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Editorial Comment

We make no apology for reprinting in full the remarkable speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln on the battlefield of Gettysburg during the course of the American Civil War. It has always struck us that it is, perhaps, the greatest and most touching ever delivered. We can only compare it, in its great magnetic force and suggestive power, to the one made by Shakespeare's Mark Anthony over the body of the murdered Cæsar. As everyone knows the speech was delivered over the graves of the heroes who died at Gettysburg fighting for the cause of freedom.

The Speech is as follows:—"Fourscore-and-seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

It is now a little over fifty years ago since these words were uttered by the Great President. We

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