Trust
Medal after Legion
H. H. Champion
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Subject
The Doctrine
Lincoln Memorial University
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A MONUMENT TO
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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Burlington, Vt., 1900.

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I have a desire to live and to enjoy the best interests of the country, whether it be peace or war, whether it be peace or progress. Of course, we need the former and the latter, with all the advantages and opportunities of our nation to make our future without gloom, without danger, and without want.

Agreement with you in this if you anticipated my thoughts on this important and complete matter.

I cannot help but agree with you on the whole word, represents a stalwart fellow with a well-developed chest, a well poised head, a neck of iron, and arms that can wield a saber with swiftness.

Carry a rifle in either hand, his legs are shapely, muscular, with ability in them to walk twenty-five miles a day, with small fatigue, or mount a horse with ease, chafe him into obedience and enable the horseman to ride with elegance.

Having a seat so firm that he can laugh at a foreign dragoon, who, though vain, lets too much light pass between himself and saddle. He is proud of his hands because they are steady, of his feet because they are strong and swift. It is no detriment to him to have a well-chiseled head, and brains enough to garner in sufficient practical knowledge of his profession and make him appear anywhere and
everywhere an man among men with or without a uniform, a plume, a breast-plate, a rosette or other badge whether of brass, of bronze, of silver, or of gold. After all the most distinguishing characteristic of the man who is an emphatic soldier is found in the quality of his heart. It must be a heart which can quicken, and strengthen a heart beating slow a heart beating slow. It must be a heart which will, in the nerve of will - a nerve that stiffens his neck in battle, and steadies his eye in a charge.

A heart which will give fortitude in defeat and be a source of help and aid to either a victor or the ridicule of friends or enemies. A heart which can promote joy in victory, and satisfaction over well earned achievement. A heart that is large enough to have tender spots in it, tender to wife and children, one always loyal to women, and one that understands instinctively the old Norman Frenchman's phrase, "Nobless oblige," which freely translated means a heart that will yield to the dictates of a high-toned conscience.

Now, equip such a man with proper clothing, warm and ammunition, put him on the roll of an army, and you will find him every inch a man.

I mean a patriot to love and protect the best interests of his country, whether in peace or in war, whether at home or abroad. Of course he needs training, and discipline enough of them to make him obedient, without growling and patient under suffering.

Again, permit me to say that if you subtract anything from your beau ideal of a complete man you take something from the proper emphasis to be put upon the word soldier.

Drunking alcohol, insulting the Almighty, degrading the mind, the heart, or the body by monster vices, unlawful pride, petty thieving or other criminal practices would the American soldier America needs the true unduplicated type in the Medal of Honor Lesson. Why not?