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MEMORIAL DAY.

Tomorrow, May 30, the people of a great nation will observe Decoration Day, in commemoration the graves of loved ones who have passed to the great beyond, and in serious sympathy to the memory of the Union's fallen heroes. As has been suggested by the soldiers' organizations which claim in its observance the preserving veneration of the great army which thirty years ago was mustered out of service, Decoration Day is not the occasion of frivolous enjoyments or of indecorous mirth, but of proceedings causing memories of those who have lived and died, and of the good works by which they benefited their fellowmen. Naturally the solemn certain notes of a solemn character, which do not, however, preclude a feeling of rejoicing that the everlasting security of loved ones who have gone is illustrative of the great truth that though dead they yet live and are real, tangible objects of an affection which has been intensified by their absence.

In the present stage of women's progress is a prominent factor of civilized existence and government, it is not inappropriate to recall that the institution of Decoration Day was due to women's sympathy and inspiration. Some years after the close of the war Mrs. Martha O. Kimball, whose death occurred in Pittsfield, is a little more than a year ago, helped some Southern women decorating the graves of Confederate soldiers, and the inspiration of a national observance of the memorial for the Union dead in the same way flashed through her mind. The unfailing affection of mothers, wives and daughters for the sons, husbands and fathers who had fallen was suggestive as typical of the undying love which a nation should manifest for those whose lives had been sacrificed to its behalf. Mrs. Kimball communicated the idea to General John A. Logan, and through the agency of the gallant soldier Decoration Day was inaugurated, thousands assisting those days which the people delight to observe. The inspiration of the beautiful custom found ready response in the hearts of a patriotic people. The Union dead were near and dear to them as their own children, whom they were not so closely was their memory interwoven with that of the national family that by one impulse the observance of the day for the heroes of the war was united with its observance for all the loved ones lying in the silent cities—the whole being brought within the bond of family affection.

Strongly as the veneration of Memorial Day motive act on the part of the local committees and interest in observance with those to whom the past memoirs in mingling, and of the sorrows and sources of passing, the pleasure which is still more conspicuous of humanity, and in the majority of cases to bring the state that there is a religious character. A sample for the Union soldiers, in spite of the Rebellion, emancipated the Negro, made the Flag of the Union and which no one knows, and in spite of the Union, the Union, the Union,