

[1930?]

*Dr Robt H. Wright Speaker
at Memorial Exercises, Greenville, N. C.*

We are delighted to have you with us as our guests this morning. I realize as you must realize, that the day is hot and people are tired of being talked to (and some folks are getting tired of being talked about.) I am delighted to see you with us this morning, on this beautiful May day, with all that it carries with it, and I am delighted to have you backed up by the finest body of students that you have ever seen or known. I know that you are interested in the youth of today. When one stops to think of what has taken place in our land in the last sixty-five years, when our minds go back to sixty-five years ago (mine hardly can go back so far, but very nearly) and realize the conditions that confronted us in this nation and what was going on at that time and when one grasps the picture of what has been done in that sixty-five years in the good old State of North Carolina and the Southern Confederacy and in every state of the Union one is proud to be a citizen living today and to pause for a little while to pay tribute to those who have brought about these changes. The youth of today is the finest type of youth the nation has ever produced. The youth of today is the product of the generation that preceded that youth. The fathers of the boys and girls today have done a great service, have done a great service to the state, to the nation, and have made the world a much better place for human being to live in.

Civilization has advanced more rapidly during this period of sixty-five years than it ever has advanced before in any two centuries. This was brought about by the courage, valor, determination, and ambition in the spirit of the men and women who made this nation what it is and who were

here in that great conflict that ended sixty-five years ago. This generation has the profoundest respect and regard, yea, the keenest kind of love for those people who have done this wonderful work; and when ^{people} say to you that youth does not respect age they are just telling the old, old story that has been told generation after generation, that in all likelihood has always been told -- at least it has been found on ^a tablets inscribed five thousand years ago. Always people have been saying that about the boys and girls, but it is these boys and girls who will soon carry on what we have begun. You and I bring civilization up to a certain stage and youth must pick it up and carry it on--and they will. I know you people who are guests today are ^{proud} to see what the youth is doing, to see with what enthusiasm and earnestness they are going about their work.

We people of North Carolina have increased in wealth more than five hundred per cent. North Carolina has grown and developed until today we have more boys and girls graduating ^{from the U.S.} than the total number enrolled thirty years ago. Colleges have multiplied and grown and the youth of today are working to attain that kind of education that will enable them to take up the burden you and I will soon lay down and leave to them; that of making this ^{all} ~~whole~~ world a better place for human beings to live.

The whole world appreciates the spirit of those folks who ~~have~~ ~~who have~~ made so great a sacrifice for their country and when our boys went across the sea three thousand miles from home to make this world a safe place for democracy and a better place to live they demonstrated to the world that they still have the spirit you gave to them. We are proud to look over the world and see a number of things that have come to pass and stop and pay respect to those who have made it possible.

When I was a boy it was hard to make a living. Times were hard

year after year. But we are accomplishing more now. We have better educational facilities ~~and I believe~~ and I believe the level is going to be raised and this old world passed on as a more glorious world because we believe in the great Teacher, ^{who} that came and showed people how to live; because we believe ~~that~~ the great Teacher who came to us and revealed to us that it is TRUTH that makes man free; because we realize that whatever ^{is} worthwhile comes to us ~~comes~~ through sacrifice. Men and women must be willing to offer up even life if need ~~be~~ that this world ^{may} be made better. Many sacrifices have been ~~made~~ and are being made far from the battlefield-- in the home by the women, ^{but} in the field of business. Only a few days ago the newspapers reported the case of a Doctor in the health department of the Federal Government who has offered himself as a test for this new sickness commonly known as parrott fever. It is true that sacrifice brings something worthwhile to the world; that great spirit that is willing to make the sacrifice when the band is not playing, when there is not excitement and no cheering, The spirit that makes one willing to lay down his life if need be to protect his fellow man and make the world better for him is a wonderful spirit and we thank God for the people who have given that inheritance to this generation--and we got it from you. "Greater love hat ^hno man---" This is our inheritance and we realize that it is rich, exceedingly rich because of those who have gone before. It is a joy and happiness to us to let you know that we feel this way.

~~We want you to come every year. Don't forget to come back and take dinner with us. We are hoping we will have something you will enjoy.~~

We are delighted to have you here.