

From the Archives

The Value of Honor

WHAT IS LIFE without honor? Degradation is worse than death. We must think of the living and of those who are come after us, and see that with God's blessing we transmit to them the freedom we have ourselves inherited.

Lieutenant-General Thomas J. 'Stonewall' Jackson, August 1862, to an officer who requested leave to visit a dying member of his family.

A REALLY GREAT PEOPLE, proud and high-spirited, would face all disasters of war rather than purchase that base prosperity which is bought at the price of national honor.

President Theodore Roosevelt, 23 February 1907, speech at Harvard University.

BUT WHO OF US would endure a world . . . without the divine folly of honor? . . . In the midst of doubt, in the collapse of creeds, there is one thing I do not doubt, and that is that the faith is true and adorable which leads a soldier to throw away his life in obedience to a blindly accepted duty, in a cause which he little understands, in a plan of campaign of which he has no notion, under tactics of which he does not see the use.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "The Soldier's Faith," speech at Harvard University, *Speeches*, 1913.

THE MUSTER rolls on which the name and oath were written were pledges of honor redeemable at the gates of death. And they who went up to them, knowing this, are on the lists of heroes.

Major-General Joshua L. Chamberlain, *The Passing of the Armies*, 1915.

AND AN OFFICER is so absorbed by the sense of responsibility for his men, for his cause, for the fight, that the thought of personal peril has no place whatever in governing his actions. The instinct to seek safety is overcome by the instinct of honor.

Major-General Joshua L. Chamberlain, *The Passing of the Armies*, 1915.

NEVER GIVE IN, never give in, never, never, never—in nothing great or small, large or petty—never give in except in convictions of honour and good sense.

Sir Winston S. Churchill, 29 October 1941, address at Harrow School.