

and in obedience to law they went to do battle against men they did not personally know and against whom they had no private animosity. They were moved alone by the sense of public duty. In looking upon their graves let it be remembered that they gave their lives in obedience to law, and so let it ever be borne in mind that their survivors should with cheerful alacrity yield a like obedience to the law which comes with peace proclaimed. There was war which made men public enemies who at heart loved and cherished each other; but it was only as public enemies that they were at enmity. Now we have peace, and the law of peace is mutual forgiveness, confidence, friendship and affection. The same authority that ordered war has now commanded peace. The command is addressed alike to victor and vanquished, and a true sense of moral duty demands a like obedience from a whole united people.

"The desire of the people is for peace. Private friendships, love for our kindred and fellow men, and all the interlacings of human interests which spread like a network over our whole land—all cry out for peace. Around us we see what nature has done. Within this inclosure, in almost undistinguishable dust, lie the Federal and the Confederate dead. The grass is as green, the flowers as beautiful upon the one as the other. We should heed this lesson from these graves, and as nature is ever in harmony with herself, if we could hear the voices of the spiritual bodies which have risen from this dust and are now hovering over us, there would come to our ears one sweet song of peace. Thus from beneath this earth and from above the earth, there comes to us upon the earth the lesson and the song of peace."

The following letters were written to the author of this book. They have been carefully treasured, and they are now published that others may derive benefit from them and appreciate the lofty qualities of mind and heart of the distinguished writer, who, amid the duties of a high office, found time to write these letters with his own hand to a law student:

"WASHINGTON, April 18, 1865.

"DEAR THOMAS: If you have decided to attend the law school next winter, which I would advise you to do, then read no law till you go there. An instructor is more needed at the beginning of your professional studies than at any other time. Your summer can be more profitably spent in studying history. Read Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*; then Hallam's *Middle Ages* and Robiuson's *Charles V.* Do not simply read, but study them and study them closely; not to know who reigned in such a year, when