

President Lincoln then delivered the following dedicatory speech.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. (Applause.) Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war; we are met to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place of those who have given their lives that that nation may live.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this, but in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to aid or detract. (Applause.) The world will not note or long remember what we say here, but it can never forbid what they did here. (Applause.)

It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. (Applause.)

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain (applause); that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that government of people by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth." (Long continued applause.)