

THE "GLORIOUS FOURTH."

Throughout our great, free land, in this year of grace 1900, Independence day will be celebrated with more than the usual enthusiasm. By common consent, as it seems, in most sections of the country, the people have decided to have "a good old-fashioned celebration" of the nation's natal day; the day we all love and reverence; the day when the American eagle screams the loudest; the day when Young America lets himself loose in downright earnest; the day when the Stars and Stripes are most in evidence; the day when it is perfectly right and proper to shout, "The Army and Navy forever;" the day of days in the grand and inspiring history of the American republic—the greatest and best and freest nation beneath the sun.

There are many and divers reasons why we should celebrate "The Fourth" this year with more than the usual gusto. In spite of all the complaints and cavilings and calamity wails of political pessimists and other birds of evil omen, the people of the United States were never freer, never happier, never more prosperous, never more patriotic, never more fully conscious of their freedom, their greatness, their prosperity, and of all their blessing than they are today. As some one said in the Philadelphia convention, every American is a bigger man today than he was two years ago, before the war with Spain, and the vast results that have flowed from it had made us a world-power and placed us in the arena of history-making events. We have indeed made marvelous progress within the past two years; and the steps which we have taken are never to be retraced. They lead forward, not backward; upward and onward, not downward.

There are those in the nation who are unable, at the present time, to perceive the grandeur and the glory of our national destiny, although that destiny be blazoned in letters of light all along the pathway of the future. These prophets of evil shake their heads and dolefully predict that the country will go straight to perdition if it keep on in the present path of progress. But the genuine and patriotic American citizen may well forget these dire forebodings in remembering the glory of our past achievements and the golden promise of the future.

Let us, therefore, celebrate this red-letter day of our history with unrestrained enthusiasm, with joyfulness, with confidence, and with thanksgiving to Almighty God, who has permitted us to become puissant among the nations of the earth, and under whose continued guidance and favor we shall go on and on to still greater triumphs, in the deliverance of the oppressed, the uplifting of the sovereign dignity of Man, and the ultimate regeneration of the human family.