

It is well probably that there is something which even now and then intervenes to turn man from his cares and annoyances of every day existence to the contemplation of things which are in themselves great and noble . Such is the occasion to day. For the moment, at least, we are to relegate self to the back ground, and bring to the front the deeds, the valor, and the heroic self sacrifices of those who have long since passed into the great unknown. Idly do the words sometimes fall from our lips- the works of the great and good live after them- but to day we speak them with a peculiar force and reverence. It could scarcely be otherwise in the presence of this earnest crowd, upon homage bent. There is no juster saying than this- the death of man stops not his work, his work has just begun- and in this particular case is it especially true. Hardly had mother earth enfolded in her arms , the forms of our beloved dead, when the story of their lives began its influence upon a generation destined so soon to fill their places. How many a mother took upon her knee and poured into the ears of the little one the story of that great struggle, the trials, the self sacrifices and finally death for principle. Nor were these great lessons wasted. Good seed were sown, and they fell upon good ground. The growing youth had ever before his mind's eye that one thing so essential to the full development of character, an ideal, and such a one as only a mother's love could point. Is there any wonder then that the lessons of the dead should have left their beneficent imprint upon the Southern character of this day? Earnest are our youth and patient, and with a determination so admirable to overcome the almost countless obstacles to their natural advancement as to call forth the plaudits of a whole nation. Patriotic to the core they are counted now as the purest exponents of the truest Americanism. The Confederate Dead then died not in vain, and truly may it be said that their valorous deeds live after them .

# 2.

It gives me pleasure to accept this monument which has been erected by the exertions of the patriotic women of North Carolina to the memory of the heroes of the Confederacy , and I congratulate ~~the~~ State that at last the services of the Confederate Soldier have been recognized, and that the shaft has been erected in commemoration of their heroic deeds through the efforts of the noble women who in war were the dependence of the Southern Soldier, and who for the past thirty years have kept their memories sacred and have taught the present generation of their noble deeds, their bravery and self sacrifices for the honor of their State.

And to you Ladies of the Monumental Association, to you whose self sacrifices and indomitable wills have made this magnificent work possible, I tender on the part of the people of North Carolina their heart felt thanks, their sincerest appreciation.