

Address
delivered at Memorial Day
Services in
Fall River Mass
May 30th 1892

No 29

Subject
Preserve what Veterans
fought for.

Address
Belmont at Belmont Bay
Belmont in
Belmont Bay
May 30, 1897

No 24

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades:

Memorial Day has come again. I owe you an apology for not appearing upon your rostrum one year ago. By some unaccountable mistake I found on my records a promise to attend at a post in Vermont and one here on the same grand occasion. Finding it impossible to be in two places so far apart on the same day, I begged you to postpone my appearing until this occasion.

Now we are here looking into each others faces. The audience is composed of men, women and children, and I find my companions and my comrades among those who are silvered with gray, or exhibiting that want of cover before which I was taught in childhood to rise up with demonstrations of respect! While the waiting multitude is mainly made up of those who did not make the history which we honor; but who are compelled to gather knowledge from us or from books.

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Memorial Day. The habit of decorating the graves is a solemn one, a good one; for it is a reminder, through ^{honoring} their ashes, of those who have lived and have borne their part in the extraordinary history and the magnificent accomplishments of our epoch.

The children are constantly asking the question: What does it mean - all this music, -all this parade, all this speaking and singing and recitation;-this setting up of monuments,-this raising of statues, this covering of burial grounds with flowers,- this calling of the roll of the departed,-this assembling, all over the land, of decrepit men;-men without an arm, without a leg or without an eye;- and talking of charges and battles and campaigns and victories and defeats and final National triumph?

Its meaning is plain, the story as it is usually told to the children of ten years. A conspiracy existed to destroy this Nation. The conspiracy was in the interest of slavery and slavery extension;

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your fathers, while they were in their youth, rose as one man; struggled hard; marched far; many of them died in hospitals; perished on the field; were burned in forests, or were half starved in prisons; but they continued their work for years until the glorious consumation. They defeated the conspirators; they saved the Nation from breakage; they wiped out forever the cause of the Rebellion; and they planted the stars and stripes upon higher battlements, and paved the way for a grand increase of free and independent States.

Their work was well done, and they deserve well of their countrymen, and the children can never do better than, like good ^{fathers's} sons covering all their faults, heartily to cherish and make permanently their ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~own~~ ^{own} their staunch virtues, and their fidelity to principle, their fidelity to country, and their fidelity to the right.

I will now simply stir up your minds by way of remembrance by recalling a few well known stories

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of the war, and then, as on another occasion like this, in the presence of these recollections, reiterate a series of fundamental resolutions: Resolutions which I find essential in these days of intense business activity and great absorption in untold human enterprises; essential to remind myself of ^{and my comrades} what those men, I ~~may~~ say those men and women, whom we memorialize to-day, did actually accomplish for us; and, better still, what remains to be done to perfect their noble work.

First: A story of devotion. "The sergeant at Missionary Ridge."

(a) Heroism (extemporize.)

Second: Instances of courage and self-sacrifice.--
Life for Life.

(a) Lieut. Wm. McIntyre, 61st N. Y., at Fair Oaks, Virginia.

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(a) Lieut. Wm. McIntyre, 61st N. Y., at Fair Oaks,
Virginia.

(b) *Private McDonald, 4th R. I., at Kolb's Farm, Georgia.*

(c) *The color bearers at Pickett's Mills, Georgia.*

(d) *Captain Griffiths, at Gettysburg.*

Third: A word illustrative of woman's courage and faithful love for her husband.

Mrs. Frances C. Barlow, of New York. Antietam and Gettysburg.

Fourth: Something illustrative of a father's love. Lieut. Bayard Wilkeson, Battery "G" 4th Artillery.

Fifth: Kindness to an enemy, Fair Oaks.

(a) *The Massachusetts soldier.*

(b) *Lieut. John A. McQueen, 15th Illinois Cavalry, and the Confederate Chaplain.*

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Possibly no words uttered at this date could give to our children an idea of the joy and the assurance of hope that penetrated all classes of society when ^{in 1864} the proclamation was made at Washington and echoed throughout the North and West: "Atlanta is ours and fairly won."

It meant that our glorious cause had prevailed. Rebellion, it said, cannot last much longer! "Henceforth every slave that touches our soil shall be free."

It spoke of the end of war, of the beginning of peace; glimpses of which were already seen from the hill-tops of Georgia. It meant speedy emancipation to white men as well as to black.

It spoke of happy homes soon to be visited; of lovely women and precious children who had long waited for such good news; and whose eyes were already sparkling with delight to welcome us home.

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Yes, Yes, "Atlanta won" was indeed a bow of

promise set in the clouds though they were yet heavy; a bow of promise to America and to the world that right and justice should prevail, and God's will be done sooner or later upon the earth. Sherman's sun had burst forth from the clouds.

Stop then, in view of all this and a hundred other campaigns of unparalleled hardship and sacrifice, what do the veterans ask on these memorial occasions?

They earnestly desire their children to remember not so much their prowess as their cause.

Loyal souls fought, first; that our Constitutional Government might not perish from the earth. So in conclusion I propose my resolutions!

RESOLVE then, that what we saved by blood shall remain saved.

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Should anarchists, whether by dynamite or otherwise, take away from the people the right to worship God, it might result in a French Republic, but it

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would not be our Republic.

Let secret foreign organizations exclude the Ten Commandments and Christ's Golden Rule from the public schools; then the enemy of our institutions will have made a lodgment.

That will not be enough: "Godless schools!" will be the next cry, till the public money shall be divided and our complete common-school system, that Senator Hear, of your State, has loved so much, and Charles Sumner pleaded for, shall be forever destroyed.

Loyal souls fought, secondly, that there should not be a slave on our soil. We freed the slaves. Therefore Resolve; that the freedom we promised shall be made good; not in a mean, stinted way, but make the fulfilment generous and complete.

Where ballot-box stuffing goes on with impunity in any district, there follows the stealing of the boxes, then the cheating of the voters, and soon the

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murder of the inspectors will follow. The freed men first and freemen afterwards, are thus cruelly cheated out of their rights of freemen,- of manhood. These things our comrades promised.

Loyal souls fought thirdly, that citizenship should mean something.

Resolve then; that citizenship to the Nation shall be clearly defined and maintained by whatever quantum of power is essential to its maintenance.

If a vote is bought or a vote is sold, such buying or selling is a blow against the corner-stone of our liberties. Citizenship itself is shaken. It is no defence to the offenders that the other party commits the same crime.

Loyal souls fought fourthly, to make it clear as the daylight that secession, or rebellion against the Nation was a great wrong.

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 the wicked conspiracy which so nearly ruined the
 Republic. And shame on the craven ^{manager} ~~man~~ who takes the
^{side} ~~part~~ of ^{the} ~~any~~ confederate against any loyal soldier,
 white, black or red, be he ever so humble!

Loyal souls fought fifthly; that every man under
 the flag should be granted a fair chance in the race
 of life.

Selfish ambition, whether of the capitalists or
 the laborers, shows dangerous tendencies. The Repub-
 lic may stand the strain till the contests are
 settled,- but Resolve, Oh! Resolve, to mitigate the
 ills by every man remembering that he is his broth-
 er's keeper; and that it is his privilege to do all
 in his power for his brother's amelioration; because
 the best possible political philosophy is in our
 Lord's injunction: Love the Lord thy God with all
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into blessings and fills up the coffers of labor.

Then to sum up my review:

Whatever injures the man or the woman or the child in our land, in a measure robs us of the fruitage which we covet.

Rum drinking, licentiousness, sabbath-desecration, cheating in business, malignant defamation of character and other crimes so prevalent in our large cities, are open places in the bulwarks, if not actual breaches in the bottom of our ship. To my mind our remedy lies in our best-loved institutions, those for which we and our fathers labored and fought, viz:- the family, the school and the church, or put them in the plural: our families, our schools, our churches.

Resolve then, highly resolve; that we will do our part to preserve them in their integrity and their purity. Perchance the upright comrades on the other shore, whose deeds are commemorated to-day, bright-

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Then to sum up my review:

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"Our part! Our part we will do!"

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