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ADDRESS  
AT  
Dedication of Monument to Benjamin Harrison  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup>  
1908

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JOHN W. NOBLE



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*Series*  
*Mo.* *With respect*  
*John W. Noble.*

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## *Mr. President and Fellow Citizens :*

More than seven years ago there were here held the obsequies of Benjamin Harrison. We were in sorrow then from the loss of a friend, a neighbor and a good man. Our affliction prevented any clear estimate of him other than in those intimate relations of life where we judge more from the heart than by the mind. We did not then assert his greatness, but bowed in submission to the will of God. The nation was bereaved. The President of the United States, the Governor of this State, the comrades of his military career, his associates in public life, and his fellow-citizens of all parties and of all stations, stood beside the altar and filled the avenues of this, his beloved and loving city; and then with flags all draped, with dirge and tears moved in funeral procession to his sepulchre.

Time has abated, without erasing our emotions, and has given a perspective by which we may more justly measure his merit by his deeds. This monument, unveiling his form to our vision and expressing a people's love and esteem for the citizen, the soldier, the statesman, and the patriotic Chief Magistrate, draws our thoughts from his tomb and lifts them on high in praise and gratitude, as we recall his character, his career, and the blessings bestowed by Providence, through him, upon our nation. America is to-day proud of this typical American. By orations and poems, with song and music, and unfolded banners, we dedicate this memorial, and commend his example, for the inspiration of our youth and the manhood of the present and of the future.

### THE HARRISON ADMINISTRATION.

If we turn to consider his administration of our Government, of which I am to speak, we shall find him therein, displaying those qualities, which, in the estimation of men, bear the unmistakable mark of true greatness. His was an administration of a statesman, strictly attentive to Government business and controlled in all its departments by a fervent but discriminating patriotism. It could not have been otherwise, for his career was one truly national, and its threads, as they were successively spun, bound him more strongly to his country. It embraced largely the development of the West and farthest West, and their transformation into homes and territories and states of the Union. His life grew at school and college near his Ohio birth-place into vigorous and well-equipped intelligence, and found its opportunity for action among those who, like himself, were descendants of the earlier western pioneers. It was

inspired by memories of his ancestors, and carried him with our western troops into the war for the Union, with the ardor of a soldier of the Revolution, with the courage of those who fought at Tippecanoe, and the steadfastness of those who won the victory of the Thames. It secured him a loving helpmate and built him a home in this then small city. It gave him a sympathy for those who had fought and suffered with him, and with whom he had to labor for his bread, and it led him forth to debate upon and defend, among the people, in convention and in legislative hall, the principles of government he deemed essential to the public welfare. It compelled him to mature thought and logical demonstration upon constitution and statute and the law of the land, and to clothe all with adequate expression. It lifted him to a comprehensive and just appreciation of our country, the greatness of our land, the demands of our people for better recognized equality among the nations, and it fitted him to apply, advance, and often to inaugurate, when he became Chief Magistrate, national policies that mark and will ever signalize this new era the United States enjoys, and which now, fifteen years after his executive services ended, are speeding on the prosperity of our people and the power and influence of the Great Republic.

In approaching a consideration of this administration, it is to be borne in mind that lines of policy most nearly affecting national life are not broken because of changes in control of the Government from one party to another, as our history has shown. There is a national life, like the subconscious one of the individual man, that bears the nation onward upon paths of action so essential to its welfare that no party desires or dares to abandon, or greatly change them. The Monroe doctrine, so called, announced in 1823, has long since passed from the domain of political discussion. The Pan-American Congress during the Harrison administration, and the visit of an eminent cabinet officer of the present administration to the Republics of South America have met with universal approval.

We must in this relation also consider that "such policies must come from the people." These do not originate with the individual. They are perceived, often dimly at first, then confirmed by time, intelligence, discussion, and "the common-sense of most," and when backed by the voice and votes of the majority, become "lapt in law" and operative in national life. Yet there must be the leaders, the thinkers, those to advocate and those to apply with earnestness and wisdom the policy developed; and to these, upon success attained, is justly given our acknowledgment of excellence. Their names become

attached to the principles beneficently enforced; their greatness established. Indeed, the State itself, like Magna Charta, as has often been said, is but the declaration of principles, generated and grown, tried in forum and on field, and adopted by public opinion, antecedent to the State itself. But those men who formulate institutions or execute a wise policy live in history among its "few immortal names."

Such was Benjamin Harrison, whose works do follow him.

Let us then proceed to presentation of the facts, not all, indeed, but enough surely to prove that he was a constructive statesman of the first class, and the measures he advocated and enforced have now continuing power, and forever hereafter must beneficially affect our country's career.

### ARBITRATION AND THE NEW NAVY.

The year 1889 marked a period of change from much that had been accomplished. Our people were ceasing to discuss past issues and were hopefully contemplating the future. The war was over. Reconstruction had run its course, and all the States were exercising their unrestricted rights in the Union. The South was realizing as great a relief because of free labor as the North, and with the Union established now beyond dispute, there had come not only prosperity at home, but an importance for our country in foreign affairs at once gratifying to its pride and stimulating it to farther-reaching views and a broader statesmanship. To the discussion of these in large part the very first, as well as the successive messages of the President, were given, and his executive power earnestly extended.

When he visited the Ecumenical Conference of the Methodist Church in Washington City, in October, 1891, on the day that "international arbitration" was there being discussed, he declared that "it is by Christian sentiment, characterized not only by a high sense of justice, but by a spirit of love and forbearance, mastering the civil institutions and governments of the world, that we shall approach universal peace and adopt arbitration methods of settling disputes." He strongly favored such measures; but he remarked to the assembly that before he was aware of the theme or occasion which that morning occupied their attention, he had appointed that afternoon to visit the great-gun foundry of the United States, at the Navy Yard; and that things had come in their proper sequence; that he was at that arbitration meeting before going to the gun factory, and, as he further remarked to them, eliciting their applause, "We will have our gun foundries; and possibly will best promote the settlement of international disputes by arbi-

tration, by having it understood that if the appeal is to a fiercer tribunal, we shall not be out of the debate."

The New Navy was then being created, and he and the able Secretary of the Navy were in earnest superintendence of its advancement. When the administration began, there were but three modern steel vessels in commission, but before it ended, there were nineteen more afloat. In his message of December 6th, 1892, the President exclaimed with patriotic pride, "The United States is again a naval power." His was "the rapture of" the accomplishment of "a high resolve."

The policy of international arbitration has developed indeed with a growing Christian sentiment, characterized by a sense of justice; but that Navy has also increased, and is to-day sailing the seas of the Orient, with its three columns, like the prongs of Neptune's trident, ruling the waves, not upon an expedition of war, but in the sole interests of commerce and of peace; visiting the ports of many peoples without offensive assertion, eliciting and reciprocating, even among rival nations, expressions of admiration and friendship, only; but silently suggesting that upon questions of the future affecting our people's dignity or welfare, the United States will not be "out of the debate."

It was most appropriate, that seven years ago in yonder state capitol, as his remains lay in state, there was placed upon the bier of Benjamin Harrison the flag borne by the battleship "Indiana" in the victory at Santiago!

The hope, the only hope, in the immediate present, for either effective international or domestic arbitration, is the recognition that there is a power at hand to enforce the award pronounced, if submission is not voluntary.

#### FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The administration was fortunately one of peace with foreign nations, but there was more than one occasion when there was possibility of a conflict. When these occurred it fell to the President himself to take in charge the honor and interests of the United States, and it was done with a courage so prompt and a capacity to present our position and just demands so clearly, that not only our own people were satisfied, but Chili, as to the Valparaiso affair, and Italy, as to the mob violence perpetrated upon certain of her subjects, at a port of ours on the Gulf, acquiesced in President Harrison's positions. The dispute with Great Britain as to our right to protect the seals frequenting our islands in Behring Sea ended in



satisfactory arbitration, and the Samoan dispute, begun indeed in the previous administration, ended in this, however, in a satisfactory tripartite agreement with Great Britain and Germany.

#### THE VALPARAISO INCIDENT.

Of these incidents, that at Valparaiso was the most delicate, as it involved a demand for an apology and some adequate reparation for the wrong complained of from a South American State with which the United States was solicitous to be at peace, and which was then torn by great internal dissension. The President's message to Congress in regard to the assault there made upon the sailors of the "Baltimore," wearing and because, it was deemed, they wore the United States uniform, declared when the evidence had been all adduced, was "that it had been his desire in every way to cultivate friendly and intimate relations with all the governments of this hemisphere, but this Government, while exercising the utmost forbearance, would, when necessary, extend its strong and adequate protection to its citizens, its officers, and to its humblest sailors" in other lands.

These prompt and dignified declarations have fixed a policy alike conciliatory to others upon this hemisphere and elsewhere, and protective of the national safety.

Peace was secured with honor.

#### SEAL FISHERIES DISPUTE.

In the seal fisheries dispute, it came about through the increasing illness of the Secretary of State, who had first taken up the case with his great experience and fine ability, that ere it ended, the diplomatic correspondence had to be conducted by the President himself; and were there no other evidence of his complete equipment for the great place he held, the papers then written display his capacity as a statesman to have been of the highest order. Like the speeches he delivered when, in 1890, going to and from California and visiting the cities and towns en route, it greatly impressed our own and all other peoples with a new conception of his ability and mental resources.

#### POSTAL AFFAIRS AND MERCHANT MARINE.

During this administration there was an efficient and progressive management of the great bureau of the Post Office Department, the President declaring that "new postoffices mean new hamlets and towns; new routes mean the extension of our border settlements, and

increased revenues mean an active commerce." Many million miles of mail journeys were added in the four years. Much of this was because of the subsidy aid given our merchant marine through this department. Upon the policy of subsidies, he maintained "there was no choice left, so long as our great competitors maintain the practice of giving government aid to their merchant marine, and that no subject more nearly touches the pride, the power and the prosperity of our country than the development of our own." Acting upon this belief, and by such aid as was allowed, there were secured the building of sixteen American steamships, and, prospectively, forty-one mail steamers, with more for Brazil and Argentine. There were five ships of 10,000 tons each, adding seven of the swiftest vessels upon the sea, including the transatlantic liners, the City of New York and the City of Paris.

By such means, with no thought of partiality or extravagance, was it sought not only to advance the strength of our Navy, but to send, if he could, the American flag, covering American cargoes, to ports where it had become almost an entire stranger.

These transatlantic liners, it is also to be noted, were of those which, put on a war footing, in the war with Spain, became the "eyes" of the ships of line, like the frigates of former days. Thus were the wisdom and foresight of the administration shown in more ways than one; in preparing for war in time of peace. He loved peace, he sought it ever, he advocated international arbitration, but he was sane in his method to attain and preserve these.

#### SUPPRESSION OF LOTTERIES.

It was also through this department of the Post Office that lotteries, even if allowed by state laws, were effectually suppressed by the refusal to carry their tickets and schemes in the mail, and by prosecuting the offenders against the statutes forbidding the attempt to use the mail for such purpose. This and kindred frauds have thus in our country been about exhausted and crushed.

#### THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER.

From his training as a lawyer, and his six years' experience as United States Senator, Benjamin Harrison had become remarkably familiar with all governmental affairs, in their general relations as legislative, judicial or executive, as well as with those divisions of the executive departments, whose secretaries constitute the Cabinet. He was at no loss to instantly comprehend any question pertaining to either, and very often to direct action to his constitutional advisers

upon views and facts not before considered by them. It may well be said that no Chief Magistrate of the United States has at any period been more closely acquainted with the details of departments, or with the constitutional and legal structure of our republican form of Government. His reputation as a lawyer was second to none. Indeed it was said of him by one of the most eminent justices of the Supreme Court, that he was the greatest lawyer appearing at the bar of that court, and one full of resources in argument.

#### A PEACE OF THE UNITED STATES.

He was such a lawyer, largely, because, with all his learning and acumen, he was a servitor of the law, proud of his profession, but prouder still of the judiciary whose goodness and greatness he knew, and the individuals composing which he ever respected.

There arose then an event that illustrated this in a striking and novel manner. Justice Field, it will be recalled, when on his journey from one circuit court to another, accompanied by a United States Marshal, an officer of his court, and stopping at a place of refreshment in the state of California, was attacked by a desperado, who assaulted and struck the Justice with murderous intent, but who was instantly fired upon and killed by the Marshal. To try the officer for this act in the local state tribunal, as was demanded by the State, was thought not necessary, and the President and his able Attorney-General maintained that the matter was to be inquired of only in a court of the United States. Upon the case brought to the consideration of the United States Supreme Court, it was, on full and learned argument there decided (Justice Samuel F. Miller delivering the opinion), that there is a peace of the United States; that the justice was on duty as he progressed on his circuit from one court to another; that one assailing a judge of the United States while in the discharge of his duty, violates that peace; that in such case the Marshal of the United States stands in the same relation to the peace of the United States that the Sheriff of the county does to the peace of a State; that the Marshal was acting under authority of the law of the United States, and, being so justified, was not answerable elsewhere on account of his part in the transaction.

It was in this administration also that fraudulent naturalization papers were first cancelled by proceedings in Courts of Equity, by the United States, on relation of the Attorney-General, and claims thereunder to citizenship abrogated.

#### REGARD FOR OUR JUDICIARY.

The same high regard for the judiciary that led the President to protect a judge in office and on duty, and to thus exemplify profound reverence for our courts, was exhibited also in his appointments of justice or judge. Here he had ever before him the words of Washington to John Jay, when made Chief Justice, "that the judiciary department must be considered the key-stone of our political fabric," and again to James Wilson, when made a justice, that "the

judicial department is the chief pillar upon which our government must rest; and that it was a duty to nominate for the high offices in that department such men as would give dignity and luster to our national character," and, as he himself has written, "any assaults upon his department threaten the whole structure of the stately arch."

By these declarations and administrative acts the judiciary has been greatly strengthened to meet the vicissitudes of coming years, if in the opinion of any considerable party the courts may be foolishly deemed too independent, or their decrees intolerable when conflicting with individual opinion arising from personal interests.

#### NATIONAL SUPPORT OF EDUCATION.

There was no policy the President deemed more important than that of giving national support to public education. He loved to advocate it, and when the children of the schools received him, as they so often did, with songs and flowers and flags, he deemed his service more complimented than by any other demonstration that could be made. When the act of August 30, 1890, introduced and advocated by Senator Morrill, was approved, giving a portion of the proceeds of the public lands to each state and territory for colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts, where no distinction of race or color was made, the administration acted with such promptness and vigor that in eleven months there were forty-two states and territories certified as entitled to this fund, and warrants drawn for three separate annual installments thereof; and other cases being settled, by December, 1892, over \$2,000,000 were distributed to fifty-six institutions. This policy has been and is one of greatest satisfaction to the people, for it not only nourishes education, but visits with its beneficence the communities of the older states as well as the new.

#### RESERVATIONS OF FORESTS.

The conservation of the nation's natural resources was begun by President Harrison's quick appreciation of the danger there would be to the national life by the destruction of our forests, and of the opportunity afforded for forest reservations, when the bill was passing through Congress, which became the Act of March 3rd, 1891, authorizing the President to set apart and reserve lands bearing forests and establish such reservations by proclamation. The first impressive appeal for such a policy came when he, in January, 1890, transmitted to Congress a memorial from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and recommended that adequate steps be taken to prevent the rapid destruction of our great forest areas and the loss of our water supplies. Congress was about to allow the appropriation of forest lands by individual settlements with no provision for reservations, but the executive insisted that to prevent the absorption of such lands altogether, ultimately, by corporations, there must be, to gain his approval as President, a provision for reservation from settlement, of such as the Executive

deemed proper. Congress complied, in the act, with this patriotic and far-reaching policy, but also allowed settlements. Thus, unless reservations were promptly made, the forests would pass to private owners, already alert as to their value and regardless of the demands of the future. There was need of immediate action, and six reservations were created within the term by presidential proclamations, embracing an area of more than three and a quarter million acres. And the fact was then declared, "that if the forest growth is removed without consideration of the future, the periods during which the streams give their present supply of water will be greatly shortened by floods and drouths," and it was soon after recommended that "forest reservations should receive protection, either by guards furnished from the army or an appropriation should be made to pay custodians and watchmen, so that not only might depredations be detected, but fires, that consume so great a part of our timber, might be prevented."

This policy thus avowed, Congress did not at once support by sufficient appropriations, and resort had to be taken to the army for greater protection to certain reservations. Troops of cavalry were detailed for the Yosemite Valley, for the General Grant sequoias, and for Yellowstone Park. The whole system was, however, then and there outlined and practiced, so far as money could be had, that has since been carried into effect.

The night of March 3rd, 1891, when this act was approved, is remembered well. It was at the capitol, when the President had to be there present to approve acts of Congress before the end of the session, already expiring. He paused at this act, and, inquiring if it was as it should be, and being advised it was, because the authority to make reservations was thereby given, he said, "Then I will sign"; and sign he did; and what of the forests were left on the public domain it became possible to wrest from the greed of speculators and keep for the use of the nation, then and thereafter. By this act the policy was inaugurated, in pursuit of which President Cleveland, President McKinley and President Roosevelt, with their able Secretaries, and officers, have added to the reservations made from 1891 to 1893, those others which now are holding this national life-saving asset as one of the richest and most vital the people possess.

President Roosevelt has said of this policy, "It is to be regretted it did not commence sooner, but still fortunate we began as soon as we did."

#### RESERVATION OF RESERVOIR SITES.

There were also at this same period reserved many portions of the public domain amid the mountains and their foothills, suitable for dams and the creation of reservoirs of water to be used in irrigation of arid lands, and the maintenance of our rivers in time of need. The prompt action taken by the administration to realize for the people the benefits of the Act of October 2nd, 1888, led to the Act of August, 1890, providing that reservoir sites already or thereafter located or se-

lected on public lands should from the date of such location be reserved from entry or settlement. Through the activity of the Geological Survey, very many reservoir sites were established, and reservations ordered, which have since been available for the conservation of our rivers and useful for irrigation.

It would seem that this policy came into sudden existence from legislative acts proposed without provision for any reservations, unless private entries might be also made, and thereby immediate executive action was demanded to control the situation. Yet that policy at once received and has since constantly had the support of public opinion and of each successive administration with increasing vigor, until there are now nearly two hundred million acres in the forest reservations; and hundreds of reservoir sites are held by the government free from private entry. Forest associations, waterway conventions, and lumbermen themselves give earnest support to these most patriotic and vital measures.

There was held at Chicago this present month of October a convention of "The Lakes to the Gulf Deep Waterways Association," occupying three days, where there were more than two thousand delegates from most all the United States, chiefly business men, alive to the questions now affecting our commercial progress and the demand that our natural resources be so treated by governmental action that they shall nurture our national life. Before this convention addresses were made by both candidates for the Presidency, Judge Taft and Mr. Bryan. There were also addresses made by Chief Forester Pinchot, by Governor Deneen, by Congressman Lorimer, by Mr. Shonts, President of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, and other eminent men, and there was no dissenting vote or judgment but that our national resources must and shall be preserved. But there was not brought into view the great importance of our reservoir sites, not only for irrigation use, but the supply of water to our rivers for navigation in times of drouth. The lakes cannot be drawn on without limit, and they could supply only the lower reaches of our great streams. But these many reservoirs sites now preserved, where the rains and deep snows of winter renew the supply each year, being filled when the streams are overflowing, can be made to regulate, to a great degree, by skillful and scientific management, the depleted rivers of the coming year.

What our people want to do, it was considered, is to hold these fastnesses of the mountains, reserve and renew their forests and join hands with nature and her vitalizing forces, so that the Republic may not halt in mid career, as other nations have done, from the exhaustion of its domain, but still perpetuate the blessings of good government, cherished by the land we live in.

#### HOMESTEADS.

There had, up to the period of the Harrison Administration, been a wide divergence of practice, if not of avowed principles, between the great political parties of the country as to facilitating



homesteads on the public lands. Before the Civil War there was a political reason apparent why one party was opposed to settlement on the public lands, lying mostly in the North. The homestead bill was vetoed by President Buchanan. But the act having been approved by President Lincoln, it is not easily understood why, in the administration immediately preceding that of President Harrison there should have been, as shown by the report of the Secretary of the Interior for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1888, pending of final entries, over two hundred and thirty-eight thousand; or why the number of such entries made during the year of more than seventy thousand should have exceeded that of all final entries disposed of by patents during that year, so that instead of diminishing, the arrearages had increased, and so that of original entries there were on hand June 30th, 1888, nearly three hundred and fifty-one thousand, of which over two hundred and seventeen thousand were for homesteads. This unfortunate condition of affairs came from a want of confidence, at least by the General Land Office, in the uprightness of those who were settling the farther West. They were the last, probably, who may be truly called pioneers, and the previous administration had failed to fully recognize they were our fellow-citizens, men like ourselves, no better, no worse, who loved their country and were seeking, amid great privations, to establish their wives and children in homes on American soil. President Harrison knew the real character of these people. Whatever of fraud there was, was incidental, and easily detected and prevented, while the vast body of these claimants was composed of not only honest, but most worthy citizens, longing to realize their hope of individual competency and to participate in our national affairs. His administration brought them immediate and general relief. During the four years he was our Chief Magistrate there were issued over 600,000 agricultural patents, and the business of the General Land Office brought up abreast with current work. Instead of the final action upon applications being delayed for three years, it was taken within three to four months. These patents were sent to the great West and Southwest to the average number of more than 100,000 each year, and "reached beneficently our fellow-citizens in their homes far away from the capital, and by placing in the hands of the citizen the title papers to his homestead, proved his government was mindful of its promises, and capable of living up to its professions."

It is but just to recall, also, the fact that in this period there had come from out this great West six new states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho and Wyoming; and there had been opened and organized the territory of Oklahoma, together with many millions of acres negotiated for and purchased from Indian tribes; so that not only was the anxiety of the settler allayed by the possession of the evidence of his title to his home, but the new commonwealths were able to assume their functions of government upon sufficient revenues, and the utmost good will of their people towards the several new states and the United States.

## OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES.

Much might be said of his advocacy of the act to prevent monopolies or combinations in restraint of fair trade, which he approved June 26th, 1890, and now known as the Interstate Commerce Act, but time does not permit me to set forth this and those other measures he so ably discussed and advanced, relating to the national finances; or his successful struggle to keep every dollar equal to every other dollar coined or issued by the United States; to protect American industries and American labor; to enforce the Reciprocity policy; to protect the election of Congressmen against the "gerrymander;" to preserve a free ballot and a fair count, both South and North; to promote civil service reform; to have better protection for the lives of those working on our railroads by safety appliances, and to secure to each and every one that equal opportunity, equality before the law, and adequate protection in person, property and liberty our great government was made to confer.

These and other policies he advanced with unabated zeal and patriotic ardor.

## PENSIONS.

Notice, however, must be taken of his love for, and protection of, the survivors of his comrades in the War for the Union. The President had declared our Nation should "be faithful, generous and liberal to the soldiers that survive, to care for them and honor them until the last veteran sleeps his last sleep;" and he advocated more liberal pension laws for their relief with an eloquence unsurpassed in pathos and persuasiveness.

He was thus able, on June 27, 1890, to approve the "disability" act of Congress, which relieved the applicant for a pension from proving his disability originated in the service. There were, Congress having made adequate appropriation, four hundred and fifty-five persons immediately added to the force in the pension office, and the Medical Board was increased to twelve hundred and twenty-five members. The results were commensurate with these patriotic provisions.

From March 4th, 1889, to November 1st, 1892, there were issued over eight hundred and thirty-five thousand pension certificates, of which nearly five hundred and twenty thousand were on original claims.

There were paid in pensions in the same period more than \$132,000,000, which was an increase of more than \$114,000,000 over the sum paid in the four years of the previous administration.

He was a soldier, the Colonel of a fighting regiment. He said to them in 1888, "We went into the service with the full purpose to respond to every order, and we never evaded a fight or turned our backs to the enemy." Applying his words to all his comrades in the whole army, as he said in his address to his own regiment, he remembered, "the high and buoyant determination, the resolute carriage





with which they went to do their part in the work of suppressing the rebellion; the scenes through which they passed in that hard discipline of service and sickness, and all those incidents which are necessary to convert citizens into veterans; he remembered the scenes of battle in which they and he stood together, and the broad and deep grave at the foot of the Resaca hill, where were left those gallant comrades who fell in that gallant charge; he remembered the glad rejoicing when their faces were turned homeward, and the whole course of these incidents of battle, of sickness, of death, of victory, crowned by the triumphant reassertion of national authority; and the muster out and the return to those home that they loved, made again secure against all the perils which had threatened them."

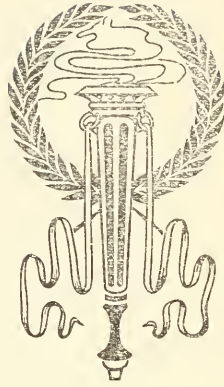
When he became President, he did not hesitate to seek opportunity, and when opportunity was found, to make his words good, with most patriotic fervor.

### SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' AND GOVERNOR MORTON MONUMENTS.

It was he who helped to inaugurate the movement for Indiana's Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, and as President he was at the laying of its corner stone, which he deemed "a twin expression of that one great sentiment which had already set up the statue of this State's great war governor" (Morton).

We may well rejoice that there is now added to these other two this beautiful classic and worthy memorial before us. By one we recall the sleepless watchfulness of that Governor who raised the forces of the State to contend in the struggle for the Union, and who appeared upon field after field to relieve the suffering at each succeeding battle, and to encourage the survivors to renewed endeavor in battles yet to come. By the other we are reminded of the heroic sacrifices made by Indiana's soldiers and sailors, with their other Union comrades, ending only with their lives given for their country. And by this last one here unveiled, we express our love and reverence for him who, with all his other great services, not only offered all he was and all he cherished upon the field, but who kept his pledge and that of his country "to care for him who had borne the battle and for his widow and orphans."

Let us, then, this day here recognize in him our loyal fellow citizen; let us salute with respect the soldier who led his regiment and his brigade without fear and to victory; let us look up with admiration to the able and patriotic statesman; let us transmit to all the future the testimony of a now reunited people, that in his day and generation, Benjamin Harrison was acknowledged to be among the best of our Presidents, and among the foremost of Americans; and let us commit his memory to the gratitude of the Nation, the welfare of which he had constantly at heart, and sought, by all his talents, to preserve in unity, to advance in justice and to cause to endure forever for the good of all humanity.

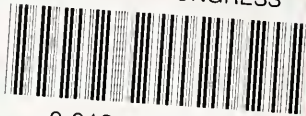








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