

banners to the Gulf, in dramatic vindication of the supremacy of the Union. Even now as among our own people the impression exists in many minds that the war was an affair of hazards, unnecessarily prolonged and costly, and that success was far more owing to sheer preponderance of numbers than to any other

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their command; that the mistakes committed by the Government were not great, and that the errors of the soldiers or more numerous than those of the Government, the most highly intelligent prevision of all human affairs, and were a necessary part of the Government's duty. The heavy task, such a task, was to enhance the national pride, to secure the fame to the deserving, and to give to sorrow and to grief, to the men of the army, a sense of the value of their sacrifice. They were not sacrificed to reckless ambition, but they were demanded by the cruel and exacting conditions of the fierce struggle.

The Government, in its policy, in its wealth, natural resources, and production in the mechanic arts applicable to war, and in its military equipment, all depended for final success on the loyalty and the courage of the soldier and the American soldier was not wanting to the trust reposed in him. The Government was not to be turned for further explanation of its policy to the soldiers.

many exigencies of war? The best that we can say is that the men of the North and the South who faced each other in the field were composed of his like. As a critic whom I have already quoted, Col. Charles Smith says that "No European forces have ever performed more heroic deeds than the men of the North and South opposed to each other, and of the survivors of that conflict, the 'if a man's claims to be regarded as a veteran are to be based on the number of battles in which he has gone through, the men of the North and South of the American Civil War are the most numerous of Europe are but as a few drops in the ocean compared with them.'"

But the men of the North and South were not the only ones who fought there, nor were their earliest glories, floated proudly as yours, gathered forth splendor and renown. The brave, ever the peculiar pride of the American people, were not the only ones who fought the faithful performance of the arduous task imposed upon it, and by brilliant exploits and deeds of heroism as grand as any that ever

Book back upon the war and among the first to be sent to the Mississippi to New Orleans, and as leading his ships into Mobile Bay, daring the dangers that lay in wait on every depth below; the Alabama's sways and sinking to the roar of Winslow's guns; the Alabama was wrecked with bated breath from the shores around; and, as the moving ship, the mast tip rising over the water, the ship's flag flying from the top of the Hampton Roads but high enough to be seen by the eyes of the glory-loving Morris as his men went down in the Cumberland.

The glory of the victorious issue is not the common kind that lies in the humiliation of the enemy, is reflected from captured arms and banners and territory.

There is no light of happiness on the conqueror's people. A far brighter splendor crowns the victor's life, the life of the victor's people, as they perform and sacrifice voluntarily and gladly.

and liberty by a free people to secure to the
 slave the same rights and privileges as to
 the free. And order. All around us and a part
 of us are its beneficent results. We walk in
 the sunlight of peace and feel its blessings
 more than ever it was obscured by the
 rolling clouds of war.
 We are filled with inexpressible joy and
 gratitude that the Union has been preserved
 and that the principles for which it was
 destined that orators have prophesied, pro-
 phesy have sung, and the people have steadfastly
 held their hopes and aspirations upon.
 causing them to be fulfilled. We are free
 once more, now stands in the firmness of
 our bones, structure with sinews hardened
 by the struggle, and the heart bearing a
 consciousness of strength that gives assurance
 of immunity from future attack.
 There are other sequences of high significance
 in the history of our people. The
 was the transformation of war-war water

lished as if the waving of a magician's wand. We do not point in wonder to the spectacle, but in pride as an illustration of the character of the people. The people are the servants of liberty, law, and order, could have done otherwise.

Borrowing Macaulay's words written of Cromwell, we might say that the fact is that "they laid down their arms and returned to the mass of the people," henceforward to be distinguished only by superior diligence, by the fact that they were separated from the other members of the community which they had saved."

The fibre of our nationality has been re-created and strengthened by the association and comradeship of the people and the soldiers of the sections of the country in a common cause. We have saved our citizens, the free-born Americans, and they have saved us. We are proud that they waited long, but we are proud, too, deeply that it is *their* country because they

years of their lives, and their blood, have been given to make it what it is. In the enemies' hands we to-day see but our countrymen, who have yielded to the temptation of the enemy, and by good-will and earnest desire that they may speedily recover from the injuries of the war, we do enjoy a greater degree of prosperity than we have enjoyed for many years past. We who struck the keynote of "the music of the Union" in the convention of the colonies that met in New York and New England, are now, more, I am not a Virginian but an American citizen, and I have no voice to raise against the nation, now near at hand, may there be voice within all the allegiance of the star and flag that will not proudly re-echo that sentiment.

There remains also the changeless glory of the brave over whose dust we to-day lay flowers.

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therefore better men in all the relations of
firmness and true patriots.

Thus will our heroes have indeed a liv-
ing memory, and their love, that was stronger than
life, will prove stronger than death.

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R. L. LIBBY
D. F. LIBBY

my271w*

