

confronted with unmeasured danger, and duty is ever face to face with death.

I must be pardoned if I have spoken upon this subject with more than wonted feeling. This is the service with which I was for many years associated. These are the officers whom I knew and appreciated; these are the boys whom I loved. All honor, then, to the American Navy. Here they have exhibited the highest qualities of American manhood; they have shown their readiness to discharge their highest duties as citizens and public servants, and that they are competent to discharge them in the best and most efficient manner. To-night we lay the tribute of a free people at their feet. They will be crowned with laurels, if not with coronets; their names will be written on the records of their country's glory, if not upon the rolls of ancient knighthood. And theirs is a higher patent of a truer nobility, of older date and higher sanction—to alleviate the sufferings, to soften the hardships, to decrease the dangers, and increase the happiness of mankind. This is a criterion of *good*, and to do good is *noble*. No circumstance can impeach, no power disarm it, no time can dim the luster of its glory. Let not personal feeling seek to depreciate its value, nor party spirit attempt to confine its power. Its realm cannot be held within conventional boundaries; it is the broad domain of human feeling; its throne is erected within that great metropolis, the human heart. [Continued applause.]

The chairman at this point stepped to the edge of the platform in front of the men of the Relief Expedition, and said:

SEAMEN OF THE RELIEF EXPEDITION: You are deserving of all commendation. Your commanding of-