

CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS: LESSON 6: HANDOUT 3

EXCERPTS FROM CHARLES SCOTT’S SPEECH (1906)¹

This handout contains excerpts, or parts, of Charles Scott’s speech in the Vicksburg Herald at the dedication of the confederate monument at University of Mississippi:

MR. SCOTT MAKES SPLENDID SPEECH

AT THE UNVEILING OF MONUMENT TO CONFEDERATES

AN ELABORATE PROGRAM

There Were Several Counties to Participate in the Exercises—Many Ladies Were Present.

Primary Source Quote 1

“In view of this early and untimely death, we who love the Lost Cause with all the ardor of a Manfred for his fair Astarte, are doubly rejoiced to know that the South left a lasting impression of grandeur and glory on the hearts and minds of the universe, that can never be effaced.

This, my friends, is no idle boast. Go where you will within the confines of the civilized world and the memory of southern valor and southern chivalry is venerated and esteemed.”

Secondary Description:

Scott talks about the South’s early death because of its defeat in the Civil War. He talks about the Lost Cause and that those who support it know the South is respected across the universe. Supporters can boast, or brag, about the South’s glory and bravery to all the civilized world.

Which argument(s) about the Lost Cause does this part of the speech support? Explain.

Bravery of Confederate soldiers and loyalty of Southerners should be admired	States’ rights (not slavery) was main cause of war	Reconstruction was a dark time in history
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¹ “Transcription of Charles Scott’s Speech at the 1906 Unveiling of the Confederate Monument on the University of Mississippi’s Campus,” transcription by Anne Twitty. Retrieved and adapted from <https://history.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/07/Transcription-of-Scott-Speech.pdf>.

Primary Source Quote 2

“Why, you ask, is Dixie so honored in the far-off land of the French lillies? No one in the hotel could tell me; but the cause is not far to seek. It is the involuntary homage paid by the civilized world, (now that we are better understood), to the memory of the old south, once radiant with all “the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome.” Her record, my countrymen, merits these unusual honors, and is one in which you may well take pride. The ability of her statesman, the genius of her military leaders, the courage of her soldiers, and the devotion of her women, have long ago attracted the attention and challenged the admiration of all mankind.”

Secondary Description:

Here, Scott talks about how he visited the country of France and that the South and Confederacy were respected there. He says that Southerners should be proud of their heritage. The South’s people were able, its military leaders were geniuses and its women were loyal. These traits allowed others across the world to admire the South.

Which argument(s) about the Lost Cause does this part of the speech support? Explain.

Bravery of Confederate soldiers and loyalty of Southerners should be admired	States’ rights (not slavery) was main cause of war	The legacy of the Confederacy will live on

Primary Source Quote 3

“The high spirited, sensitive South still clinging to the Union with love and tenacity stood these wrongs with more or less impatience, but she could not preserve her self-respect and submit to the actual degradation. The paramount question was not the slavery question. As our enemies have stated, that was a mere incident. The real issue was the right of the Southern states to equality in a union which had been rendered possible by the martial achievements and civic services of the great southerners, Washington, Jefferson, Monroe and others, a Union which had been consecrated too by thousand of southern lives. When it became apparent then that this equality could no longer be maintained the self respect of the South forced her, at last, to assert her peaceable right to secede; a right which had been expressly recognized and vigorously asserted, as I have already stated, throughout New England and other northern states.”

Secondary Description:

Which argument(s) about the Lost Cause does this part of the speech support? Explain.

Bravery of Confederate soldiers and loyalty of Southerners should be admired	States' rights (not slavery) was main cause of war	Reconstruction was a dark time in history

Primary Source Quote 4

“There was another thing. The southern soldier, whether officer or private, fought neither for gold nor other gain. The call to arms was prompted neither by vengeance nor hatred. No unholy lust for conquest, nor consuming love of martial glory summoned them from their peaceful homes, forth to the tented field. These men battled for a principle, in which each believed with all his heart and soul and mind. Overwhelmed at last by countless numbers and the boundless resources of a hostile world, for the south fought the whole world as I have already stated, the soldiers of the Lost Cause returned to desolate homes and devastated fields. There they promptly assumed, and faithfully discharged, all the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship.”

Secondary Description:

Here, Scott says that the Confederate soldier did not fight for money or because they hated the North. The Confederacy fought for a principle that they believed in with their whole heart, mind, and soul.

This principle isn’t clear, but Scott may be trying to say that they fought for the honor of the South.

The Confederacy was overpowered by the numbers and weapons of the North. The soldiers came back to destroyed homes and land after the war. They were true American citizens.

Which argument(s) about the Lost Cause does this part of the speech support? Explain.

Bravery of Confederate soldiers and loyalty of Southerners should be admired	States’ rights (not slavery) was main cause of war	Reconstruction was a dark time in history

Primary Source Quote 5

“There was a time, I grant you, during the nightmare called the reconstruction, when these men boldly, aggressively and intentionally overrode the letter of the law that they might maintain the spirit of the law and preserve Anglo Saxon civilization as a priceless heritage for their children’s children and for the benefit of our common country, the people of the north as well as the people of the south. Indeed, do you know that I regard this act as the crowning glory of the Confederate soldier.”

Secondary Description:

The period of Reconstruction was compared to a nightmare. This was a time after the Civil War when free Black Southerners were able to gain more rights and power because of their large population in states that had been slaveholding territories.

Scott talks about how White men boldly went against the law to preserve their White Southern heritage and power for the sake of their children and descendants, thus benefiting the entire country.

Which argument(s) about the Lost Cause does this part of the speech support? Explain.

Bravery of Confederate soldiers and loyalty of Southerners should be admired	States’ rights (not slavery) was main cause of war	Reconstruction was a dark time in history

Primary Source Quote 6

“And so, my fellow citizens, while we admire this beautiful work of art, which will stand forever as an enduring monument to the memory of the Confederate dead, we know instinctively, without question or doubt, that it represents the inspiration and loving work of the fair ladies of this cultured and hospitable city and county who are banded together for a noble and patriotic purpose as the Albert Sydney Johnston Chapter of the Daughter[s] of the Confederacy. It will serve, then, a double purpose by proclaiming to all future generations the gallantry of the Southern soldier and the nobility of the Southern woman. The one is a complement of the other, and, together, they constitute the crowning glory of the Southern character. Such must be the thought of those who look upon its monumental shaft in the years to come.”

Secondary Description:

Scott admires the beauty of the new confederate monument, calling it a work of art. He says that it will stand forever to remember the fallen Confederate soldiers. It will represent the city of Oxford, Mississippi, and Lafayette County’s devotion to the South. Here, he calls the women of the UDC “fair” to highlight the good work they have done. It will live on to represent the bravery of the Confederate soldier and the “nobility” of the Southern women. Being noble means that someone has high moral principles.

Both of them make up what should be honored about the South, and they will be honored for years to come because of this monument.

Which argument(s) about the Lost Cause does this part of the speech support? Explain.

Bravery of Confederate soldiers and loyalty of Southerners should be admired	The legacy of the Confederacy will live on	Reconstruction was a dark time in history