

crisis of his fate, when he was about to be rejected or to be merged in the spiritual Israel, over the good and the great of his race who had made his glorious history possible.

Is there a better example for us to follow? Are there, in our national history, nobler men than the missionaries, who have made our past and our future history possible? Are there any more worthy of our grateful remembrance than they? And is there any exercise that can be more stimulating, more profitable to ourselves than to recall the memory of the heroes who have passed beyond the veil? Can we do better than imbue ourselves with their heroic, self-denying spirit for the pioneer work that has fallen to our lot, for the battle that has to be renewed in every age?

As we think of the glorious company of the apostles, the prophets, the martyrs, the missionaries, that so great cloud of witnesses by which we are compassed about, who have been the soldiers and servants of God in all ages and in all lands, may we not say with Abraham Lincoln on the immortal field of Gettysburg: "*We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or to detract. It is for us—the living—rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last, full measure of devotion,*" when they gave themselves, when they gave up their lives.