~the~~ case it is altogether meet and proper ~~that~~ that the Navy, should have the advance in toasts as she must in reality, and be sustained in the thoughts and provisions of our statesmen, many of whom have sprung from the New England Society, to fit her for glory on the oceans of the world.

Now, Mr. President, I ween, we have succeeded in putting the Navy in its proper place, let us glance at some fragments of it, historically, for a few minutes.

On the eighth of March, 1862, during the evening Lieut. John L. Worden, now a Rear Admiral retired, appeared on the scene in Hampton

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Roads, and the scene he beheld was a peculiar one indeed. The day now passing into night had been filled with discouragement and disaster.

On the National side in the Naval Squadron had been the "Minnesota", 30 guns; the "Congress", 50 guns; the "Roanoke" 50 guns; the "St. Lawrence", 12 guns; the "Cumberland", 24 guns. With plenty of armament and ammunition and superbly manned and most ably commanded, they had waited the approach of three Confederate steamers. One the long-dreaded "Merrimac", ~~and~~ that notorious Iron-clad just completed. The others were but common gunboats.

How the huge giant closed in with our large wooden ships, sinking or disabling them one by one, we need not attempt to describe.

Shot and shell pierced their sides as if

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On the National side in the Naval Squadron
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Shot and shell pierced their sides as if

they had been but partition walls; and death and destruction had time and again followed in their wake.

The bravest and best of Naval commanders, as their ships were broken, disabled or sunk, were at their wits end. Almost without hope they had again and again repeated their fire only to see their missiles explode without effect or be repelled, like hail stones against a slate roof, from the impervious iron sides of the monster. Night alone had saved but a remnant including the proud "Minnesota."

It takes us back to the times of extreme anxiety like the first evening of "Chancellorsville"; the night of the withdrawal from "Fredericksburg"; or the close of the first day of "Gettysburg", to enable us to comprehend the gloom which rested upon the officers and men in

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Our whole cause was imperilled. Certainly a reaction would set in should anything like an Iron-clad appear ^{for us} on the scene!

Lieut. Worden with his homely, queer little craft seemed in no way an equivalent to the great and victorious ~~Merrimac~~ ^{Merrimack}. Still, there was a measure of hope; for a tiny king fisher has always chased and defeated the hawk ten times its size. What may not Providence permit?

The conflict which followed on the succeeding day needs no repetition. The "Merrimac" was after a close and well contested fight disabled and made to withdraw from the field of action.

One excellent historic account presents this graphic picture: "The last shell fired by the "Merrimac" exploded exactly in the eye-hole in the pilot-house where Lieut. Worden was at the

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moment looking out. His eyes were severely injured, his face filled with powder and there was also a slight concussion of the brain. The moment this brave officer recovered his consciousness his first question was, "have we saved the "Minnesota"? When told she was safe, he answered, "I am satisfied." He was taken at once to Washington, and an incident connected with him there illustrates the character of Abraham Lincoln.

A cabinet meeting was being held, when it was told the President that the wounded commander of the "Monitor" was in the city; he instantly rose, took his hat saying: "Excuse me, gentlemen, I must see this fellow"; and went immediately to his room. Worden was on the sofa, his eyes bandaged, his face swollen and bloody. The President was announced, and took his hand

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in silence.

"Mr. President", said the wounded man, "you do me great honor by this visit."

"Sir," replied Mr. Lincoln, while the tears ran down his cheeks, "I am the one who is honored in this interview."

A few months since I was invited by the Naval officers in New York many of whom were witnesses of that conflict which occurred between Fortress Monroe and Norfolk, to accompany the remains of John Ericsson (the inventor of the battered but successful monitor) taking them from their temporary resting place in this city to the "Baltimore" to be transported to Ericsson's native land, there to receive their final obseques and honors.

Near the gate in an open barouche sat an elderly, dignified man, with a scarred face and

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Such men have always come forth at the country's call. So, I salute the American Navy.

Now, Mr. President, when an Army officer speaks of the "The Army of the United States," he uniformly dwells upon its needs.

Our Army needs fortifications, new cannon, new carriages, new rifles and carbines, new quarters to live in, new horses and mules and

drooping eye lids. A moment after I had noticed him I had the pleasure of an introduction. It was Rear Admiral Gordon, and I felt it to be an unexampled honor to be introduced to him and take him by the hand. True, he is on the retired list of the Navy; yet, he is still a living representative of Navy-men; an example of the ability and heroism which, in any time of need, will be developed and brought to the surface.

Such men have always come forth at the country's call. So, I salute the American Navy. Now, Mr. President, when an Army officer speaks of the "The Army of the United States," he uniformly dwells upon its needs. Our Army needs fortifications, new cannon, new cartridges, new rifles and engines, new quarters to live in, new horses and mules and

better pack-saddles,- but the chief need is more men.

"But," said a visiting friend to Governor's Island: "An Indian war must be a God-send,- to give these idle people something to do."

A sythe must cut grain and hay; but the sythe is not idle in any process of its construction or specific preparation.

A locomotive must draw the train; but its noisy activity while in the shop of making or re-fitting, dings our ears.

So, a company of soldiers has a final duty against hostile Indians or other enemy; but the drill, the discipline, the detail of instruction requires time and unremitting labor.

Again, the duties of men and officers, as of sailors aboard ship, belong not only to the storms and rough ocean of war; but to smoother

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seas of a peace establishment. For the necessary artillery to guard the coast we have not now a reasonable nucleus.

A senator ^{has} introduced a bill of increase to thirty thousand; ^{he} and recommends that ~~two~~ ^{two} thousand be Indians. One officer of experience objects. He says: "They will be hard to discipline; ~~they~~ will take umbrage at long service; in a fight they are apt to rush too far ahead, and on a march get weary with monotony and lag behind; on a scout become regardless of orders; cannot be controlled and kept in hand as civilized men; though good trailers, they would be of little use against a white enemy; after Indian wars have ceased their usefulness would cease."

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several companies of scouts have been subjected to discipline with the best results. The paid police at the different agencies do not take umbrage or weary with the monotony of their service when they regularly receive their pay. The control always comes with the drill and the discipline; so that they go as they are sent and obey their orders. Their language should be understood by the officers, or the Indian soldiers should be made to know the officer's commands.

In the history of the French, English and American wars we have plenty of examples where Indians have ^{been} ~~been~~ most effective auxiliaries even against white enemies.

In the Nez Percé war the Indians showed themselves better skirmishers than we had ever seen in the Army.

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In the Nez Percé war the Indians showed themselves better fighters than we had ever seen in the Army.

Certainly the experiment is worth trying. As the various bands of Indian police and Indian scouts have been brought out of the old blanket condition to a comparative state of civilization, where they are self-supporting; so the Indians enlisted and put under the best of Army officers will be raised up into far better condition than at present. They will be a strong hostage against any renewal of hostilities by any uncivilized tribe.

The objection that it will cultivate and keep up the Spirit of war I think is a mistake. It will, I believe, tend to curb and diminish the desire for savage ways and bring them more and more to our ways of thinking and acting. So friends, give us the Indian soldiers. We will train them against ~~civilized~~ *or uncivilized* criminals, who have an uncontrollable desire to murder,

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There are many discontented spirits abroad who are hostile to all that is orderly, all that is good, all personal possessions and every sweet, happy home. However we manage it, these malcontents, increasing with the increase of the inhabitants of our country, particularly in the larger cities, "must," as Mr. Lincoln said about Lee's Army when North of the Potomac, "be properly attended to." Batteries of Artillery, whether manned by our citizens or by other disciplined dwellers upon the soil, are ever offering their solemn pleas for continued peace.

Last *best*
~~last~~ week one of our ^{best} men, General Alfred H. Terry, ^{-a man} to the Army what Rear Admiral Worden is to the Navy, after a painful illness long continued, has passed to the other shore. A gallant soldier, a representative volunteer, a re-

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17.

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has advanced to his reward. Peace ^{be} to his re-
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