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On Wednesday Evening, February 14th,
Mr. Gates D. Fahnstock gave a deeply moving address in
the Gallery of his personal recollections of the Battle of
Gettysburg.

At the time of the Battle Mr. Fahnstock was a
lad of ten years, born in Gettysburg, his father a merchant
in the town. He and his brothers were familiar with every
valley and stream in the vicinity. This intimate knowledge
of the terrain enabled Mr. Fahnstock to give at the opening
of his address a remarkably clear story of the approach of
the Armies, the character of the positions they held and
the movements through the three days and in short with the
aid of Government maps to unroll a vivid and impressive
panorama of the Battle. This panorama prepared the way
for an intelligent understanding of Mr. Fahnstock's
personal experience from the approach of the Armies.

With complete reserve, with no attempt to
arouse his hearers sympathy he told in simple terms what
a boy in Gettysburg saw in those critical days. It was
a remarkable story of boyish curiosity and helpfulness
as well as of impressions never to be forgotten but too
deep to be put into words.

He followed the story of his experiences in
the Battle with those of the days following when he and his

companions helped in gathering the wounded from the wide battlefields, caring for them in the improvised hospitals, helped in gathering and burying the dead.

It was in November after this July Battle that the great cemetery which the Government laid out for the burial of the Gettysburg dead was dedicated and that President Lincoln came from Washington ^{to} be present, not as the orator of the day but at the end of the formal address to speak a few words of dedication. Young Fahnstock marched in the procession just behind Mr. Lincoln carrying a tassel of a great banner. He heard Mr. Everett's noble oration, heard Mr. Lincoln as he read his two minute speech, one of the most precious bits of English ever written. But it was neither orator nor speech that stirred the boy. It was the president's face - sad - deep-lined - kind, its deep set eyes looking into the future.

Mr. Fahnstock gave his hearers an extraordinary picture of this Battle which turned the tide of the Civil War and the speech by which Abraham Lincoln interpreted the meaning of the Battle to the country.