

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." To-day 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. There are 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 has come 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. At Appomattox in '65 the war cloud lightened, the morn of the New Republic began to dawn; the smoke settling to the earth revealed 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 war greater than had been expected, but so were the sorrows. Soldiers, glanced at the vacant places beside them and thought of the comrades that were gone. They had followed the emblem of American liberty faithfully, but they had followed it in 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 decisions of the Supreme Court, they felt that the Constitution had no farther claim upon them, No one can doubt the sincerity of the South. Demagogues on both sides, may have agitated the war, in order to plunder the public for their own private gain, but the majority of the men were fighting for principals.

The South loved their homes and their state. 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 Northern 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 "A Way Down South in Dixie." Again the North

ern band played and this time it was "Home Sweet Home". The Confederate join in. Both armies reminded of their purpose allow their minds to visit with the dear ones at home and as the last strains die away tears rolled down the cheeks of both.

They both loved their homes, but they were fighting for principles. It was not a strong country forcing despotism upon a weaker, 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 footsteps, and when the war ended each soldier felt that he faithfully performed the duty that had been given him.

No words can picture the condition of the South, when at last they were compelled to unfurl the white flag. The

The North marched ^{home} victorious, the South in defeat. The remainder of the Southern soldiers had been more than decimated, and the tattered gray uniforms, & the pale pinched faces of the survivors, showed the hardships they had endured, and the energies they had spent. They found homes in ruin, their fences destroyed, their cattle driven off, their money worthless, their credit gone, their slaves freed, and they knew that defeat had ended their political power, but they did not sit down in despair. The white man stepped into the furrow that had been occupied by the slave, and the untamed hand soon learned to guide the plow with far better directed energies, and to-day 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 exerting its energies in the South. Mason and Dixon's

line has no longer any significance. There can be no separation; there must be union; we can not elevate one section by lowering or trampling underfoot the other. If an earth quake swallow up the South the North is ruined by the shock. The interest of one is the interest of the other; they were born together and if they die they must die together.

We can not longer afford to foster sectional strife. The poet expresses the sentiments of every true American when she says -

No more shall the war cry sever,
 On the winding river be red;
 They banish our anger forever
 When they laurel the graves of our dead.

Under the soil and the dew,
 Waiting the judgment day,
 Tears and love, for the Blue,
 Love and tears, for the Gray.

The War has passed the responsibilities of the present demand our attention. The flag that has been left us has

been purchased with lives that were
 dear. We can not pay for that sacrifice,
 for patriotism cannot be bought and
 sold, it can only be exchanged for patriot-
 ism. Then it is ours to see that the
 flag that has been left us never rep-
 resents a false liberty or a false union;
 this will never be accomplished by the
 passage of "free bills" or by "centralization"
 for it is not laws that are in high
 demand but men, men who act upon
 principles and reasons but I fear the
 majority of men do not do their own
 thinking, but say to the political
 demagogue the old familiar phrase "Where thou
 goest I will go" they should also say "And
 there will I be buried". The demagogue
 will lead you from the issues of the pres-
 ent by eulogizing the past. He will hold
 up before you the dead heroes
 of the past as for your examples
 while he steals the liberties they pur-
 chased. The past is valuable, but only
 as a compass to guide us in the fut-
 ure. 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 pilots on the ship 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 raised by tyrannical monarchs as a menace and shroud upon those who are struggling for liberty. Well might the Goddess of liberty weep over men who try 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 I ever in mind the words of Webster "Union, Now and Forever".

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