

there are other things to which I must allude. Washington helped to make the Constitution, and handed it down as it is. I am proud, I am gratified, that I have it in my power to-day to stand beneath the roof where that great man spoke the Government into existence and laid down the basis of government. Here, on this consecrated ground, by resigning his commission, he set the great example of love, of freedom and of constitutional government by lifting the crown from his head and laying it at the feet of the people. This is the spot where the great act was performed.

It was here that George Washington tendered his resignation as Commander-in-Chief of the colonies as they then existed, and passed from the soldier to the citizen. He taught an admiring world that to be truly great a man must be truly good. This spot claims that honor. Would to God that we had an example of such wisdom and virtue in modern times. It was left for him to set the example. He performed the act that stands out alone and lifts itself above any other act of any other man who ever lived. Hence I am proud to stand here to-day and refer to subjects so familiar to you all. For the kind, for the sympathetic, and, I think I may add, for the sincere and cordial respect manifested here to-day, you have my thanks, the thanks of a heart which will never cease to be grateful as long as the life current animates it. The remembrance of this kindness will ever be green in my memory. I repeat, I do hope and believe an era of good feeling has commenced. Let us all endeavor to feel better and kinder toward one another. I am satisfied if the North and the South were brought into a closer intimacy there would be a better feeling, for the friction would round the sharp corners and remove the asperity which now exists. Let us try to be one people and go on and fulfil our noble destiny, and I trust through the difficulties which we have just passed, a beneficent Providence will insure for us a more permanent existence. I will not admit that this nation has completed its mission. We are extending our possessions and power, and though some may be opposed to the extension of our jurisdiction, yet, in my honest conviction, the great principle of government, instead of being too weak, as some contend, to cover a greater area, would, if properly carried out, be strong enough to embrace within its sphere and influence the whole civilized world. We have tried too much to make the public mind assume the direction of invention and discovery. We have been making too much law. If we cease to direct and invent the mind to discovery, and ascertain what the law is, conform our action to it, the world, I am sure, would move in more harmonious motion. The North and the South can work in harmony with the Federal Government. The parts are essential to the whole, and the whole is essential to the