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human beings were kept in bondage. We fought for liberty and for humanity. We fought also for the preservation of that sacred compact by which the founders of the Republic had pledged themselves to the maintenance of a "government of the people, by the people and for the people," and had dedicated the fate of their country to the proposition that "every man was born free."

Have we faithfully accomplished our task? History which has recorded our labor and the grateful thanks of the nation and of the whole world have given to this question an answer far more forcible and in a language far more eloquent than I have at my command. I say "the whole world," because not only has the American Republic profited by our efforts, but the war in which we took part has induced a long stride forward in the onward march of civilisation. Humanity itself has been freed and the hideous chains of slavery have been shattered for ever. The year 1863 will mark out one of the most momentous events in the history of the world and of the human race; and a thousand years hence, History will repeat to the then rising generations that in that year, the disgraceful monster which bore the name of "slavery" was stifled out of existence,