

jealously. For looking across the ocean to what is happening in the countries of Europe, every American without exception, can experience the same thrill of patriotic enthusiasms, the same deep-seated satisfaction, when he gazes aloft to the Star Spangled Banner that adorns our various public buildings, as did that famous Marylander, Francis Scott Key, when he beheld through the early morning haze the Star Spangled Banner as "it caught the gleam of the morning's first beam" and "in full glory reflected, it shone on the stream."

STAR SPANGLED BANNER DAY

Fort McHenry, September 14, 1939

Baltimore

ENSHRINED in the history and the tradition of our Country, the spot upon which we stand may well be called holy ground. Amidst these surroundings, one hundred and twenty-five years ago, there was given to a then weak, discouraged, embattled and infant people, an Anthem which best expressed its soul and its aspirations—a poetic creation which gave voice to the significance of its Flag.

It is to celebrate the anniversary of that immortal transaction that this occasion has been provided.

While the exact scene of the birth of that Anthem may be in doubt, we do know that at a point upon these waters—easily within vision as we stand—a son of Maryland, Francis Scott Key, was called by destiny to express the hope and dreams of a weak and struggling Nation. Out of the brain of that genius, while thus held prisoner by the enemy of his Country, amidst "the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air," from the very furnace of battle, in this river entrance to the city of Baltimore, the immortal song of our people, the "Star Spangled Banner," was born.

The citizens of Maryland may be permitted, therefore, to take, as they do, an intense and natural pride in the memory of these events, and in the name and fame of that one of her sons, who left all of us a legacy so rich and rare.

It is always stimulating and advantageous that celebrations be had, commemorating the virtues and extolling the accomplishments and ideals of the leaders of our people. Such occasions may well be the nursery of a patriotic future. It is by emphasis, and the retelling of the story of our best and greatest deeds that we are encouraged in the truest sense of our pride, and fortified against diversion and false ideals in the future. Such is especially true in connection with this occasion, and the events it memorializes. Our National Government has taken note of all this in making the provisions it has made to have such eminent representatives, by their presence, give significance to the things here sought to be remembered and applauded. After all, Francis Scott Key and the "Star Spangled Banner" are not the proud possession of Maryland alone—they are the heritage of the entire people of the United States.

It is especially well that a celebration such as this be had at this time, for an additional and significant reason. At this moment the fires of Liberty have either been extinguished or seriously threatened in the major portion of the European world—the land of our forefathers, the source of our culture,