Dress Parade

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future. But why is she studying home management and care of children? Because she _does_ have thoughts of the future. Not thoughts of a career in the business world, but of a home and children.

_Before_ me have passed young men and women who take trouble and hardship and defeat in their strides—with chins high and shoulders square; who live their lives not dreamily for tomorrow, not regretfully because of yesterday, but gladly and to the fullest extent for today. The shining brightness in each eye may be due to a hastily brushed aside tear, or the gay laugh may have pushed past a sob, but weakness of character is foreign to them. It is true that their watchword is fun, but who can condemn anyone who thinks that _life_ is full of fun? that struggles are fun? that living in itself is a privilege to be enjoyed thoroughly?

What I have said does not necessarily explain the spirit of youth. I would rather believe that it is something that does not need explanation. For myself, I choose to withdraw into the smug circle of self-confident youth who seemingly spend their lives in gaiety; for I know that this gay manner is not a gaudy billboard that hides an ugly dump, but rather an innocent appearing camouflage for an impenetrable fortress, the fortress that is the birthright of every red-blooded American—courageous acceptance of defeat, but never lack of attempt; love of life, but not fear of death.

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Suppose
We changed their garb
To overalls? Could men
Dressed thus excite our fickle minds
To war?