BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH'S HEROES

Hon. Frank Clark accepted the invitation of the Daughters of the Confederacy at Starke to deliver an address on Decoration day in that city. His beautiful tribute to our heroes on that occasion follows:

Daughters of the Confederacy, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The beautiful custom inaugurated and maintained by the women of the south of calling our people together on each recurring 26th of April for the purpose of recounting the valorous deeds of our immortal heroes and embanking their last resting places with the fragrant flowers of early spring time is without a parallel in the history of the world. In all ages people have been accustomed to remember the deeds of victorious armies, and have been constant in their devotion to those whose efforts have ended in success. In every land the achievements of the conquerer are chiseled in marble and the story of his prowess is perpetuated in song. It is easy to cultivate patriotic love of a cause when triumph marks its pathway, and when those who oppose its progress have at least succumbed to overpowering numbers and have gone down in the gloom of inevitable defeat. Love for, reverence of and devotion to the cause of the strong, the powerful and the rich does not require the exercise of nor indeed does it bring into play the better, the nobler elements of humanity. Those nobler attributes which link us to the Master assert themselves and make us to appear at best advantage when, for the sake of some heaven-born principle, we take our stand in defense of the weak, the poor and the oppressed, even though it means crushing defeat in the end. "Might does not make right," and never will so long as truth and justice have place in the hearts of men, and so long as the Lord, God Omnipotent, shall reign. Imbued with such thoughts as I am feebly expressing the women of the south, to perpetuate the heroic deeds of our gallant dead, to teach succeeding generations the lessons of patriotism to be gleaned from their unselfish sacrifices; to preserve for our latest posterity the indisputable evidences of the justice of their cause; and to establish for all time and before all the world that the Confederate soldier was neither a "traitor" nor a "rebel," established this beautiful, tender and loving service. Beautiful, not only because of the custom of strewing the graves of our honored dead with the fresh flowers of our early spring, but also because in our hearts there lingers no bitterness against our late foes; tender and loving because they were "bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood," they fought four long years of bloody war, contending against overwhelming odds and amazing the civilized world with their dauntless courage, they were forced to furl the "Stars and Bars" for the last time, there was no stain of dishonor on that tattered emblem of the army which followed the immortal Lee.

When the star of the Confederacy went down in gloom at Appomattox it left only a remnant of the proud and invincible soldiery of the south, but that little remnant, tired, weary and footsore, unconquered and unconquerable, were still ready to follow the flag into the very jaws of death.

While the proud heritage of unexampled valor which these heroes have left us is of priceless value, and while we cannot too often recur to their glorious deeds, we should ever keep in mind the great central principle for which they contended.

The abolition of African slavery was a mere incident of the great conflict and it is a vile slander to assert that our people sacrificed so much of blood and treasure for nothing higher than the dollars and cents as represented in the value of our slaves. There was never a moment of time even to the issuance of Mr. Lincoln's proclamation declaring the abolition of slavery, when the southern states could not have effected a settlement guaranteeing the continuance of slavery in the then slave-holding states. No, my friends, the principle for which we contended was the continuance of constitutional government in this country; the maintenance of the republic in accordance with the terms of the organic law, and the preservation inviolate of the rights of the respective states under and by virtue of the agreement for union. Failing to secure an absolute guaranty for constitutional government in the court of reason, these southern states sought to peacefully withdraw from an alliance which had not only become distasteful but which had in the judgment of our people become oppressive and subversive of the fundamental principles of the original compact. Peaceful separation was not allowed and recourse was had to that court of last resort among peoples and nations—the court of force. Seeking peace rather than war, the Confederate States of America was born among the nations of the earth, almost consistent with the roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry, which announced to a listening world the beginning of the bloodiest and most desperately fought war of modern times. With no arsenals, no vessels of war, no army, no navy, practically no munitions of war and no credit among other nations, the Confederacy began her stormy and short-lived career under most unfavorable circumstances, and yet, with all the disadvantages with which the young nation was hedged about, and nothing to rely on save the matchless courage of her sons, the superb generalship of her military chieftains, and the heaven-born faith and Spartan devotion of her glorious women, she fought the whole world for four long years, emerging from the conflict without a single stain upon her record, and confidently challenging the judgment of posterity, both as to the rectitude of her intentions and the justice of her cause.

Conctitutional government in America was almost destroyed as a result of the war between the states, but the Confederate soldier, with the same indomitable will and intrepid bravery which ever characterized him, returned to his desolate and pillaged home and immediately set himself to the stupendous task of rehabilitating his beloved southland. Here he was met with dangers more terrible and conditions more frightful than actual war. His land made desolate with the torch and sword of the invader; every household wrapped in the sable garments of mourning; himself disfranchised, while his former slaves, under the guidance of carpet-bag adventurers, held high carnival of crime in every county court house and state capitol in these proud but prostrate states. In strictest reverence let me say that the era of reconstruction was the agonizing, heart-breaking Gethsemane for the south. There was never the slightest justification for pressing this bitter cup to the lips of our helpless people, but in the providence of God we finally came forth from the wilderness of negro domination and carpet-bag misrule into the clear, open plain of white supremacy. Our people came into their own again, to keep and preserve it forever and forever. While we have passed under the "chastening rod of affliction" in war and in reconstruction, the end is not yet. If we would be worthy of the magnificent legacy left us by the gallant soldiers of the Confederacy we must be vigilant in guarding the integrity of our race and active in combating the teachings of false prophets, which tend to wean us from the "faith of the fathers." These men, whose ranks are growing so thin and whose deeds make the most glorious chapter in all the history of human sacrifice, have finished their work and the problems of the future fall from their nerveless grasp into our keeping. How shall we discharge this sacred trust? Constitutional government must be preserved else the republic itself will perish from the earth; the autonomy of the different states must remain intact, else the precious boon of local self government will be lost to us, and every departure from the established order of government which tends to the elevation of any inferior race in this country to either social or political equality with us must be combated to the last, else the integrity of the Caucasian race will be seriously imperiled. The negro and the Mongolian have their places in the economy of the universe, but in the name of our sacred dead, in the name of those left among us and who compose the "thin gray line" in the name of the mothers and the daughters of the Confederacy—the noblest, the purest, the most beautiful and most patriotic women with whom God has ever blessed the earth—and in behalf of our posterity, I deny that they are entitled under any law, divine or national, to dwell on terms of equality with the descendants of the cavaliers in this goodly land of our inheritance.

To those present who wore the gray, let me say, God bless you. Most of your comrades have "crossed over the river," and now "rest under the shade of the trees." You are hastening to join them. I know that after your years af struggle and unceasing, patriotic toil, you must look forward with happy anticipation to the grand re-union over there. What a glorious prospect! How your hearts must thrill when you contemplate another gathering of the armies of Lee, Jackson, Johnson, Johnston, Hill, Bragg, Kirby Smith Gordon, Wheeler and the others in "the sweet Elysian fields" of that better world, where there are "neither wars nor rumors of war," but where all is peace and love. The time is not far distant when you will be called to that great gathering. You can leave us with the absolute consciousness that the record of your noble deeds is safe in the hands of your latest posterity, and as you wing your flight into the great beyond, methinks I can hear from the angelic host the glad acclaim, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

To the Daughters of the Confederacy: What shall I say to you? The brush of a Raphael nor the tongue of an angel could do justice to the queenly women of the southland. As brave as the Spartan mothers of old the southern woman must have been in the mind's eye of the immortal bard when he wrote:

"Helen's face, but not her heart,
Cleopatra's majesty,
Atalanta's better part,
Sad Lucretia's modesty."

GOOD ROADS

Good roads mark the progress of civilization. In uncivilized countries there are no good roads and no necessity for them. We tell of the civilization of the Roman empire and the Incas of Peru by the highways they have left as monuments of their existence. The acqueducts, the bridges, the masonry, as much as the sculpture and architecture, tell of the splendor of their civilization.

Macaulay tells us that when England was at its lowest state of morals; when its preachers were put on a footing with its butlers and stable-boys, its roads were in the most pitiable plight. That historian says that when we read about the coaches of six and eight horses, it was made necessary by the bad condition of the roads, and not because of the wealth and extravagance of those who were compelled to travel in those days. Ten and twenty miles was regarded as a big day's travel and when the time arrived when the roads were in a condition that with several relays of horses fifty miles could be made in a day it was thought marvelous, and the speed was reckoned so great that they were nicknamed the "flying coaches."

When England began to build good roads her prosperity was at once noticeable, and the two went hand in hand together. England's good roads was a prosperity-making epoch.

Had the era of railway building in the United States been delayed a little while the building of good roads would have ramified every populous section of our country. Mr. Clay had already introduced such a measure in congress and national highways had already begun. The building of railroads was entered upon so extensively that the good roads movement was overshadowed, but it will be pushed to the front again and the United States will have as good roads as can be found in Europe, or elsewhere.

The people should demand them until the demand is heeded.

It ought to be possible to make automobile tours from one section of the country to the other.

Good roads! Good roads! should be our slogan.

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A NOBLE SPELL

A little boy of eight years, attending school away from home, wrote a letter to his sister, from which the following extract is taken: "We had a spelling match in school today, and I spelled all the boys down and won the meddle."—Delineator.

"ONE TOUCH OF NATURE MAKES THE WHOLE WORLD KIN"

When a rooster finds a big fat worm he calls all the hens in the farm yard to come and share it. A similar trait of human nature is to be observed when a man discovers something exceptionally good—he wants all his friends and neighbors to share the benefits of his discovery. This is the touch of nature that makes the whole world kin. This explains why people who have been cured by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy write letters to the manufacturers for publication, that others similarly ailing may also use it and obtain relief. Behind every one of these letters is a warm-hearted wish of the writer to be of use to someone else. This remedy is for sale by all druggists. m

PUZZLING

'Twixt tweedledum and tweedledee
A diff'rence hath been duly set;
But can there any diff'rence be
'Twixt suffragist and suffragette?
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

WANTED TO BUY

Two hundred cars Florida and Georgia RIPE melons. In the deal from "a to z" for 30 average Tom Watson and 35 average RIPE of any kind, in clean or papered cars. NO GREEN TRASH WANTED. Melon headquarters, Leesburg and Live Oak, Fla., Oglethorpe, Fort Valley and Gordon, Ga. Corespondence invited. H. Dove Allison, "Lunatic," Miami, Fla. 4-16-3t

NOTICE

Take notice that I will on the first Thursday of July, A. D. 1909, or as soon thereafter as I may be heard, apply for a pardon for Angus Jones, who was convicted at the spring term of the circuit court for Marion county, Florida, in 1900, of murder in the second degree. Anyone desiring, may then be heard on the merits of the application.

WILLIAM C. HODGES.
4-16 Attorney for Petitioner.

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ABDUL HAMID, SULTAN OF TURKEY, DETHRDNED

Decree of Deposition Approved by Both Houses of Parliament—His Brother, Mehmed Reschad, is Now Sultan

The reign of Abdul Hamid II., ended Tuesday with his deposition and the accession of his brother, Mehmed Reschad.

Mehmed V., is the thirty-fifth sovereign of Turkey, in male descent, in the house of Osman, the founder of the empire, and is the twenty-ninth sultan since the conquest of Constantinople.

The two houses of parliament approved the decree of deposition, which was read by the Shek-Ul-Islam, chief of the Ulemas and supreme judge on ecclesiastical questions. The document recites that Abdul Hamid's acts were contrary to the sacred law, and set forth a long list of crimes, the whole making a terrible indictment. The assembly chose Mehmed Reschad as sultan and appointed committees to notify the dethroned sovereign and his successor of its action. Th firing of 101 guns announced to the waiting people that a new sultan had been proclaimed.

The ceremonies connected with the transfer of the power were simple. The newly chosen ruler came from his palace in Galata through streets lined with troops and cheering thousands and took the oath at the war office. He then proceeded to the parliament and later went to the Dolmagagtsche palace as head of the empire, where for so many years he had practically been a prisoner.

Martial law was relaxed and the people gave themselves over to celebrating the victory of the young Turk's party and the end of Abdul Hamid's reign.

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