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Civil War Resources

Title: "A Soldier's View of Their Dedication," by John Hays II

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¹² Pennsylvania ⁹ Monuments ² at ¹⁰ Annetam
⁴ 1862 ⁴ September ¹ 17 ⁴ 1904
⁹ A Soldier's ² View ¹ of ¹⁰ Their ¹ Dedication

~~MONUMENT at ANNETAM~~
 By John Hall
~~TO the 130 REGIMENT PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.~~

Reverently bow the head! We stand upon a sacred field
 Where once our comrades fought and died in freedom's cause. Therefore
 yield
 Homage due to them from us. The ground their blood so sanctified
 Ranks high in famous fields that warring hosts have glorified.
 Here they bravely gave their all of life to win, in deadly fight,
 Right for us and those to come to safely live in God's free light.

 Count the honor great, untarnished pass it down that sons unborn
 May bless us all, for with the dead we too were in the battle torn.
 Proud Heritage, theirs and ours! that here as heroes stand we stood
 Resisting foes who strove amain to wrest from us the good
 Our Fathers gained in olden days, and then, in ghastly wind-rows,
 Laid low their shattered, writhing forms in death's relentless throes.

 Hard fought we here and great the loss, yet many another fight
 On distant fields was needed ere fraternal foes were put to flight,
 And peace at awful cost was ours. Then, as Spring, with balmy air,
 Revives each plant and tree from chill of winter's icy air
 Till summer's heat assurance gives of luscious fruit from nature's
 life,
 So Peace, the wearied soldiers, who learned their force from battle
 strife,
 Gently turned into the lines of ^{work} ~~trade~~ that make a nation great,
 Urged them on to gain, by work of brain and brawn, a greater state
 Than the Fathers ever saw, in brightest dreams, at country's birth,
 Till now this land of Liberty, of all the world, is first in worth.

The Fathers sure foundation laid; sons a superstructure raised
For all ages, by children yet to come, worthy to be praised.
Greatest monument of all is it to us who battled here;
Greatest, for History writes it is of Nations ^{matchless} peerless peer.

Polished Granite, graceful gift of grateful state is here unveiled
To tell the story of when in battle's heat this height we scaled;
That the people might forever treasure name of "Bloody Lane",
And Pilgrims hither turn their steps as to some sacred fane;
That the generations passing down the ages here may gain
Larger love of country as they learn the reason for this stone.

It marks the spot where heroes stood and fought. Not for that alone
Stands here its classic form with point directed to the sky.
Two-fold its purpose. Base upon the earth, head uplifted high,
It speaks of deathless deeds done here, and then it points to higher
way.

Those deathless deeds of ours helped the Nation on its higher way.
Where are we? At base or risen like the nation? Who can say?

Many years between the then and now! Strong men were those who
fought.

Bent and trembling frames survive to few who once with comrades
sought

Glory on this sacred field. For these the coming grave is close at
hand.

So, before we part, in names of those who died for dearest land
Of ours, in names of those who since have died and those to go,
We take this granite shaft, and in the shining after glow,
When the night of death is near, within each breast the feeble heart
Will swell with pride at thought of honor given the little part
We took so long ago, and then from weak'ning life depart.

Once again, tho' never more for some, bow down the reverent head
In honor of our comrades, here, so nobly, numbered with the dead.

Pennington's New
Woods of America

Pennington's New
Woods of America
130 East River Street
17 Sept 1904