

With all this, the *spirit* of the American people has been likewise transformed. The age has become commercial; speculative; active in the manipulation of values, and slow in their production; eager to get without sowing; ready to have without equivalents; substituting the excitements of the newspaper for the healthier life of the book. And to all these tendencies must still be added the influx of millions of people from foreign lands, pressed out by the hard conditions of the Old World, under the hope, ill-founded, of finding in the New World those highly favoring conditions which existed at the middle of our century, but exist no longer at its close.

More than all other facts and institutions was the American citizen himself transformed by the Civil War. After the conflict he was another man. The inner life and the outer activity were changed in both mood and character. The men of America became soldiers with all their old local prejudices on them. They issued from the conflict with vastly less of prejudice and vastly more of patriotism. The war made the people large and heroic. They became acquainted. That was the great primary effect of the ordeal. The hundreds of thousands of soldiers who met on battlefields came to know who Americans are and what their spirit is. In such an ordeal, small-mindedness must perish and great-mindedness survive.

The horizon of all men was then widened. While State boundaries were not destroyed, the vision reached across them. After Appomattox, the American citizen could see from New York to Texas, and could appreciate the character and hopes of his fellow man, whether he lived in Georgia or Minnesota. All men and institutions were lifted up into a higher and a nobler life. Heroism had been displayed on a large scale, and the effect of it on American life was great and salutary. Every cemetery got its contribution of patriotic dead. Every home had its vacant chair, where the pride and hope of the family had sat before the shot on Sumter. All mothers' hearts were riven, and all fathers' lives were scarred. The landscape was torn here and there with the bolts and blasts of battle. The relics of heroic conflicts were gathered up and deposited in museums.

The American citizen after the war walked forth and inhaled a new atmosphere. He saw a new scene around him, in which the activities of men, energized by the excitements and strengthened by the battles of a four-years' conflict, displayed themselves as never before. New anniversaries were established, and new orations spoken. New poems were written. A new art struggled to express itself in the midst of new schools. New humanities were evolved; homes and asylums were founded; charities were organized, and human life was adorned with a nimbus that shone over the honored heads of warriors and statesmen.

This work is a volume of the Civil War displayed. The history of the great conflict has been done into nearly all forms of literature and art. The record exists in every kind of material, from the local newspaper of the epoch to the marble monuments and bronze tablets of famous battlefields. Popular histories of the war for the Union have been multiplied, and of philosophical histories there exist not a few. The great leaders on both sides have left their memoirs for the instruction and entertainment of their descendants.

During the progress of the war several illustrated journals carried, week by week and day by day, to the American people the written and pictorial account of the things done in the field and camp. Among such, Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper* gained and held a pre-eminent rank. The artists of that journal followed in the wake of the army and pictured all of its leading events. After making due allowance for the error of the day, for the mistakes of correspondents, for the imagination of artists looking with excited eyes through the smoke of battlefields, we must, even after the lapse of thirty years, still recognize the permanent value of what Frank Leslie gathered and reproduced while the conflict was on.

The publishers of the present work have procured the originals of the vast illustrative records in the *Illustrated Newspaper*, and have in this volume added to and supported the pictorial account with a written narrative in strict relation therewith, so arranged, condensed and juxtaposed that in every particular the illustration is fitted to the text and the text to the illustration. Indeed, the two are one, in this work; the pictorial story and the written story live in one body in these pages, and may well convey to the reader the most vivid impression of the scenes of that great civil conflict which is already dim in the retrospect of memory, or was perhaps wholly completed before the reader was born.

It is the belief of the publishers that the present work, better than any of the many competing volumes, will revive, as if in panoramic expression, the most vital and dramatic parts of the most important war in which our country has ever been engaged—a war in which the old loose Union of American States was swallowed up, and out of which the vast consolidated Union of the present has arisen, majestic and tall, visible to all the races and kindreds of mankind.

THE PUBLISHERS.