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South High June 11, 1964

A DAY IN JUNE

To the class of 1964 I express my congratulations and best wishes. Your kindness in inviting me to be with you today is deeply appreciated. As a graduate of South High in the Class of 1931 it is always a pleasure to return on the significant day in June known as "Commencement" or "Graduation."

Graduation from high school is a landmark in any person's life. It is the day signifying accomplishment and a day signifying a new beginning. It's, therefore, a joyous and a meaningful day. It is a day in June when "if ever there come perfect days; then heaven tries earth if it be in tune, and over it softly her warm ear lays."

I trust that on this day these words from James Russell Lowell are loved by all of you. I trust that in the past three or four years you have developed that appreciation of poetry and that respect for literary excellence which



so enriches the lives of all of us. It doesn't have to be Lowell; it can be Milton with that wonderful line, "They also serve who only stand and wait." Then you may enjoy such a simple ditty as,

I never saw a Purple Cow;
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But I can tell you, Anyhow,
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But with this knowledge of the poets and other literary giants we trust that you have learned how to write clearly a simple letter and that in addition you will not forget to put your return address someplace on the paper. Too many letters come to my office and I'm sure to others with the writer's address only on the envelope.

As we contemplate the past on this day in June we can count among our blessings the life and work of a William Brewster or a Father Marquette. We remember Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and Pearl Harbor. I trust that there is in the heart and mind of each of you a sincerity which can appreciate the devotion of a Nathan Hale who regretted that he had only one life to give for his country. May we also remember young Sam Davis who could have lived but sealed his doom when he said, "I would rather die a thousand deaths than once betray a friend."

Today I hope that you can clearly recall John Hancock's leadership in 1776 and James Madison's momentous work in 1787. Then there was Thomas Jefferson and "we hold these truths," and Abraham Lincoln "with malice toward none." There is the Muse-Argonne in World War I and Mount Suribachi in the last World War. There is Thomas Edison and George Washington Carver. As we look ahead today we trust that these names, places, and events,

stirring as they are, have been used to build within each of you a love for that common heritage which we all possess and which draws all of us together into one strong and good family of Americans.

You've become familiar with Archimedes' principle and Boyles' law and the theory of relativity. This is all so good and necessary but we hope that the young men can also repair a leaky faucet and change a tire and the young ladies can darn a sock and cook a bit.

Many of you have done your geometry well, have mastered trigonometry and differential equations - and nothing can be more important in this scientific age as our nation zooms upward in the age of space and beyond. But I hope that by this day in June you have also acquired some knowledge on how many feet it takes to stop a heavy car going 50 miles an hour, and have learned the undeniable fact that two automobiles can't occupy the same space

at the same time.

As a Member of Congress you would expect me to emphasize an interest in government and politics. I do hope that you understand the three branches of our government, that you can name important officials, and that you know how our system of checks and balances works under our federal constitution. I hope that you know and are ready and eager to practice all the qualities of good citizenship. I trust, that you are thoroughly familiar with the Bill of Rights and are staunch in your defense of them. But, my friends, I hope, too, that you are just as familiar with the Ten Commandments and more importantly use them in your heart and mind as guidelines in your daily life.

Some years ago high school students throughout the country were asked without prior warning to write a paragraph on the topic "What Democracy Means to Me." Over 70 percent mentioned all the rights and privileges of which we are justly proud. Regrettably, however, only a few



said anything about the obligations and duties of a citizen. Yet we know that every right, every privilege is accompanied with corresponding duties and responsibilities.

Some of you have learned to conjugate verbs in a foreign tongue and know the habits and customs of people all around the globe. This, too, is good and desirable provided of course we have also learned to say "please" and "thank you" in our own language and to show a sincere respect for our parents, our elders, our classmates. That is one of the distinguishing marks of truly sensitive and educated citizens.

On this day in June we glance backward only briefly for the past is gone and can only be recalled in memory. Today we cherish that past, we learn from that past, but now we must take the forward look. What now? What can we glean from the wisdom of the ages that is worth mentioning on this day in June so significant in the lives of each

of us. Without attempting to summarize all wisdom nor to touch on every basic principle of life, I would like to share five thoughts with the members of the 1964 graduating class.

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So often it is the little things, the words spoken or not spoken, the simple act done or not done, which make the big difference: how we talk to our parents; how we react to the orders of the boss; how we treat the next door neighbor. Not too many of us will have an opportunity to make the great decisions involving the welfare of thousands or millions of people. Only a few thousand out of 200 million Americans will do the great deeds of the next few decades. But all of us will be doing little things -- little things every day -- which help or hinder other people, little things which give us a finer community or a sadder place in which to live. It is the little things that really count. I suggest that we give attention to them - now and in the future.

It is the little things of life that add up to the whole. And I presume that one thing which all of us seek

can be summarized in the word "happiness." The libraries and the book shelves are filled with books on how to obtain peace of mind, or peace of soul, how to stop worrying and start living; in other words, how to achieve happiness. Let us think together for a moment on the personal quest for happiness.

Dr. Elton Trueblood, Professor of Philosophy at Earlham College who served as an advisor to President Eisenhower, has written extensively on this important subject. Dr. Trueblood points out that: "Blasphemous as it may sound to our generation, peace of mind is not the ultimate ideal in the life of the individual." Peace of mind may exist on many levels. For instance, the self-righteous man who is sure of his virtues may have peace of mind. Another may find peace of mind after he has had a sumptuous dinner and has sat down with his pipe. "But," says Dr. Trueblood, "There are many conditions under which men ought not to have peace of mind and under which a good man will not have it."



He goes so far as to charge that "our very concern for personal happiness is really one of the chief symptoms of our moral disease" and then points out that "our heroes are men and women who have cared about justice or truth and have not even raised the happiness question at all."

But Dr. Trueblood contends that the proper type of happiness is a desirable goal, and outlines a means of achieving that goal. He points out that "to obtain happiness one must forget about it." Happiness is not attained by enjoying the good meal and a pipe, nor is it obtained by a wild quest of pleasure of one type or another, nor does it come from an accumulation of things. Happiness is a by-product of full and active participation in a cause greater than ourselves. "Few joys," says Dr. Trueblood, "are greater than the job of participation in a dedicated group, and this is the boon which we ought to covet for all men and women." This by-product, happiness, is something which we probably see only in retrospect as we look back

upon a life or period of life in which we were actively engaged in a good cause and can say "then I was happy." Dr. Trueblood goes on to make the point that the "best cause is that cause which harms no other person and which is big enough to require and consequently unite all of our powers."

On the negative side I think Dr. Trueblood also makes a contribution to thought in this area. He agrees that there are many causes for unhappiness. Among these can be listed poor health, misfortune, or the lack of money and material necessities. But then he makes this striking statement: "Man can bear great physical and spiritual hardship but what he cannot bear is the sense of meaninglessness....The ultimate enemy is not pain or disease or physical hardship, evil as these may be, but triviality." So much unhappiness comes because we do not feel that the work we are in, or the efforts we are putting forth, are truly meaningful and significant.



If this is true, and I believe it is, those who are graduating here today have the task of so directing their lives that they find for themselves useful and meaningful activity, that they obtain satisfying work. As Dr. Trueblood summarizes it: "There are many unhappy and frustrated people in the world but not many of them are persons who have found ways of productive work." Happiness cannot be bought but it comes freely to those who discover for themselves meaningful work and useful service.

This leads me to my fourth thought - "The Greater Vision." There must be a greater vision; the moving finger writes, little things count, personal happiness can be achieved, but there must remain the greater vision. Just as this world grew and developed enormously before any of us arrived, so is there in it today a vast area and a throng of people of many races, creeds, and nations far beyond the reaches of our home, our community, our state, our country. We live in this world and we must see it for what it is.



We see the major conflict, the great struggle, on the international scene between the forces of communism and the forces of freedom. This is a conflict which may or may not be resolved in our lifetime. But it is one which challenges us and challenges our way of life. Do we have something worth preserving, worth fighting for, or is our possession so transient, of such little value that it can be diluted and destroyed with impunity? Do we have here in our country and in the free world, social and political institutions which permit the best in man to develop, and grants to all, or to nearly all, the finest opportunities that any human has ever enjoyed. I am convinced we do have something worth preserving, worth working for and worth fighting for. Our way of life has meant wonderful opportunities for the mental, spiritual, and emotional development of man and has given to men the highest standards of living the world has ever known. I trust that in our better moments we can see the greater vision and be grateful that we are



living in times such as these which do provide a challenge but also assure to each of us the best that has ever been known to man.

Because of this greater vision Americans today are fighting, unselfishly and manfully, in distant lands to help a far-away people preserve their freedom, and to help a free world remain free.

Because of this greater vision there is being debated in the United States Senate this month legislation which aims to assure to all American citizens the rights and privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship. This is no easy task, there are no easy answers; but in our better moments when we are most honest with ourselves, we can all agree that all responsible American citizens should enjoy all the rights of responsible American citizenship. The greater vision calls for us to look beyond ourselves, beyond our family, our community, our state, even beyond our nation to see what we can do to build a better world for



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So my young friends the future is as you will, as you and all those like you choose to make it.

"Not gold, but only men, can make

A nation great and strong;

Men who, for truth and honor's sake

Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men, who work while others sleep,

Who dare, while others fly,

They build a nation's pillars deep

And lift them to the sky!"

-Emerson



I come now to my parting thought. As we receive our diplomas and leave high school days behind, let us turn our hearts and minds toward "whatsoever things are true." With Paul of Tarsus let us take the grand look and construct the grand design. I leave you with his noble admonition:

"Whatsoever things are true,

Whatsoever things are honorable,

Whatsoever things are just,

Whatsoever things are lovely,

Whatsoever things are of good report;

If there be any virtue, if there be any praise:

Think on these things."

As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. Let us fill our hearts and our minds with the true, the honorable, the just, the pure and the lovely that we may live on the nobler plain to serve ourselves, our God, and our fellowmen. Yours



is the accomplishment, yours is the reward, yours is the
challenge, yours is the future. With God's help, "It
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They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky!" - Emerson

I came now to my parting thought. As we receive our diplomas and leave high school days behind, let us turn our hearts and minds toward "whatever things are true." With Paul of Tarsus let us take the grand look and construct the grand design. I leave you with his noble admonition:



“Whatever things are true,
Whatever things are honorable,
Whatever things are just,
Whatever things are lovely,
Whatever things are of good report;
If there be any virtue, if there be any praise:
Think on these things.”

As a man thinketh in this heart so is he. Let us fill our hearts and our minds with the true, the honorable, the just, the pure and the lovely that we may live on the nobler plain to serve ourselves, our God, and our fellowmen. Yours is the accomplishment, yours is the reward, yours is the challenge, yours is the future. With God's help, “It is as you will.”



A DAY IN JUNE

To the Class of 1964 I express my congratulations and best wishes.

Your kindness in inviting me to be with you today is deeply appreciated. As a graduate of South High in the Class of 1931 it is always a pleasure to return on the significant day in June known as "Commencement" or "Graduation."

Graduation from high school is a land mark in any person's life. It is the day signifying accomplishment and a day signifying a new beginning. It's, therefore, a joyous and a meaningful day. It is a day in June when "if ever there come perfect days; then heaven tries earth if it be in tune, and over it softly her warm ear lays."

I trust that on this day these words from James Russell Lowell are loved by all of you. I trust that in the past three or four years you have developed that appreciation of poetry and that respect for literary excellence which so enriches the lives of all of us. It doesn't have to be Lowell; it can be Milton with that wonderful line, "They also serve who only stand and wait." Then you may enjoy such a simple ditty as ,

I never saw a Purple Cow;
I never Hope to See One;
But I can tell you, Anyhow,
I'd rather See than Be one.

In the school days now concluded we hope that you have found that, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever," and that these literary bits could be recalled from time to time to add pleasure to our everyday existence.

But with this knowledge of the poets and other literary giants we trust that you have learned how to write clearly a simple letter and ^{in addition} that you will not forget to put your return address someplace on the paper. ^{Too} So many letters come to my office with the writer's address only on the envelop.
+ I'm sure to there



As we contemplate the past on this day in June we can count among our blessings the life and work of a William Brewster or a Father Marquette. We remember Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and Pearl Harbor. I trust that there is in the heart and mind of each of you a sincerity which can appreciate the devotion of a Nathan Hale who regretted that he only had one life to give for his country. May we also remember young Sam Davis who could have lived but sealed his doom when he said, "I would rather die a thousand deaths than once betray a friend."

Today I hope that you can clearly recall John Hancock's leadership in 1776 and James Madison's momentous work in 1787. Then there was Thomas Jefferson and "we hold these truths" and Abraham Lincoln "with malice toward none." There is the Mise-Argonne in World War I and Mount Suribachi in the last World War. There is Thomas Edison and George Washington Carver. As we look ahead today we trust that these names, places, and events, stirring as they are, have been used to build within each of you a love for that common heritage which we all possess and which draws all of us together into one ^{strong + good} family of Americans.

You've become familiar with Archimedes' principle and Boyles' law and the theory of relativity. This is ^{all so + necessary} good but we hope that you can also repair a leaky faucet and change a tire. ^{The young ladies damn a rock + cook a bit.}

Many of you have done your geometry well, have mastered trigonometry and differential equations - and nothing can be more important in this ^{as our nation zooms upward in the age of space + beyond} scientific age. But I hope that by this day in June you have also ^{acquired some knowledge on} learned how

^{understandable} many feet it takes to stop a heavy car going 50 miles an hour, and have learned the fact that two automobiles can't occupy the same space at the same intersection at the same time.

As a member of Congress you would expect me to emphasize an interest in government and politics. I do hope that you understand the three branches of our



government, that you ^{can}/name important officials, and that you know how our system
of checks and balances ^{WORKS} under our federal constitution, ~~works~~. I hope that you

know and are ready ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{of lawyer} practice all the qualities of good citizenship. I trust,
that you are thoroughly familiar with the Bill of Rights. ^{and are staunch in your defense of them} But, my friends,

I hope, too, that you are just as familiar with the Ten Commandments ^{and more importantly}
^{use them in your heart + mind as guidelines in your daily life.}

Some years ago high school students throughout the country were asked
without prior warning to write a paragraph on the topic "What Democracy Means
to Me." Over 70 percent mentioned all the rights and privileges of which we are
justly proud.// Regrettably, however, only a few said anything about the obligations
and duties of a citizen. ^{yet we know that} Every right, every privilege is accompanied with
corresponding duties and responsibilities.

Some of you have learned to conjugate verbs in a foreign tongue and
know the habits and customs of people all around the globe. This, too, is
good and desirable ^{provided} we have also learned to say "please" and "thank you"
in our own language and to show a sincere respect for our parents, our elders, our
classmates. That is one of the ^{distinguishing} marks of truly sensitive and educated citizens,

On this day in June we glance backward only briefly for the past is
gone and can only be recalled in memory. Today we cherish that past, we learn
from that past, but now we must take the forward look. What now? What can we
glean from the wisdom of the ages that is worth mentioning on this day in June
so significant in the lives of each of us. Without attempting to summarize all
wisdom nor to touch on every basic principle of life, I would like to share five
thoughts with the members of the 1964 graduating class.



Final: "The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
 Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
 Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
 Nor all your Tears wash out a Work of it." (Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam)

Given to us over 1000 years ago by a Persian poet who represented a philosophy of fatalism which we do not accept, the wisdom of his statement is proved over and over again.

Just recently there was in my office a young man with his wife and ^{infant} son. The young man was in desperate need of employment, ^{so that he could continue his college education & support his family}. He had tried private industry and the federal government but was passed over again and again. ^{Federal} The Civil Service Commission requires the prospective employee to fill out ~~the~~ Standard Form 57. On this form the applicant is asked to list any arrest other than ~~for~~ parking violations. This young man had been arrested on two different occasions while serving in the Armed Forces. These convictions were not too serious, but sufficiently significant to have him ^{by the employment officials} passed over, and others taken when there was a job opportunity. "The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, Moves on..." This man was now deeply repentant, disturbed, but he could not change the record. The personnel officers to whom he applied always pointed out that his behavior pattern made his employment to ~~be~~ great a risk for them, especially when there were others available who have no such pattern of ^{misadventures} ~~misbehavior~~.

Let me give you one ^{more} ~~other~~ illustration. During my years in Congress many men who served during World War II have come to our office literally begging that something be done to change the ~~the~~ ^{they} discharge received from the armed services. Here is a father of four fine children, some of them in high school. He is employed in a responsible position by his company. He may have an opportunity for advancement, but he lives in constant fear that his children and his



employer will learn about this dishonorable discharge from the Army. Now the Army does make provision for altering discharges when it can be proved that an error was made. But in this case and in most cases there was no error; the man deserved the type of discharge he received because of his record in the Army. It cannot be changed. "The Moving Finger writes, and, having writ, Moves on..."

On this day in June we can do nothing to change our past record, but we can do everything to insure that our record from now on will be one which will never embarrass us or our loved ones and never cause us any difficulty. In the future we can guide the "Moving Finger" so that it writes a record of accomplishment of which each of us can be proud.

Secondly I would like to stress the fact that "It is the little things that count." The story has been told of a man who some years ago walked across ~~the~~ America from California to New York. When he had completed the journey a *newspaper* reporter asked him, "What was your greatest difficulty? Was it the mountains, the plains, the rivers -- what was your greatest difficulty?" To which the man replied: "It was neither the mountains, nor the plains, nor the rivers; my greatest difficulty was with the sand in my shoes." Yes, it is the little things that count.

Some time ago
 Following the death of Speaker Sam Rayburn the House of Representatives had to elect a new Speaker. There were a number of candidates, among them a very competent gentleman who was not elected. One of his colleagues remarked: "I have served with him in the House of Representatives for seven years and he never spoke to me. I am not voting for him now for this high office."

So often it is the little things, the words spoken or not spoken, the simple act done or not done, which makes the big differences: how we talk



to our parents; how we react to the orders of the boss; how we treat the next door neighbor. Not too many of us will have an opportunity to make the great decisions involving the welfare of thousands or millions of people. Only a few thousand out of 200 million American will do the great deeds of the next few decades. But all of us will be doing little things -- little things every day -- which help or hinder other people, little things which ^{give us} ~~make~~ a finer community or a sadder place in which to live. It is the little things that really count. ^{2 suggest that we} ₁ give attention to them - now and in the future.

It is the little things of life that add up to the whole. And I presume that one thing which all of us seek can be summarized in the word "happiness." The libraries and the book shelves are filled with books on how to obtain peace of mind, or peace of soul, how to stop worrying and start living; in other words, how to achieve happiness. Let us think together for a moment on the ~~on the~~ personal quest for happiness.

Dr. Elton Trueblood, Professor of Philosophy at Earlham College who served as an advisor to President Eisenhower, has written extensively on this important subject. Dr. Trueblood points out that: "Blasphemous as it may sound to our generation, peace of mind is not the ultimate ideal in the life of the individual." Peace of mind may exist on many levels. For instance, the self-righteous man who is sure of his virtues may have peace of mind. Another may find peace of mind after he has had a ^{sumptuous} ~~good~~ dinner and has sat down with his pipe. "But," says Dr. Trueblood, "There are many conditions under which men ought not to have peace of mind and under which a good man will not have it." He goes so far as to charge that "our very concern for personal happiness is really one of the chief symptoms of our moral disease" and ^e ~~then~~ points out that "our heroes are men and women who have cared about justice or truth and have not even raised the happiness question at all."



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But Dr. Trueblood ~~agrees~~ that the proper type of happiness is a desirable goal, and outlines a means of achieving that goal. He points out that "to obtain happiness one must forget about it." Happiness is not attained by enjoying the good meal and a pipe, nor is it obtained by a wild quest of pleasure of one type or another, nor does it come from an accumulation of things. Happiness is a by-product of full and active participation in a cause greater than ourselves. "Few joys," says Dr. Trueblood, "are greater than the job of participation in a dedicated group, and this is the boon which we ought to covet for all men and women." This by-product, happiness, is something which we probably see only in retrospect as we look back upon a life or period of life in which we were actively engaged in a good cause and can say "then I was happy." Dr. Trueblood goes on to make the point that the "best cause is that cause which harms no other person and which is big enough to require and consequently unite all of our powers."

On the negative side I think Dr. Trueblood also makes a contribution to thought in this area. He agrees that there are many causes for unhappiness. Among these can be listed poor health, misfortune, or the lack of money and material necessities. But then he makes this striking statement: "Man can bear great physical and spiritual hardship but what he cannot bear is the sense of meaninglessness.... The ultimate enemy is not pain or disease or physical hardship, evil as these may be, but triviality." So much unhappiness comes because we do not feel that the work we are in, or the efforts we are putting forth, are truly meaningful and significant.

If this is true, and I believe it is, those who are graduating here today have the task of so directing their lives that they find for themselves useful and meaningful activity, that they obtain satisfying work. As Dr. Trueblood summarizes it: "There are many unhappy and frustrated people in the world but not many of them



are persons who have found ways of productive work." Happiness cannot be bought but it comes freely to those who discover for themselves meaningful work and useful service.

This leads me to my fourth thought - "The Greater Vision." There must be a greater vision; the moving finger writes, little things count, personal happiness can be achieved, but there must remain the greater vision. Just as this world ~~has grown~~ ^{grew} and developed enormously before any of us arrived, so is there in it today a vast area and a throng of people of many races, creeds, and nations far beyond the reaches of our home, our community, our state, our country. We live in this world and we must see it for what it is. We see the major conflict, ^{the great struggle,} on the international scene between the forces of communism and the forces of freedom. This is a conflict which may or may not be resolved in our lifetime. But it is one which challenges us and challenges our way of life. Do we have something worth preserving, worth fighting for, or is our possession so transient, of such little value that it can be diluted and destroyed with impunity? Do we have here in our country and in the ^{free world} ~~West~~, social and political institutions which permit the best in man to develop, and grants to all, or to nearly all, the finest opportunities that any human has ever enjoyed. I am convinced we do have something worth preserving, worth working for and worth fighting for. Our way of life has meant wonderful opportunities for the mental, spiritual, and emotional development of man and has given to men the highest standards of living the world has ever known. I trust that in our better moments we can see the greater vision and be grateful that we are living in times such as these which do provide a challenge but also assure to each of us the best that has ever been known. ^{To man}



Because of this greater vision Americans today are fighting, unselfishly and manfully, in distant lands to help a far-away people preserve their freedom, and to help a free world remain free.

Because of this greater vision there is being debated in the United States Senate this month legislation which aims to assure to all American citizens the rights and privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship. This is no easy task, there are no easy answers; but in our better moments when we are most honest with ourselves, we can all agree that all responsible American citizens should enjoy all the rights of responsible American citizenship. The greater vision calls for us to look beyond ourselves, beyond our family, our community, our state, even beyond our nation to see what we can do to build a better world for all mankind. Selfishness, greed, the abuse of power will always be with us, but men of good will working together can hold in check many of the forces of evil.

As the poet has said:

"Truth forever on the scaffold
Wrong forever on the throne
Yet that scaffold sways the future."

You who are graduating here, along with those who are graduating in every high school throughout our land, hold in your hands one of the keys to the greater vision for the world of tomorrow. While individually you may not believe your influence is great, collectively the entire answer rests with you.

We are told that in a certain village in Europe there lived a man well along in years who had a reputation for sagacity and wisdom. One day some youngsters, undoubtedly a bit cynical, came to him with a bird in hand and this question.

"Is this bird alive or dead?" The old man recognized his dilemma: if he said the bird were dead the boy could open his hand, release the bird to fly away, proving

the old man wrong. If the old man said he is alive, the boy simply had to crush

the bird in his hand and present a lifeless creature. So the man in his wisdom replied, "It is as you will."

So my young friends the future is as you will, as you and ^{the} ~~all~~ ^{chase-like} ~~chase-like~~ ^{you} ~~make~~ ^{it} it.

"Not gold, but only men, can make
A nation great and strong;
Men who, for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men, who work while others sleep,
Who dare, while others fly,
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky!"

-Emerson

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