

1862

FOUNDERS' DAY

1917

UNION LEAGUE

Philadelphia, November 24, 1917.

MR. GRIBBEL.—*Gentlemen of The Union League:*—Fifty and five years ago a ten faithful men having the form and seeking to demonstrate the power of patriotism, founded The Union League of Philadelphia. It was born in a great crisis. The men who formed it loved the Liberty and Union of the United States more than they loved life. In the darkest hour of the War of the Rebellion they put themselves and all they had, and all they hoped to be into the support of the nation. There was not a trace of self-seeking in all their labors so long sustained. They never faltered and they never counted the cost of their fidelity. Ten regiments were raised and equipped and sent to the support of Abraham Lincoln in his defense of the Constitution and the Flag. [Applause.] Day and night these our forefathers, with an eye single to the country's preservation, spent themselves in sacrifice.

Tonight we gather to again celebrate the courage, the ability, and the complete success of these our ancestors. We glory in their history and rejoice in our patriotic descent from them. With devout thanksgiving we lay our Laurel and our Rosemary upon this altar raised to their memory, and pray that in this our day of trial we may be found worthy of our descent. May the God of our Fathers inspire us with the courage and active