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# Theodore Roosevelt



## AN ADDRESS

Delivered in the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church,

Washington, D. C., February 9th, 1919,

By the Pastor,

FRANCIS J. GRIMKE



# Theodore Roosevelt

BY REV. FRANCIS J. GRIMKE

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And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel.

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The Congress of the United States set apart this day, as you know, upon which Senator Lodge is to pronounce the eulogy on Mr. Roosevelt in the Hall of the House of Representatives. In view of this fact, the President of the United States has asked that this day, February 9, be also observed in all of the churches as well, as a memorial to the late Theodore Roosevelt. It is in accordance with this request as well as according to my own inclination, that I am going to speak to you for a short while this morning on the illustrious man whose sudden taking away has been so universally deplored, not only in this country, but throughout the world. It is not often that God sends a man into the world like Theodore Roosevelt; only once in a great while, only once in many centuries. What Shakespeare said about Hamlet may be truly said of him,

“He was a man, take him for all in all,  
I shall not look upon his like again.”

Surely, not in our day shall such a unique personality appear on the stage of action.

When the sad news flashed over the wire that he was no more, the one thing that was noticeable was the sense of personal loss that seemed to come over everybody even those who had never met him personally, and who knew him only through his writings and public utterances and acts. I do not know of any other man in this country, or throughout the world who could have produced the same kind of impression, who could have called forth such general and sincere regret as the death of Mr. Roosevelt. Even his enemies were compelled to join in the tribute of respect which his lofty character and great services to the country and to the world entitled him. They all realized that a great and beneficent personality had played his part, and played his part well, upon the theatre of action. What ex-President Taft said of him will scarcely be called in question by anyone, “The nation has lost the most commanding, the most original, the most interesting and the most brilliant personality in American public life since Lincoln.”

Mr. Roosevelt was born in New York city, October 27, 1858. After graduating from Harvard University in 1880, and taking a course of law in Columbia, he at once entered politics.

He served in the legislative chambers of New York as a youth. He was a delegate-at-large to the national convention of 1884, and a prominent figure in it, though only four years out of college. Then followed his service as national civil service commissioner, Police Commissioner of New York, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

When the Spanish-American War came on he resigned his position as Assistant Secretary of the Navy and rushed into the war as lieutenant colonel of the Rough Riders, and bore a conspicuous part in that war. After which he became Governor of New York, then Vice President of the United States, and on the death of President McKinley succeeded him and was elected to a second term. He also figured conspicuously in the organization of the Progressive Party, and was its candidate, and which resulted in the defeat of the Republican candidate.

My purpose, however, is not to dwell upon his public career, or to follow in detail his great and varied services to the country and to mankind at large, but rather to think of some of his personal qualities as a man. Among these the following may be noted:

(1) There was his wonderful virility, his extraordinary powers of physical endurance, his abounding vitality, his inexhaustible bodily energy. He seemed more like a living dynamo than anything else. His manner of walking, his gestures, his every movement indicated an exuberance of vitality. I have wondered sometimes if he ever knew what it was to be tired, to be worn out; if he really ever felt the need of rest. He always seemed to have on hand a surplus of energy, more vitality than he really needed or could find objects upon which to expend it.

An this is all the more remarkable when we remember, as we are told, that in childhood he was weak, puny; his parents wondered whether they would be able to raise him. It shows what can be done—where there is a will and a steady purpose to overcome the worst handicaps. We may be weak in body, and yet may become strong if we make up our minds, and go at it in the right way. \* \* \*

(2) There was his mental vigor, his extraordinary brain power. The rapidity with which he thought, the many directions in which his thoughts went out, and the high quality of this thinking were very remarkable. Every faculty of his mind was in full play. No one ever caught him napping; he was always on the alert. He saw with wonderful clearness the things that he wanted to say, and always expressed himself with great lucidity, simplicity, and power.

His mental vigor was as pronounced, as conspicuous as was his bodily vigor. As some one has said, his body and mind were well matched. It is wonderful when you think of it, in how many lines of intellectual pursuit he won distinction,—in science, in history, in literature, in exploration.

(3) There was his sterling worth as a man, the purity of his life, the lofty plane upon which he always moved. He not only preached righteousness and purity, but in his personal character and life he always stood for the best things in life; he was never

mixed up with anything of a questionable character. No breath of suspicion ever touched his fair name. In thinking of him, both in his private and public life, I have often been reminded of a poem written by J. G. Holland:

“ God give us men! A time like this demands  
 Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;  
 Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
 Men whom the spoil of office does not buy;  
 Men who possess opinions and a will;  
 Men who have honor, men who will not lie.  
 Men who can stand before a demigogue,  
 And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking!  
 Tall men, sun crowned, who live above the fog  
 In public duty and in private thinking.”

I know of no man anywhere that those words more fittingly describe than ex-President Roosevelt. All the things that are enumerated there were true of him.

(1) The call here is for men, “God give us men!” Where will you find a more manly man than Theodore Roosevelt. He was every inch a man. From the crown of his head to the sole of his feet he was a man. There was nothing weak about him, nothing flimsy, flabby, vascillating; he was no reed shaken by the wind; no spineless individual, but the very personification of manly strength. He never could become a mere tool for anybody, a mere creature moving about at the behest or dictation of others.

(2) The call is for men of strong minds. Surely no man ever had a stronger mind than had Mr. Roosevelt; no man ever used his mind with greater vigor; no man ever grappled more earnestly with the great problems of today than he did; no man ever brought to bear upon these great and pressing problems greater concentration of thought power.

(3) The call is for men of great hearts. In nothing, perhaps, was Mr. Roosevelt more conspicuous than in bigness of heart, in his great sympathetic nature. What a soul the man had! How he seemed to go out and take in everybody; how readily he entered into the feelings of other people. Some men have great intellects, but no heart,—they are mere thinking machines, cold heartless. They go through life and see things,—see distress and sufferings, injustice and oppression, but are unmoved by them. How different was Mr. Roosevelt. He had a great mind always active, always dealing with life’s problems, but at the same time carried about with him a heart that was sympathetically responsive to every need. His famous motto, “All men up, and no man down,” was simply the innate expression of his good will, his desire to see everybody getting ahead. And we know that it wasn’t mere talk with him, a mere empty display of rhetoric, of words expressing a fine idea, but with no answering reality back of them. We know that Mr. Roosevelt meant

every word of it, and the proof of his sincerity is in the life which he has lived. In this connection, I want to quote a passage from my diary written September 28, 1918, in commenting upon Mr. Wilson's speech in New York at the opening of the Fourth Liberty Loan Campaign. This is what I wrote over four months ago, when there was no thought of the death of Mr. Roosevelt :

“What a contrast there is between Woodrow Wilson and a man like Theodore Roosevelt. How different is the impression that the two men make upon you. Mr. Roosevelt impresses you at once, not only with his extraordinary vigor of body and mind, but also with his bigness of soul, with his great-heartedness, with his broad humanitarian principles, with his interest in and desire to give every man, of whatever race or color, an even and equal chance in the race of life. You never find him standing in the way, setting himself in opposition to the progress of any class or race of human beings; you never find him wallowing in the mire of a narrow, degrading, ignoble race prejudice. You find him always reaching out himself for the largest and the best things, and saying to every other man, be he white or black, ‘Come on and do likewise,—make the most of yourself and of your opportunities.’ Theodore Roosevelt possesses not only a virile personality and a big brain, but also a big heart,—a great soul,—a man who has caught the vision of what it is to be a man, animated by the spirit of Jesus Christ, built after his model, and not a mere thinking machine, cold, calculating, heartless.

“The contemptible little business in which Mr. Wilson and his southern friends and admirers are engaged in, of trying to keep the colored people from going forward by endeavoring to block their way, by doing everything they can to impress them with their inferiority, and to beget in them a spirit of contentment in a condition of inferiority, is in marked contrast with the high minded, liberty-loving, justice seeking, kindly, brotherly spirit of Mr. Roosevelt. Humanity is not likely to make very much progress in pushing forward the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, in enthroning in the hearts of men the great ideal of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man; and the practical realization of this great ideal in the every day life of the world, in all the relations existing between man and man, except under such leaders as Theodore Roosevelt. Leaders of the type of Woodrow Wilson will always be a clog on the wheels of progress as humanity moves on towards the goal,—the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

Those are the words that I wrote four months ago, with no idea of ever making them public; and I am quoting them here today because they express the sentiment of my heart, my deliberate judgment in respect to Mr. Roosevelt.

(4) The call is for men of true faith, faith in God, men who have a firm grip upon the Eternal; men who recognize their responsibility to a higher Power than any human power,—men whose



ears are open ever to the voice of God. The Bible tells us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." And the exhortation is, "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." The call here is for God-fearing men,—men who believe in, and who live out the principle, "We must obey God rather than man." Of all of our public men, certainly within my day, I know of none to whom the thought of God occupied a more prominent place in his scheme of life than in that of Mr. Roosevelt. He was in the best sense of the term a religious man,—a man of faith, a man who believed in God. His religion was intensely practical. He lived it, day by day, lived it in his home, in all of his relations and dealings with his fellowmen. God was to him a reality and not a mere figment of the brain, a something to bring out on dress parade occasions, and afterwards forget all about. Every Sabbath he went to the house of God. He showed by his example the value he put upon the public ordinances of worship, and his reverence for the Sabbath.

(5) The call is for men of ready hands,—men willing to lend a hand, to join in with others in working for, in pushing forward worthy causes and objects. No man was ever more willing to lend a hand than Mr. Roosevelt. Wherever there was a need all that was necessary was to bring it to his attention. In many, many ways, and to many, many causes his hand was extended, and extended in no half-hearted way, but willingly, cheerfully. Wherever he could lend a hand he could always be depended upon. He was singularly free from selfishness. He was the very soul of generosity. \* \* \*

(6) The call is for,

"Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
Men whom the spoil of office does not buy."

Was there ever a man in public life who measured up more fully to this demand than did Mr. Roosevelt? In his case, the office always sought the man, and when he came into possession of it he used it always for the public good. Office, merely as an end, or as a means of enhancing his own personal interest, he never thought of. He would have spurned such a thought; would never have stooped to such ignoble ends. Daniel Webster, at the height of his great influence, in order to gratify his ambition for the presidency, sold himself over to the slave power, threw the weight of his great influence in favor of the Fugitive Slave Bill. Such a base surrender of principle, such a selfish prostitution of great powers, is utterly inconceivable in the case of Mr. Roosevelt. No office, however high, nor the spoils of office, however great, would have had the slightest influence in determining the attitude of Theodore Roosevelt on any public measure. In moral force and power he towered immeasurably above Mr. Webster. No office was big enough; no bribe, however large, could have induced him to sully his fair name.

In his private life as well as in his public life, he was utterly incorruptible. He is the type of public men that we need more and more of.

(7) The call is for men "who possess opinions and a will," men who do their own thinking, men who are not mere reflectors of the opinions of others, mere puppets,—men who have reached conclusions of their own after careful thought,—men of convictions, deep-rooted, well-grounded convictions. Surely if there ever was a man who had opinions and a will, who did his own thinking, who was moved by inward convictions, that man was Theodore Roosevelt. He was puppet to no man; he allowed no man to think for him: he did his own thinking, reached his own conclusions: so that he always had a reason, and a reason which satisfied his own intelligence, his own best judgment, for all that he did, or undertook to do. On all the most important problems of the day he had carefully thought, and had reached definite conclusions in regard to them; and in the light of those conclusions he acted. Back of all that he said or did were well-formed opinions, convictions, deep-rooted, well-grounded. And there was also with these convictions and opinions the purpose, the firm, steady purpose or will to realize them, to make them effective in the life about him. He had an indomitable will, a steady, fixed purpose that nothing could shake. He could not be lightly turned aside from any object which he had set before him. He had, in an eminent degree, what Sir Fowler Buxton calls "invincible determination," and what James Russell Lowell calls "the impregnable will." And men of that stamp are the men who move the world,—the men who do things.

(8) The call is for men "who have honor, men who will not lie." We have reached a point now when that word honor no longer seems to stand for very much when it no longer awakens within us the lofty idea of character which it once suggested. Now the word honorable is applied to every Tom, Dick, and Harry. Every member of Congress, or of a State Legislature, or anyone who has been appointed to any position by the President or Governor is an honorable, though he may be anything but honorable in point of character. Men of honor,—men of highest self-respect—men who cannot be induced to do a mean or unworthy thing. "Men who will not lie."

We are living in an age, unfortunately, when the most natural thing seems to be to lie; when society seems to be built on lies. When, everywhere you meet with frauds, with deceptions, with double dealings, with all kinds of devices to deceive, to make things seem to be what they are not, to palm things off for what they are not. Society, government, business, all seem to be made up largely of a tissue of lies. You hardly know who to believe; scarcely anything can be taken at its face value. Undeneath almost everything is the disposition to deceive, to misrepresent. Insincerity, insincerity you meet with everywhere! And it is because things are as they are, because of this appalling condition, that there comes the call here for men who will not lie.

In this degenerate age, in this age of widespread hypocrisy and almost every species of deception rampant, we may congratulate ourselves upon the fact in the person of Theodore Roosevelt we had a man of honor, and a man who would not lie,—a man who was the very soul of honor, and who was in all that he did a man of truth, a man who never sought to deceive, who never knowingly represented as true what he knew to be false; who never made promises without intending honestly to fulfil them. He was a thoroughly sincere man if there ever was one. He said what he meant, and meant what he said. There never was any difficulty in knowing where he stood or what he thought on any matter. His whole nature revolted against lies and deceptions of every kind. There never was a time when there was greater need for men possessing this great quality of sincerity, of integrity of character, of upright and downright truthfulness, than the present. Honor and sincerity seem to be at a sad discount everywhere, in high places as well as low.

(9) The call is for

“Men who can stand before a demagogue,  
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking.”

The demagogue, the political demagogue especially, is the pest of our country and of all countries. We have them here by the thousands. They are everywhere working, and working with but one object in view, to enhance their own personal interest, ready to stoop to anything, and to be used in any way, in order to accomplish their object. They are usually utterly corrupt, mere pliant tools in the hands of their political bosses. To the credit of Mr. Roosevelt, be it said, that such hirelings exerted no influence whatever over him. The high purposes which he had in view were not dependent for their accomplishment upon the aid of such creatures. The men about him understood perfectly what he stood for, and the kind of instruments that he was willing to use. Being himself a man of high character, he naturally repelled the low-down politicians, the mere hangers-on for revenue only. He was always able to see through their treacherous flatteries, and minister to them the kind of treatment which they deserved. Corrupt politics, and the men who believed in it, never had any chance with Mr. Roosevelt, and will never have with any high-minded, honest, straightforward public official. If there ever was a man in the White House who could stand before a demagogue, and damn his treacherous flatteries without winking, it was Theodore Roosevelt.

(10) The call is for,

“Tall men, sun crowned, who live above the fog,  
In public duty and in private thinking.”

And such, certainly, was Theodore Roosevelt. He was tall; he was sun crowned; he lived above the fog, in public duty and in private thinking. His whole life, private as well as public, moved on the highest plane; there was never anything little, mean, groveling about him; his wings were always spread for the heights; his steps were ever tending towards the summit, to borrow the language of Mr. Tennyson, "The summit where God himself is moon and sun." One of the most noticeable things about him was the great stress which he always laid on character. He did not underestimate wealth, and intellectual attainments, but he always was careful to put character far above them all. In his address on "The Duties of Citizens," delivered before the French Academy, he says, "The leaders of thought and action grope their way forward to a new life, realizing, sometimes dimly, sometimes clear-sightedly, that the life of material gain, whether for the nation or an individual, is of value only as a foundation, only as there is added to it the uplift that comes from devotion to lofty ideals."

Again he says, "There is need of a sound body, and even more need of a sound mind. But above mind and above body stands character—the sum of those qualities which we mean when we speak of a man's force and courage, of his good faith and sense of honor. We must ever remember that no keenness and subtleness of intellect, no polish, no cleverness, in any way make up for the lack of the great solid qualities."

Again in his address on "The Uplift of Nations," delivered before the University of Berlin, he says: "It is no impossible dream to build up a civilization in which morality, ethical development and a true feeling of brotherhood shall all alike be divorced from false sentimentality, and from the rancorous and evil passions which, curiously enough, so often accompany professions of sentimental attachment to the rights of man; in which a high material development in the things of the body shall be achieved without subordination of the things of the soul; in which there shall be a genuine desire for peace and justice without loss of those virile qualities without which no love of peace or justice shall avail any race; in which the fullest development of scientific research, the great distinguishing feature of our present civilization, shall yet not imply a belief that intellect can ever take the place of character, for, from the standpoint of the nation as of the individual, it is character that is the one vital possession." Yes, he lived above the fog of base desires, of low ambitions and groveling tendencies. What Sir Gallihad said of himself may well be said of him:

"My strength <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ as the strength of ten,  
Because my heart is pure." \* \* \*

There are many other things that might be said of Mr. Roosevelt, but time will not permit. Of one thing more only I want to speak, and that is as to his attitude towards the colored race in this country. In this respect he was far, very far removed from the great

majority of white men in this country, even from the most of our professed friends among them. It was not because he had any special fondness for the colored people as such. His interest in the colored man was the same as he felt in all men. It was because he was a man that he felt that he ought to be treated just as other men are treated. In his address on "England's Policy in Egypt," delivered at the Guildhall, London, after speaking of his "deep concern in the welfare of mankind and the future of civilization," he said, "Remember, also, that I who address you am not only an American, but also a radical, a real, not a mock democrat, and that what I have to say is spoken chiefly because I am a democrat—a man who feels that his first thought is bound to be for the welfare of the masses of mankind and his first duty to war against violence, injustice, and wrong-doing wherever found." Such being his sentiments, we would naturally expect him to be sound on the so-called Negro question. And he was. The colored man always had a square deal under him. At the Lincoln Monument, Springfield, Ill., June 4, 1903, he said:

"It is a good thing that the guard around the tomb of Lincoln should be composed of colored soldiers. It was my own good fortune at Santiago to serve beside colored troops. A man who is good enough to shed his blood for the country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled to, and less than that no man shall have."

I wish that that sentence could be burnt into the consciousness of Mr. Woodrow Wilson and his southern sympathizers, and all Negro-haters, North as well as South,—**"A MAN THAT IS GOOD ENOUGH TO SHED HIS BLOOD FOR THE COUNTRY IS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE GIVEN A SQUARE DEAL AFTERWARDS."** It is because the colored man is not given a square deal that conditions are as they are in these departments and elsewhere in this country. All the blood shed, all the hardships endured, all the sacrifices made have gone for naught; have had no effect in improving conditions.

Mr. Roosevelt's attitude on the race question was never more clearly shown than in the contest over the appointment of Dr. Crum as Collector of the Port of Charleston. Every possible influence was brought to bear upon him. He was invited to Charleston; the South gave him a good time, fawned upon him, prominent southern politicians visited him, letters were written to him,—all with a view of inducing him not to make the appointment. They had the audacity not only to seek to bend him to their will in this particular case, but tried also to get him committed to the policy that he would appoint no colored men to office in any part of the South. But to no purpose; he was immovable in his purpose to make the appointment, and made it. Nothing shows the character of the man, taken in connection with his action in the matter, than a letter which he wrote in reply to one which he received from a prominent resident

of Charleston. I want to read a part of this letter. We colored men and women should never forget it:

“My Dear Sir:

“I am in receipt of your letter of November 10th and one from Mr. ——— under date November 11th, in reference to the appointment of Dr. Crum as Collector of the Port of Charleston.

“In your letter you make certain specific charges against Dr. Crum, tending to show his unfitness in several respects for the office sought. These charges are entitled to the utmost consideration from me, and I shall go over them carefully before taking any action. After making these charges you add, as a further reason for opposition to him, that he is a colored man, and after reciting the misdeeds that followed carpet bag rule and Negro domination in South Carolina, you say that ‘we have sworn never again to submit to the rule of the African, and an appointment as that of Dr. Crum to any such office forces us to protest unanimously against this insult to the white blood;’ and you add that you understood me to say that I would never force a Negro on such a community as yours. Mr. ——— put the objection of color first, saying, ‘First, he is a colored man, and that of itself ought to bar him from office.’ In view of these last statements, I think I ought to make clear to you why I am concerned and pained by your making them and what my attitude is as regards all such appointments. How anyone could have gained the idea that I said I would not appoint reputable and upright colored men to office, when objection was made to them solely on account of their color, I confess I am wholly unable to understand. At the time of my visit to Charleston last spring I had made, and since that time I have made, a number of such appointments from several states in which there is a considerable colored population. For example, I made one such appointment in Mississippi, and another in Alabama, shortly before my visit to Charleston. I had at that time appointed two colored men as judicial magistrates in the District of Columbia. I have recently announced another such appointment for New Orleans, and have just made one for Pennsylvania. The great majority of my appointments in every state have been of white men. North and South alike it has been my sedulous endeavor to appoint only men of high character and good capacity, whether white or black. But it has been my consistent policy in every state where their number warranted it to recognize colored men of good repute and standing in making appointments to office. These appointments of colored men have in no state made more than a small proportion of the total number of appointments. I am unable to see how I can legitimately be asked to make an exception for South Carolina. In South Carolina, to the four most important positions in the state I have appointed three men and continued in office a fourth, all of them white men—three of them originally gold democrats; two of them, as I am informed, the sons of Confederate soldiers.

“I do not intend to appoint any unfit man to office. So far as I legitimately can I shall always endeavor to pay regard to the wishes

and feelings of the people of each locality; but I cannot consent to take the position that the door of hope—the door of opportunity—is to be shut upon any man, no matter how worthy, purely upon the ground of race or color. Such an attitude would, according to my convictions, be fundamentally wrong. If, as you hold, the great bulk of the colored people are not yet fit in point of character and influence to hold such positions, it seems to me that it is worth while putting a premium upon the effort among them to achieve the character and standing which will fit them.

“The question raised by you and Mr. ——— in the statement to which I refer, is simply whether it is to be declared that under no circumstances shall any man of color, no matter how upright and honest, no matter how good a citizen, no matter how fair in his dealings with his fellows, be permitted to hold any office under our government. I certainly cannot assume such an attitude, and you must permit me to say that in my view it is an attitude no man should assume, whether he looks at it from the standpoint of the true interest of the white men of the South or of the colored men of the South, not to speak of any other section of the Union. It seems to me that it is a good thing from every standpoint to let the colored man know that if he shows in marked degree the qualities of good citizenship—the qualities which in a white man we feel are entitled to reward—then he will not be cut off from all hope of similar reward.”

Nothing can be better than this statement of Mr. Roosevelt's as to our claim as American citizens. And I am glad that his death has given me the opportunity of calling attention to it, not only for our own encouragement, but also as a timely and wholesome lesson for all white Americans to learn. \* \* \*

In what I have been saying about Mr. Roosevelt, I am not claiming that he was perfect, that he was free from faults. None of us are perfect, none of us are free from faults, and he, like the rest of us, had his faults; made mistakes. I think his action on the Brownsville case was a blunder, a sad blunder. But from all that I know of Mr. Roosevelt, I must believe that he felt that he was doing the right thing in ordering the dismissal of those colored soldiers. To believe otherwise would be to ignore his whole past record. I believe he was thoroughly honest, sincere in the course which he took, though I did not agree with him, and do not now.

Let us not, as colored Americans, allow the Brownsville affair, whatever we may think of it, to shut our eyes to his many and great qualities, and to his long, arduous and faithful service in the interest of humanity, in the interest of all races, classes and conditions of men. The great desire of his heart and the whole trend of his life were in the direction of the uplift of all men of whatever race or color. He wanted the best for himself, and he wanted the best for everybody else. All men up and no man down, expresses as fully as anything I know of, the inmost desire of his heart, the deep, abiding and controlling sentiment of his soul. \* \* \*

I cannot close these remarks more fittingly than with the tribute paid him by Mr. Root, in 1904, in an address which he made before the Union League Club of New York:

"Men say he is not safe. He is not safe for men who wish to prosecute selfish schemes for the public's detriment. He is not safe for men who wish the Government conducted with greater reference to campaign contributions than for the public good. He is not safe for the men who wish to drag the President of the United States into a corner and make whispered arrangements which they dare not have known to their constituents.

"But, I say to you, that he has been, these years since President McKinley's death, the greatest conservative force for the protection of property and our institutions in the City of Washington.

"I would rather have my boy"—and this is the point to which I am directing attention particularly—"taught to admire as the finest thing in our life the honesty and frankness, the truth and loyalty, the honor and devotion of Theodore Roosevelt than have all the wealth of this great metropolis.

"The work of President Roosevelt has more weight for good in this land than of any score or of all his detractors put together."

Nothing could give us a better idea of the character of the man, coming as they do from one who knew him so well and intimately, than these words of Mr. Root. Whatever his faults may have been, Theodore Roosevelt was one of the biggest, bravest, broadest, noblest spirits that God ever sent into the world. His place will always be among earth's most choice spirits; and his example will ever remain to spur men on to live the clean, strenuous, unselfish life.

"Let his great example stand  
Colossal, seen of every land,  
And keep the soldier firm, the statesman pure;  
Till in all lands and thro' all human story  
The path of duty be the way to glory."

We can, none of us, of course, be Theodore Roosevelt, combining in us all of his qualities, and in the peculiar manner in which they were blended in him; but we can all be like him in the estimate which he placed upon life, in the lofty purposes which he carried into life, and in his unswerving devotion to high principles and ideal. And such, I trust, is the earnest purpose of us all. We cannot afford, any one of us, to set up any lower standard, to live for any less worthy objects.

#### PRAYER.

Let us pray.

Our Father, we thank Thee for the life and character of this eminent man of whom we have been speaking. We thank Thee for his many and noble qualities of heart and mind. We thank Thee for the splendid record which he has left behind; for the use which he



made of his time, talents, opportunities ; for his broad humanitarian principles, and for his wide and generous sympathies. We pray that his example may long be remembered by us and by succeeding generations, and that the good seed sown by him may continue to bring forth fruit in ever increasing measure, to the glory of Thy great name and the lasting good of humanity. We pray that, though he has gone to his reward, the crop of great and good men among us may never cease ; that each age and generation may be blessed with competent leaders,—with men of ability, of faith, of purity, of sterling worth.

While we mourn the loss of this great and good man, we pledge ourselves to keep ever before us his noble example, and to endeavor so to live that when the time comes for us to go, we too may be missed because we have lived useful and honorable lives. And so, through us, may the world be the better because we have lived in it. All of which we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

