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THE CONFEDERATE DEAD

The Dedication of the Monument Erected in Farimount  
Cemetery, Near Bowling Green.

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An Eloquent Tribute to the Valor and Sincerity of the Soldiers of  
the South Delivered by Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge

The rise and Fall of the Confederate Movement from the standpoint  
of History and Philosophy.

THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE.

Colonel Breckinridge spoke as follows:

My Countrymen: I invite you to no idle ceremony--no mere funeral honors to the dead. True, we do honor to these heroic men, and testify our grateful remembrance of them and their virtues. But far more significant are these ceremonies to which I now welcome you. These men were born citizens of a free country, heirs of ancient liberties, and died soldiers of a defeated army enlisted in a ruined cause. This monument has been erected in their honor because they were soldiers in that army, and fell in defense of that cause, and we are here to dedicate it in honor of the principles for which they died. Had the cause been unworthy, the principles base or transitory, or unimportant, their heroism might tempt us to speak in hushed and chairtable terms of that for which they died, but would not justify us in thus solemnly giving our children to believe them worthy of imitation. Their courage and endurance and death would excite our admiration and pity, but not justify our approbation and praise.

We dare not praise a Cataline though we admire his audacity and courage; nor approve a Coriolanus, though we become indignant at his wrongs and melted at his filial piety; nor applaud a Claverhouse, though a piteous tenderness for his cruel calamities blind our eyes, and his chivalric graces thrill our hearts. But these men and their comrades deserve all that can be given to those who displayed the highest qualities which adorn and dignify our race. The Pantheon could open its doors to welcome them among its immortals, and Westminster feel honored to receive their dust. The four years of their battle were made glorious by their deeds, and the very names of the fields crimsoned by their blood will shine as stars in the coronal of the world's glow. The full story of those years has not been told; but to our heroes immortality has been already accorded.

When you, matron, bring your boy to this monument and he asks about those to whose memory we dedicate it, what a host of precious names may fall on his listening ear! How rapt will he listen as the strange but glorious words Shiloh, Chicamauga, Manassas, the Wilderness take forth his glowing imagination and reproduce those ---ful days with their glare and roar of -----! And then, as he gazes with ----- and face all aglow into your eye, and asks what mean all this, what answer will you give? As he asks you

what of Morgan, and his bold riders? Who were these Kentuckians, Johnston and Breckenridge, charging at the head of that devoted reserve at Shiloh? What of Lee, who hurled his infantry of Northern Virginia--more glorious than Grecian phalanx and as resistless as the Thuth Legion--through the tangled underbrush of the Wilderness? Or this Jackson, swooping like an eagle on his prey? Mother, answer him--were they heroic but misguided traitors? And if, in his eager questions, his young heart beating high with noblest aspirations, he wishes he had been there to follow the sword of Lee or charge with Stuart, will you check with the stern rebuke, "My son, they were the enemies of liberty and traitors to their county"? For ourselves we answer that question to-day in this solemn dedication, and we erect this monument as a silent but enduring witness of our answer to posterity.

There stands our answer--to its truth and to our sincerity we this day dedicate it. In the sight of Almighty God and this audience, in the presence of heaven and our children, we make answer, and from our hearts declare that they were true soldiers of living and loving sons of the mother Commonwealths who bore them, and for whom they died:--true men and leal, who followed where honor led where duty commanded, and we appeal to the august tribunal of posterity to pass upon the truth of this answer.



Eleven years have passed, since the great war ended, and the paroled soldiers of a destroyed Confederacy returned to their impoverished homes and conquered states, and this is the Centennial of American independence. The paroled soldiers of the defeated armies were children of the conquering heroes of the Revolution, and heirs of the glorious memories and priceless principles of those heroic men.

Man as man is of necessity born free, for he is born in the likeness of God, and an essential attribute of his humanity is an unappeasable longing to remain free. But by an equal necessity social organisms must exist, and this personal freedom must co-exist with national independence.

There may be an independent nation of subjects; there can not be a dependent nation of freemen. National independence is the fundamental condition of personal liberty, and the great problem mankind has sought in tears and blood, with incalculable labors and sacrifices, to solve has been how to unite personal liberty with national independence. To preserve the one requires such government power and strength as constantly endanger the other. The "strong government" absolutely necessary to prevent foreign interference and conquest, and secure domestic tranquility has been found almost incompatible with the existence of liberty. Our fathers were not pioneers in this great enterprise. Six thousand years had been vainly spent in tentative efforts; the costliest sacrifices had been in vain, and the noblest hearts had broken with agony at repeated failures, and the loftiest souls

bowed in anguish only lower than that of Gethsemane at the triumph of might over right, of strength over love, of despotism over liberty. Human intellect could easily see that it was possible on the simple hypothesis that men would remain pure and continue to love liberty. But rulers loved power more than liberty, and nations became corrupt and unworthy to be free. And so the unending struggle went on until the sixty centuries behind us are hecatombs filled with the broken hearts of truest patriots, and the crushed hopes of the most devoted lovers of liberty--the martyrs of the "lost causes" of freedom--causes defended with a genius almost supernatural, with a skill beyond criticism, with a devotion which excites our profoundest love, with a disciplined courage that faced death with the promptest obedience and marched into the grave with the precision of a parade. The most attractive and saddest pages of the history of our race are those upon which are recorded the apparently vain sacrifice of pure lives and loving hearts for a cause trampled to death under the remorseless heel of brutal force. The contest is of necessity unending, for the unquenchable yearning to be free is one of the essential attributes of humanity, and when it ends the race ceases to be human. Our fathers found the problem facing them and boldly, wisely met it. They met it indeed, under most peculiar and favorable circumstances. A virgin continent preserved to freedom had been seized by the exiled for liberty's and conscience's sake, and in the very act of securing homes these exiles had formed States; so when the struggle came the existent governments, ready made as it were, gave power and authority to the contest, and formed the means of confederation; and, victory won, there remained no foe but the inherent power of decay and the mighty force of change.

To protect themselves from each other, to preserve liberty from its children, to secure freedom from the prosperity and corruption of the future, were the chief objects to be obtained. Yet they recognized the absolute necessity of national strength; therefore, they founded a republic--one as to all the world--through which and by which the might of all should be wielded against all foreign foes, and the common power used to protect the common liberty against the possible encroachments of any section. And as the safety and welfare of society are the essential conditions of its existence, such powers, and only such, were granted as were deemed necessary to insure this common safety and equal welfare, and thus preserve to a prosperous and powerful country the blessings of liberty, secured by an established justice, and insured domestic tranquility and a common defense.

But in the very Constitution creating the Government the exact powers deemed necessary to secure these ends were enumerated and granted, and all others withheld, so that there could never be pretense for the tyrant's plea and the persecutor's defense--"the good of the people required it." The measure of duty was the extent of the powers therein granted, and a step beyond, on any pretense, was at once and usurpation and a violation of the oath to maintain, and this no plea can justify.

To this common government was entrusted the duty of protecting liberty against the world, and securing it from internal foe through the revolution of the form of government in a State. To secure a Republican government to each State and a free and prosperous country to all the citizens was the prime object of the union. But they recognized with equal clearness dangers from this very national strength, and preserving the sovereignty of the States reserved to them the full powers of local government. But even in the strength of these States were great dangers; and they placed as the cornerstone of the whole edifice the unalterable right of the people to change, modify or destroy the fabric they had erected.

American liberty, therefore, was that all the powers of the government rested upon the consent of the governed to be exercised by sovereign States, and to be protected by a union of these States in a republic. These were essential parts of the system. But this system was for the sole purpose of preserving and protecting the rights, privileges and liberties of the people. All were Americans, but above and before that all were freemen. All were citizens of the respective States, and as such, citizens of the great Republic. But above that citizenship, precious as it was, all were free. The essential object, to secure which all else was formed, was to perpetuate civil liberty; the mode might be temporary or prove unavailing. Let it never be forgotten that government is but a means, not an end; forms of government are but devices of man's wit--temples in which to worship. The end is human freedom; the spirit to be worshiped is liberty.

Our fathers devised a form--complex but easily understood--which, in their wisdom, seemed fitted to secure the end. They created no unalterable, infallible order of priesthood or unchangeable sovereignty. The only sovereignty was in the people; that remains unimpaired, unchanged and inalienable. They gave--they could give--to nobody or government or majority, absolute, unlimited powers. They had thrown on the domination of a Government resting upon centuries of recognized right, and no age can sanctify despotism, or bar the right to be free. The essential element of freedom is a voice in the government, an actual, potential, not merely nominal voice. It is absurd to say that a form of being heard is equivalent to being heard. Under the worse emperors with whom Rome was ever cursed universal suffrage existed, and the solemn farce of repeated elections amused the willing slaves.

We inherited this Government from our fathers and prospered under it. They had conquered a wondrous empire for liberty, and their children subdued it to peace, prosperity and power. Glorious heritage to transmit to posterity was this American Republic. A continent--boundless in its wealth and possible resources--dedicated to civil liberty and devoted to the peaceful pursuits of Christian civilization. Beatific visions might will ravish the hearts of our dying sages on the memorable 4th of July and they gazed through the

casement slowly growing "a glimmering square" upon the country they were leaving. Moses on the mountain of Nebo saw nothing equal. But the very magnitude of the empire--the very wealth of the heritage--were full of danger. The domination of such a continent, the control of such wealth, the sielding of such power, were a prize too tempting, and to secure it no checks were regarded and no limitations observed.

The power to affect the internal institutions of States, to interfere with peculiar domestic affairs of the citizen, to close the common territory to common use, to override the provisions of the Constutution, and supplant its guarantees with the unknown and therefore arbitrary sanctions of a higher law, was claimed; and those who claimed this power put into absolute possession of the common Government, against the earnest protest of a helpless minority; aye, with insults, jeers and threats to that minority, who were "no longer" of the Government, but under the Government;" and this is the essential difference between independence and subjection. And then, to make this control effectual when these claims were resisted, it was claimed with equal boldness that the first, great object of the government our fathers had formed was to preserve a territorial union at all hazards and every sacrifice. To accomplish this, States could be blotted out, standing armies raised and used by the executive to subdue and hold States, courts silenced and disobeyed, citizens arrested without warrant and punished without trial, property seized, and every personal right violated.

These were startling claims, speedily put into actual practice. And to all protests the only answer vouchsafed was, "It is the will of the majority to be enforced by the bayonet." For a few shilling tax Hampden led a revolution and a people beheaded a king; for a few pence imposition Henry aroused a continent, and Washington founded a republic.

That republic was founded on the principle that "governments are instituted among men to secure the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, and that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness;" and was builte upon the sacred right of local self-government, through and by the States. To protect, not abuse, was its object; to preserve, not destroy, these rights was its duty. No majority had power to enslave; there resided nowhere a power to change this essential part of the social compact. We had never agreed to hold our liberties and rights at the will of any body, however large; there was the measure of our grant and our promise; there the measure of power and obedience. All history had testified that liberty could not be entrusted to a non-resident power; numberless tombs bore witness that imperial; republics meant a remorseless despotism; the past demonstrated that liberty was only safe--if safe even then--when guarded by local governments; and that this is impossible without the preservation of the autonomy of the States.

I care not what was the peculiar property, institution or habit with which the right to interfere was claimed; if that property, institution or habit was ours, was lawful, and the right did not exist-- the claim was tyrannical, and its enforcement destructive to liberty. The right to tax one shilling involved the whole of English liberty. The right to disregard the just power of the States, and to impair the rights of the citizen in any matter, however minute, involved the destruction of the State and the enslavement of the citizens, and to enforce this claim by force made the danger involved in the claim a permanent despotism.

The thoughtful need not be told that such claims could only be the result of long-continued and fierce contests; that they could not be granted by a people fit to be free. That the very claim involved a breach of faith, the more perfidious in that the compact was made when we were strong and they weak, and broken, when they became-- by means of that very compact--strong and we weak, only rendered submission more galling not more abject. That it was accompanied with threats of servile war and all its attendant horrors could only make the yoke more offensive, not more real. That the result destroyed not merely the wealth, but the entire social fabric of fifteen States, and endangered the very existence of their civilization, only exhibited in clearer light the spirit and temper of those thus given the power of the whole machinery of the common government. And the more thoughtful student of American history may perchance come to the conclusion that in the progress of time there had grown up two peoples in this fair land; and the arbitrament of force was necessary in the inevitable struggle. It so happened that the particular tax was once ship-money nor fair tax on teas which our fathers resisted. So now it happened that this claim was put forth concerning the peculiar institution of the South, and it was not slavery we defended. We avouch this day that we battled for liberty; to maintain, to preserve, to transmit true constitutional civil liberty was the cause of our love and our dangers. To preserve to our States their autonomy, without which local self-government is a cheat and a fraud; a voice in the management of the common government, without which we and they must be the prey of those who have control of its machinery; to the citizen the protection of a friendly government, in which he has some control, and without which government becomes a mere mask for robbery and oppression-- was the purpose for which we fought and these men died. National independence, State autonomy, personal liberty--these were the prizes for which we were willing to sacrifice all--dearer to our hearts: than life and home--our inheritance from honored stes; to our children we desired to transmit them; and for them we marched and suffered for four years of hardship, danger and battles. For such a cause men ought to be willing to die, and to its martyrs it is meet that monuments should be erected.

Liberty is immortal, and its cause is never wholly lost; but the peculiar form she takes to woo her votaries and enlist their services in accordance with the people, age and circumstances, and such causes are often hopelessly overthrown. Our peculiar cause is dead forever. We made our triumph depend on the independence of the Southern Confederacy; and that is forever dead. Whether this was wise or unwise, we care not to discuss. Whether it could have been avoided and the battle ranged under the old flag and for the

the recovery of the old Government, matters little now. Whether those who led us, led us wisely or not, posterity will determine and write her verdict in history. And there may be difference in the judgment passed upon the action of those States which seceded and formed the Southern Confederacy; and those which, after force was employed to conquer that Confederacy, joined their fortunes with it. The very attempt to conquer by force those seceded States changed the whole nature of our compact; it substituted force for consent as the condition of union and warrant of power and made the central government the sole judge of the necessity, justice and measure of the force to be used. This in the last analysis is the sole difference between free and despotic governments--one is founded on force, the other on consent. The struggle, perhaps, of necessity could have taken no other form. But our success involved the establishment of that Confederacy and depended upon it. Our defeat forever prevents any possibility of that, and not one is insane enough to dream of its practicability. The results of the war, too, prevent the possibility of those States ever attempting the establishment of a confederacy on the territorial boundaries of the broken confederacy. We recognize that the destruction of slavery destroyed that bond between the States; and in the future new interests and new ties will create new relations essentially different from those existing before the war. In that sense, also, our cause was hopelessly lost, and we frankly acknowledge today that it would be unwise to restore it. And we accept as a fundamental postulate of American politics (I use the word in its true and noble meaning) that secession means revolution and war--the arbitrament of arms and an appeal to the God of battles.

What else has been lost Very very much. I do not attempt to estimate the precious lives--so dear to many homes. We weep with the bereaved of the terrible struggle wherever they may be. Nor the wasteful and criminal destruction of property and the accumulation of a vast public debt, which may enslave the poor and change the nature of our institutions.

But we have lost all confidence in the sanity of written constitutions and the power of mutual guarantees. Who believes that, amid the excitement of another struggle, the barricades erected in the constitutions of the United States and of the States will protect against the bayonet of the infantry or the hoof of the cavalryman's horse? We have learned the power of force and become familiar with its use. We have played with bastiles and military commissions, and easily tire of slow courts with enlightened consciences and hampered by constitutional restrictions. We have tasted the sweets of military glory and had visions of empire. We have seen how the forms of free government can be used to secure false returns and cover inviolability of our rights and the omnipotence of law. Doubt has found lodgment where faith ruled, and suspicion taken the place of confidence. The outspoken boldness of conscious freedom has been tempered with an ever-present prudence, and expediency deified above right. We tolerate encroachments, and implore rather than demand our rights. We are content if we escape when our brethren suffer.

We have learned to use the common Government for private aggrandizement, and tolerate corruption in high places, and bow before ill-gotten wealth. Above all, faith in the fidelity, courage and stern

love of liberty of the people--the only true foundation of free Government--has been weakened.

We can hardly realize what is the terrible significance of all this. I am no alarmist, but I entreat you, my countrymen, to pause and weigh you these significant facts. In the hurry of our over-crowded lives, in the peaceful happiness of our quiet homes, in the gay scenes of social converse, in the rush of commerce and business, we forget these portentous truths. We look around us and see smiling landscapes and fertile field, the smoke of prosperous towns and the evidences of civilized wealth; we hear the hum of busy men and the sound of increasing riches; and we take comfort at the thought that all is well. Is it so? Are there no clouds in the future? Are there no dangers ahead?

We told our countrymen that the attempts to subjugate the South was fraught with dangers to their liberties as well as to ours, but they would not believe us. The South was subjugated, and we are again as one people invilved in a common destiny. Their flag is our flag--one country, one flag; one liberty. Were we in our prophesy wholly at fault? Would to God that we were. Would to God that the centennial of American Independence found us a people rich, prosperous, peaceful, secure of our liberties; for my children share these benignant provisions. Is it so? Are our liberties secure? Are our States free? Is our future safe? Ask Louisiana; question Mississippi; go to the grave of Francis Marion, or stand on the field of Eutaw and ask South Carolina. Go Northward and put your queries to the slaves of the loom, or the starvings of the over-crowded cities. Nay, go to the most thoughtful of our patriots and catch their subdued responses.

Many of our purest countrymen recognized all the dangers we prophesied, and admitted that liberty might be swallowed up in the maw of a great central government, which had learned to despise constitutional guaranties, trample upon personal rights, wield the sword, and use the purse; that amid the ruins and throes of civil war this giant might be born to the destruction of constitutional liberty; but they said the risk was not so great as that hostile republics, lying side by side on this continent, would be compelled for self-preservation to become military powers, and thereby in the end become despotisms; or that with the right of disintegration once put into practice, a host of weak and jealous republics, tired of wars and wrangles, would fall prey to one great master. We will preserve, said they, all we can of our liberties in putting down the rebellion and then reconquer by peaceful means from the central Government what it seized during that bloody period.

Others were dazzled--as many good, misguided men have been before--at the visions of imperial splendor which the dream of an ocean-bound republic creates; and forgot that liberty dwells not amid purple and gold and precious stones, nor abides safely amidst armed legions and powerful rulers.

The war has been over eleven years and the emperial republics is: an actual reality; and the duties of the hour press upon us.



Our duty and our interest, my comrades, unite in making our pathway plain. We are citizens of this great country--we are called to our lot today. I am not uttering the gush fashionable nowadays about bygones being bygones and bing brothers. I have on similar occasions uttered my whole mind on that subject--uttered it when my comrades, perhaps, received it unwillingly. I neither modify nor add to those utterances.

But whether we wish it or not, we are of necessity citizens of this republic; and there are only two courses before us--one to fold our arms and say it is none of our affair--live in the past and abnegate our manhood in the present. The other to acknowledge our allegiance and perform our whole duty as citizens. We ask no favors--we make no claims. We are citizens equal with all other citizens, with free tongues and brave hearts. We love liberty and mean--God willing--to aid all who desire to preserve it. We unite with all good citizens to preserve to ourselves and to posterity the blessings of good government, administered under the law, and we reserve the privilege of resisting as may be necessary all who may attempt to usurp those powers or to filch those rights; binding our children to no other and different pledge than that to which our fathers bound us, and to which all alike are equally bound. We bear no malice. We keep alive no animosities. We bear no confessions of guilt. We loved the cause and our comrades. We love their memories. We will honor their graves. We stand by their orphans, but we do this without bitterness to any one and without apology. While we remember that Lee and Breckinridge died proscribed, and Louisiana and South Carolina are held by the throat, we wait without impatience or servile importunities for the dawn of a purer and better day--confident that no Polands can be kept enslaved in this country, that all will be free or all enslaved, and that the liberties of every State are equally at stake, and the day of a true amnesty is not far distant. We are not prodigals who return confessing that our substance has been wasted in riotous living, even though fatted calves be killed for our feast and golden rings be ready for our fingers. We simply claim that we are equal citizens of a common country, in which, with God's aid, we will strive to do our part. This is the true basis of reconciliation: A manly defense of the causes for which we fought, a frank confession of what was lost and an honest avowal of our purpose to perform all the duties of citizenship. More than this would be craven and untrue; less than this unwise and undutiful. Brave men will believe and trust us; patriotic men will welcome our aid; free men will applaud us and thus, true sons of our mother Commonwealths, and faithful citizen of our common country, we will do our part to secure to every State and citizen the blessings of constitutional liberty. We will build up our own States by a wider education, a fuller development and a more liberal culture, and thus add to the strength and glory of the common Government, administered according to the principles of a revered Constitution, and loved because it will be just, impartial and pure. We will do our part to maintain for all citizens and every State the inalienable and inestimable rights of American liberty, regaining what may have been taken, preserving what remains, securing to the common Government its just powers and true glory. We will strive to realize the glorious vision of our sires--a free country of sovereign States, so strong that all will respect it, so just that all will obey it, so free that all will love it; a country where to do right is the whole compulsion,

to prevent wrong the sole restraint; where fealty is, through love and obedience, an act of the heart. We, my comrades, stand not in the way of the realization of this bright future. Let the curse of the patriot fall upon those who do.

I have spoken with that frankness which the presence of death renders imperative; spoken what I believe to be the convictions of my comrades--What my own sense of duty seemed to require of me. I have spoken as an American citizen, claiming all the privileges, and willing to perform all the duties belonging to that great title; conscious of a patriotism which embraces the entire country, and loving liberty with a passionate devotion. I have desired to avoid enkindling any extinguished or dormant memories which were unkind or bitter. Let them sleep the sleep that knows no waking. Implacability marks not the noble. I have not even attempted to call back those memories which comradeship in danger, hardship and battle make so clear. As I stand there in this presence--there the silent dead, there the memorial of the love whose manly friendship gave me honor--the olden memories melt my heart. I need not even mention the names of town or field, for every soldier's heart has its own consecrated scenes,

"Hallowed down to earth's profound  
And up to heaven,"

scenes sanctified by a comrade's death, or an act of gentle, loving kindness. In the name of the living comrades of these dead heroes, I bow my head in unutterable gratitude to all who were kind to them in their exile, suffering and death, and in the name alike of the living and the dead of that great disbanded and surrendered army I dedicate this monument to our unceasing gratitude and meradicable recollection of the unfailing, heroic, self-denying ministrations, of the women of the South. God be with them wherever they are. God bless them with the plentitude of His mercies. God give to our land for all the perils of her future such women to be mothers of her defenders.

And, in the names of all the survivors of that great war, whose comrades lie in this beautiful cemetery, I dedicate this monument to the preservation of national independence, the autonomy of the States and the liberties of the citizen. I dedicate it to the memory of all who died in defense of those inestimable blessings; to the praise of all who love truth and courage and fidelity. I dedicate it to the glorious heroism of the martyrs of the South.

Who can tell when causes are lost? Two thousand years ago Varus and his legions fell before the might of an outraged nationality, and only yesterday, amid the wild huzzas of the great Germanic fatherland, Arminius in bronze is placed as sentry over the mighty nation, whose existence is the realization of the dream of centuries, for which a score of generations vainly struggled.

The imprisoned and despised Bunyan now adorns the English city which hooted him, and gives new courage to the pilgrims in the burdened progress to the city beyond the Delectable mountains.

The English Commonwealth died with the great lord protector, but:

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the true English Commonwealth, the glorious Commonwealth won by noblest blood and unfold sacrifices, survives today, and stout old Oliver heads the list of the sons of freedom who have fought the unending battle of English liberty. How many centuries have been made green by Irish valor and Irish constancy?

As the vast procession of the martyred soldiers of liberty pass before us our hearts melt with grief, and yet exult with ineffable pride and thanksgiving. What a glorious host! Of every tribe and age and rank--yet brothers all. Our brothers, my comrades, who need not be ashamed to receive out Lee and Jackson in their honored ranks. Some fell, as Sidney Johnson, in the van of stricken battle; some, as Johnston, in the shouts of victory in their ears went to God; some from the gloomy dungeons of tyranny; some from the scaffold of despotic cruelty; some from the stake of demoniacal rage; others brokenhearted like Lee, or proscribed like Breckinridge. Jew or Gentile, Greek or Roman, Arminius or William the Silent, Wallace or Hampden, Washington, Henry, or Lee--All soldiers in a common struggle; comrades under the same blood-stained banner, oft trailed in defeat; alas! so often stained by the heart's blood of her heroic defenders and tarnished by the heels of her ferocious enemies; but ever reappearing, never without devoted followers, who held life cheap in her service. We dedicate this monument to the great army of freedom--the innumerable host of the past, of whom the world was not worthy. And from our loins may there spring a race worthy to be the comrades of the illustrious dead.

Believe me mankind recognizes its deathless ones, and at their graves lays the tribute of gratitude and love. This we ~~hear~~ and now do.

Kentucky thus honors the stranger dead who rest in her generous bosom, and prays that in her future she may find in her hours of trial and peril such sons to defend and guard her.

Liberty bends above these graves, and weeps the untimely end of those who gave themselves to her cause, and for their lives bestows immortality.

Mothers who lost stalwart sons, widows who gave idolized husbands, fair maidens who surrendered to honor the lovers of their hearts, dedicate this monument to the loved and lost--"the gone before."

We dedicate it with tears. We invoke God's blessing upon all whose hearts bled for these who never returned, and in His great name we dedicate it to the future of an unbroken peace between the States and a new and holier brotherhood among the citizens of this mighty Republic. And may the God of Freedom make universal and perpetual the reign of a true liberty!

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