

THE CHAMBERS-NEILL IMBROGLIO.

Rev. Mr. Neill's Rejoinder to Rev. Mr. Chambers. As Rev. John Chambers has at last chosen a respectable paper as the medium through which to proclaim his high and unimpeachable veracity, and to attack me for a few loyal sentiments uttered in a sermon preached in his pulpit July 24, 1864, it may, perhaps, be well to give the facts, that your readers may judge for themselves how much credence they are to give to his "simple statement of facts in the case."

DEAR UNCLE.—Mr. Chambers has desired of me that I should request you to preach for him during his absence from the city. Please reply, and let me know your decision.

To which I replied as follows:— DEAR NEPHEW.—Your request for me to preach for Mr. Chambers during his absence from the city is received, and for the following reason:—I decline, and am not willing to occupy any pulpit which is proscribed to the interests of a Rebellion, inaugurated and sustained in the maintenance of human slavery. Your affectionate uncle, JAMES NEILL.

Next day my nephew called to know if I would consent to preach in the church if the elders and trustees would unite in a written request to that effect. To which I replied, "If they desire it I will do it, waiving the formality of a written request." Mr. Chambers was informed that I had consented, and then for the first time he called to see me, not to "engage" or "employ" or "hire," but to thank me for consenting.

On July 26 I received the following note:— PHILADELPHIA, July 26, 1864.

REV. JAMES NEILL.—We, the undersigned, members of the First Independent Church, Broad Street, Philadelphia, take occasion to thank you most sincerely for the sermon delivered by you on last Sabbath, July 24, 1864, in the absence of our pastor, the Rev. John Chambers.

Desiring that others may participate in the pleasure and profit afforded by your discourse upon this occasion, we respectfully and earnestly request a copy of the same for publication.

Trusting that you will comply with our request, we remain yours, very truly, E. TRACY, GEORGE L. YOUNG, CHARLES D. STEFFLER, GEORGE F. EAGLE, R. S. WATSON, ROBERT LUTHER, FRANCIS NEWLAND, JOHN YARD, JR., R. H. HICKLEY, CHARLES V. PAINTER, JAMES NEILL.

To which I replied as follows:— PHILADELPHIA, July 27, 1864.

DEAR BROTHER.—Your esteemed favor of the 25th at hand, asking a copy of the sermon preached on Sunday to your people for publication, and a though I see nothing in it worthy of such notice, yet if you think it will serve the cause of Christ among you, I submit to your judgment, and herewith comply with your request. Your servant in Christ, JAMES NEILL.

On the 29th the manuscript was handed to the printer, and August 10th the printed sermon was delivered. This brings us to his second "plain statement of facts," that "within a week from the time Mr. Neill preached in my church I received the printed sermon!" Here seventeen days had elapsed, and yet he says he had it at Bedford Springs, and that it "was on the next Sabbath gratuitously distributed in the church and on the street." How these statements can be in strict accordance with truth, your readers must determine.

Again he says—"The sermon was filled with sentiments he knew to be wholly adverse to all my opinions," and was "unconscientious." I acknowledge that under ordinary circumstances my regard for the established rules of courtesy would have deterred me from the expression of sentiments which I knew to be in conflict with those of the regular pastor; but all the circumstances of my country at that particular juncture were so extraordinary and perilous, that I could not permit a mere point of professional etiquette to prevent me from saying a word for the encouragement of the many patriotic worshippers who had long looked and waited for such a word in vain. Etiquette is a good thing at the right time and in the right place, but whenever its observance might be construed into an approval of treason against the best Government God ever gave to man, I beg to say that I shall trample down its rules without a moment's hesitation, and maintain my position as a patriot. Yet, after all the indignant bluster of this reverend sympathizer, there are but forty lines in the whole sermon to which he takes exception, and which in his personal interview he pronounced to be false. Here is the paragraph:—

War is sometimes necessary to accomplish the divine purpose, and men engaged in it are serving their generation by the will of God as fully as when in the most solemn duties of the secret closet. Think you that Joshua, the commander-in-chief of the forces of Israel, was serving his generation by the will of God less, while, with drawn sword at his head, he was pursuing the Amalekites across the plain, than Moses and Aaron and Israel praying on the mountain top for success? No; they were all engaged in the same divinely sanctioned work. Was Washington not serving his generation as fully, and in as perfect accordance with the will of God, while he was leading his yeomanry to victory over the well-disciplined armies of Great Britain, and buying with blood this rich inheritance for the mountain top for success? No; they were all engaged in the same divinely sanctioned work. Was Washington not serving his generation as fully, and in as perfect accordance with the will of God, while he was leading his yeomanry to victory over the well-disciplined armies of Great Britain, and buying with blood this rich inheritance for the mountain top for success? No; they were all engaged in the same divinely sanctioned work.

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FIFTH EDITION

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INTERNAL TAX BILL APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT.

The Cabinet. WASHINGTON, July 14.—The President this afternoon nominated to the Senate A. W. Randall, now First Assistant Postmaster-General, to be Postmaster-General, in the place of Denison, resigned. No other resignations of Cabinet officers had been received by the President up to noon to-day.

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MOVEMENTS OF GEN. SHERMAN. Enthusiastic Reception of the General on the Route to Boston—Grand Ovation at the "Hub"—Great Desire of Soldiers to See their Old Commander—He Makes Short Speeches, Tosses Smiles at the Ladies, and Takes Tea at the Revere House—His Movements Today, &c.

General Sheridan on National Affairs. A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, who has had an interview with General Sheridan, reports that the latter expressed himself as follows:—

"He said there was an undoubted change for the worse in the attitude of the South within the last six months, and bad symptoms appeared to be increasing. It now looked as if these infatuated people would once more to precipitate their own misfortune. Nothing could have been more considerate than the disposition of the nation towards its defeated foes, even in the heat of passion and flush of victory, and had the Rebels only manifested a temper correspondingly reasonable, as, indeed, was very natural to be expected after such chastisement, there could have been no further difficulty. The South evidently had no statesmen, else so plain a problem would not continue to be so bungled. For it should be clear that no class, once set free, can long remain disfranchised; and as they ought to have forestalled their foes in giving freedom to that class in war, so afterwards common sense ought to have prompted at least the later presence of making alive in the hearts of those with whom they are bound henceforth to live. Instead, however, it appeared certain the Rebels had learned nothing from experience, and would, in fact, drive their only chance into untried hands. The safety of the nation would be thereby imperiled, and the Union men in the South still require the mediation of a sufficient military force, and if called upon to give his testimony, it should be, the United States troops ought not yet to be removed from the South."

A Change of Costumes in England.—The Pall Mall Gazette for June 28 says:—"Court suits were dispensed with for members of the House of Commons at the Speaker's dinner last night for the first time. And Mr. Bright, in a plain black suit, made his first appearance at the Speaker's dinner, as did Mr. J. S. Mill, Mr. J. B. Smith, and others, who did not take kindly to the costume of the worst period of English taste. This instance of the Speaker's courage may inspire the Lord Chamberlain to propose some reasonable amendments of costume for the consideration of the Queen. As the garments of George the Second's time have been changed in the army and navy, and other services, civilians should be permitted to exchange frocks, bag-wigs, swords, and horse breeches for a costume more consistent with the fashions of the time."

STEIGLEDER, TROUT, VOIGT & CO., beg most respectfully to call the attention of the public at large to their new Patent.

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