The Necessity of Union.

When the Articles of Confederation were cast aside and the new constitution was adopted, it was said that we had a perpetual union made more perfect. Today we have need of a similar clause not constitutional or statutory to be handed down to posterity as a monument of an ancient liberty, but written upon the hearts of men.

Though the last gun of the Rebellion was heard nearly thirty years ago, there is not yet a perfect union, for we men in the North and in the South, who fought through the Civil War, and still wish to continue the fight, and if it were possible, when they die leave the remainder of their unsatisfied ambition to their descendants.

The war that has been and gone, it was inevitable. Compromises were adopted but they only added fuel to the conflict.
that was to follow. There was no half-
way ground, there must either be
a complete union of the states or none
at all. As Appomattox in '65 the war
cloud lifted, the news of the
Two Republic began to dawn, the
people settling to the earth re-
vealed a flag, not of a state, but of
a nation; a flag that meant the same
in the North and the South, a flag
that meant not only liberty for all,
but union for all. The victory was
wiser greater than had been expected, but
to save the precious soldiers glanced at the
North the places beside them and thought
of the animals that were gone. They had
abandoned the emblem of American liberty
faithfully, but they had followed it to
death.

Without lowering the American flag
let us look for a moment at the Confederacy
through Confederate glasses. They had
always looked upon the Constitution as a
grant of powers from the State and if at
any time, these powers were abused, they
would be recalled by the states where they had originated. And when the North refused to carry out the decision of the Supreme Court, they felt that the Constitution had no further claims upon them, to one man doubt the inferiority of the South. Demagogues on both sides may have agitated the war, in order to further their own private gain, but the majority of the men were fighting for principles.

The South loved their homes and their states. The North loved their homes and the Union. You have heard the incident of '62. The Union Army lay on one side of the Rappahannock and the Confederates on the other. As the evening shadows fell upon the scene, the Southern band began to play the "Star-Spangled Banner," and "Rally Round the Flag." The soldiers in gray answered the challenge with the "Bonnie Blue Flag," and "Chattanooga Choo Choo." Again the North..."
in hand played and this time it was "come Sweet Home." The Confederates join in, both armies unmindful of their hurs and all their armies to visit with the dear ones at home and on the last strains the angry tear rolled down the cheeks of both.

They both loved their homes, but they were fighting for principles. It was not a strong country facing despotism upon, a newer it was not European against American but brother against brother, and father against son. On the one side a worship of the State on the other a worship of the Union. Both justified their actions by the same bible. Jackson prayed fervently to the same God that John Brown claimed. Directed his protest, and when the war ended each soldier felt that he faithfully performed the duty that he had been given. Then

We watch our picture the condition of the South when at last they were compelled to unfurl the white flag. The
The North marched victorious, the South in defeat. The cadets of the Southern soldier had been worn and exhausted, and the tattered gray uniforms of the pale, flushed faces of the survivors showed the hardship they had endured, and the suffering they had shared. They found homes in ruin, their families destroyed, their cattle driven off. Their money worthless, their creditors gone, their homes freed, and they knew that defeat had ended their political power. But they did not sit down in dejection; the white crew stepped into the future. The South had been occupied by the North and the unshaken hand soon learned to guide the plow with far better directed energies, and today, notwithstanding the difficulties to which the South has been subjected, it has risen above them all, and what were homes of poverty are now homes of plenty. Northern capital, without timidity, is bustling its energies in the South. Mason and Dixon
line has no longer any significance. The sea is no separation. There must be union, we can not elevate one section by lowering or tranquility under foot the other. If an earth quake swallows up the south the north is raised by the shock. The interest of one is the interest of the other, they are two together and if they die they must die together.

We can no longer afford to foster sectional strife. The fact expresses the sentiments of every true American. When she says—

Honor shall the war day rear,
On the winding river be red,
They banish our anger forever.
When they laurel the graves of our dead,
Under the ard and the sun,
Waiting the judgment day,
Dears and love for the Blue,
Love and tears for the Gray.

The war has forced the respons-
abilities of the present to demand our atten-
tion. The flag that has been left us has
been purchased with lives that were dear. We can not buy for that sacrifice, for patriotism, cannot be bought and sold, it can only be exchanged for patriotism. Then it is ours to see that the flag that has been lifted in never represents a false liberty or a false union. This will never be accomplished by the passage of ‘free bills’ or by ‘centralization’. It is not love that are in high demand but men men who act upon principles and reasons. But fear the majority of men do not do their own thinking, but say to the political demagogue the old familiar phrase, ‘When these gates shall go’ they should also say, ‘And these shall be burned’. The demagogue will lead you from the issues of the present by fogging the past. He will hold up before you the dead kittens of the past as for your examples. While he steals the liberties they promised. The past is valuable, but only as a compass to guide us in the future. But if we fix our gaze upon it,
our attention becomes absorbed and
we turn at last to find that the
progressive world has gone on and left us.
We are fields on the plain of state and
must be constantly looking ahead for
the breakers.

The interests of the North and South
are one, union and liberty. Union gives us
liberty at home and in the world at large.
Without it our flag goes down, only to be rais-
ed by tyrannical monarchs as a menace and an
injury to others who are struggling for liberty.
Well might the Goddess of Liberty weep over men who
try to stir up strife between the North and
South, for they bow to the God of ambition
and their patriotism departs.

So, in giving all due honor to the
heroes of the past, let us not forget the
present and future, but have it ever in
mind the words of Webster—"Union,
now and forever."

L. O. Criner.