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Patriotic Addresses:

ON SLAVERY, THE CIVIL WAR (INCLUDING THE SPEECHES
IN ENGLAND, 1863), AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
CIVIL LIBERTY IN THE UNITED STATES.

By HENRY WARD BEECHER.

EDITED, WITH A REVIEW OF MR. BEECHER'S PERSONALITY AND IN-
FLUENCE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SHOWING

THE MAN AND THE ORATOR,

By JOHN R. HOWARD.

A glance at the Table of Contents of this volume, presented on another page, will show the extent of time and the course of history covered by HENRY WARD BEECHER'S career as a **National Force**. It begins with his bold article on the Missouri Compromise and the Fugitive Slave Bill, in 1850—an article that struck the key-note towards which events toned up the North until Fort Sumter brought the great outburst, and it fitly closes with his eulogy on GRANT in 1885. Not that Beecher's national reputation or influence closed with that speech; they endured as long as his great brain and manly heart pulsated with life; indeed, they will last far beyond his generation.

This volume gives **the heart of Beecher's life**.

"You don't mean that he was more essentially a political speaker than a religious teacher,—a minister of the gospel,—do you?"

No: but that, in all his treatment of public questions he was never doing anything *but* administering the principles of the gospel. He was always and everywhere a **preacher of righteousness, a proclaimer of God's fatherhood and man's brotherhood.**

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That was "the heart of his life." Yet it did not exclude, but rather gave free play to all the wonderful knowledge of nature, of man, of history, of constitutional law, of art, of science, of theology, of Bible lore, and of so many departments of life, which furnished his arguments and illustrations; it left him scope for all his patriotism, his genial humor, his broad good sense, his flashing wit, his scorn of meanness, his generous appreciation of what is noble; it was the inspiration of his luxuriant mind and splendid eloquence, the secret of his ever growing influence.

The "Review of his Personality," written by one who, as boy and man, knew him intimately for forty years, and who for twenty years was closely connected with him in literary work and business association, traces out the way in which his birth and breeding, education and professional training, prepared him for his career; and how, during it all, his **love for truth and personal devotion to God and man** enabled him to hold a sturdy loyalty to principle amid all the surrounding passions and policies; this, all enforced by statements, letters, sayings of MR. BEECHER himself, and by many personal incidents.

Of the chief contents of the volume—the PATRIOTIC ADDRESSES—it is not too much to say that they constitute a glowing **Picture of the Times**: their facts, often violently disputed when first set forth, have now hardened into accepted truth; and their matter and style,—for terseness, closeness of logic, aptitude of illustration, keenness of wit, power of appeal, and all the elements of effective eloquence,—will stand among the most enduring monuments of his genius.

This volume gives what few would expect in the addresses of a popular reformer,—the **Constitutional History of the United States** in all that important line of discussion and change affected by the institution of slavery, as outlined by the hand of a master.

It gives a complete view of his magnificent **triumph in England**.

In 1863, France and England both stood waiting, an alliance with the South being openly advocated. This was the real crisis of the war, for England's intervention meant Federal defeat. The fate of the Union hung in the balance when Beecher appealed to liberty-loving Englishmen; he touched the hearts of the masses whose response was heeded by their rulers. With his single voice, he stayed a great nation.

This heroic achievement **made Union victory possible**. Can the American people ever fully appreciate that service or repay it?

One of the most graphic descriptions of that English episode ever written, was the article by OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, called "The Minister Plenipotentiary,"—a joke with a vast deal of truth in it. That is here reproduced.

It is worth noting in all these speeches, that amid the heated discus-

sions of those days, MR. BEECHER uttered not a word that should to-day wound the feelings of the most ardent Southerners. While he hated slavery with a flaming indignation, his love and magnanimity went out toward the master as well as the slave. He wanted to emancipate both.

Moreover, what will strike most men with surprise will be to see the **genuine conservatism** of this red-hot, "agitator;" his arguments are based on the law and constitution of the land as well as those of human nature. He was not hot-headed, but wise and strong.

His words now read like prophecy.

LINCOLN, GRANT and BEECHER are generally acknowledged to have been the three greatest men developed by the colossal contests of that great era. That is undoubtedly the fact; yet it is worthy of note, that both the Civil Hero and the Military Hero of the War owed their high eminence largely to the vast power of a Nation, entrusted to their able hands in official responsibility, while the power exerted by HENRY WARD BEECHER was simply and solely that of *his own individuality*. His great church, his wide journalistic influence, his popularity as a lecturer, his wide acceptability as *the* man to voice the public feeling on all sorts of occasions, his political influence at home, his triumphant changing of the course of a stubborn nation abroad, his eminence in so many spheres of activity during so long a life,—these were all the outgrowth of the magnificent forces of the **man himself**.

And the man himself is what the present volume attempts to show. Descriptions and Biographies of this many-sided man are but partial side-lights. Real knowledge of him can be had only from **his own utterances**, where the living flame of his genius burns imperishably. He held no office: he bore no professional label; he wore no sectarian badge or party collar; he was neither President, nor General, nor Doctor of Divinity; but above all rank, beyond all title, stands and will stand, the unadorned, yet unforgettable name of HENRY WARD BEECHER.

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