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ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

SOCIETY OF ALUMNI


OF

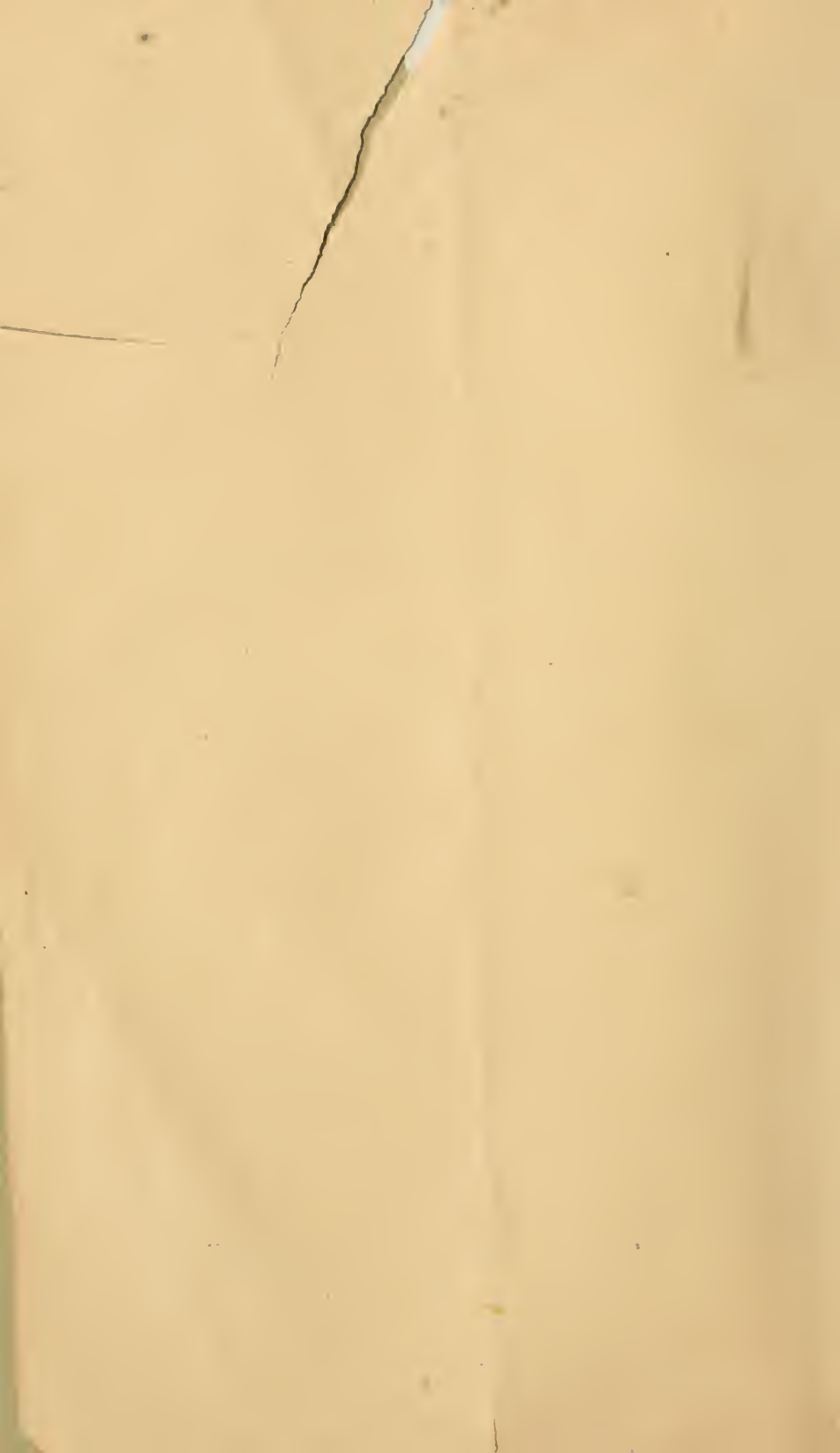
WILLIAMS COLLEGE,

BY

CHARLES DEMOND.

1865.





AN

A D D R E S S ,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

SOCIETY OF ALUMNI OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE,

AT

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.

AUGUST 1, 1865.

BY

CHARLES DEMOND.

BOSTON:

PRESS OF T. R. MARVIN & SON, 42 CONGRESS STREET.

1865.

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WILLIAMSTOWN, AUGUST 3, 1865.

CHARLES DEMOND, Esq.

Dear Sir,—You are aware that with our Society of Alumni, as a body, it is a law, which can yield to no circumstances, not to ask for the publication of the Addresses which are annually delivered before it. But individual members are not bound by any such inflexible rule. The undersigned, therefore, who had the pleasure of listening to your Address on the first instant, with a view to give wider publicity and more permanent form to its simple, cheering and forcible presentation of some of the results of the war, now so happily and gloriously ended, hereby request a copy of the same for publication. We should be happy to see the excellent Poem of the Rev. Mr. GLADDEN published in connection with your Address, but we are informed that it is to receive another destination.

Very respectfully yours,

EMORY WASHBURN.
HOMER BARTLETT.
CALVIN DURFEE.
JOHN L. T. PHILLIPS.
HENRY L. SABIN.
JAMES S. KNOWLSON.
W. T. R. MARVIN.

BOSTON, AUGUST 7, 1865.

Gentlemen,—I thank you for the kind terms of your request, and in compliance therewith I send you a copy of my Address for publication.

Very respectfully yours,

CHARLES DEMOND.

To Messrs. EMORY WASHBURN, HOMER BARTLETT,
CALVIN DURFEE, JOHN L. T. PHILLIPS, HENRY L.
SABIN, JAMES S. KNOWLSON, W. T. R. MARVIN.

29-10-30-67

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A D D R E S S .

WE are gathered to-day in peace. The horrid scenes of war no longer disturb our land. The authority of our Government is acknowledged and submitted to, from the St. Johns to the Rio Grande. Our flag, baptized by the blood, and consecrated by the sacrifices of our fathers, re-baptized and made doubly sacred by the blood of our sons and brothers, and by the sacrifices of us all,—to-day proudly flies upon the breeze, a symbol of liberty secured to all the inhabitants of this land,—a promise and pledge of liberty to come, to the oppressed of every nation. Flowers are growing upon the graves of our fallen heroes, and nature, with its thousand gentle fingers, is covering with forms of beauty the evidences of terrible strife upon our battle fields.

In the midst of this joy and peace, there are many things we cannot, would not forget, but hold in everlasting and grateful remembrance. The noble men, who, at the call of our country, left the

peaceful pursuits of home, and, all unused to war, cheerfully endured its privations and hardships, and gave limb and life for the Fatherland; the fathers and mothers, wives and sisters, who, with more than Spartan courage, with Christian patriotism, sent forth these men to the strife, and followed them with prayers, and abundant and unceasing streams of beneficence; the men and women of culture and gentle breeding, who have toiled in our hospitals and amid the awful scenes of the battle field, caring for the suffering and pointing the dying to the better country where there is no war; the generals, who have so resolutely led our armies to victory; the President and members of our Government, who have so wisely, firmly, and successfully steered the ship of State; and last and first, the kind Providence, who gave us all these blessings, and led us all our way;—these, we would ever remember, and for them all render ceaseless thanks to God, who ruleth among the armies of heaven and the inhabitants of earth.

During the past four years, our land has shaken under the tramp of three millions of men in arms, and resounded with the shouts and tumults of their death grapple. The conflict is over, and we now have leisure to calmly consider the results and lessons of the war. It is my purpose to refer to a few of these.

I. *The war has shown that we have a Country, and a Government.*

Before the war our loyalty sat very loosely upon us;—the flag of the Union called forth few sentiments of love and devotion, few thoughts of a Government to be obeyed. The Government at Washington had so little practical contact with us, that we thought of it more as the foster-mother of office-holders, than as a power to protect and punish us. A large portion of our citizens were educated from boyhood in the belief that their first allegiance was due to the State in which they were born, however insignificant;—that the Stars and Stripes must be lowered to the Pine tree, or Palmetto. This heresy was not confined to the South. Practically it prevailed to a great extent even in the State where Webster lived and expounded the Constitution. South Carolina would secede if a tariff was made: Massachusetts would not be bound to a Union that took in Texas. North and South, if the action of the Government interfered with the favorite prejudices of the people, the first thought was, ‘We will not submit.’ One cause of this was the prevalence of wrong ideas of the Constitution;—another, the fact that the Government made but little show of power.

When this war broke out, we had in the regular army only 16,000 men, and a large portion of these

were in frontier posts, away from observation. In March, 1861, for a Navy we had in all 90 vessels, with 2,415 guns; there were only 69 vessels, with 1,346 guns, that could be made available; only 42 vessels, with 555 guns, were in commission; and of this small force but 12 vessels, with 187 guns, manned by 2,000 men, were at home; and in Northern ports, there were but 4 vessels, with 25 guns, and 280 men.

With so few forces, so situated, it is not strange that the Government was little respected or feared, while none of us had any idea of the gigantic power lying dormant, ready to respond to its call. Again, we never saw the tax-gatherer of the general Government, and were not reminded in this way of our allegiance. The war began, and this state of things was suddenly changed. The recruiting Agent, the Provost Marshal, the Assessor and Collector of taxes, all officers of the central Government, entered every town and village and dwelling, to gather up men and means. Disloyal and disobedient men were suddenly taken to distant forts and prisons, and received summary justice. We, at the North, all learned that there was in our Government a power of which we had never before dreamed.

To carry the same conviction through the South, armies and navies were created and marshalled,—

till 2,166,288 * soldiers were called forth and supplied with all the terrible modern implements of war, and 731 vessels, with 4,921 guns, manned by over 50,000 men, were launched upon the seas,—some of these vessels being those wonderful iron-clads, which have revolutionized naval warfare. To meet these terrible forces, the rebels called out 1,000,000 of men, and a considerable naval power.

The armies of the Government have met the rebels, and conquered them. The flag of the Union has been carried through all the rebellious States by the strong hand of power.

When I was in Richmond, just after it was taken, a leading Union General, who had been an old and intimate friend of General Lee, and who, long before the war, had often discussed the question of State rights with him, at the request of General Lee, called upon him. He gave me an account of his interview. Among other things General Lee said to him:—"You know I always believed in State rights, and that my State had my first allegiance; having this belief, I felt bound to go with Virginia. But that question has now been settled by the highest and final arbitrament, that of arms, and I accept the decision. The States must submit to the general Government."

* This was the number up to January 1, 1865, according to the best statistics obtained.

The question *is* settled ; we have a country—not a confederation of States, liable to be torn asunder at the caprice of every member,—but a country reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Lakes to the Gulf ; a Union of loyal citizens, that will last so long as education and morality and religion shall prevail in the land. And we have a Government, all pervading, touching each individual ; strong enough to command the obedience of all its citizens, and to protect itself from foes within and foes without ; a Government whose humblest citizen, in whatever part of the world, finds ample protection in the words, “ I am an American ; ”—a government of freemen by themselves.

II. *The war has developed love of country,—true patriotism,—in an unexpected degree.*

Before 1861, it was common to say that the Yankee worshiped the dollar ; and the conspirators thought that it was only necessary to affect the pecuniary interests of the North, to succeed in their object. Many of us feared this would be so. We spoke with exultation of the heroes of the Revolution, who marked their way over the snow by blood from their naked feet ; of the matrons and maidens who, with tearful eye and tender hands, buckled on the sword to the loved ones going to the terrible contest ; and we lamented that such pure and

heroic days were gone. But the first gun fired at the glorious symbol of our Union and life, awakened a response that astonished us, no less than our enemies. We found that we had fathers and sons, wives and mothers, worthy of the best days of the republic; that love of country lay deeper than love of money, or ease. The nation sprang to arms, and the best blood of the land was freely poured out.

I have often heard men and women at the South, say that the war has been a terrible evil to them, as their best young men had perished in it, while our armies were made up of foreign mercenaries. Any such statement about the Northern armies is false. Of the first million who responded to the call to arms, two-thirds were native born; nine-tenths were citizens educated under the laws of the Union, and in the English language. Eighty per cent of the soldiers of all our vast armies, were native born. Men of culture, of the best blood in the land, bearing nearly all the old historic names of our early days, worthy sons of Pilgrim and revolutionary sires, lawyers, physicians, clergymen, scholars, statesmen,—abounded in this army; not as officers alone, but among the privates in the ranks.

One of the Rhode Island regiments was almost wholly composed of leading citizens of the State,

and had fifty College graduates, many of them eminent as professional men, in the ranks of its privates. The 18th Connecticut regiment had two men in it worth \$200,000 each, who enlisted as privates, and continued through the war as privates, having refused commissions. A Vermont regiment numbered two score men of collegiate education among its private soldiers. An Illinois regiment, the famous Normal regiment, was made up almost exclusively of teachers. A single company of the Massachusetts 44th, contained thirty-five sons of Harvard.

Our Alma Mater has the names of many of her best sons on this illustrious roll. Over two hundred and forty* of them have entered the army and done gallant service for our country; twenty-two have given up life, leaving a record which will ever be cherished among the most precious treasures of the College. Twenty have been wounded. The Society of Alumni have erected a beautiful monument as a tribute of respect to the patriotism of these our brothers. This will be dedicated after these services, and will ever remain, we trust, to quicken the patriotic ardor of the ingenuous youth, who shall hereafter walk these halls.

* The numbers above comprise only those whose names have been obtained. On the morning of "Alumni Day" more than one hundred names were given to the Committee, and it is believed that the list is not yet complete.

One of these heroic sons of Williams,—HOPKINS, of the Class of '64,—was the only child of our beloved and respected Professor Hopkins. He was a Lieutenant in the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, and was killed while gallantly charging upon the town of Ashland, near Richmond, May 11, 1864, and lies, like thousands of our noble heroes, upon the field of battle, in Virginia. He was a young man of much promise. During his Senior year, impelled by a sense of duty, he entered the army, January 6, 1864. His military career was short, but he won the love and confidence of his men and of his brother officers, and left a high reputation as a gallant soldier and a sincere Christian.

We have all mourned with our friend, and as we mourned, we have felt assured that the Saviour,—whom he has so long and faithfully served, whose love he so tenderly, earnestly, and constantly commended to us, by his teachings and by his life while we were in College,—would comfort him in his loneliness and deep affliction, as “one whom his mother comforteth.”

This uprising of the nation was not a mere burst of enthusiasm that endured for a moment; the sacred fire of patriotism burned brightly during the war. These men, who left wealth and comfort, and the freedom of life belonging to freemen, endured hardness as good soldiers, with patience, and gave

up life cheerfully, only sorrowing that they could not do more for their country. I have seen much of these men and armies; have been in hospitals and on battle fields; and never have I heard an expression of sorrow for the sacrifices they had made; the only regret was, that they could not do more.

We have time for only a few instances. "Get the ship by the batteries," said Lieut. Cummings, at Vicksburg, as he lay on the deck, with one leg shot away,—“get the ship by, and they may have the other leg.”

Walter Raymond, of Andover, Massachusetts, was dying in Salisbury prison, of starvation and neglect. Said he, “I am going to die. Go tell my father I am ready, for I die for God, and my country:” and with a smile he passed away.

After the battle of Chickamauga, a boy of sixteen lay in the hospital, suffering greatly by the loss of a leg. Said a delegate of the Christian Commission to him, “You have given a limb to the country,—do you regret the sacrifice?” “No,” said the young hero, “Not at all; I might as well lose my leg as to have stayed at home, and lost my country.”

Religion and patriotism were often beautifully combined in these last words of our heroes.

A man from Salem, Massachusetts, named Gardner, was one day brought into City Point Hospital,

severely wounded, with his tongue so injured that he could not speak. Seeing a delegate of the Commission, he motioned for pencil and paper. It was given him, under the expectation that he would ask for some bodily comfort. He wrote, "I am a Christian. Rally round the flag, boys," and sank away.

A man lay dying in Carver Hospital, Washington, and as he was departing, commended himself to God; prayed for the President, for the country, and that his own death might be the means of advancing the good cause for which he was giving his life,—and died.

In the battle of Coal Harbor, young Schneider, son of the well known missionary, was mortally wounded in a most gallant charge. "Do not weep," said he, "it's God's will. I wish you to write to my father, and tell him I have tried to do my duty to my country and to God." "And Chaplain,—the boys in the regiment,—I want you to tell them to stand by the dear old flag. And there is my brother in the Navy,—write to him and tell him to stand by the flag, and cling to the cross of Christ."

Nor were our women unworthy of such men. They gave their best loved ones to the sacred cause. They cheered and encouraged the volunteer, as he went to the war. Their gifts and delicacies, the result of long and patient toil, comforted and

blessed him in camp and hospital, and on the battle field. They went in person, to minister to his necessities.

Mr. Stuart, of Philadelphia, called upon Mrs. Ellett of that City,—a lady of 84,—at her request, to receive a large donation for the soldiers. The body of a grandson, killed in battle, had just arrived, and was in the house. Said she, “I have given my two sons, Commodore Ellett and General Ellett, and four grand-children to my country,—I don’t regret the gift,—if I had twenty sons, I would give them all,—*for the country must be preserved*. And if I was twenty years younger, I would go and fight myself, to the last.” Heroic mothers of heroic men, still live.

In a scattered farming district, in New England, lived a mother and daughters, too poor to purchase materials to make into garments for the soldiers. Twelve miles distant, over an almost impassable mountain, was a Relief Association in the county town. Borrowing a neighbor’s horse, some of them went regularly every fortnight to get from this society, garments to make up for the hospital. One of the managers of the association was interested to know the secret of such devotion, and said to them, “You have some relatives, a son or brother or father, in the war, I suppose?” “No, not now, our only brother fell at Ball’s Bluff.”

“Why then do you feel so deep an interest in this work?” “Our country’s cause is the cause of God, and we would do what we can for His sake,” was the sublime reply.

When the record of the patriotism shown in this war is made up, no page of it will shine with a more glorious light, than that which shall tell of the deeds of the women of the loyal States.

We honor General Grant, for his military skill, his comprehensive plans, his patient perseverance, and his wonderful achievements; but we love him for his modesty, and true, unselfish patriotism. One instance only, of many, can I give. About a month before Lee’s surrender, General Grant told President Lincoln that he should “take Richmond and destroy Lee’s army, before General Sherman came near enough to give any assistance, and for this reason: it would be better for the future peace of the country, after the war was over, and prevent recrimination between the East and the West. The Eastern army had fought long and well, but had not yet achieved great success. The Western army had met with success, and acquired great glory. If now they should help take Richmond, there would ever be unpleasant words between the different sections of the country.”

The glorious result we all know; but when we remember that General Grant is a Western man,—

that the Western army is his first command, his favorite army,—we have abundant reason to rejoice that he is not only a great general, but a pure patriot.

And, in this connection, I must allude to the beloved President, who led our nation with such faith and patience and charity through its dangers to peace and safety, and then received a martyr's crown. No one thing gave Mr. Lincoln such power, as the conviction of the people that he was purely and honestly doing what he thought was best for his country.

I saw him often in reference to work for the army, and at each interview, the conviction was deepened in my own mind, that his heart was set by all means to save the country. He often spoke of his dependence upon God, and his confidence that he would overrule all his own plans for the best.

The last time I saw him alive, was when the members of the Christian Commission called upon him in January last. After Mr. Stuart, the chairman, had made an address, thanking him for what he had done to aid the work, Mr. Lincoln characteristically said: "You owe me no thanks for what I have been able to do for you; if I may be permitted to say it, I owe you no thanks for what you have so excellently done for the country and

for me. We are both alike, working in the same cause; and it is the fact of its being a just one, which gives us our mutual joy and reward in its service."

When the great armies of the Republic were gathered at Washington, for the grand review, the tents and chapels of the Christian Commission were thronged with men, who had, by battles and marches, and suffering, saved their country and their flag, but who now were asking aid, that, in their own words, "they might go home better men, to become better citizens." I looked upon the serried ranks of these veterans, and listened to their tramp, for two days, while they were passing the President's stand;—saw the tattered and battle stained flags, which they had triumphantly carried in an hundred fights, and beheld in their countenances, intelligence and self-respect.

As I thought of the mighty deeds they had done, of the love of country which had called them from home, and of the same pure love of country that now prompted the desire to be "better men," as they went home to lay down their arms,—I felt that no nation, and no age, had given purer, or more glorious exhibition of patriotism, than was shown by these citizen soldiers of the Union.

We will have no fear that love of country will die out, so long as God has work for this nation to do.

III. *The war has developed benevolence and benevolent action, in a remarkable manner.*

The expenses of this war have been enormous, and have borne heavily upon all. The taxes have been large, and constantly increasing. Our public debt which represents but part of the expenses of the war, amounts to \$3,000,000,000. Most of this has been taken by our own people, who thus showed their confidence in the Government, and their determination to support it. Under these circumstances, we should naturally expect that but little money would be given away. How different the fact!

The voluntary contributions to the war, and for the aid of the soldiers, have amounted to the enormous sum of over \$300,000,000.* This has been given cheerfully, literally poured out for the country, and its brave defenders.

Some of the most delightful memories of my life, are in connection with this free giving. It was my privilege with others,† to sit on the Exchange in Boston, after the battles of Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and after the taking of Richmond, to receive the voluntary offerings of the people, for the relief of the wounded. No one was asked to give. No

* This is believed to be much too small a sum. See *Philanthropic Results of the War*. Published in New York, February, 1864.

† Edward S. Tobey, Esq., and others of the Army Committee of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association.

attempt was made to awaken enthusiasm, except by giving notice in each day's papers of the fact, and of the sums given. In a few days, on the first occasion, \$35,000 were handed in; on the second occasion, over \$60,000, and on the third, \$30,000. These munificent sums were made up of comparatively small contributions:—only one sum as large as \$1,000 was given,—and from that to ten cents. It was a movement of the people. At times there was a crowd around the tables, and many were waiting their turn to give.

The manner of giving was equally remarkable. "This is my thank-offering," was a frequent remark. "We must take care of the boys who fight for us," another. While a large proportion said with a smile, "If you want more, call on me." Contributions soon began to come in by mail, on each occasion, and continued after we had left the Exchange, until the sums received, were \$100,000, \$60,000, and \$50,000. Such noble, spontaneous giving, was not confined to Boston; in all our great cities, it was the same. The Christian Commission was out of funds at one time, and appealed for help. In little over a week, \$200,000 were sent in.

Wealth and poverty met at the common altar of country. Stewart and Vanderbilt each gave their hundred thousand dollars. A poor woman of eighty, in Amherst, Massachusetts, who supported

herself by her needle, walked a long distance to give her five cents.

In a small town of New Hampshire, a delegate* of the Christian Commission told of his work to a small audience. When the boxes were passed, an old man of eighty put in a small, red cotton handkerchief. The collector, thinking he had made a mistake, took it up to return it; but he made a sign to have it retained. When the meeting was over, the clergyman of the place, said to the speaker:—“ Captain Weston has given you the last thing that he has, that he could give. A few years ago, the only one of his sons who could aid him, came home to take charge of his aged parents, and they looked to him for support in their declining years. When the war came, the son felt it to be his duty to enlist. He went with his father’s blessing, and he now fills a soldier’s grave in the South. When he fell, the old man supported himself and his aged wife, by his labor. He is utterly penniless. He recently told me, he would be glad to do something for benevolence, but for six months, said he, ‘ I have had but three cents of my own.’ ”

Even corporations, which from time immemorial have been said to have no souls, have shown in their action, the impulses of large and generous souls. The railroad companies, all over the land,

* Prof. E. T. Quimby.

have given transportation to the value of many hundreds of thousands of dollars,—the Christian Commission alone, having received, in this way, over \$200,000,—besides large sums in money,—\$5,000 at a time. The telegraph companies have given the free use of their lines, worth at least \$75,000. Banks, insurance and other companies, have contributed largely in money.

These gifts to the country were not confined to money alone. Time and patient toil have been given. The value of these, none can estimate. In every town, and in almost every family, busy hands have been stitching and knitting articles that have borne not only comfort to the bodies, but cheer to the hearts of the patriot heroes in the field, as they were thus reminded that loved ones at home still remembered them.

The Christian Commission and the Sanitary Commission have been managed by merchants and professional men of large business, who have given most of their time for years, with no compensation, but the satisfaction of helping those who were doing noble service at the front.

Nor must we forget the thousands of men and women of culture, and Christian heroism, who have gone to the hospital, camp and battle-field, as delegates and agents of these Commissions, and of the various aid associations, and been literally

angels of mercy, amid those scenes of carnage and misery. The records of their deeds can be adequately written only on the books that shall be opened at the great day.

Not only time and money, but articles long kept on account of sacred associations, have been cheerfully given.

A lady in Londonderry, N. H., contributed a silver dollar, which her mother, when dying, gave to her twenty years ago, and which she had kept sacred ever since. But she said: "That mother, if now living, I think would have given the dollar;" so she, acting up to her convictions of her mother's wishes, gave the precious coin to her country and her God. Here is the wedding ring of a widow. She first gave her only son to die for his country, and then withheld not this dear pledge of love, made sacred by the death of him who gave it to her. Such benevolence gives to patriotism a purer lustre, and makes even the smoke and carnage of battle radiant with the reflected brightness of heaven.

IV. *This war has shown the power of the principles of Christianity, when exhibited in the lives of those who teach them.*

My illustrations upon this point will all be drawn from the work of the Christian Commission, with which I am most familiar.

The work of this noble charity in the army, has been done by men who have received no pay, who left the comforts of home, and met the hardships of the camp, simply to do good to the bodies and souls of the soldiers. All the men sent out by this Commission, professed to have adopted as the rule of their lives, the precepts and example of the blessed Lord, who left the glories of heaven to seek and save the lost. As they were commissioned, they were told to go to the army; and in camp and on the battle field, in the hospital, and by the way, to do for those they met, "whatsoever they would that men should do unto them."

And I think I am authorized to say, that never since the wonderful saying fell from the lips of Jesus, has its spirit been more fully, nobly, and heroically carried into practice, than by these delegates. Nearly five thousand such men have gone to the army to labor, "without money and without price."

In this work, judges have left the bench, professors their chairs, clergymen their parishes, lawyers their briefs, doctors their patients, merchants their goods, mechanics their shops, students their books, and even members of Congress their seats. Like the Master, they cared for the body in all its wants, and at the same time offered the bread and water of life to the hungry, fainting

souls. The Union soldier, and the rebel, when sick or wounded, were alike cared for.

After the battle of Antietam, a gentleman passing over the field of blood, saw a man washing at a brook ; as he came near, he recognized a Doctor of Divinity, the pastor of one of the largest churches in Philadelphia. Said he: " Doctor, what are you doing ? " The Doctor straightened up, and pointing with his finger, said, " Over yonder, are six hundred wounded men ; most of them lying in the bloody shirts in which they were wounded. Our shirts are out,"—(he was a delegate of the Christian Commission,)—" and we shall have none till to-morrow morning,—so I thought I would take a few of the worst out here, wash them, and dry them in the sun. Do you think there is any harm in it ? " Said the gentleman, " Doctor, I know God has blessed you abundantly, in your work in Philadelphia, but I do not think the Master ever looked upon any act of your life, with more pleasure than upon this." " I believe it," said the Doctor, and turned to his washing.

In the Peninsular campaign, a delegate found sixty-five men, sick and wounded, lying on the second floor of a barn, just under the roof. The Virginia sun was pouring upon the building, but a few feet above their heads, with July heat. They were suffering much. The delegate gave them

some delicacies, and then asked the soldier nurse, to wash their heads and feet. "I did not enlist to wash men's feet," was the reply. "Bring me the water, then, and I will do it." The water was brought, and the gentleman washed the heads and hands and feet, of the sixty-five suffering men.

After the battle of Gettysburg, there were heavy showers; and wounded men, lying upon the banks of a brook, were in danger of drowning. The delegates rushed to save them. The men were severely wounded and very sore. They could not well be carried without great pain. "Lay them upon my back," said one, going into the water upon his hands and knees. The wounded men, one after another, were put upon his back, and thus tenderly, carried out of danger.

When the great hospital at City Point was first established, the trouble from dust was very great, and the men suffered much. The Hospital was upon a high bluff, and all the water used for many thousand men was brought by hand, up steep banks, quite a distance. The agent* of the Christian Commission, sent to Baltimore, obtained a steam fire engine, and a street sprinkler. With the engine, he pumped the water up from the river, giving an abundant supply for all hospital purposes. With the sprinkler, he watered all the streets, in

* John A. Cole, Esq.

and around the camp, and gave unspeakable comfort to more than six thousand suffering men.

These are but specimens of the work. Whatever was needed by suffering humanity, was done by these men, who at home were not accustomed to labor or privation. They labored hard; they lived upon camp fare; they slept often upon the ground. Many of them gave up their lives, a willing sacrifice; and at least one half of them came home sick; and all this from love to Christ and men.

Need I say that when these men told the soldier, —by his bed-side in the hospital, from the pulpits of the hundreds of chapels of the Christian Commission, or by the camp fire under the blue arch of heaven,—of that Jesus in whose name they came, the power of whose gospel sent them there, the message was gladly received, the heart was open, and tender, —and that many and many a noble veteran enlisted under the banner of the cross. From all parts of the army, East and West, and from the almost innumerable hospitals of the land, came up tidings of wonderful conversions and reformatations, by thousands and tens of thousands; the moral tone of the army was raised, and its military efficiency increased.

This extraordinary success was owing not to the preaching of the gospel merely, mighty as that is, but to the living of the gospel by its preachers.

Prejudices disappeared, and infidelity broke down, before such evidences of the power of Christ's redemption.

Said one soldier, "I have never believed in the Bible, or in religion; but nothing but superhuman help would cause these men to come out and work so hard for us without pay: this is Christianity!" Said another, "I want to join the church the Christian Commission belongs to." Its effects upon rebels were no less powerful. After the battle of Gettysburg, a delegate passing around among the wounded, giving sympathy and aid, came to a wounded officer from South Carolina. Said he, "Colonel, can I do anything for you?" "No," was the reply, with stubborn defiance. He passed on. By and by, he came round again, made a similar inquiry, and was again refused. Yet he came again the third time to the officer. The air had become offensive from heat and wounds; he was putting cologne on the handkerchiefs of one and another, as he passed. "Colonel, let me put some of this on your handkerchief." The wounded and suffering man burst into tears, and said, "I have no handkerchief." "Well, you shall have one;" and wetting his own with cologne, he gave it to him. The Colonel was now ready to talk. Said he, "I can't understand you Yankees; you fight us like devils, and then you treat us like angels. I am sorry I entered this war."

Said a rebel soldier from the Emerald Isle, to the Rev. Mr. Cheshire, (who had with his own hands stripped, washed and clothed, ninety rebels, whom he found lying in filth and neglect, in a barn, several days after the battle,—the Irishman among the number,) “*May every hair of your head be a wax taper, to light you on your way to glory.*”

The conviction that the delegates sought not their own, but other's good, gave the Commission great favor with Government, and with the army. Secretary Stanton, that great and determined man, to whom we owe so much, under God, for the successful termination of the war,—has ever been a fast and active friend of the Commission. He recently said to one who congratulated him upon the end of the contest,—“Yes, it is well over, thanks to God and the Christian Commission.”

The opinion of the army is well expressed by a German soldier, who said, “Te Christian Commission,—Vy, he ish te best man in ter army. When we was town in ter Vilderness, a lying there two days and two nights, no pread, no vater, no doctor, no nobody,—ter Christian Commission,—he come; he take us all up; he give us vater; he wash our face; he bind our wounds; he ish doctor himself and he ish so many. Ten he bring us to ter hospital, where he keep by us all te time. He ish te pest man in ter army. Vy he work all ter time, just like a nigger.”

The sight of the badge, which all the agents wore, caused swearing to be hushed and gambling to stop. It passed the wearer through guards and pickets, and gave favor in sight of all, which is quaintly expressed by the remark of another German soldier, on picket at Nashville, after Thomas's great battle with Hood. He had strict orders to allow no one to pass without the countersign; but an officer saw him pass a man without the word, and reproved him; when he said, "She's the Christian Commission,—she go where she's a mind to."

Another result of this following the Master, was a Christian Union, in full and perfect operation, in the only way in which it has seemed to me possible, by the working together in a great cause of those who differ in non-essential points of belief. When men labor and suffer together, for the one Lord, whom they all love, and by whose death they all live, there is Christian Union indeed, such as no high sounding resolutions can produce. All differences disappear from sight.

In the tents of the Commission were found often, as many denominations as men; and as they sang, prayed, preached and labored together, there was no rivalry, except in good works. In all the extended work of the Commission, I know of no trouble in the army from denominational jealousy;

and in the home field, the denominations have worked together in the same harmony.

May we not hope that this army work, so strange, so unique in the world's history, may be the beginning of the day, when all the branches of the host who love the Lord Jesus, like the different corps of a great army, shall march together under one Leader; striving only in this, that each shall do its part in hastning on the time, when the kingdoms of this earth 'shall become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ.'

Said an officer of infidel tendencies, in a letter I recently received: "The greatest evidence to me of the truth of Christianity, is the Christian Commission, in the union of so many denominations in the work. Its influence will be felt a hundred years to come."

Surely, in view of these facts, we can say with strong assurance, that if all who profess to love the Saviour, shall exhibit their love in their lives, the day will not be far distant, when the whole earth shall bring forth the glad fruits of Christian civilization.

V. The only other result of the war that time will permit us to notice, is the fact that *slavery has been abolished throughout the land*, and the fair escutcheon of our nation cleansed from this foul

blot, which has so often caused us to hang our heads in shame.

Four millions of men made free! What a sublime result! What a joy in the present! What a prospect in the future, when this people and their descendants, educated and refined, shall be added to the power and wealth of the nation! Nor is this all. Millions of poor whites will be freed with them, from the worse slavery of their ignorance and their passions, as education and the gospel shall enter the waste places. The laborers of the South, whether white or black, if we are faithful to our opportunities, will become like the laborers of the North, intelligent and virtuous, the best support of our republican institutions. But to secure such glorious results, we must be active and vigilant.

All men at the South now admit that slavery is dead; but Southern men are not disposed to give negroes the rights of freemen. They look upon them with hatred, as the cause of their defeat and humiliation. They will not give them a standing in the courts; will not educate them; nor allow others to do it, if they can prevent it; and will not make them their equals at the polls.

What shall be done with the freedmen, is the question that fills the thoughts of all. One thing is certain; we are bound by every sentiment of

honor and humanity, to secure to them and their posterity forever, *freedom with all its blessings and privileges*. These men have fought for us; they have aided our armies always; they have fed our starving prisoners; they have sheltered them when flying from starvation and death, and guided them to our camps. They have been almost the only unconditional Union men at the South, during the whole war.

We must choose between two results. The millions of freedmen, "must be either an educated, industrious, land-holding, arms-bearing, tax-paying, voting, self-protecting population; or an untaught, indolent, disfranchised and debased population." Which shall it be? For myself, I am prepared to give them now, and unconditionally, *the bayonet and the ballot, the means of protecting and governing themselves*.

I have no fears for the consequences of such action. The possession of arms will not result in the massacre of the whites. The negro soldiers have never shown any vindictive spirit, though subject to many provocations; and they manifest, on the whole, a kindly spirit toward their old masters, often aiding them in their distress.

They will vote right on all great questions of Liberty and Union. They understood the issues of the war, and know who have been and are

their friends, and they are rapidly improving in education and knowledge, under the stimulus of hope and freedom. As a whole, they are deeply religious, and the principles of the gospel have a strong hold upon them, though often expressed in ludicrous forms.

They are gaining property wherever they have an opportunity, and from all parts of the South they are sending up the cry, "Give us teachers!" Within the past two years, the colored people of Alexandria, Virginia, have built over one thousand dwelling houses, costing from three hundred dollars to one thousand dollars each. They have erected three churches, and have invested over five thousand dollars in ground rents. And now, out of a population of over eight thousand, only twenty-three are drawing rations from the Government. In other parts of the South like favorable results are reported.

Are not our peace and liberties as secure in the hands of a people so gentle, so religious, showing such ability to take care of themselves, and such desires and capacity for education, as in the hands of an aristocracy, embittered, exasperated, and humiliated, but, in their own words, not subdued by defeat? In this as in all other cases, it seems to me, what is just is also expedient. And such I believe will be the policy of our President and Congress.

President Johnson recently said, in substance, "that if the Southern States would not alter their constitutions and laws, to correspond with their present circumstances, and preferred to live under the Provost Marshal, let them try it." Shall we not all agree with the spirit of this remark, and keep from our Congress all Southern Representatives till justice is done?

We have a country saved from rebellion and slavery; a Government strong and free; citizens glowing with patriotism, abounding in benevolence and Christian action. In view of such results, how fitting that our people should assemble on the marts of trade in our great cities, and sing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." That our President should, in his inaugural, vindicate the ways of God to men, and our nation put upon its coin the sublime motto, "In God we trust."

But our work is not all done. We have established the authority of the Government; we have vindicated the honor of our flag; we have freed the slaves. It now remains for us to build up the waste places in our vast southern regions; to educate the millions just emerging from bondage, and the millions of white men whose ignorance, if possible, is greater. To establish the school-house and the meeting-house, those twin sisters of American civilization, upon every hill-top, and in every

valley ; to fling to each breeze which sweeps over the mountains and plains of the South, with the stars and stripes, the emblem of liberty,—the banner of the cross, the blessed emblem of the better liberty wherewith Christ Jesus maketh his people free. Then will our nation be established on a firm foundation ; the hatreds of civil war cease ; and our whole people, as brethren, worship around the common altar of liberty and religion.

This is a mighty work, but surely the patriotism, self-denial and benevolence, which have carried us triumphantly through the war, will not fail now. Let no one regret that he has not been able to gird on the harness for the bloody fight. Peace has her *cónquests* and her victories, no less than war ; where the patriot, the scholar, the philanthropist, and the Christian, will find scope for their best energies.

To secure this glorious result, let our wise men give of their wisdom ; our young men, of their strength ; our rich men, of their riches ; and our women, their prayers, sympathy and aid, as heretofore, and soon “the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.”

With reverence to God, and humble confidence in Him,—“with malice towards none, with charity for all ; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the

work we are in ; to bind up the nation's wound ; to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans ; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

Then may we hope for the blessing that shall come upon that " Nation whose God is the Lord."

APPENDIX.

THE meetings of the Alumni this year, were exceedingly pleasant and harmonious, and gave promise of a brighter future for "Old Williams."

At the Hall, Judge PAIGE, the President, gave an eloquent address on taking the chair, and speeches were made by Major General TRUMAN SEYMOUR, Brig. General ALDEN, Hon. BUSHNELL WHITE, Hon. AMASA WALKER, Major C. N. EMERSON, CHARLES DEMOND, Esq., and others. The Hall was crowded, and the forenoon was too short for the outpouring of emotion, and the tribute of affection to the deceased brethren.

At the Church, after the delivery of the Address and Poem, feelings of mingled sympathy and gratitude were awakened, as President HOPKINS announced that an early Alumnus had recently made a donation to the College of \$10,000; and that a letter (given below) had just come to hand from Hon. DAVID DUDLEY FIELD, an Alumnus whose love for Williams has been so often manifested, announcing a gift of \$25,000.

STOCKBRIDGE, JULY 31, 1865.

My Dear Durfee:

You know what a severe blow I have just received, in the sudden death of my little grand-daughter, my only grand-child, who for nearly four years has been my delight, and whose body

we have to-day laid in the grave. Will you please explain this cause of my absence to my Classmates, and tell them how much I shall miss the expected meeting with them and other friends at the present Commencement. In considering what most fitting memorial I could raise to this cherished little one, I have thought that none could be better than some endowment of that Institution where her father and grand-father were educated, and where the President and Professor of Astronomy are her kinsmen. I propose therefore to give twenty-five thousand dollars to "the President and Trustees," for the purpose of founding in her name, either a new Professorship or a new Hall, whichever may be preferred, on conferring with the officers of the College. * * * Believe me ever,

Faithfully yours,

DAVID DUDLEY FIELD.

REV. CALVIN DURFEE.

After the exercises at the Church were concluded, the Alumni met around the beautiful Monument, which has been erected on the brow of the hill, a little east of Griffin Hall, (the old Chapel,) to the memory of the sons of Williams who have fallen in the war—for the purpose of dedicating it. Prayer was offered by President HOPKINS; most appropriate addresses were made by Hon. JAMES D. COLT, of Pittsfield; Hon. JOSEPH WHITE, of Williamstown; Hon. A. B. OLIN, of Washington, D. C., and Hon. EMORY WASHBURN, of Cambridge.

The names to be placed upon the Monument are,—Lewis Benedict, of the Class of '37; Horace I. Hodges, '42; George D. Wells, '46; Thomas S. Bradley, '48; Henry S. Leonard, '49; N. Orson Benjamin, '51; David B. Greene, '52; John Foote, '55; William R. Baxter and Charles E. Halsey, '56; Charles D. Sanford, '58; David M. Holton and Edgar Philps, '59; Edward S. Brewster, John H. Goodhue, George A. Parker and Edward K. Wilcox, '62; Henri H. Buxton,

'63 ; Edson T. Dresser, George Hicks and Edward P. Hopkins, '64 ; Fordyce A. Dyer, '65. Others may hereafter be added.

Arrangements were made to build this Monument two years ago, and our Alma Mater is the first to inaugurate the commemoration of the heroism of the graduates of Colleges, as she has been the first in so many other good works.

This Commencement was marked by having but one session in the Church, which gave time for some delightful speaking at the dinner table, a custom from which we anticipate much pleasure in future.

The Alumni were all delighted with the new Hall, just completed, for gymnasium and chemical purposes. It is built of broken stone, in the Renaissance style of architecture, and is wonderful for the variety and perfection of its different aspects. It has cost about \$30,000, is wholly the gift of the Hon. J. Z. GOODRICH, a noble son of Berkshire, and is called *Goodrich Hall*. Mr. Goodrich has recently given twenty-five thousand dollars in addition, to endow a Professorship of Physical Education.





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