

Flynn  
Fellow Countrymen.

At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention, and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it— all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in

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the city seeking to destroy it without war seeking to dissolve the Union, and divide effects, by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish. And the war came.

One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern <sup>part</sup> ~~half~~ of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that

the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those

by whom the offence came, shall we discern there-  
in any departure from those divine attributes  
which the believers in a living God always  
ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope— fervent-  
ly do we pray— that this mighty scourge of  
war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God  
wills that it continue, until all the wealth  
piled by the bond-man's two hundred and  
fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk,  
and until every drop <sup>of</sup> blood drawn with the  
lash, shall be paid by another drawn with  
the sword, as was said ~~three~~ thousand years  
ago, so still it must be said "the judgments  
of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether"

With malice toward none;  
with charity for all; with firmness in the  
right, as God gives us to see the right,  
let us strive on to finish the work we  
are in; to bind up the nation's wounds;  
to care for him who shall <sup>have</sup> borne the bat-  
tle, and for his widow, and his orphan—  
to do all which may achieve and cherish a just  
and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with <sup>all nations,</sup> ~~the world.~~

Original Manuscript of  
second Inaugural presen-  
tation to Major John W. Bay.

Admiral

April 10, 1865