

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFEDERATE  
STATES: ADDRESS DELIVERED JUNE 10, 1891.  
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE CONFEDERATE  
MONUMENT AT FREDERICKSBURG; ADDRESS  
DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY OF THE  
ARMY AND NAVY OF THE CONFEDERATE  
STATES, IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

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The Constitution of the Confederate States: Address Delivered June 10, 1891. At the Dedication of the Confederate Monument at Fredericksburg; Address Delivered Before the Society of the Army and Navy of the Confederate States, in the State of Maryland by Bradley T. Johnson

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**BRADLEY T. JOHNSON**

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES: ADDRESS DELIVERED JUNE 10, 1891. AT THE DEDICATION OF THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT AT FREDERICKSBURG; ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY OF THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND**



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE  
**CONFEDERATE STATES,**  
MONTCOMERY 1861.

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ADDRESS

— BY —

Gen'l Bradley T. Johnson,

DELIVERED JUNE 10, 1891.

— AT THE —

DEDICATION

— OF THE —

**CONFEDERATE MONUMENT**

— AT —

FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

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**PRINTED BY ORDER OF**  
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IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

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TO MINU  
UNION  
AMERICAN

UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA

*The Confederate Soldier.*  
ADDRESS BY  
GEN. BRADLEY T. JOHNSON,

DELIVERED JUNE 10, 1891.

AT THE DEDICATION OF THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT  
AT FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

Fellow Confederates, men and women: For the last twenty years I have been observing with growing wonder, the phenomenon of feeling, toward the actors on the Confederate side, in the war between the States.

When Appomattox temporarily terminated the struggle for liberty and self government, which our race has been making with heart and brain and muscle, in discussion and in battle, from the days of Alfred to the present, it seemed as if Rebellion crushed, and Loyalty triumphant, could only result in odium, to the unsuccessful side. I never agreed with that estimate of the situation, for I believed, if the Confederate people were true to their ideals of honor and fidelity, their glorious achievements would be certain of appreciation by the generations to come, and I believed they would be true.

But I did not anticipate what has occurred. Never in my most highly colored dreams, did I see a hope of such speedy realization of our aspirations.

It is a fact and a wonderful fact that the pathos, the sentiment, the romance of the war between the States is concentrated around, crystalized about, and emanates from the cause of the Confederacy.

In the North to-day no name stirs human hearts like that of LEE, no fame electrifies the people like STONEWALL, no flag flashes, no sabre glitters, like that of STUART. Neither GRANT, nor SHERMAN, nor SHERIDAN, the great and successful soldiers of the victorious side, have left such an impression on the imagination or the hearts of the people, as have the leaders of the Confederates, who died in battle or yielded to overwhelming force, where further resistance would have been criminal.

I do not mean to intimate, for I do not believe, that the North has changed its opinion as to the wisdom of our course. They thought then and they think now, it was foolish to attempt to break up a Union, because first

it was so profitable, and second because it was impossible before overwhelming forces, for us to succeed.

But I do mean to say that the idea is dimly pressing itself upon the Northern mind, that we tried to avoid war, did not want war, but that war was brought on, waged and continued for the purpose of keeping a faction in power, and enabling the controllers of the faction to make a profit out of it.

It was not a patriotic war to preserve the Union, but a contractors' war to secure the men in power, permanent control in Government. Pensions and Bounties are the degrading consequences of the mercenary motives which brought it on. It was a war of aggression, of conquest, and of plunder, on the one side, and a war of defence of home, of family, and of liberty, on the other.

And victory has been the source of unutterable evils to them, while defeat has developed enormous good in character and in conduct, with us. Discussing this interesting relation of the Confederate cause to Northern sentiment, the other day with a Northern man, he said, "you know all men are willing to throw flowers over the corpse," "yes," said I "but over the corpse of the good, the pure, not the corpse of the vile and the low."

Men will not do honor to that which they despise. The reason why the Confederates are respected, as I understand it, is that honorable and high minded men and women respect those who possess the same qualities, and as the high ideals and noble conduct of the Confederates is more and more understood, they will attract the admiration, the love and the respect of all noble people.

I yield to no one in my estimation of the genius, the courage and the valor of the great Confederate Soldiers, the greatest the English race has ever produced.

England has brought forth Marlboro and Wellington, Lawrence and Wolseley, at different times, and during different epochs, but there never has been an hour, a day, a year, from Hastings to Tel-El-Kebir, when she could show at the same time, such a roll of illustrious Soldiers as Lee, Johnston, Beauregard, Jackson, Stuart, Albert Sidney Johnston, Hampton, Wheeler and Fitz Lee.

But above all, in the solid attributes that make manly character and enoble the people, do I place the private Confederate Soldier, the man who carried the Musket or the Sabre or the Rammer for four years, without pay, half clad, not half fed, with no hope, or desire for promotion or fame, but



compelled and directed by the sole and simple conviction of duty. Just think of that, try to take it in, and appreciate it.

This simple country boy, sent off by his mother and she a Widow, with a new suit of home made clothes, not a penny in his pocket, puts himself in the first Company that leaves for Manassas Junction.

In cold and in wet, in rain and in darkness, half frozen and half starved, in battle and on the march, he does his duty. Night after night for months on the Picket line, ease and comfort and pay are within ten minutes walk. A prisoner at Camp Chase or Elmira, or Point Lookout, utterly without hope of exchange, with the distinct alternative of taking the oath, or dying of starvation in prison, he determines, for he never debated it, to die thus, rather than disgrace himself, his people and his State.

How many cases have you and I known like this; how many men ormed, moulded and hammered by adversity, until they become the models of a higher social standard, and the perpetrators of a higher moral code?

These are the men, who coming home after the surrender, were invincible to misfortune and superior to circumstances.

They were masters of fate, and the spirit that kept the man firm on the picket line at Petersburg, and amidst the ice and snow of Camp Chase, upheld him to restore his ruined home and his blasted fortunes.

Through all trials he had maintained his own self respect, and his love of honor and truth, his belief that comfort and ease were purchased at too high a price, when bought by an exchange for those. Therefore, during the struggle with want, more trying than the defence of Marye's Heights, he stood and has never yielded his fidelity to the principles for which he fought. The days of the Reconstruction were more trying than the strain of War. Ease, comfort, plenty, and relief from care, were freely offered the Confederates, if they would deny their cause and take sides with its adversaries.

Our men were reduced to manual labor to make bread.

Our women, whose mothers and grandmothers had decorated the most brilliant courts of modern Empire, and formed the highest social organization of America, whose ancestors had founded Virginia and framed the Union, were forced to the menial duties of the kitchen and the laundry, for husband and children.

A man can face death with joy, he can endure hunger and cold without flinching, but to see the tender hand that has been given him by sweet girlhood, toughened by menial toil, the delicate form upon which the

winds of heaven were wont not to blow harshly, and which he swore to cherish and protect, bent by daily labor, this sight I say, tried the nerves and tested the heart, ten thousand times more than the guns at Malvern or the artillery at Gettysburg. But the women never flinched during that ordeal of temptation and of suffering, of fidelity and of fortitude. They encouraged their fathers, husbands and lovers. By them, and through them, the men were kept firm and straight.

Occasionally one of them has picked up a handsome, dashing and gallant Yankee Officer. The temptation to get even, was too strong for even a Confederate woman, but she has ever since held his misfortune at having been a Yankee, over his head, and has made a better man and a better soldier of him every time.

By race characteristics and geographical environment, the civilization of the North and South had development on different lines.

The North, invigorated by a constant struggle with the forces of nature, had naturally adopted the philosophy of materialism and come to believe that the highest duty of man was to accumulate power, and as money in our modern civilization had come to be a source of all material power, the pursuit of wealth had got to be considered the highest aim of human effort. Embracing with enthusiasm the philosophy of Adam Smith, that every man should be for himself and that the devil would, could and should take the hindmost, supreme selfishness had become the all-pervading sentiment and directing force of that society.

The South, with a more generous climate, had developed a more sentimental society. In a sparsely settled country, the ties of blood retained their hold. Husband and wife, parent and child, all the ramified relations of kinship, kept their binding force. Devotion to veracity and honor in man, chastity and fidelity in woman, were the ideals which formed character. The forms and sentiments of Southern Society were the primitive forms and sentiments of the older civilization.

They belonged to that state of development which the modern social philosophers call Militarism.

The principles and organizations of the North belong to that later development known as Industrialism.

The social organization of the South was founded on the protection of the weak by the strong, of the simple by the wise, of the poor by the rich. It held on to that form of co-operative labor, which had existed before history began, whereby the strong, the wise and the rich had controll-

ed and directed the labor of the weak, the simple and the poor, which provided for them in infancy and in old age, which secured them a comfortable and happy subsistence out of the proceeds of their own labor.

We have the record of four thousand years of civilization, formed and developed on this system of protection, and co-operative labor.

Assyria, Egypt, Greece, Rome and modern Europe had all been formed on this organization of labor. The Industrial system, whereby the wise and the strong, the rich and the powerful, make all the rest work for them, while they allot them such portion of the proceeds of their labor as they think proper and call it wages, which casts them aside when their force is expended and leaves them to die in Poor Houses, and rot in Tenement Houses, has had an experience of scarce one hundred years and the whole of Christendom is undermined with Nihilism, Anarchism, and honey combed with Social discontent.

No man can foretell the hour when the volcano will burst in Europe and overwhelm Church and State, Czar and President, in one common ruin. In the North, where the industrial system has had its freest and fullest development, organized labor, and agricultural discontent, are the all pervading symptoms of social disorder, and the precursor of political ruin. It is certain that the present condition is only temporary. When all the property and means of living are more and more accumulating in a few hands, and the political power is possessed by the many, it takes no prophet to foretell that some other arrangement must be made.

The resistance made by the South was not merely an attempt to preserve political institutions, but to perpetuate a social organization inherited through a thousand generations—the sanctity of marriage, the inviolability of the family, the faith in truth, honor, virtue, the protection of home. Historically the position of the South was impregnable.

The States constituting the Union had rebelled against George III. They had fought through the war of that rebellion as States. Maryland did not join the confederation until March 1, 1781, and Virginia had declared her independence long before the confederated States had declared themselves "free, and independent States." The treaties with France and the foreign powers during the war, had been made with the States by name. The treaty acknowledging their independence had recognized each State, by name.

The Constitution was formed by States, each having an equal vote. It was adopted and put in operation by States. Rhode Island and North