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Moore, J. Hampton.

The enlisted man. Address...

[Washington, 1909]



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# THE ENLISTED MAN

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ADDRESS

OF

HON. J. HAMPTON MOORE

Member of Congress from Pennsylvania

AT THE

UNVEILING

OF THE

STEPHENSON MEMORIAL

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 3, 1909

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# THE ENLISTED MAN

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## ADDRESS OF J. HAMPTON MOORE

Member of Congress from Pennsylvania

AT

### UNVEILING OF STEPHENSON MEMORIAL GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Washington, D. C., July 3, 1909

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MR. PRESIDENT, MR. CHAIRMAN, FELLOW CITIZENS:—In honoring the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, we are paying tribute to the soldier of the Civil War who fought on land and sea. He is familiar to the present generation as "the veteran," grizzled and gray; the wearer of a modest suit of blue, the quiet dispenser of the garlands of May upon the graves of his departed comrades of the ship, the camp and the field. He has become a benign, historic figure, typifying "fraternity, charity and loyalty" in the personal, as in the national sense, and has earned the undying gratitude of the American heart, than which, perhaps no greater tribute has ever fallen to martial hero. "Veteran" though we regard him now, it is well to remember that he was of the youth and flower of the land when marching forth to battle from forty-to forty-eight years ago.

#### LINCOLN'S FIRST CALL.

Lincoln called for volunteers the day following the assault upon Sumter in April, 1861. The country was then in a high state of excitement, so that the first call for seventy-five thousand men was promptly responded to. The issue then was not the overthrow of slavery. The President demanded that the laws of the Union should be respected and enforced, and for this the volunteers enlisted. It was not expected they would long be needed in the field, but those who hoped for a short campaign were counting "without their host." The seceding States were determined to defend the position they had taken and prepared to fight to "the

last ditch." Amongst the Confederate leaders there were men like Lee and Stephens, who had opposed secession, but when the "die was cast" their loyalty to their States was stronger than their love for the Union and they had to fight. With what determination they fought, the early victories of the Confederate Army well attest.

#### FROM THREE MONTHS TO FOUR YEARS.

The President's call was for three months' service, but he was soon obliged to issue other calls, and these were followed by drafts upon the male population, until the Northern troops had swollen to great bodies of men who ultimately sang as they marched from their homes in the North to the bloody Southland,—*"We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more."*

With each succeeding clash of arms, with each defeat or victory throughout the whole of the first year's struggle, the spirit and determination of Unionist and Confederate were equally aroused. Patriotism and the sense of personal obligation to a cause, were never displayed with greater earnestness. The whole country was called upon for fighting men. The war lengthened into years and did not end until at least 1,000,000 men a year had been engaged for every one of the four years of strife. It had developed into the cruelest, and the bravest; the bloodiest and the most heroic, of all the wars of history. Fully 350,000 soldiers upon the Union side fell in their tracks, or died from their wounds. The Confederates killed, or dying from their wounds, were less numerous.

#### CONSIDER THE SACRIFICE.

That war has passed. The vast majority of those who returned from the service have gone to the Great Beyond. Millions of afflicted parents and martyred wives and sisters of the combatants have been gathered to their fathers. It is only the veteran few who now remain to tell of the sacrifice.

And oh, in the light of history, what a sacrifice that was! Up to the time that Sumter was fired on we had prospered as a nation. We had built the superstructure upon the foundation which our fathers laid in 1776 and 1787. We had been fulfilling the destiny which they had mapped out for us. From 4,000,000 of people under the administration of Washington, we had grown in seventy years to be 32,000,000 under Abraham Lincoln. We had progressed as a common country in all essentials, save one. We could not agree upon the question of slavery. If in the present day, we are to give full understanding to the sacrifice of the soldier of 1861, we must take an account of the stock of our country at that time.

## FAREWELL TO OPPORTUNITY.

We had long since settled down to business as a Union under the Constitution of the United States. We had fought a successful second war with England. We had just closed victoriously a war with Mexico. We had brought the Indians under Governmental regulation and we had begun to discover the wealth of our own great resources. Gold had been found in California, and, with its discovery, the trend of empire took its westward way. We had experienced and overcome the effects of a financial panic in 1857, the result of our own excesses. We had just learned that there was silver in Colorado and Nevada; that there was natural gas and petroleum in Pennsylvania. We had begun to penetrate the Oregon country. We had established a growing merchant marine; our ships were known upon all the seas, and Commodore Perry had opened up the ports of Japan. The railroad had begun to people the wilderness and bring it to the metropolis. We were beginning to appreciate the telegraph. The steam-printing press had been invented; the steam-shovel, the power-loom and the sewing-machine were new creations; the harvester and the reaper and other mechanical devices had come to the relief of labor. It seemed, indeed, as though the golden age of opportunity had set in for the youth of the land.

## YOUTH AND OLD AGE ENLISTED.

The relinquishment of all these was a part of the sacrifice, but not all. The call to duty put them by, but the youth who shouldered his musket to engage in the hazard of deadly warfare, must also say good-bye to mother and to fireside; the man must say farewell to wife and children; farewell to hopes and aspirations; farewell to ease and opportunity; farewell, indeed, to life itself. Old men, or young men, it made but little difference then; the cause demanded fighting men, and on to war they went.

Down the streets of Philadelphia, in August, 1861, marched a regiment, the average age of whose members was nineteen years. "Why, they're only school-boys," said a bystander, but school-boys though they were, Birney's Zouaves were famous soldiers before that war was over.

## "A DRESS PARADE OF THE DEAD."

The youth of the army! Remember the 151st Pennsylvania? A regiment with a hundred school-teachers and their scholars. Have you heard the story? Under the command of a Juniata

pedagogue that gallant regiment stood at Gettysburg, face to face with the 26th North Carolina, administering shot for shot, and blow for blow, until 56 per cent. of its members had fallen dead and wounded. They spoke of the fallen of that regiment as "a dress parade of the dead," so accurate was their alignment as they fell. But what of their brave opponents of the 26th North Carolina? They had plunged into that action with 820 men. They came out with 588 killed and wounded, the killed including their Colonel, Burgoyne, a gallant Southern youth who had not attained his twentieth year. No greater loss was inflicted upon any Confederate regiment in any single battle during the entire war.

#### THEY WERE NOT HIRELINGS.

But all the gallantry was not upon the side of the young men. There were fathers in those battles leading their sons or loyally following the lead of their sons. "I want to fight with your regiment," said old John Burns at Gettysburg—and all day long his "bell-crowned hat" and his "swallow-tail coat" were conspicuous with his musket where the fighting was thickest. His silver hair and his seventy years had not diminished his patriotism, nor lessened his love of the Union.

These were the men, both old and young, whose achievements invoke our admiration. Not hireling soldiers, not the professional—

"He who fights and runs away,  
May live to fight another day,"

but the soldiers of duty; soldiers who answered their country's call, who went into the fray to stand, until they had won or lost.

#### SERVICE OF THE RANK AND FILE.

Associated with the exercises of this day are memories of heroism such as the world had never seen. The paltry few medals of honor which the Congress of the United States has bestowed upon worthy men went chiefly to private soldiers, sergeants, corporals and other non-commissioned officers. Admiring comrades and companions have reared their shafts of bronze and marble to the memory of beloved and gallant commanders. The private soldier, more than any other, knew the value of able and magnetic leaders, but in no other instance, it is believed, has a memorial sprung so directly from the hearts of the people in honor of the private soldier—the modern veteran—as does this memorial of the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic. We may not, aye, we

dare not, minimize the glory of the victorious commander; but we must not, indeed, we shall not, disregard the services of the rank and file.

#### HEROES AT THE BLOODY ANGLE.

Where in the world's history has there been such self-sacrifice, such gallantry as in the American Civil War? Who can stand at the Bloody Angle and not bow low in reverence to the gallant men of Pickett's Division, whose desperate charge repulsed, was the turn of tide in the war, and who of the eulogists of that command will fail to bow in turn to those intrepid, those immovable Union men, who met and drove the heroes back. Neither artist nor historian has yet been found to adequately paint the picture of that immortal clash of heroes.

You read "The Charge of the Light Brigade;" you catch the swing and rhythm of the lines. You see the dash, you hear the clash, and then, in imagination, you witness the sad return of the broken regiment. But did you ever read the simple story of the First Minnesota Regiment? May we not compare it to "The Charge of the Light Brigade?"

#### A SENTENCE OF DEATH.

"Colonel Colvill," said General Hancock at Gettysburg, "move your regiment forward and take those colors!"

"Forward the Light Brigade,  
Charge for the guns," he said.

It was the sentence of death. Home and loved ones all behind them and knowing duty only, the First Minnesota, tired and broken from losses and long marches, moved stolidly upon an entire Confederate Division:

"Their's not to make reply,  
Their's not to reason why,  
Their's but to do and die."

But that deadly charge served the purpose of the commanding general; it saved a break in the Union line, and consequent disaster.

"Oh, the wild charge they made!

sang the poet Tennyson:

"All the world wondered!"

And yet, world-renowned as was the battle of Balaklava, the total loss inflicted upon the Light Brigade was only 37 per cent.

What was the loss of the First Minnesota? Of the 262 men who made that awful charge at Gettysburg, 215 were killed or wounded. Only 47 came back. Will not some modern Tennyson write the unparalleled story of the First Minnesota, with its 82 per cent. of death?

#### INCIDENTS OF PERSONAL BRAVERY.

"Colonel," said a beardless youth at Chancellorsville, "if you need the ammunition on the other side of the field, I will get it." He performed the task and marched backward to the regiment, while the bullets whistled round him. "Why did you walk backward?" said the commander. "Because, if they hit me, I wanted them to hit me in the face. It would look better to the folks at home."

"No, sir," said a soldier at Gaines' Mills, who had been shot in the thigh, "that ambulance is for those who can not walk." And he walked, though his trousers were stiff with blood.

"You're a Yank," said a stricken Confederate at Petersburg, as he received the canteen of a passing Unionist, "but you've saved my life."

"Well," said a lad whose cheek-bone was shattered by a piece of shell at Fredericksburg, "this is what I came for," and he marched on.

#### REMEMBER THE UNKNOWN DEAD.

These are a meagre few of innumerable incidents by which we may judge the personal valor of the private soldier. Take him collectively: A regiment is ordered to make an assault to serve a strategy of the commander. They strike blindly; hundreds fall, some to be reported killed, some wounded, some missing. By the side of a swamp, the command is given to march, and through "the slashing" a thousand men proceed, climbing over the limbs and branches and through the vines, unable themselves to fight, while the enemy pours its deadly fire from the other side.

In the swamp they fall; in the wilderness they drop; in the trench they lie. Men unscathed, or wounded men, return from battle and are justly glorified and feted, but what of those who were left behind, unheralded, unmarked? Where is the poet who has written the praises of those who came not back? Where is the monument that fittingly records the heroism and the sacrifices of the uncounted dead? Let us include them in the exercises of this hour. Let us hope the extent of their great sacrifice may some day be measured and more fully appreciated by mankind.

"Lay him low; lay him low,  
 'Neath the clover, or the snow;  
 What cares he, he can not know,  
 Lay him low."

#### WORLD'S RECORD OF LOSSES.

Statistics vary with regard to the losses in the wars of the world; but regimental losses were greater in the Civil War than in any prior war of history. No record has been produced showing a regimental loss of 50 per cent. in any of the world's wars. The Light Brigade at Balaklava lost 37 per cent. The Garde Schutzen, at Metz, lost 46 per cent. The Third Westphalen, at Mars La Tour, lost 49 per cent.\* But in the Northern Army were seventy regiments representing nearly every State of the North that lost in single engagements alone, more than 50 per cent. of killed and wounded. There were 150 regiments of the Northern Army which lost more in single combats than did the Light Brigade at Balaklava. Witness the Fifth New York (Duryea's Zouaves), which went into the first Bull Run fight with 462 men and came out with 351 killed or wounded; or that heroic company of colored troops under Captain John McMurray, at Chapin's Farm, which lost 87 per cent. killed and wounded, the greatest percentage of company loss in the whole war.

#### THE MORALE OF THE ARMY.

He was not a soldier of fortune who enlisted from '61 to '65. He was fighting for the integrity of his country; the Northern man for the preservation of the Union, the Southern man for the rights as he believed them, of the separate States. He was not a marauding soldier, the soldier of '61, for the lines of either side were strictly drawn and moral standards were established not to be shaken. The bushwacker and the coward had no welcome place in the ranks.

"I never entered a battle," said a Northern general recently, "without suggesting first the offering up of prayer." A member of the Cabinet of the great harmonizer, the present occupant of the White House, who graces this occasion with his presence, was a child in Texas during the war. His father was a Union man and duty called him North. "But he would never have gone," said his distinguished son, "had he not full faith that Southern chivalry would protect his wife and children from molestation."

\* Computed by General St. Clair A. Mulholland.



## THE GLORY OF THE SOLDIER.

One glory of the true soldier is in having "met a foeman worthy of his steel." Since there is small honor in a one-sided victory or a battle with weaklings, the martial glory of the Union soldier was in having met those who were his equals on the field of battle, or in the ships. The four long years of fighting, the scales tipped now in favor of one and now in favor of the other, proclaims forever the fighting prowess of the two great armies. But viewed from the standpoint of the citizen soldier of the North, the veteran type, whom the Grand Army of the Republic was organized to honor, the chief glory of the war has been the preservation of the union of the States and the resumption of that great progress which was halted in the early days of '61. Nor is it stretching the truth to say that the veterans of the Southern armies, laying aside the bitterness and disappointment of defeat, have come to realize the strength and wisdom of the Union and the inviolability of the Constitution and the laws.

## A NEW ACCOUNTING OF STOCK.

After the lapse of nearly half a century, we are enabled again to take an accounting of the nation's stock and to compare it with those conditions that prevailed, with those opportunities that were postponed, when Lincoln first sounded the tocsin of war. We had 32,000,000 of people, including nearly 4,000,000 slaves, in scattered and conflicting States, then. We have 90,000,000 of people and no slaves, in forty-six united States to-day. Then the per capita circulation of the country was approximately \$14; to-day it approximates \$35. Then the estimated wealth of the country was \$16,000,000,000; to-day it is estimated at more than \$116,000,000,000. Then largely by reason of the lack of a union of States, there were no national banks, and deposits in State banks, perhaps, did not exceed half a billion. The total deposits in national banks and kindred companies throughout the United States now, exceeds the wonderful total of \$13,000,000,000. The war plunged us into a debt of more than two and a half billions, and this we have reduced to approximately a billion. No nation upon earth, united as we have been since the great struggle, has prospered as we have in the United States. We have come to be the great wealth-producing nation of the world. We have resumed the work that was stopped in 1861, and have proven our industrial and agricultural capacity until we are able to create a wealth of \$25,000,000,000 per annum.



## OUR PROGRESS WITH PEACE.

So vast, indeed, have been our national operations, that our wealth is now equal to that of Great Britain and Ireland, of France and of Italy combined, and, strange as it appears in comparison with these old world countries, our debt is less than that of either of them. What if this Union had not been preserved? What if it had not been possible that this Grand Army of the Republic had ever been formed? In the wonderful re-habilitation of the country it was the veteran soldier who took a leading and an honorable part. He had saved the Union; now he must preserve and develop it. He caught the spirit of Grant at Appomattox, and with enthusiasm turned from the sword to the plow. He returned to the farm, the factory, and to the mine. He resumed his clerical and business pursuits; he took up again the studies in law, in medicine, in commerce, that had been interrupted when he marched to the front.

## A SAFEGUARD OF THE NATION.

What better time than this to own our obligation, our eternal gratitude, to the Grand Army of the Republic! Tested in the crucible of war, it has taught us the holiest lessons of peace. It has stood for "fraternity," that worthy soldiers might know and better appreciate each other; it has stood for "charity," that the poor and the feeble and the desolate might not go unattended; it has stood for "loyalty," that the Union might never again be short of defenders; and, over all, it has set an example of citizenship, which is the truest safeguard of the nation. So long as the Grand Army of the Republic is a power in the land, and so long as its memory shall last, this Government will not fail.









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