

their talent toward making this commemoration the great success that it has been. It would be impossible for me, here at this time, to single out the many individuals who have cooperated in this accomplishment. But to the chairman, the vice-chairmen, the members of the executive committee, the executive secretary, the Commission members, the headquarters staff, the several local and county committees, the various military units, and the others who have participated, let me say that the people of Maryland are your debtors. Congratulations on a job magnificently done.

No episode in the annals of mankind has ever produced more attention and more interest than has this War between the States which formed the United States of America. The libraries of the world are stocked with volume upon volume of histories, biographies, memoirs, treatises and just about every type of work that men write, print and bind to call a book. It was the kind of circumstance in the human struggle that evokes interest. It had both drama and historic significance. It involved the most terrible of all human conflicts—fratricide, the killing of brother by brother. Inevitably such a conflict breeds hatred and bitterness and leaves behind it wounds that are long in healing. Some of the scars are visible even today, after the passage of 100 years. But happily most of the rancor and hostility has vanished and Americans today find themselves living harmoniously, united as never they were before 1861-1865.

The great significance of the Civil War, as I see it, is that it brought into being the vision of Lincoln as expressed on the battlefield of Gettysburg when he dedicated a military cemetery there in November, 1863. It was the vision that this nation, under God, should have a new birth of freedom, and that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The tragedy of fratricide Maryland experienced probably with more intensity than any other part of the nation. In an era of indecision, a large segment of our population favored secession. Our State song, we know, was inspired by a strong pro-southern sentiment, and the "patriotic gore" it speaks of is the blood that was spilled in Baltimore when the citizens of that city attacked a Massachusetts regiment which was on its way to defend our nation's capital.

In the end, as we know, Maryland remained in the Union, but communities, and even families, were sharply divided on the issue. Literally brother fought against brother at Antietam, at Gettysburg and in other battles of that war. But time has erased these hostilities, and the spirit of unity has supplanted any feeling our