

## MEMORY OF WASHINGTON EULOGIZED AT HIS TOMB BY MR. LANSING AND SERBIAN MISSION CHAIRMAN

**Secretary of State Asserts That as Washington Gave Himself to Cause of Liberty and Democracy, so Must Americans of To-day Give Themselves to Same Cause—Pays Tribute to Serbian Pioneer of Freedom.**

**A**DDRESS of the Secretary of State on the occasion of the visit to the Tomb of Washington of the Serbian Mission: This simple tomb before which we stand today is the richest shrine in all America. It is not rich in treasures of art, in costly jewels or rare gems, but it is rich, wonderfully rich, in the priceless memories of the great American, whose ashes here repose. Around this modest sepulchre cluster the traditions of a patriot, under whose martial leadership this Republic won its independence and took its place among the sovereign nations of the earth, of a patriot, whose firm hand and wise statesmanship guided the uncertain steps of the young democracy into the path of prosperity and achievement.

### Do Well to Revere Washington's Name.

We, Americans, do well to revere the beloved name of Washington. In his lofty patriotism, in his devotion to the noblest principles of life, in his consecration to the service of his country, posterity, the heirs to the rights which he made secure, the successors to the duties which his life made sacred, will find constant inspiration.

As a soldier Washington's genius in the field and fortitude in the face of adversity brought victory to the American arms, and when the new day dawned and the new-born Nation began its independent life he was called again from his well-earned rest to assume the arduous duties of Chief Magistrate. His splendid character and commanding personality place Washington high above all those illustrious men who have served the Republic in its hours of need.

### Fighting for the Same Cause.

It is especially appropriate that in these opening days of a new year, which finds the whole world darkened by the tragedy of war, we should assemble here to do homage to the memory of him who was "first in the hearts of his fellow citizens." As he gave himself to the cause of liberty and democracy nearly a century and a half ago, so must we, if we be true Americans, give ourselves to-day to the same cause. Our cause in this war is the cause for which Washington fought, and with God's help we will triumph even as he triumphed. As America was made free from tyranny and injustice, so shall the world be made free from the sinister forces which threaten the freedom and prosperity of mankind.

United with us to-day in doing honor to the memory of our great national hero are the representatives of a brave people, who have for centuries maintained their nationality in spite of Turkish oppression and the inveterate hatred of jealous neighbors. To-day the population of Serbia is a little greater than was that of the American colonies when under the brilliant leadership of Washington they cast off the yoke of tyranny.

### Serbia Undismayed by Defeat.

The sufferings of the Serbian people in the cause of liberty, their splendid valor, and their supreme loyalty to their native land challenge the admiration of Christendom. Their enemies have overwhelmed them with numbers, they have occupied their cities and fields, they have enslaved their people, but, undaunted by disaster and undismayed by defeat, the soul of Serbia lives on. That soul is immortal; it can never die. As it has endured in the past, so will it ever endure to the end of time.

A century ago the renowned ancestor of Serbia's venerable King, after years of struggle for Serbian independence, came to his death, leaving to posterity a glorious memory. His name, like that of Washington, is written on the list of the great

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**Dr. Molenko Vesnitch Declares Spirit of Liberty, Strengthened if Not Born on Battlefields of This Country, Has Been Kept Alive Religiously in Serbia—Jerusalem and Mount Vernon Greet Each Other.**

**A**DDRESS of Dr. Molenko Vesnitch, chairman of the Serbian War Mission, at Tomb of Washington, Mount Vernon, January 6, 1918.

Happy he who eternally lives;  
For him, there was a reason to be born.

This verse of our great national poet comes to my mind in the sublime moment in which I stand before the noble father of this splendid country. Thou, in thy great compassion, wilt excuse my daring, that unknown, coming from a more than distant country, I trouble thy sacred presence, but He who was thy mentor in life suffered the little children to come unto Him. We belong to a small, hardly known nation; thou wilt not refuse our reverence. And just as the poor and the persecuted have found their refuge and their asylum in our Savior, the small and persecuted peoples hope to find an undoubted friend and comforter in this great Nation.

### Offered Life for Freedom and Justice.

We thank you most sincerely, Mr. Secretary of State, for affording us the honor of laying this wreath upon his grave. Words are impotent to express to you, ladies and gentlemen, our gratitude for having escorted us so graciously to this national sanctuary, rapidly becoming that of humanity. Here we shall need to thank an ever just God for having given him to your country. Here we should like to pray the Almighty to permit him to look down upon his work and that of his companions in joy and gladness. His soul would be uplifted, might be graciously be permitted to see how admirably this country has grown, for which he and his brethren, known and unknown, won liberty, the first condition for normal national development. The child of their hope, for whom they offered their lives, for freedom and justice, and whom they have been allowed to see with their very eyes, has it not grown in the short space of a century into a splendid youth, such as history has never seen before? That he will see these things with gratitude we are assured if we only read and ponder the words above the door of this, the last habitation of his body, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

### Remember Message of Lafayette.

We all remember the message of Lafayette to Washington in sending him a souvenir, to-day of most symbolic character: "Permit me, my dear General," wrote the heroic son of noble and generous France, "to offer you a picture of the Bastille, such as it was some days after I gave orders for its demolition. I make you homage also of the principal key to this fortress of despotism. It is a tribute I owe you, as son of my adopted father, as aide-de-camp to my general, a missionary of liberty to its patriarch." And the historian tells us that "Washington received the key with reverence as a token of liberty over despotism."

The spirit of liberty, ladies and gentlemen, strengthened, if not born, on the battle field in your country, has spread its blessed seed over the mountains and seas. As missionary of your great patriarch, Lafayette carried it with him to Europe and, thanks to the genius of immortal France, it has enlightened the Old World. No other nation has received it with a heartier alleluia than our own; no people has kept its flame alive more religiously than have our forefathers. This, alas, has brought us misfortune. The autocrats and despots surrounding us, the Teutons and the Turks, have rushed upon us and have crucified Serbia, nay more, our whole race, the Jugoslavs. We have

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