

prominence the great navigators already mentioned, including the men whose names and exploits we are assembled to honor and commemorate.

The people of the United States have grown to be a nation of the first rank in power, in wealth, in enlightened intelligence, and in prosperity. Our form of government, founded upon the eternal principles of liberty, governed by law, the equality of men and liberty of religious conscience, that we have amply demonstrated the powers of self-government by the people, without the burden of standing armies to keep the peace. We think our forefathers did wisely in divorcing the church from the state, and that time has now shown the world that people of all manner of religious opinions may dwell together in peace and harmony, and that our system and means of education make strong and secure the family, the church, and the state. In receiving the priceless inheritance, our people must realize the solemn and binding obligation which binds us to keep and preserve all our dear institutions, pure and intact, embellished in all their parts and principles, for all succeeding generations.

And now, imbued with the patriotism that is proper and becoming the occasion, we, without ostentation or pageant, without trumpet, drum or fiddle, in the absence of monument of either stone or brass, devote a passing hour in remembrance of the men whose names suggest this pleasant duty, and the four hundredth anniversary of their discovery of the land we possess in great peace and abundant prosperity.