

NATURAL RESOURCES.

Our natural resources have been an important factor in enabling us to reach the proud position we now occupy. Our geographical location was favorable. Our climate was excellent, our soil was rich, fertile, and productive.

Our forests were extensive and valuable. Nature had stored in the earth rich mineral deposits. Our coal and iron ore were inexhaustable. Lead, zinc, copper, and other metals were found in abundance. Petroleum and natural gas were discovered in different sections of the country, and in our mountains were hidden vast quantities of gold, silver and other precious metals, which gave our country riches beyond the comprehension of the human mind.

CHARACTER AND SPIRIT OF OUR PEOPLE.

The character and spirit of the American people contributed much to our present greatness. The immigrants to the New World as a rule, were men of great industry, unbounded energy, superior intelligence, high moral character, and men imbued with the spirit of progress and freedom.

Every civilized country of the globe sent to America its best citizens--the very flower of its population. The conditions surrounding the people, the very atmosphere they breathed, were all favorable to the development of the very highest class of citizenship. There were dangers to face, sacrifices to make, hardships to endure, difficulties to overcome, and great and momentous problems to be solved. These proved to be only a great university school, in which was developed the highest type of manhood and gave to the Republic a citizenship, unequalled in industry, unrivaled in energy, unparalleled in general intelligence, and unsurpassed, man for man, in power to direct the progress of the world and control the final destiny of the human race.

OUR FREE SCHOOL.

Our free public school system has been an important rung in the ladder upon which we have climbed to the dizzy heights upon which we now stand.

Our forefathers recognized the importance of universal education. Intelligence was regarded as one of the pillars of the Republic. Ignorance and illiteracy were looked upon as a menace to the government. Our fathers, therefore, sought to place an education within the reach of every child. They did not stop with a primary education. High Schools, Academies, Colleges and Universities were founded in every state. The broad and liberal provisions for education, have, in a thousand ways, influenced our maternal growth and development, and contributed largely toward making us the most influential Nation of the Globe.

ОБЩЕСТВА

OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

Our form of government played an important part in our material and intellectual development. Under the benign influences of our Republic, the greatest encouragement was given to individual effort. No other country offered the individual such opportunities for advancement in politics and statesmanship, or for the achievement of success in the various avenues of business, commerce and the professions. The greatest prizes of life were within the reach of the poorest boy in the land. Ours was not only the "Land of the free and the home of the brave," but it was the land of golden opportunities. Emerson said: "America is only another name for Opportunity."

Free speech, and free thought, the liberty of the press, and religious freedom-were words that rang around the world thrilling human hearts wherever heard.

From every country and clime, the people have flocked to the United States, that they might share in our opportunities, and enjoy the blessings of liberty and freedom, as guaranteed by our Constitution and laws.

OUR GREAT MEN.

In enumerating the causes which have made the United States great we should not over look the part which has been played by the great minds of our country.

Think of how much we are indebted to Thomas Jefferson for the wisdom and foresight manifested in making the Louisiana purchase, from which have been carved so many great, rich and prosperous states. How much we owe Wm. H. Seward for the purchase of Alaska, which has brought us vast mineral wealth. Think how much we owe Fulton for the steam boat, Whitney for the cotton gin, McCormick for the reaper, Howe for the sewing machine, Hoe for the development and improvement of the printing press, Morese for the telegraph, Bell for the telephone, and Edison for his discoveries in electricity. Think how much we owe Cyrus W. Field who gave thirteen years of his life, and only after repeated failures, finally succeeded in laying the first sub-marine cable.

Who can say the war for Independence would have been successful, had it not been for the leadership of Washington. Who can say that Union would have been preserved, had it not been for the wise statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln? Who can say that Lee would not have led the brave soldiers of the Confederacy to final victory, had it not been for the generalship of Ulysses S. Grant. Our soldiers, our statesmen, our inventors, our great educators, authors and scholars, our mighty captains of industry, and our leaders in thought and action in all departments of our complex civilization, have all been important factors in making our country so rich, great and powerful.

OUR INDUSTRIAL ARMY.

The Superiority of our industrial army has been a mighty factor in our material growth. Progress was impossible without the work of our farmers, mechanics, artizans, and the men employed in transportation, commerce, mining, manufacturing, and other industrial occupations.

There are the men who have subdued the forrest, and conquered the wilderness; who have built our homes, and made our great cities; who have constructed our railways, telegraph and telephone lines, spanned our rivers with great b~~f~~ridges, and tunneled our mountains, for the use of travel and commerce. The superiority of our industrial army and our great indebtedness to this army for the proud position we now occupy as a Nation is seen in the fact that in mining, manufacturing, agriculture, and internal commerce, we rank first amoung the Nations of the Globe.

OUR SOLDIERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR GREATNESS.

The soldiers of this country have contributed their full share to the glory and greatness of this Republic. In the march of our progress, every step forward has been purchased through their sacrifices, and seated by their blood. Our soldiers have gone before and blazed the way for the victories of Peace. In the dark hours of danger, they have not failed us. In the day of our distress, they have not forsaken us. In the time of peril, they have not deserted us. They have ever been true, faithful, and loyal to the Republic.

Whenever, the Nation has been confronted by some great mountain - like difficulty - apparently with no avenue of escape - the soldiers have come forward, and tunnelled a highway, through which the people were led to safety. Whenever the Republic has halted before some Red Sea of Danger, the soldiers have unsheathed their swords, stretched out their hands, caused the angry waters to divide, and the American people, like the Children of Israel, have marched across on dry land, singing their glad songs of deliverance.

In every great crisis in our country's history, the soldiers have come to our rescue. When every other remedy had been tried, when every other means had been exhausted, when every other power had failed, the soldiers have thrown themselves into the breach and saved the day for the Republic.

It was not through the services of Samuel Adams as an agitator. James Otis and Patrick Henry as orators, or of John Adams as a legislator and statesman, or of Benjamin Franklin as a writer and diplomat, or of Thomas Jefferson as a patriot, that our forefathers finally gained their Independence. These great men did their part well. They prepared the people for the great struggle to come. They aroused the public to the point of resistance. They created a strong public sentiment in favor of Independence. Events finally reached a point when the agitator, the orator, the diplomat, and the statesman could go no further. We see the lamented Warren fall. We see the

the patriot soldiers dying at Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill! We see Howe landing at Boston with 10,000 Brittish soldiers, determined to supress the growing insurrection. At this critical jundture in our history, there must be a change of actors. All beaceful means, measures and methods and remedies have failed. There is but one hope for Independence. There is but one power that can gain freedom, liberty and self, government. That hope did not lie in the eloquence of the orator, in the skill of the diplomat, or in the wisdom of the statesmen. The time for all these things had passed. Instinctivly all eyes turned to the soldier. The life and death struggle began. For seven long years - under the leadership of Washington - the soldiers of the Revolutionary War fought that the Declaration of Independence might be given life and vitality. Finally they were successful and the King of Great Britian acknowledged our Independence, not because he feared our agitators, not because he dreaded the skill of our diplomats, not because he had been touched by the eloquence of our orators, but at the point of the bayonet, at the mouth of the cannon, at the dictation of our patriotic soldiers. All honor to the soldiers of the Revolution! *Bar.*
the authors of our Independence, the founders of this Republic. Thus, the New Republic was launched upon its career. Its population increased, its commerce exponded, its industries multiplied, its wealth augmented, and the Nation grew great, strong and prosperous. *Sixty two* ^A years have come and gone! The Republic still lives! Twenty one new states have been added to the original thirteen. The union is now composed of thirty-four great and prosperous Commonwealths. From four millions, the population has drown to thirty-one millions. From poverty, the national wealth had reached the sum of sixteen billions of dollars. From the day of the stage-coach, the Nation had passed into the age of railways. Within the Republic, thirty thousand miles of railway had been constructed and placed in operation.

Up and down our great rivers, across our beautiful lakes, over the mighty deep, vessels propelled by steam were carrying the products of our farms and factories to every clime and country. Socially and intellectually, our people had made splendid advancement. In art, science and Literature we had made commendable progress. In education we had attained great excellence, In the number and value of our Inventions we had surpassed the great Nations of Europe. In brief, in the first ~~sixty~~ ^{Seventy two} years of its history the United States had acquired the wealth, the resource, the population, and the institutions which entitled it to rank with the great Nations of the world.

STAFF

TWO GREAT QUESTIONS.

President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers. Again and again

From this inspiring picture of peace, prosperity and happiness, the scene changes, and we see our country face to face with its greatest danger. Two great questions had been in controversy from the inception of this Government. The time had come to settle these questions. Did our fathers by the Constitution establish a perpetual union, or was it a rope of sand to be broken at the will of one or more of the states within the Union? Was human slavery to dominate the Nation, or cease forever under the flag of our Republic?

These questions had been discussed in Congress, by the press, in the pulpit, on the rustrum, around the fireside and in every home. Every effort had been made to settle these questions peaceably. All such efforts had been in vain. Jackson and Calhoun in their Nullification controversy did not settle these questions. Webster and Hayne by their great speeches in the U. S. Senate did not settle these questions. Garrison and Phillips as great agitators did not settle these questions. Lincoln and Douglass in their memorable discussion left these great questions still undecided. Even Henry Clay, the great compromiser, after devoting the best part of his life in the effort, failed to settle these questions. While the discussion was still in progress, the Southern Confederacy was organized with slavery as its chief corner stone, and with States-Right emblazoned upon its banner.

Again we had come to a crisis in our history, when agitation, oratory, diplomacy and Statesmanship could go no further. The Southern states had passed their ordinances of secession. The first gun of the Rebellion had already been fired at Fort Sumpter. An army defying the laws and authority of the United States was already in the field. In this trying hour - when no other power could save the Union - all eyes turned to the soldier.

the makers and builders of our Nation, and as the Guardian angels of our free Institutions.

SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR.

Of all the soldiers of the Republic, none have given more conspicuous or honorable service than those who fought in the great civil war. In round number two million and eight hundred thousand men enlisted in the Union army during the war of the Rebellion, three hundred and sixty-four thousand of this number did not live to see the triumph of the cause for which they fought. Seventy five thousand were killed in battle. Forty-five thousand died of wounds, and two hundred and twenty-five thousand met death of disease, exposure, pestilence &

Where is that grand army of the Republic mustered out of the service at the close of the war. The vast majority are with us no more. They have answered the last roll call. Their noble spirits are beyond the great Silent River, where there will be no more wars to wage, no more battles to fight, no more charges to make, and where it is to be hoped, every soldier, in a righteous cause in this world, shall dwell through out Eternity in the presence of that Great Commander who never lost a battle, and who offers to all of his soldiers, a crown of life that fadeth not away.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIVING.

We meet here today not only to honor the dead, but to pay just tribute to the living. Therefore, I say: Hail, Soldiers! Hail, Veterans! Hail, Ye Benefactors of the human race ! You were God's chosen instruments. In your presence we uncover our heads. We inscribe your names high up among the world's greatest and best.

Providence has lengthened the spans of your lives. You are permitted to behold the fruit of your sacrifices. The country once divided, is now united. The North and South are one in thought, one in purpose, one in destiny, and one in devotion to the flag. Through your unselfish deeds, this Nation obtained a new lease of life, and power and greatness. You saved this government. Its growth and development during the last forty years enables you at least to partially comprehend the great prize at stake in that memorable conflict. Yours was the cause of humanity. The overthrow of this government in 1861 would have blocked the progress of the world; it would have halted the human race in its onward march to a higher plain of civilization, and it would have withheld liberty and freedom from untold millions, for centuries, if not forever.

The value of your services can never be told by human lips. The worth of your deeds cannot be measured by human standards. The "good which you have done" will be weighed, and computed only in eternity. Your great deeds may not be proclaimed through the public press; your names may never be emblazoned on the pages of history; your biographies may never appear in any of the encyclopaedias of the future; your pictures may never adorn the great art galleries of the world, or ornament the mansions of the rich; no towering monuments may ever be reared to perpetuate your achievements; you may not gain eternal fame like Hannibal, Ceasar, Napoleon, Wellington; your name may not be familiar to future generations, as will

the names of those great Generals who led you to victory. You are nevertheless heroes. Without your efforts victory was impossible. You stood bravely at your posts, performed well every duty to you assigned, and deserve the highest praise that human heart can feel, or that human lips can bestow.

In deed, words fail me, when I attempt to offer an appropriate eulogy upon the battle scarred veterans of the late Civil War. My words cannot magnify the resplendent glory of their deeds. Mysentences cannot illuminate their characters. My tongue cannot add luster to their name. Their fame is undying, their glory is unfading, and their names will be inbalmed in the hearts of a grateful people. In that mighty conflict their forms towered like pyramids above the masses, and, with muskets in hands, and valor in their hearts, they led this Nation into a brighter age of truth, progress and freedom, and carried the old flat to a glorious victory.

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