

Men and Women of America

From the book, "Recitations, Drills and Plays for Children"

By Bertha Irene Tobin (1921)

LENGTH: Five minutes

CHARACTERS:

-Uncle Sam (boy)

-Columbia (girl)

-Liberty (girl)

(Boy, dressed as Uncle Sam, enters, salutes audience, and begins to speak.)

UNCLE SAM:

I'm Uncle Sam, as you can see.
I stand for our country, true,
The symbol of freedom, right and trust
To be found 'neath our red, white and blue.
I stand for our nation's manhood, too,
No finer on earth may be found;
We are ready for peace, and we long for peace,
But peace only with honor, I'm bound.
To the strength of our manhood's valor
We pin our faith this day.
Our country is safe from oppression's rule
When freedom and right hold sway.
We are proud of the men of America,
Proud of their strength and skill,
Proud of their standing for brotherhood,
Of their loyalty, power and will.

(Enter Girl, dressed as Columbia. She moves to center right. Uncle Sam steps a little to left. Girl addresses audience first.)

COLUMBIA:

I am Columbia, noble and just,
I stand for our liberty,
For justice and truth and valor,
For peace and humility.
I stand for America's womanhood, too,
So great, so pure, so true.
Were the women left out of our country,
Oh, whatever would it do?
(Turns to Uncle Sam.)
You stand for our manhood's valor,
And I for our womenkind,
You're brave and courageous and loyal,
And so are your women you'll find!

We now have rights of citizenship;
Equal with you we stand,
And we'll join in your every endeavor,
We'll go with you hand in hand.

UNCLE SAM:

Oh, it's well for the women to help us,
But the men do most of it though.
Why, what did you do when the war was on
To crush tyranny with *your* blow?

COLUMBIA: (*Indignantly.*)

What did we do when the war was on?
Just ask the world, I pray!
We helped just as much as you men-folk did,
We worked with you day by day.
(*Uncle Sam turns his back on her.*)
Our women were close to the battlefront,
They knew the screech of a shell,
But they swerved not from their duty,
And that you know full well!
(*Turns her back on Uncle Sam, scornfully.*)

(*Second Girl enters. She is dressed in white, and wears a shield with the word "Liberty" printed on it. She carries a large flag. Stepping to center, she looks first at Uncle Sam and then at Columbia and then back to Uncle Sam. She looks bewildered.*)

LIBERTY:

Dear Uncle Sam and Columbia, too,
Why do you stand like this?
I am surprised at you, bold Uncle Sam,
And also at you, my Miss.
We stand for liberty, and peace.
May peace be with us always—
But how can it, if harmony
Is not among our own today?
Uncle Sam, I know you are loyal
And good and brave and true.
(*Uncle Sam turns and faces her.*)
We know that we owe so much we have
To our country's manhood—to you.
And as for you, dear Columbia,
We well know what you can do.
We know our country could not exist
Without her womanhood, too.
(*Columbia smiles and turns around.*)
Now, Uncle Sam and Columbia,
Such things we cannot stand,
As discord and strife in our ranks today,

We're bound by too strong a band.
We're bound by the ties of liberty,
Of justice, right and truth,
And we need all our men and our women,
Our old age as well as our youth.
Join hands now in mighty union,
You men and women of our land,
(They join hands while Liberty waves flag over them.)
For when we unite our efforts,
We form an invincible band.
All hail now to America's strength,
Her noble protectors true,
For each one of us is needed,
To protect the red, white and blue.

CURTAIN