



"How Immense the Butcher's Bill": Rethinking the Meaning of the Civil War With Samuel L. Clemens and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Mary Buggie-Hunt

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This work seeks not to justify war or to memorialize war in such a way as to diminish its relentless enormity. Knowing, as did Samuel Clemens and Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. and Abraham Lincoln, that soldiers of wars need no descriptions of war and that commemoration of death or memorializing those who died and writing their stories is a different task than writing the story of war any war, this book seeks a path to returning meaning to the legacy of the Civil War in our memories and Memorial Days as Holmes desired: As a "national act of enthusiasm and faith" regardless of politics that chastens and inspires generations of men and women and children to remember that war is not in the end pragmatic fight for place, but inspired battle for way of life. And finally, this book seeks to explore the ways in which the Civil War experiences of Samuel L. Clemens and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. shaped and re-shaped the man and how his Civil War experiences de-formed an idealistic mind until that mind was capable not only of the coldest pragmatic assessments of American law, but of the coldest pragmatic appraisals of the relationships of men to men in a world complicated by one problem to be solved: difference and division.



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