

Factors Which Have Made Us The Greatest Country
on Earth.

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Let us consider some of the important factors, contributing to our nation's growth,

~~EL RENO, OKLAHOMA.~~

These are

1. Natural Resources.
2. Spirit of the People.
3. Free Schools.
4. Form of Government.
5. Great Men.
6. Our Soldiers.

FACTORS WHICH HAVE MADE US

THE GREATEST COUNTRY ON EARTH.

I. Our 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 country could produce a vast variety of agricultural products. Our soil was rich, fertile and productive. Our fields yielded abundantly. Nature did her full part, in rewarding the tiller of the soil. Within our boundaries, could be produced most successfully every important agricultural product. Our orchards in every section of the country were loaded with fruit, and the southern states supplied us with large number of tropical products. Nature had stored in the bowels of the earth, rich mineral deposits. Our coal and iron ore were inexhaustible. Lead, zinc, copper and other metals were found in abundance. Petroleum and natural gas, in great quantities, were discovered in many sections of our country; and in our mountains were hidden gold, silver, and other precious metals, which added to our country's riches beyond the comprehension of the human mind.

Nature was richly rewarded.

We

ign-our-ly

our borders

many

iron

different

base-treasures of

gas

hidden nations

Character and Spirit of Our People.

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The character and ~~progressive~~ spirit of the American people contributed much ^{EL RENO, OKLAHOMA.} to our present greatness. The immigrants to the New World ~~were~~ 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.

THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE.

~~Much of our present greatness due to the industry, energy, intelligence and progressive spirit of the American people. As a class the immigrants to the New World, were men of superior intelligence, great industry, unbounded energy, and 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 opportunities in the new country,~~ The conditions surrounding the people, the very atmosphere they breathe^d, were all favorable to the development of the very highest class of citizenship. There were dangers to face, sacrifices to make, hard-ships to endure, difficulties to over-come, and great and momentous problems to be solved. These proved to be only a great ^{university-} training-school, which ⁱⁿ developed the ~~American citizen into~~ the highest type of manhood and gave to the Republic a citizenship, unequalled in industry, unrivaled in energy, unparalled in general intelligence, and unsurpassed, man for man, ^{in power to} directing the progress of the world, and ~~in~~ controlling the ~~final~~ destiny of the human race.

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Our FREE Schools
SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

Our free public school system has been an important round 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 of ~~the citizens~~ ^{regarded as} was one of the pillars of the Republic. Ignorance and illiteracy ~~wherever found would necessarily weaken~~ ^{were looked upon as a menace} ~~to the~~ ^{to the} fabric of our government. Our fathers, therefore, sought to place an education within the reach of every child. ~~We~~ ^{THEY} did not stop with a primary education. High Schools, Academies, Colleges and Universities were founded in every state. These broad and liberal provisions for education, have, in a thousand ways, influenced our ^{material} growth and development, ~~in~~ ^{and contributed largely toward} making us the most influential Nation of the Globe.

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~~4.~~ 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 ~~liberty~~ *freedom - were words that rang around the world* have all been potent factors in our National ~~development.~~ *thrilling* *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.

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OUR GREAT MEN.

In enumerating the causes which have made the United States great we should not overlook 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 Seward for the purchase of Alaska, which has brought us vast

^{riches in 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 of the printing press,

~~Stevens for the locomotive engine, Morse for the telegraph, Bell for the telephone, and Edison for the phonograph.~~ ^{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, ~~and~~ our mighty captains of industry, ^{and our} the leaders in thought and action in all

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6. SOLDIERS OF THE REPUBLIC.

In considering the causes which have contributed to the present supreme greatness of our country, we must not forget what has been done by the soldiers of the Republic. In the march of progress, every step has been sealed with the blood of our patriotic soldiers.

~~Our Independence was purchased with the blood of~~ ^{bliss} ~~the~~ soldiers of the Revolutionary War ^{gave their lives to purchase our Independence.} More than a century has rolled by, since the last gun was fired in that great struggle, and yet to-day a nation of eighty million of people, in every possible way, honor the men through whose bravery, heroism and fortitude our Independence was achieved.

It is not in-appropriate on this day to pay a tribute to those who in the great Civil War, preserved the Union founded by our fore-fathers. Some of them are with us to-day.) ^{The old soldiers in my hearing} To you, I say, Hail, Veterans! 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 - - one in thought, one in purpose, one in destiny, and one in devotion to the flag - - wherever, whenever, or by whomever it may be assailed. Through your unselfish deeds, this Nation obtained a new lease of life, and power and greatness. You

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saved this government. Its growth and development during the last thirty-eight 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 with-held 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 encyclopedies 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, or Wellington; your names may not be familiar to future generations, as will the names of those great generals who led you to victory. You are never-the-less 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 language can express.

that human life can bestow

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Indeed, words fail me, when I attempt to offer an appropriate eulogy ^{upon the soldiers and sailors who have fought the battles of the Republic from} ~~to the battle scarred veterans of the late Civil War.~~ ^{Shiloh Hill and Concord down to Monocacy and Antietam} My words cannot magnify the ~~resplendent~~ glory of their deeds. My sentences cannot illuminate their characters. My tongue cannot add luster to their names. Their fame is undying; their glory is unfading; and their names will be embalmed in the hearts of a grateful people. In ^{these} ~~that~~ mighty conflicts their forms towered like pyramids above the masses, and, with ^{the weapons of death} ~~muskets~~ in hands and valor in their hearts, they led this Nation to a brighter age of truth, progress and freedom, and the old flag to a glorious victory.