



**The Nation Weeping for Its Dead: Observances at  
Springfield, Massachusetts, on President Lincoln's  
Funeral Day, Wednesday, April 19, 1865,  
Including Dr. Holland's Eulogy (Classic Reprint)**

*J. G. Holland*

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The observance of Wednesday was in most complete harmony with the spirit which fills every loyal American heart. The day was devoted to the expression of grief for the loss of him who was to us all a friend, a guide, a father. Proclamations enjoining the suspension of business were hardly necessary, for the great heart of the republic throbbed in pain and anguish, and with such a heartache none could work with head or hands. With one accord the whole busy work of the nation stood still, and the closed shops and warehouses, and the symbols of mourning that marked almost every building, public and private, throughout the land, expressed truly, yet feebly, the sorrow that weighed upon all. There was no restriction as to rank or nationality. The humblest laborer and the highest ruler, and adopted as well as native citizens, shared the same grief and wept from the same cause. In every city and town of prominence, services in sympathy with the immediate funeral services at Washington were held, and no secular day since the foundation of our government, not even when Washington, the hero of our first revolution, was carried to the tomb, has been marked with such general tenderness, such depth of patriotism, such fervent Christian feeling. Men worshiped and mourned, Wednesday, who never worshiped or mourned before. All partisan feeling was forgotten and ignored, and there were few Americans, none indeed, worthy of the name, who had other than the kindest thoughts or most appreciative words for our dead President, Abraham Lincoln. The spirit which, since Saturday last, has united the nation in the expression of its burdening sorrow, will become historic, and will show the world that our government is not to be destroyed by armed traitors or cowardly assassins.

The 19th of April was historic before; it is doubly historic now. On that day was shed the first blood in the two great war struggles which our republic has passed through, and now we have buried on that day the costliest sacrifice our country has ever made to secure the perpetuity of its government.

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