

Address delivered at the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg

1 Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a
2 new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are
3 created equal.

4 Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any
5 nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great
6 battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final
7 resting place for those who here gave their lives so that that nation might live. It is
8 altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

9 But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can
10 not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have
11 consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little
12 note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did
13 here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work
14 which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to
15 be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored
16 dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full
17 measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have
18 died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and
19 that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from
20 the earth.

November 19, 1863.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

* "Bliss Copy," as it appears in Gary Wills, *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America*. (1992: New York, Simon & Schuster), Appendix III. D. 2., "Final Text," p. 263.