

“I am loath to close. We are not enemies,
but friends. We must not be enemies.
Though passion may have strained,
it must not break our bonds of affection. The
mystic chords of memory,
stretching from every battle-field,
and patriot grave, to every living heart and
hearthstone, all over this broad land,
will yet swell the chorus of the Union,
when again touched, as surely they will be, by
the better angels of our nature.”

—Abraham Lincoln, from the First Inaugural
Address, March 4, 1861