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THE DANGERS OF CENTRALIZATION.

The struggle of humanity has always been for freedom. In every great struggle of the world's history there have always existed two great conflicting forces—individual freedom and the centralization of power. The realization of freedom is the inalienable right and the ultimate destiny of the human race. It has inspired every hero that has been recorded in the annals of history. Embodied in the teachings of Socrates, of Christ and of Paul; speaking through the lines of Wycliffe, Luther and Hampden; tearing down and remodeling the institutions of government, dethroning monarchs and defeating grand armies, the love of freedom has been the great motive power behind every reform and the one great cause of all human advancement. History is but the record of the struggles for liberty. Centralized power has always opposed the progress of freedom.

The one great danger that threatens the existence of free government in America is the tendency toward centralization, the tendency to create powers that neither the States nor the General Government should possess—the tendency to centralize in the General Government powers that should be left to the States.

Let it at once be understood in the discussion of this important question, that we seek to revive no dead issues, we seek to renew no strife between those who wore the Blue and those who wore the Gray. The battles of Civil War have been fought, the Union saved, and the sovereignty of the States preserved. Braver men never march under the standards of battle than those who fought in the last conflict, and we hold in sacred memory the recollection of our valiant heroes.