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THE GREATEST COUNTRY ON EARTH.

It is not an empty boast to say that the United States is the greatest Country on earth. To determine this, let us apply some of the ordinary tests. Place the Nations of the earth in the scales, and weigh them.

OUR AREA.

*First, to be considered is our independence of other nations.*  
In area we nearly equal all Europe. Our soil is the most fertile; *our climate varied.*  
~~capable of producing the greatest variety of products.~~ No other Nation has a soil and climate that will produce such a variety of products. Our soil, climate and area are such, that so far as necessities are concerned, we are virtually independent of the world. ~~We mark one point for our Republic.~~

POCKET BOOK TEST.

The size of the nation's pocket-book is one test. Here Uncle Sam stands ahead. We have the money; we have the wealth. Mulhall the English statistician, places our wealth at \$81,000,000,000 : England comes next with only \$59,000,000,000. John Bull's money put in Uncle Sam's pocket-book would only make it two-thirds full. France comes next with wealth estimated at \$47,000,000 ~~dollars~~ -- and Germany next, with \$40,000,000 ~~dollars~~. You could put both Germany and France's ~~pocket book~~ <sup>the pocket-books of</sup> in Uncle Sam's <sup>purse by stretching it a little</sup> ~~and there would be plenty of room to rat-~~  
~~tie.~~

The combined wealth of Russia, Austria, Italy and Spain does not equal the wealth of the United States. Let Russia with \$32 <sup>000,000,000</sup> billion, Austria with \$22 <sup>000,000,000</sup> billion, Italy with \$15 <sup>000,000,000</sup> billion and Spain with \$11 <sup>000,000,000</sup> billion, take their purses, tie them all together and all <sup>of them</sup> could be placed in Uncle Sam's purse, and still <sup>have</sup> room to spare. ~~We score a~~  
~~second point for the Young Republic.~~

## OUR MANUFACTURIES.

In this day and age of the world, one of the tests to apply to nations is to ascertain the amount, ~~and~~ extent and value of its manufacturing interests and products. Strange as it may seem, the young Republic has surpassed all other nations of the world in manufacturing. Great Britain long boasted of leadership in this line. She struggled hard to hold the first place, but she has been compelled to acknowledge our superiority.

For every four articles England manufactures, America manufactures seven; for every four dollars' worth of manufactured articles England gives to the world, America sends forth seven dollars' worth. ~~America stands four points ahead.~~

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AGRICULTURE.

Our agriculture interests easily surpass the world. Uncle Sam has 5,000,000 farms, worth \$15,000,000,000. and we have the most intelligent and progressive farmers in the world. The fiscal year which ended June 30, 1898, shows that the value of our farm products exported amounted to \$850,000,000, <sup>dollars</sup> One hundred million <sup>at</sup> more than <sup>^</sup> any previous year, and \$250,000,000. more than in 1895. )

And yet but ~~1%~~ <sup>few percent</sup> of our farm products are exported.

Our wheat fields are the wonder of the world. Let us compare wheat bins. India is the closest rival and it would take her three years to raise enough of wheat to fill Uncle Sam's wheat bin.

The world looks to us to furnish bread and meat for untold millions of other nations. Should Uncle Sam enter a decree that no more agriculture products should be exported, millions in other countries would cry for bread and meat.

More than this, we produce more than four fifths of the Cotton of the world. So the world looks to us not only for food, but for clothing.

~~Secure another point for our country.~~

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MODE OF TRAVEL TEST.

This is the age of steam and electricity, and the locomotive engine has revolutionized the world. The progress and greatness of a nation may be judged by its mode of travel. Uncle Sam has 180,000 miles of railroad. Germany stands next in railroad mileage and she reports but 28000 miles. We have more miles of railroad than all of Europe, Asia and Africa. In brief nearly one half of the railroads mileage of the world is in the United States. As ~~the~~ railroad as a means of transportation, surpasses pack-trains and stage coaches, so our progress has excelled other nations.)

While ~~other nations~~ <sup>they</sup> have either walked, or traveled <sup>at a</sup> on stage-coaches, <sup>gait</sup> the Young Republic has ~~literally~~ pushed its way onward and upward by steam and electricity.

~~Mark another test in our favor.~~

THE POST OFFICE TEST.

One test of a nation's greatness <sup>is the ~~test~~</sup> ~~would be~~ <sup>its</sup> number of Post Of-  
fices and the amount of mail-matter transmitted. Here again the  
United States stands far in the lead. In round numbers, there are  
seventy ~~ninety~~ thousand post offices in the United States.

In the number of post offices, Germany stands next, with thirty  
thousand, less than one half the number of our own Country. There  
are eight billion letters written by the human race every year. Near-  
ly one half of this number are carried through our mails and written  
by citizens of the United States -- written by hands that are ready  
to bear aloft the Stars and Stripes and, if needs be, draw the sword  
to defend our free institutions.

If all the mail bags of the United States were ~~tear apart and~~  
<sup>made</sup> ~~sewed~~ into one ~~great bag~~ it would hold all the mail of Great Britain  
Ireland, Germany, France, Spain, Sweden and Russia

//  
SCHOOL TEST.

One of the highest tests that can be applied to a nation to determine its standing in the world is the number of its inhabitants enrolled in <sup>its</sup> the schools.

In this great test which not only speaks for the present but also for the future of a nation; the United States ranks first.

According to the last census nearly fifteen millions of our people, and <sup>twenty three percent. of inhabitants</sup> ~~23%~~ of the whole number, are enrolled in public and private schools.

Germany stands next with only nineteen percent in her schools. Great Britain and France have in their schools only <sup>sixteen percent,</sup> ~~16%~~ of their population.

The average length of our school year is longer than any other nation.

CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TEST.

The morality of the people can at least be judged by the number of its churches and Sunday schools. In this respect the United States leads all other nations, with nearly <sup>one hundred and fifty</sup> ~~150~~ thousand Church edifices.

In 1890 over <sup>twenty</sup> ~~two~~ million or one-third of our entire population, were church members.

Some writer has demonstrated that our entire population could by a little crowding, be at one time, placed in the churches of this Country.

One half of all the Sunday school scholars and officers in the world are in the United States.

There are in the United States nearly ten million Sunday school scholars and one million teachers and officers.

We are justified in ascertaining that from a religious and moral stand point, the people of the United States are far in the lead of <sup>the inhabitants</sup> any other nation.

TESTED BY OUR NAVY.

England has long boasted of being the greatest naval power of the world, and this position has been conceded to her, but in the eyes of the world the navy of the United States has been regarded with derision. Within the last few months however, all this has been changed. On the first day of May 1898, on that beautiful Sunday morning, at the harbor of Manilla in the Philippine Islands, the world was given an object lesson upon the real strength and character of the United States Navy. *On that eventful and memorable morning* when the Spanish fleet was completely annihilated by the American squadron, *maned* by American sailors under the command of the heroic Dewey. *The whole world when the Merrimack was* ~~No longer will the world look with scorn upon American sailors, has paid tribute~~ since the Merrimack was sunk in the Harbor of Santiago by the brave *the world paid tribute to the bravery, and heroism of* Hobson and his assistants.)

In short there never has been a time in all history that American citizens have failed to demonstrate their bravery and their courage.)

No country has produced better soldiers than participated in the great civil war in both the Federal and Confederate ranks.)

Grant, Sherman, Sheridan rank with the greatest soldiers that the world has ever produced.

Thus we see, that to speak of the United States as the greatest country on earth, is not an idle boast but in deed and in truth there is no other nation on earth that ranks with the Great American Republic.

THE NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE TEST.

In modern times the greatness of a nation can be judged by the number of newspapers and magazines printed and read by its citizens. There are in the world about forty-one thousand newspapers and periodicals. Twenty thousand, nearly one-half of this number are printed in the United States. We print four times the number of newspapers and periodicals, printed in Germany and five times <sup>the number</sup> ~~as many as is~~ printed either in France or England.

# n

Greatest

~~circulation in the world~~

## SAVING'S BANK TEST.

We hear much talk about the Bank of England and the great banks of other nations. This is not a test of <sup>the</sup> true greatness of a people. A better test is the saving banks that register the earnings and surplus of the people. The people of the United States have <sup>two hundred</sup> ~~200~~ million dollars in the saving banks; more than is contained in all the saving banks of Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Spain, Scandinavia and Switzerland. ~~Three points scored for the United States.~~

## War for Humanity.

Another test is the purpose an object for which our nation goes to war. During all our history we have only resorted to war upon the highest and most justifiable grounds. And as the crowning evidence of our real greatness, we are the only nation that has ever gone to war for humanity's sake - the only government that has ever gone to war for the high, patriotic, and noble purpose of giving liberty, freedom

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### SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD.

Let us not forget that there are to-day more than a hundred thousand American Citizens who have been, like the twinkling of an eye, changed from citizens to soldiers. These men are to-day engaged in the terrible realities of war, ~~they are to day~~ risking everything for their Country for you and for me. Already many of them have <sup>and will join in on the 4th of July Celebrations</sup> given their lives; ~~and~~ many others have been wounded, and to-day cannot join in the usual 4th of July celebration at their homes. ~~May~~ <sup>and to-day</sup> heaven bless, ~~protect and preserve these brave boys and give them~~ victory.

But it is not only those who have gone to the front who are making sacrifices. There are many wives and mothers who have <sup>fully</sup> given their husbands and sons <sup>as soldiers</sup> to fight the battles of the Republic.

There is mourning in the land <sup>and still</sup> to-day crape is on the door of some of our homes. To much cannot be said in honor of these who make this great sacrifice for the good of others.

May Heaven guard, protect, preserve and bless our brave soldiers in the field and give them victory, and comfort to all those weeping over the loss of loved ones.

and to-day  
may

We meet to-day to celebrate the birthday of American Independence. On yesterday you were Democrats, Populists and Republicans, but on this sacred day your party names are left at home with your old clothes and you come here to-day arrayed in your newest and best garments and acknowledge no other name except that of American Citizen.

In times past and gone you have paraded your streets, under party inscriptions, mottoes and transparencies, but to-day you hold aloft but one inscription, but one motto and that is the sacred motto of this Union.

On other days you have marched under party banners, but on this the anniversary of our Country's freedom and independence, seventy-five millions of American Citizens are marching under the banner -- the flag of our Country.

On other occasions you have made the very earth quake with shouts for your party leaders, but to-day party leaders are forgotten and you applaud only the names of American heroes.

There have been times in our history when party spirit has run high. We have seen this nation wild with political excitement; we have seen our people manifest the most remarkable zeal to secure party success, but my friends on the 4th day of July, this party spirit is overwhelmed with the spirit of patriotism.

In speaking of the atmosphere and weather it is sometimes said a cold wave or a hot wave is sweeping over the Country, but for some months past the most remarkable wave that has swept over this Country of ours, has been the wave of patriotism, and on this 4th day of July 1898, this wave touches high water mark.

## NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

The Fourth day of July is a national holiday, but it is not the only national holiday, we have a number of them and they should be increased. There is no day, however, that has such universal absence as the 4th day of July.

No other day has such great significance, all over the United States -- North and South -- East and West -- in the Cities, towns and villages, in the country, over our broad prairies and in the woodlands -- every where the people gather together to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence and to do honor to the heroes of the American Revolution. The observance of the 4th of July is not confined to this Country alone, in England, Germany, France, and Italy -- all over Europe -- on this day groups of American Citizens, temporary sojourning in those countries, will assemble together and in every possible way recognize our great National Holiday.

The hundreds of American missionaries in China, Japan and Africa and in the remote islands of the sea, will on this day unfurl the Star Spangled Banner and sacredly observe our Nation's birthday.

In the far west, beyond the Golden Gate, across the Pacific Ocean, the Stars and Stripes are this day floating over the Philippine Islands. For the first time in the history of the world, there will be a 4th of July celebration in the groves surrounding Manilla Harbor, and my friends it is needless to add that the central figure in that celebration -- the master of ceremonies -- the one man that will overshadow all others, will be the brave, heroic and immortal Dewey.

And this is not all. It is safe to say that in no place on American soil, in no spot on the globe, will there be such genuine

observation of this day as will take place by our brave soldiers and sailors at Santiago De Cuba.

But the celebration of the 4th of July will not be confined to land alone, upon every vessel in our navy, from the great battle ships down to the smallest craft, this day will be appropriately observed; every ship will be decorated with Red, White and Blue, and our brave sailors and seamen and their officers, will recall the heroism, bravery and sacrifices of our forefathers and resolve, in this great struggle, that is now going on, that they will preserve the honor and credit of the Union purchased by the blood of our forefathers.

But for the first time, the celebration of the 4th of July will not be confined to our own citizens, an associated press dispatch announces that the Mayor of the City of Niagra Falls in Canada, has by proclamation made the 4th of July a holiday and the citizens of that City, the subjects of Great Britain, are on this day united with America in commemorating the birth of the American Independence, All over the civilized world the people of other nations will on this day read, write and talk about the American Republic; about the American Revolution and about the greatness and glory of ~~this Great Republic.~~ *our Country.*

To-day as never before all eyes are centered on the Government founded by our forefathers. On land and at sea, at home and abroad, the Stars and Stripes will be conspicuously displayed and our nation will be honored, as never before.

The Day We Celebrate.

The people of the United States observe four great Holidays. These are Christmas, Thanksgiving, our Nation's Birthday, and Decoration Day. The first two, are largely religious; the last two, are patriotic. The first mentioned is a season of gift-making, joy, and good-cheer. The second is set apart as a day of thanksgiving, to the Great Ruler of the Universe for manifold blessings, from His bountiful hand. The third commemorates the birth of our Nation. The last, is a day set apart to honor the soldiers of the Nation, who surpressed a gigantic rebellion, that had for its object the division of the Union, and the destruction of the government..

No one would take from our people a single one of those great Holidays. Our people--young and old--welcome the joys of Christmas. As a Christian Nation, blessed beyond any other people, we gladly keep a day of general thanksgiving; as long as the Republic lives, we shall not cease to celebrate the anniversary of the immortal Declaration of Independence; and it follows as night follows day, that so long as we honor the men who founded this Nation, we shall not forget the heroes who preserved it.

Appropriate Season.

One of our great holidays comes in mid-winter, when all nature is locked in ice and snow; another comes in autumn, when the granaries are overflowing with the products of the soil; another comes in mid-summer, when the sun's rays beat with the greatest intensity upon the earth; and still another comes in the glorious spring-time, when all nature is resplendent with beauty and glory; when the earth is carpeted with velvet green; when the trees and the shrubs have donned their richest foliage; and <sup>when</sup> the woods and prairies, the hillsides and valleys, the orchards, the gardens and the lawns, are decked with fragrant flowers of the rarest beauty. So in harmony with nature at this season of the year, and emblematic of the patriotic impulses actuating their hearts, a grateful people, on this 30th day of May, deck with flowers and foliage the graves of its fallen heroes. From every tree top, the birds warble their songs, and a nation of seventy-five millions of people, join in a chorus of praise, to those who suffered and died, that others might live and enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty.

Object of the Day.

It is pertinent to inquire, What is the object of Memorial Day? Why all this demonstration? What is the meaning of that solemn procession, leading to every cemetery of the north-land? What is the sentiment in the heart that prompts the hand to gather the flowers and place them tenderly upon the graves of the dead soldiers? Why gather the people in the churches, the school houses, and the public halls, decorated in National colors, and conduct these services? Why do even the children of our land, gladly participate in these exercises, and, loaded with flowers, in step to patriotic music, march in the solemn procession? Why are the gray-haired mothers actively participating in the exercises of this day? Why is it that you carry at the head of every procession, and place upon every rostrum, the blood-stained banner of our country?

These questions will be easily and correctly answered, by those who understand the true purpose and object of this Memorial Day, and the real spirit with which the people of the north participate in its observance. The object of this day is not to boast over the vanquished South; not to perpetuate section

al strife; not to revive the prejudices of long ago; not to fan to flames the awful fires of hatred, that burned in the breasts of the American people, during the bloody struggle from '61 to '65. This day, has a higher and nobler purpose. The exercises of this day are to honor the dead; to cheer and comfort the living; to show our gratitude to those who gave their lives to preserve the Union; to cultivate the true spirit of patriotism; to inculcate in the youth of the land the virtues of good citizenship; to bring all of our people to a higher appreciation of this Republic, and <sup>the</sup> sacrifices that have been made for its preservation; to enable every citizen to more correctly understand the achievements of the past; to aid ~~them~~ <sup>him</sup> to more fully realize the great possibilities of the future; to implant in the minds of old and young alike greater admiration for our free institutions; and to impress upon all the necessity <sup>y</sup> of absolute fidelity to the Union, and supreme loyalty to the flag.

Honor to the Dead.

VII

of all the soldiers of the Republic - none have borne - more confidence, or honorable service than those who fought in the <sup>great</sup> civil war. <sup>Eight</sup>

In round numbers, ~~two~~ million and five hundred thousand men enlisted in the Union Army, during the war of the rebellion. Three hundred and sixty thousand of this number did not live to see the triumph of the cause for which they fought. Seventy thousand were killed in battle. Forty five thousand died of wounds, and two hundred and twenty five thousand met death from exposure, pestilence and disease. Where is that Grand Army of ever <sup>two</sup> million men, who were mustered out at the close of the war? A vast majority have been called beyond the silent river. They are with us no more. Their remains slumber in the cemeteries all over this land. The number of living ex-union soldiers is rapidly decreasing. Every year the ratio ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> death must ~~the ratio will soon be a line that will necessarily grow larger.~~ The time is rapidly approaching when there will not be living a single soldier who enlisted in the Federal Army, during the great civil war. This, indeed, is a sad thought. This Nation would gladly prolong your lives, as living examples of those who were willing to die for their country's sake. It cannot be. You must soon follow your departed comrades.

Soldier, weep not.

~~However, when you are gone. The Nation will not forget you. ~~Respectful~~ ~~is now one of~~~~

I should like to see the original of this letter. It is a very interesting document.

VIII

Honor to the Living.

We meet here to-day

not only to honor the dead but to pay just tribute to the living. Therefore, I say:

Hail Veterans!  
Hail Soldiers!

Hail, Veterans! Benefactors of the human race! You

were God's chosen instruments, ~~in solving the great problem of the Country!~~ 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 ~~have~~ are one — One in thought, one in purpose, one in destiny, indeed, and in truth, clasped hands over the graves of those and one in devotion to the flag ~~whenever, wherever, who were the gray, and those who were the blue.~~

~~or his whenever it may be avoided!~~ Through your unselfish deeds, this Nation obtained a new lease of life, and

power and greatness. You saved this government. <sup>Its</sup> The growth

and development of this country, during the last ~~thirty~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~sixty~~ <sup>forty</sup>

years, enables you ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> at least, partially comprehend, the great prize at stake in that <sup>memorable</sup> ~~great~~ 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 held liberty and freedom from untold millions, <sup>with-</sup> for centuries, if not forever.

Two Pictures.

IX

Would that I were an artist. I would paint a picture in two groups. The first group would represent the heroes of the American Revolution. In the center would be the portrait of Washington. On the right, I would cluster the faces of Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, and other illustrious statesmen of that period. On the left, would appear Warren <sup>Hayne</sup> and Putnam, and Stark, ~~and Wayne, and~~ Marion, and other generals of the Revolutionary Army. Around these in a large circle, I would place the soldiers who fought the battles of that war. Under this picture, I would inscribe these words:

"Authors of our Independence: Founders of the Republic."

The center-piece of the second group would be a life-sized portrait of the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln; above Lincoln, I would place Ulysses S. Grant; at the right I would place William Tecumseh Sherman; On the left, I would place Phillip H. Sheridan. Around these characters whose names are as imperishable as the granite of the hills, I would cluster the faces of Meade, Hooker, Hancock, Rosecrans, Thomas, Sedgwick, McPherson, and scores of others, who in the great struggle, won undying fame. Around these, I would place the rank and file of that great army of brave and loyal hearts that preserved the

Members of the Grand Army of the Republic,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I

The annual Re-unions of the Veterans of the Civil War  
The Exercises of this day

history when the fabric of this government was put to the severest tests. Our minds naturally revert to that bloody struggle which began at Fort Sumpter, and ended at Appomattox Court House. The stirring scenes of that period are this day re-enacted.

We hear again the martial music, that "bea<sup>ing</sup>" for volunteers in every city, town and village of the ~~land~~. We attend again these great public meetings and listen to the impassioned, eloquent and patriotic appeals ~~in~~ in behalf of the Union.

We witness the final, pathetic, and heart-rending<sup>ing</sup> leave-taking.

We hear the last good-bye. We see the tears that sacred tears that moistened the mother's cheek, as she kissed her good-bye perhaps for the last time on earth. We follow the "The Boys in Blue!"

through the long, ~~years~~ years of that memorable struggle. We see them on weary march, around the loop put on the picket line, and on the field of carnage: in

in the bitterness of defeat; now, in the glory of victory—with in defeat or victory—always honor. Finally, we witness that

Grand Review, when our victorious army paraded along the streets and avenues of our National Capital, honor-bound,

□

<sup>revere</sup> receive that welcome, <sup>such as only</sup> ~~not~~ a great and free people <sup>could</sup> ~~delight~~ give  
<sup>their</sup> ~~to~~ conquering heroes.

~~... five years have come and gone. ...  
 ... that has been solemnly  
 ... grateful ...  
 ... and  
 ... the dead ...  
 ... virtues ...  
 ... recognize ...~~

The remnant of that once great and  
 powerful army, scattered throughout  
 every section of our country, meet  
 annually to participate in these re-mem-  
 ions. ~~This is~~ It is most appropriate that  
 these meetings should be held, not  
 simply for the pleasure of the old  
 soldiers, but to enable the people  
 but to afford the citizens an oppor-  
 tunity to appropriately honor the dead,  
 and recognize the virtues of the living.

Thirty-~~five~~<sup>six</sup> years have come and gone, and now by custom as well as by law, the 30th day of May ~~has been solemnly dedicated~~<sup>is recognized</sup> as ~~Memorial Day~~<sup>M</sup>, that a grateful people may fittingly honor the dead, and appropriately recognize the virtues of the living.

THAT DAY WE CELEBRATE.

II

The people of the United States observe four great holidays. These are Christmas, Thanksgiving, ~~our Nation's birthday~~<sup>the 4th of July</sup> and Decoration Day. ~~The first two are largely religious; the last~~ patriotic. The first mentioned is a season of gift making--joy--good cheer. The second is set apart as a day of thanksgiving, to the Great Ruler of the Universe for manifold blessings from His bountiful hand. The third commemorates the birth of our Nation. The last is a day set apart to honor the soldiers of the nation, who surpressed a gigantic rebellion, that had for its object the division of the Union and the destruction of the government.

No one would take from our people a single one of these great Hollodays. Our people, young and old, welcome the ~~days~~<sup>joy</sup> the days of Christmas. As a Christian nation blessed beyond any other people, we gladly keep a day of general thanksgiving; as long as the Republic lives, we shall not cease to celebrate the anniversary of the immortal Declaration of Independence; and it follows, as night follows day, that so long as we honor the men who founded this nation, we shall not forget the heroes who preserved it.

IV.

OBJECT OF THE DAY.

It is pertinent to inquire what is the object of Memorial Day? Why all this demonstration? What is the meaning of the solemn procession, leading to every cemetery of the North Land? What is the sentiment of the heart that prompts the hand to gather the flowers and place them tenderly upon the graves of the dead soldiers? Why gather the people in the churches--the school houses, and public halls, decorated in national colors and conduct those services? Why do even the children of our land, gladly participate in these exercises, and loaded with flowers, in step to patriotic music, march in the solemn procession? Why <sup>are</sup> ~~all~~ the gray haired mothers <sup>so deeply</sup> ~~actively~~ <sup>interested?</sup> ~~participating in the exercises of the day?~~ Why ~~is it that you~~ carry at the head of every procession and place upon every rostrum the blood-stained banner of our country?

*These* The questions will be easily and correctly answered by those who understand the true purpose and object of this memorial day, and <sup>who</sup> the real spirit with which the people of the north participate in its observance. The object of this day is not to boast over the vanquished South; not to perpetuate sectional strife; not to revive prejudices of long ago; not to fan to flames the awful fire of <sup>hated</sup> ~~battle~~ that burned in the breasts of the American people, during the bloody struggle from '61 to '65. This day has a higher and nobler purpose!

The exercises of the day are to honor the dead; to cheer <sup>encourage, and help</sup> and comfort the living; to show our gratitude to those who gave their

A. Means of Education.

V.

For its educational features *these Annual Reunions are*

To the Nation, ~~of inestimable~~

benefit. This is a Republic. It rests upon the will of the people. This Government can endure only so long as the people love and cherish it. In every way possible, the people should be taught to appreciate the priceless privileges guaranteed by the Constitution. Every citizen should know what it costs in blood and treasure, to establish and maintain the Union of our fathers. ~~Our people cannot be too often reminded of this.~~

~~It cannot be too deeply riveted upon their minds.~~

*These occasions*

*teach three lessons.*

afford annually an excellent opportunity to tell, over and over again, the story of what it has cost to establish this Republic and preserve it from destruction.

~~More than this, the power of example is one of the most effective methods of influencing men to noble lives.~~ It pays

to hold up before the public, the lives of the good, the true, the brave, the heroic, the virtuous and patriotic. *The educational features of this day are*

especially important, when we consider the number of foreigners who come to our country every year, and how quickly boys grow to manhood, and become influential in directing the affairs of our government.

