ORATION.

Memorial Day, May 30th, 1903.

Adams, Mass.

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SUBJECT:

Sketches of Different Generals.
ADDRESS AT ADAMS, MASS., 30th OF MAY, 1903.

Comrades:— It gives me special joy to be with you on an occasion like this. I am glad that Memorial Day has been thus far preserved to us and I hope it will be continued certainly as long as the veterans and the sons of veterans shall live. I have some thoughts on the subject that I will give Sunday night during the church exercises, which tomorrow I understand will be of a memorial nature.

The time has already come with me when I live mostly in the past. I dream of battles which are not always successful, and of struggles which sometimes carry me into the valley of the shadow of death, but I also dream of victories which lead me to the highest reaches of achievement, but no dream on my part or on yours can surpass the reality of our clear cut, indelible recollections. If we begin with General Scott and follow through the commanders of independent armies during our war; for example of the Army of the Potomac, the Army of West Virginia, the Army of the Ohio, the Army of the Cumberland, the Army of the Tennessee, and the armies beyond the Mississippi; we will find twenty-seven such generals. To-day there are but two of them living, General Schofield and myself. Besides these two, there are on the Union side but seven Corps Commanders, and very few Division and Brigade Commanders. Few indeed so far as my observation and knowledge go.

Sometimes I dwell upon General Scott, as tall as Abraham Lincoln and twice as heavy. For a commanding personality and
dignity of deportment I have never seen his superior. He is my beau ideal of those old generals inclined to a martinetish discipline. No man would have undertaken to be familiar with Winfield Scott.

Next I think of Robert E. Lee, one of the noblest figures as a natural man in our history, but mistaken in his theories of government. His nephew says that General Lee was always too kind in his government of men. Lee followed the teachings of his commonwealth and of his father.

Opposed to him on our side I think of McClellan, always a gentleman and always loyal at heart to his flag, but not strong enough, like Lincoln, to be the best guide of men. Still he did a good work in forming and preparing the great human machine, the Army of the Potomac, for the use of his successors.

I think of Joseph E. Johnston with sentiments like those of Lee, throwing himself against the Union, and I believe always sorry that he was doing it. He was a great captain. His presence on the battle field always prevented disaster and he often snatched something equivalent to a victory from defeat.

Opposed to him on the Union side I saw first McDowell, then McClellan and finally Sherman. Sherman was the first one that in strategic conception and performance was equal to Johnston. Stand him at the top of a mountain which overlooked vast spaces and he would tell just what his enemy proposed to do and issue his
I think of teachers. I think of journalists. I think of people who make decisions. I think of people who write books. I think of people who tell stories. I think of people who help others. I think of people who listen. I think of people who care. I think of people who love. I think of people who dream. I think of people who fight for what is right. I think of people who are brave. I think of people who are kind. I think of people who are humble. I think of people who are generous. I think of people who are honest. I think of people who are wise. I think of people who are patient. I think of people who are forgiving. I think of people who are strong. I think of people who are gentle. I think of people who are creative. I think of people who are resilient. I think of people who are thoughtful. I think of people who are imaginative. I think of people who are curious. I think of people who are profound. I think of people who are wise. I think of people who are wise. I think of people who are wise. I think of people who are wise.

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orders accordingly. These two men seemed to have equal power to anticipate, like a skillful chess player, the moves of the other. Sherman had the advantage because with men equally brave the two contended, but Sherman had greatly the majority.

I think of Butler and Banks, your own Generals, patriotic from the start. Who better could have brought New Orleans into line with health and renovation and good government than Butler, and who could harangue the people and fire their hearts with patriotism better than Banks on the rostrum or in the halls of congress?

I recollect also another of your generals, more prominent still so far as the nation is concerned, General Joseph Hooker, a wonderful commander entitled to the sobriquet "Fighting Joe Hooker." In command of a brigade or division or army corps, the enemy soon found that Hooker meant to fight.

At one time I got the reputation of being a fighting man and I understand that General Meade who fought the great battle of Gettysburg, said once that in a council of war my vote didn't count much because I always voted to fight. I think at that time of my life, forty years ago, the statement was true. It therefore probably detracts somewhat from the reputation of Hooker and Howard that they were too ready to fight. Still, the friends of us both in the generations to come will consider it no disparagement that we were always ready to expose our breasts with our men to the shafts of the enemies of our country.
I think it's...
Again I think of all my intercourse with General U. S. Grant. Modest, retiring, without apparent self assertion, always kind to those about him and thoughtful of the reputation of his officers, he began his career by offensive operations at Belmont and he continued it by offensive movements and attacks from that time for four years until he closed out his offensive record at Appomattox. There he became generous to Lee, his officers and soldiers. Noble in his simplicity, manifesting the highest order of ability to secure beyond paradventure all we had gained and pave the way for the restoration of the American Union without the loss of a single star from the flag of his country.

I think it will be said by and by that there were heroes in those days. It was a great struggle, but the atmosphere was at first cleared as it is after a great storm where the thunder and lightning seem beyond human endurance. The fruitage that has followed the storms of those times cannot be enumerated to-day.

We are on the front line in everything, in new discoveries, in new developments, in a world wide commerce, in possessions in every sea, and in the vantage ground we occupy as a leader of nations in the settlement of the most important questions that have ever affected the interests of humanity.

Of course the sacrifices have been great, but a singular Providence has followed every step of our progress; but young men and maidens, do not forget us, the few veterans who remain, in our old age. Forgive our weaknesses and our follies and our mistakes as with trembling fingers we try to keep up the business of
As you see, I am at a loss to introduce the necessary "...".
in our work of the past, us
life. Do not forget us who are the representatives of the great
army that stood so long between this nation and its death. Indeed
you can sing and ought to sing Gloria in Excelsis when you take
even the briefest estimate of the veterans' accomplishment.

The Fourth of July heralds the Revolution which made us
a small nation, governed by true republican principles. Let
Memorial Day herald the reconstruction without human enslavement;
that country and preparations made
of that same country, with foundations already laid to extend its
boundaries far, far beyond the seas and open up a development
which we cannot describe of the best interests and the best op-
portunities which the human race has ever enjoyed.

"Sleep, soldiers! still in honored rest,
Your truth and valor wearing;
The bravest are the tenderest,-
The loving are the daring."

Raymond Taylor.