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※ BE PATRIOTIC! ※

"**P**ATRIOTISM—love of country—devotion to the land that bore us—is pressed upon us now as paramount to every other notion in its claims on head, hand, and heart. . . . The thought cannot be put in loftier or more comprehensive words than by Cicero, 'Dear are parents, dear are children, dear are friends and relations; but all affections to all men are embraced in country alone.' . . . Cicero follows up his words by saying that for her no true son would, if need be, hesitate to die. . . .

"But to give life for their country is the least part of what men have been willing to do for her. Human life has often seemed a very trifling possession, to be exposed cheaply in all sorts of useless risks and feuds. It has been the cheerful sacrifice of the things that make life worth living, the eager endurance of things far worse than death, which show the mighty power which love of country holds over the entire being of man. . . .

"There is one of the old Greek maxims which says: 'Sparta is thine allotted home; make her a home of order and beauty.' Whatever our country needs to make her perfect, that she calls on us to do. . . . But everything done or renounced to make her perfect must recognize that she is not perfect yet; and what our country chiefly calls on us for is not mighty exertions and sacrifices, but those particular ones, small or great, which shall do her real good and not harm. . . .

"Love your country—honor her, live for her, if necessary die for her,—but remember that whatever you would call right or wrong in another country is right or wrong for her and for you; that right and truth and love to man and allegiance to God are above all patriotism; and that every citizen who sustains his country in her sins is responsible to humanity, to history, to philosophy, and to Him to whom all nations are as a drop in the bucket, and the small dust on the balance."

—Everett.