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JACKSON, MISS.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 18.

THE FLEET BELOW VICKSBURG.

We learn that the boats that passed our batteries yesterday morning were as follows: Lafayette, Tuscumbia, Cincinnati and Benton, iron clad gun boats; General Price and Aleck Scott, wooden gunboats, and the transport steamers Henry Clay, Forrest Queen and Silver Wave. The General Price was originally one of the Montgomery fleet, captured in the naval battle before Memphis.

APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE.

We invite earnest attention to the address to the people of the Confederate States, issued by President DAVIS in compliance with a request made by Congress. The question presented for consideration is one fraught with the deepest interest, and the most grave reflection of the people should be given it.

The President refers to a plan prepared by the Secretary of War, by the aid of which, or some similar means that the public may adopt, the officers of the government can be assisted in the purchase of surplus supplies now known to exist in the country, for the use of the armies. As this plan is deprived of all the odious features of the impressment system first adopted, to which so much objection was properly made, by the press and people, it should, and we have no doubt will, be at once accepted and acted upon, to an extent that will develope, at an early day, the resources of the country to be such that all fear of scarcity will be removed from the minds of our people, and expectations on the part of the enemy of "starving out the South" abandoned. The scheme proposed is:

1. That the people in each county, parish, or ward, select at public meeting, as early as convenient, a committee of three or more discreet citizens, charged with the duties hereinafter mentioned.

2. That it be the duty of this committee to ascertain from each citizen in the county or parish what amount of surplus meat, whether bacon, pork or beef, he can spare for the use of the army, after reserving a supply for his family and those dependent on him for food. That the committee fix a price which is deemed by them a just compensation for the articles furnished, and inform the citizens what this price is, so that each may know, before delivery, what price is to be paid for the articles furnished, and also to make arrangements for the transportation of the supplies to some convenient depot, after consultation with the officer who is to receive them. Let the committee also make delivery of the supplies on receiving payment of the price, and assume the duty of paying it over to the citizens who have furnished the supplies.

3. Where the duty of the committee is performed in any town or city at which there may be a quartermaster or commissary, no further duty need be required of them than to deliver to the officer a list of names of the citizens and of the supplies which each is ready to furnish, and the price fixed; whereupon the officer will himself gather the supplies and make payment.

4. Where the supplies are furnished in the country, the cost of transportation to the depot will be paid by the government, in addition to the price fixed by the committee.

5. As this appeal is made to the people for the benefit of our brave defenders now in the army, the department relies with confidence on the patriotism of the people, that no more than just compensation would be fixed by the committees, nor accepted by those whose chief motive will be to aid their country, and not to make undue gains out of the needs of our noble soldiers.

HEROISM AT HOME.

The ready facility, says the Selma *Reporter*, with which our people, for the most part, have adapted themselves to the stern vicissitudes of this war, has illustrated in a sublime and infallible manner their devotion to principle, and their consequent worthiness to become the recipients of the blessings of freedom. There is in this attitude of their self-denial an air of grandeur which has not failed to impress many of our foes with the hopelessness of any project of subjugating them. Indeed, the history of the world is but an aggregation of testimony going to show the utter impossibility of subduing a brave and intelligent people who are determined to be free. Blockaded as we are, and have been for two long years, from the luxuries, and even the necessaries of life, it required no ordinary fortitude to bear up under the privations and inconveniences incident to such a state of isolation from the world. No doubt our enemies expected, at the outset of the war, that the mass of our people were incapable of such endurance, or they have always denounced us as being effeminate and deteriorated by reason of our peculiar institutions. This manifestation of heroic self-denial on the part of the great bulk of our people, has had a happy effect in the encouragement thereby given to our brave soldiery; and we believe that as long as there remains a bond of deep and heartfelt sympathy between our people at home and those in the field, that there will be no reason to doubt the event of our ultimate success. It is manifestly the intention of the enemy to throw us upon our powers of endurance. They have long since abandoned all hope of conquering us with the sword, as upon every battle-field we have proved our superior prowess; and now they are resting their hopes of our subjugation upon famine. They expect us to be starved into submission. It is our duty to fortify ourselves against such a contingency, and to encourage each other in braving all the ills of the future, of whatsoever kind they may be. Should our provision crop be large the ensuing season, all will be well, and the "calculating" Yankees sadly at their wit's end.

☞ A Helena letter, of the 3d instant, in the Chicago Times, says that "nearly every boat that comes from the Tallahatchie, brings numbers of stout, healthy negroes. Arrived here, they are thrust into what is called a contraband camp, and a glimpse at the same negroes, a few weeks afterward, furnishes a commentary upon the benefits of emancipation which should be studied and understood by every Abolitionist. Such a picture of squalid wretchedness as the contraband camp of Helena presents, I trust, for humanity's sake, does not exist elsewhere. Ragged, dirty, half-starved, or prostrated with disease, the unfortunate contraband sighs for the liberty of the old plantation, with its comfortable quarters and full rations."

LETTER FROM VICKSBURG.

[Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

VICKSBURG, April 17, 1863.

Uncertainty and expectation is now the prevailing cause of excitement here, and the opinion is gaining strength that the enemy is again coming upon us. Whether these apprehensions are well founded or not will probably transpire in a few days. From all that is to be gleaned in regard to their movements we are led to infer that the first report received from Memphis, to the effect that Grant would make a direct assault on Vicksburg, seems to be nearer the truth than anything else we have heard of late. But little is known here, and our calculations have to be based upon what comes from the Yankees up the river.

The only part of the movement that appears at present incomprehensible is the breaking up of part of the camp and removing the troops up stream. What great strategy there is in moving an army away from the place which it is to capture remains to be explained; and it would not be surprising if the explanation were forthcoming in a short time. As it is, we are again threatened by his approach, and, as the ground upon which he was encamped is now under water, his stay with us will necessarily be short—and if he does come, he will have to confront our fortifications, take a good whaling, and return to where he came from.

In common with the generality of the people here I had been misled in some of my former communications into the belief that the greater part of the army, accompanied by the gunboats, had gone up to Memphis. Reports from above informed us of this, and the evacuation and inundation of the camp on the peninsula confirmed it. Besides this the fleet of transports had nearly altogether disappeared, and being my convictions upon my own observations and the most reliable reports of his movements in other quarters, I could draw no other inference than that Grant's army was to be taken up the Cumberland river. This would have been a virtual abandonment of the siege, even if a guard had been retained to watch the movements here.

From all that is known now there seems to be another effort on foot, and that heavy shipments of troops have been made from Memphis, and that the attack is to be made shortly. I am satisfied that the assault cannot be delayed long; if the enemy is approaching. It will either have to be made soon or lay over until fall, as the hot summer season is not a good time for a Yankee army to be laying siege to Vicksburg. Last year demonstrated that fact, and the necessity will in future be avoided if possible; for this reason time is pressing hard upon them, and the effort will be made soon or not at all.

A disputed matter in regard to the enemy erecting batteries on the levee opposite, seems to be a question hard to be settled. The first known of it was by the Yankee accounts in the Memphis papers, and observations since made here have brought to view parties of the enemy apparently engaged at work in that vicinity, but the nature of their labor is not yet discovered. Yesterday afternoon a number of them were seen at work, and in order to relieve the monotony of their occupation some of our guns opened on them, and kept peppering away right lively until they "shouldadled," as they would call it. Some suspicion existed that the nature of the work they were engaged at were not in building a battery, but in burying their dead companions.

Not more than five transports were in sight yesterday, and but one gunboat could be seen. She has taken her quarters some distance below the former, and occupies about the same position they formerly did. Above Young's point, there were indications of a large fleet, and considerable activity seen. It is now a mooted question whether the late withdrawal was a feint, and whether they are again coming upon us. Should this be the case, they will have gained nothing unless some unknown advantage should hereafter be developed, while we have lost nothing, as the preparations and watchfulness here have been unabated.

About half past eleven last night the alarm was sounded, and it was soon discovered that a number of gunboats were on the run by our batteries. A vigorous fire was immediately opened and the opposite bank of the river illuminated for the benefit of our gunners. Some seven or eight of the boats came within range of our upper batteries, and received very severe handling. One of them was set on fire by our shells and totally destroyed. She was supposed to be a transport temporized into a bomb proof by cotton bales. Some of the Yankees had come down to the skirts opposite, and as the boat was burning they were heard to call to the crew to throw the cotton overboard. The fate of the crew is not known. Another boat is reported sunk, but this is not certain.

One transport, lined with cotton and lashed to the off-side of a gunboat, got by, and is now below the mouth of the canal. The fleet shelled the city as they went by, but I have heard of no casualties. A number of buildings were riddled with their shot. The cannonading was terrific, and lasted about one hour. The object of their passage is not fully known, and is supposed to be with a view of operating in conjunction with Farragut against Port Hudson. The darkness prevented any observations about the amount of damage sustained as they went by. NESTOR.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

[Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

RICHMOND, April 11, 1863.

We have beautiful weather, which, with cheering news, gives a pleasing expression to everybody's face to-day. The telegram of Van Dorn, announcing the capture of four gunboats on the Cumberland river, comes opportunely upon the discomfiture of the Yankee fleet at Charleston to encourage us in the opening of the spring campaign.

The postponement by the house of representatives of the bill for the organization of the supreme court and the court of claims until next year, puts an end to the(an)vassing of the claims of the several gentlemen who have been spoken of in connection with the judicial office in these high stations. The house of representatives has the tax bill, with the senate's amendments, which, it is said, will probably be agreed to.

News has reached us of the blowing up in Washington City of the extensive Federal arsenal there, involving the loss of one thousand lives. Just so many more victims whose blood will be upon the head of Abraham Lincoln.

Webster, who was hanged yesterday, was not a spy, but was executed for a violation of his *parole*. There was an absolute necessity that some example should be made of these criminals who sweat not to take up arms again in the service of the United States, and are caught soon afterward fighting against us. There are several prisoners in the military prisons here awaiting their trials for this very offense.

President Davis' address to the people of the Confederate States on the subject of the raising of provisions is a noble document and will command the attention of the country.

I have the best reasons for believing that a battle will be fought on the line of the Rappahannock in less than three days' time. You may expect also to hear shortly of an encounter in another quarter of the State.

The month of April will be memorable in history. DIXIE.

The Yankee Gunboats Running the Gauntlet.

From the Vicksburg Whig, 17th.]

Last night about eleven o'clock, the rapid firing of the pickets above the city admonished all that the enemy's boats were advancing. In a short time a black object was visible floating down the river, and as soon as it came in range our upper batteries opened fire. The gunboat, which it afterward proved to be, soon returned fire and steamed on down the center of the stream until about opposite the city, after which she ceased propelling and floated along.

When she got opposite Major Ogden's battery, the house of Mr. Arnold, on the opposite side of the river was discovered to be on fire, the flames of which revealed several other boats coming down in the bend. As they came in range battery after battery opened and the flashes from the guns and the burning house on the other shore, gave us a fine view of the advancing steamers.

Our batteries still continued belching forth with apparently good effect, but nevertheless an occasional shot came from her, the flashes of which showed her to be a low, heavy iron-clad of the Essex pattern, with two chimneys, the tops of which appeared to be painted white. Five boats next moved down almost together, and, as they came under the Wyman's hill battery, Yankee missiles were sent thick and fast into our city. The firing of guns, whistling of balls, bursting of shells, the devouring flames that rose from Arnold's house, and the houses from the crowds that congregated on the hills, in the streets and wherever a view of the boats could be obtained, was a sight baffling description. The five boats steamed on and were followed by two or three transports which kept pretty close to the Louisiana shore. Two of the gunboats appeared to have been disabled by Colonel Jackson's battery, as they ceased steaming after passing that battery and drifted to the opposite side of the river. Soon another craft, we believe a gunboat, came floating by the burning house, with gushes of fire bursting out in several places. The flames rapidly spread, and in a few seconds the fearful glare of pallid light was dispelling the wild darkness of night in awful grandeur.

Then cheer after cheer was sent up by our citizens and the soldiers at the guns and in the rifle pits. Cotton was thrown from the burning vessel and a long boat was seen to leave her for the Louisiana shore. By this time the other boats, now some distance in advance, were being engaged by the canal batteries, while the upper guns opened on what seemed to be a couple of barges, floating far in the rear of the iron clads. These crafts of course, passed on with impunity, and about a quarter of 1 o'clock everything was quiet above, the firing being confined to the lower batteries, some of the boats still being in range. The prompt supply of these articles with fabrics where our armies are operating. You will thus add greatly to their efficiency, and furnish the means without which it is impracticable to make those prompt and active movements which have hitherto stricken terror into our enemies, and secured our most brilliant triumphs.

Having thus placed before you, my countrymen, the reasons for the call made on you for aid in supplying the wants of the coming year, I added a word of appeal in behalf of the brave soldiers now confronting your enemies, and to whom your government is unable to furnish all the comforts they so richly merit. The supply of meat for the army is deficient. This deficiency is only temporary, for measures have been adopted which will, it is believed, soon enable us to restore the full ration. But that ration is now reduced at times to one-half the usual quantities in some of our armies. It is to be meat that is furnished to the army. The country is sufficient for the support of all, but the distances are so great, the condition of the roads has been so bad during the five months of winter weather through which we have passed and the attempts of speculators to forestall the market and make money out of the life-blood of our defenders, have so much influenced the withdrawal from sale of the surplus in the hands of the producers that the government has been unable to gather full supplies. The Secretary of War has prepared a plan, by the aid of which, or some similar means to be adopted by yourselves, you can assist the officers of the government in the purchase of the bacon, the pork and the beef, known to exist in large quantities in different parts of the country. Even if the surplus be less than is believed, is it not a bitter and humiliating reflection that there are men who have escaped from hardship and protected from danger, should be in the enjoyment of abundance, and that their slaves should have a full supply of food, while their sons, brothers, husbands and fathers are stinted in the rations on which their health and efficiency depend?

Entertaining no fear that you will either misconstrue the motives of this address, or fail to respond to the call of patriotism, I have placed before you, fellow-citizens, the facts that we all unite in the performance of our duty, each in his sphere; and, with concerted, persistent and well directed effort, there seems little reason to doubt that, under the blessings of Him to whom we look for guidance, and who has been to us our shield and our strength, we shall maintain the sovereignty and independence of the Confederate States, and transmit to our posterity the heritage bequeathed to us by our fathers.

(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Richmond, April 10, 1863.

Outrages on Deer Creek.

From the Whig, April 17.]

From our young friend Phill. Fall, who is just from Deer creek, we learn that the enemy have laid waste everything on the west side of the creek for a distance of thirty miles. On the east side but little damage was done, Colonel Ferguson having destroyed all the bridges, thus preventing their advance. Every gin and all the fodder and corn, from Smith & Hood's to Dr. Thomas', had been destroyed, and five or six hundred negroes carried away, together with hundreds of horses and mules. Major Lee, father-in-law of Colonel Ferguson, fared better than any planter on the route, losing but two or three negroes. Some of the Yankee officers proposed marrying his house servants, if they would go off with them, but the negroes preferred being the slaves of Major Lee to being the wives of Yankees.

Samuel Taylor had very near all his quarters and fodder and corn destroyed. Syme lost several negroes and all his corn. A. J. Paxton's gin, corn and fodder were burned, and his dwelling set on fire three times, but was extinguished each time by Rev. Mr. McClellan, whom the Yankees threatened to hang. They drew their guns on Mrs. Paxton three times, and made an unsuccessful attempt to take her governess off as a prize. At Col. George R. Fall's place they left nothing but the negro cabins and his dwelling. Threatening him a colonel in our army, they wanted to burn him with his gin, but upon searching his house they found he had anticipated their movements and flown. W. T. Warren's place was saved from total destruction by the presence of a Frenchman, who knocked a Yankee down and checked the nefarious proceedings. W. F. Smith lost a great deal, including, it is reported, his whole force, consisting of one hundred and fifty hands. Downie's dwelling house and quarters were consumed, and the stock, poultry, etc., carried away. Dr. Thomas' stock was all shot and his corn and fodder burned. There were many other sufferers, but we have not learned their names. None of the negroes were forced from the plantations; only such as left voluntarily were taken to the boats.

REPRINTS.—We have been favored with copies of the New Orleans journals, of the 6th inst., but find them filled with extracts from the APPEAL, of the 1st and 2d, so exclusively, that they contain nothing of interest to your readers.

☞ The Vicksburg *Whig* says the Yankee battery on the peninsula was discovered and opened upon by Major Ogden's battery on Thursday. The shooting was good, but no response could be elicited.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

THE MISSISSIPPI FALLING.

Troops Etc. Going Down.

Preparations to Overrun Mississippi.

[Special to the Memphis Appeal.]

SENATORIA, April 17.—The Mississippi is falling with a rapidity unprecedented. It commenced declining on Monday last, and has increased every day until it reached a fall of two feet on Tuesday, at a point ten miles below Memphis, and a total of six feet.

Boats descending the river are laden with munitions, provisions and troops, and two fleets of coal tows have gone down.

The suppression of the Memphis papers is attributed to the republication of an article from the Cincinnati Commercial concerning General Grant.

The Federal cavalry at Memphis is being increased for the purpose, it is supposed, of operating in Northern Mississippi. Several regiments of infantry are being mounted. B.

Confederate States Congress.

RICHMOND, April 17.—In the senate to-day the house bill passed to displace from the quartermaster and commissary departments all clerks liable to military duty, and detail for clerical duty disabled soldiers. The house bill, passed early in the session, repealing certain clauses of the exemption act, was taken up and amended by substituting the clauses of the senate exemption bill relating to overseers on plantations. It was also further amended by incorporating all the provisions of the conference exemption bill rejected yesterday, except the paragraph relative to overseers, etc. In this shape the bill passed after a long debate.

The house passed the exemption bill as reported on Wednesday from the committee of conference. Also passed the bill to allow hospital accommodations to sick and wounded officers at one dollar per day. They adopted the following device for the seal of the Confederate States: Equestrian portrait of Washington, copied from the monument at Richmond, surrounded with a wreath composed in chief of the agricultural productions of the South. Motto—DEO DUCE VINCEMUS—God being our leader, we will conquer. The house then went into secret session on the tax bill.

From Port Hudson.

PORT HUDSON, April 17.—The enemy's upper fleet has returned from above Bayou Sara. They stopped at Point Coupee post office and took off the letters. On their way down they committed no other depredations. The lower fleet quiet, only one vessel being in sight.

Reports of Federal Successes.

PONCHATOULA, April 17.—The New Orleans Era of the 14th has the following: The captured ram Queen of the West was destroyed this morning at 10 o'clock, by our gunboats, on Grand Lake, and her crew captured. The gunboat Diana is in a tight place, and will probably be captured or destroyed.

The rebels evacuated their works at Centerville last night, and retreated up the Teche. It is expected that the rebel force will be captured. The enemy is now between the troops of Gen. Grover on the Teche, and Gen. Grover has succeeded in gaining the rear of the enemy and will intercept his retreat, he left his guns and ammunition behind him, which have fallen into our hands.

Latest from Vicksburg.

VICKSBURG, April 17.—Four prisoners from the boat sunk last night, brought in to-day, say the transport Henry Clay was sunk and the Silver Wave burned, and the ram Lafayette was sunk by our lower batteries. They also state that the remainder of the expedition will come down to-night.

The battery on the peninsula ceased firing late this afternoon. It has done no damage.

☞ The Memphis *Argus*, of the 13th, states that twelve light draft monitors, at $38,000 a piece, are contracted for to be built within six months. Two are to be built by A. Swift & Co., Cincinnati, to be named the Klamath and Zema. The same paper states that on the 11th, the steamer Continental arrived from below, bringing up eight hundred bales of cotton.

OUR MEMPHIS LETTER.—We invite attention to the sprightly letter from Memphis, published this morning. It is, as it purports, from a "secesh Girl," who is one of those high-toned, generous and noble secesh girls of whom there are many yet remaining in Memphis. We hope to hear from her as frequently as possible.

☞ The Vicksburg *Whig*, of yesterday, says General Lee has returned from Deer creek, the Yankees having abandoned that route for getting in the rear of Vicksburg. We believe all the tributaries of the YAZOO are now clear of Yankee crafts.

CORINTH.—We had another report as to the situation at this point last evening, to the effect that reinforcements to the extent of thirty thousand Federal troops had arrived, via Tennessee river. We regard the rumor as an unfounded one.

☞ Our special from Senatobia refers to the organizing of a Federal cavalry force at Memphis to operate in North Mississippi. Reports from that city say the corps will consist of thirteen regiments.

☞ If Lieut. R. S. Walker, of the APPEAL battery, will call at this office, he will hear of something to his advantage.

Prospects in the Southwest.

From the Chicago Times, 7th.]

The discouraging failure of all the expeditions sent against the Lower Mississippi cannot be attributed—as many journals and partisans do attribute it—to the inefficiency of the officers or soldiers accompanying them. It has been the role of nearly all our operations in the far South, that they should combat natural obstacles as well as a determined enemy. The country, impatient for decisive results, and the Administration, fearful for its tenure of popularity, have chafed at delays and demanded action where none could be had. It is probably in response to this expression that the various expeditions into the Mississippi bayous have been made. Something must be done, and the country is amused and diverted by mythical projects which all the world of thinking men know could not prove successful. It was not in the range of probability that the enemy would allow offensive operations to be carried on in a trackless wilderness of swamps and bayous, which they can command and hold with perfect ease, when they so effectually hold us in check on the great highway itself. If our brave soldiers get safely out of the place they have been taken into, they will be more fortunate than we anticipate. There is hardly a chance for the boats to escape, for the bayous were probably filled up with fallen trees when they had passed, and to abandon both transports and gunboats, and march across the country, will, perhaps, be their only resource.

Great importance has been attached to the aid of Commodore Farragut's fleet, which was to have run by Port Hudson to cooperate against Vicksburg. The attempt was a failure, but, had it succeeded, results would not have been changed. Commodore Farragut was there last summer, with his whole fleet, and combined with Commodore Davis in a lengthened effort, which resulted in nothing. He is no stronger now than then, and can render no assistance which he did not then render. The conclusion is, therefore, that gunboats and war vessels are powerless to reduce Vicksburg.

If the country will wait patiently until July and August, when the water falls, and the country becomes dry, our troops can probably march into the rear of Vicksburg and attack its railroad communication, either destroying it, or forcing the enemy to fight us on even ground for its defense. Then, by surrounding the place and making regular approaches, we may cut off its supplies, and force it to surrender. It will be seen by this that the complaints against the army for allowing the season to slip away without results is simple absurdity. The season is just approaching, and, by diligent use of our facilities, we may hope to possess Vicksburg by this time next year—by starvation, if by no other process. General Grant was probably ordered down the Mississippi by the authorities at Washington to cover up Sherman's wretched fiasco, and quiet the country with a semblance of activity. He has fulfilled that mission: has amused and diverted the popular anxiety, and is now in condition to commence an active and efficient summer campaign.

☞ T. J. Hampton, of Little Rock, died on Tuesday morning, the 31st ult., from the effects of a pistol shot fired by R. A. Watkins, jr., on Saturday evening. Watkins was arrested shortly after the shooting, but made his escape.

A PLEA FOR PEACE.

Speech of Richard O'Gorman, of New York, before the Democratic Central Club of Philadelphia, on Monday, February 23d.

Richard O'Gorman, Esq., of New York, delivered an address in Philadelphia on Monday evening the 23d ult., under the auspices of the Democratic Central Club, of which we find the following is a full report:

There is a legend among the dwellers by the Rhine that on one night in each year, when the moon is at the full, the great Emperor Charles leaves his tomb, and clad in his royal purple, with crown on his head and scepter in his hand, stately and majestic as in life, walks the earth again and revisits the scenes he loved. When the moonbeams fall on the noble river and fling from bank to bank a bridge of light, across that bridge the monarch walks, and from the hill beyond, with out stretched arm, scatters benediction over all the German land. His blessed corn field and vineyard, hamlet and castle, city and fort; he blesses the flocks and herds; he blesses the sleeping people; and then his mission ended, he returns, softly as he came, to his resting place in La Chappelle. Who knows whether such things may not be? I would rather trust the instincts and feelings of the people than the wisest theories of philosophers. If love indeed, can exist on earth, as pure, lofty, and unselfish, that not even death can sever its bonds; if communion may be between the living and the mighty dead, then child it is not as a wild aspiration. Bear with it at least as a harmless fancy, and forgive the enthusiast, if such there be, who dreams that on this the anniversary of the day when the great founder of the North American Republic first saw the light, his spirit, too, may be permitted to revisit the glimpses of the moon; to refresh in a fond pilgrimage the scenes of his ancient renown; to breathe into the hearts of those to whom his memory is dear some of the patriotism which fired his own heart, and to bless again with his benign presence all the honesome land in whose service every thought, hope and effort of his noble life were spent. [Loud cheers.] Along the road I have traversed to-day, all through the gallant little State that stretches between this city and my home, in battlefields of the shameless but persistent struggle in which his soldiers fell, staggering under the weight of his own curse, yet blest as the fainting heart of the American people, at last, [illegible] The Delaware, blocked with ice; the dreary huts of Morristown and Valley Forge, in which, amid the snows and famine of winter, courage and hope seemed almost to freeze and die; over all the graves of his kin and his peril still rests the glory of his great name. [Applause.]

But it is here, I think, more than any other place, even in this good city of Philadelphia, where the spirit of the chieftain would linger with the most tender remembrance. Here it was he saw the great work of his life completed. Here, in your State house, sat that convention of delegates from the original States who were charged with the solemn duty of determining whether or any and on what terms these sovereign States could be brought to form a union.

Over this great assembly George Washington presided.

They succeeded. By their wisdom, moderation and discretion they established their object.

After four months of earnest deliberation and toil was completed that great charter of American freedom—that grand, comprehensive, statesmanlike, yet practicable and theoretic—that just and rational bond of union, by which alone these sovereign States, differing in climate, production, interests, habits, and traditions, could then have been united in one confederation, could ever since then have been kept united, or can now be reunited, if such be God's will. I mean the Constitution of the United States. [Cheers and long continued applause.] By arms the States had won their independence from foreign rule. By mutual concession and rational compromise they achieved a higher triumph over themselves.

By means of that concession and compromise they became united into the confederation which we call the United States. Upon that, may be drawn the question on this confederacy are yet the generation that stood by its cradle shall all have passed away; though that great charter may be trampled and spurned and violated by frenzy, or evaded by fraud; though the people, misled by folly, recklessness, and selfishness of faction, may, with their own hands, cast down and shatter into ten thousand fragments, the great monument which their forefathers bequeathed to them, and finally hoped they would guard as their own vault, until age after age, on its frieze will be inscribed the words of pride; yet still the memory of that wise assembly—of the men who composed it—of the man who presided over their counsels—of the work they achieved, and the gallant spirit in which they achieved it, will live in every heart and in every home all over the earth, where still lingers the blessed faith that, in spite of failures, defeats and disappointments, national liberty is yet within reach of rational men. [Cheers.]

Washington was steadfast, loyal, valiant, moderate, wise and true.

There appear in history many characters more brilliant and dazzling. I know of none more sterling, and well balanced, and complete.

He was not the mere man of arms in the right place, the iron representative and embodiment of the best qualities of his people and his age. For I am far from thinking that the military genius of any country or time are the producers of its greatness or the cause of its decay.

They are not creators but creatures. A heroic age will seek heroism, and by a sure instinct find it and cherish it and set it at its head. A prudent age will find honest men for its guides. An age of darkness, bigotry, selfishness, and corruption will set in its high places men after its own image and likeness—reckless, selfish, and corrupt—then and cast them aside, first to worship and then to defile, trample and destroy.

This is the unvarying law of history; king or kaiser, doge or president, as the people are, so will the ruler be, for good or ill. When, therefore, you honor Washington as one of the noble sons of the State, as head of that convention by whose wisdom they were united in one confederation as President of the States so united, and, perhaps, as one who has been in such capacity never faithful, chivalrous, wise and good, honor to the people and the age in which he lived, for of their character he was the mirror and exemplar. [Continued cheers.] On the 4th of March, 1793, only sixty-nine years ago, his career of forty five years of public life was brought to a close; that day, in your State capitol, he resigned the office of President was inaugurated General Washington assisted at the ceremonies, and when they were done, leaving on the arm of James Wilson, an old citizen of Pennsylvania, and then a judge of the supreme court, he walked to his dwelling. He was silent and wrapped in thought all the way; at his door he paused a moment, and then, as he hastened for the first time aware that his steps had been followed by a reverent and silent crowd, who stood there uncovered to pay their last obedience to the man they had trusted and loved.

This last tribute of respect was too much for him. The fountain of emotions, long controlled, overflowed the bank and poured down his eyes. Every effort to speak was unavailing, and, waving to the people a mute benediction and farewell, he entered his house and was seen no a public man no more. Could Washington take that same path to-day, what a different sight would meet his eyes. But sixty-nine years gone by, and yet how wofully all is changed.

Then, with the people all was well. Independence from foreign control had been obtained. The States had agreed to unite on terms which offered a prospect that they would for ages live together in peace. Congress had assembled and deliberated with dignity and temper; nay, the only question from which difficulty might be apprehended had been discussed and settled by a compromise mutually satisfactory and true to every party, but to all the United States. In the first Congress of the United States, a memorial, signed by the venerable name of Benjamin Franklin, on behalf of the "Pennsylvania society, for promoting the abolition of slavery," was presented to the house of representatives and read. It was the last act of a venerable sage, who, in the prayer that the power would commissionate the restoration to liberty of those in bondage," and "that they would stoop to the very verge of the power vested in them for encouraging every species of traffic in their fellow man."

The subject of this memorial, after repeated discussions, was referred to a select committee. There it was at last submitted to a committee of the whole, and they, striking out a considerable share of the report, confined themselves at last to the simple declaration "that Congress had no authority to interfere with the emancipation of slaves, or in the treatment of them, within any of the States, it remaining with the several States alone to provide such regulations therein as humanity and true policy may require." And so that question seemed then to have been wisely and definitely settled and set at rest forever. In the hearts of the people of the United States, North and South, peace and good will seemed to reign now, how strangely, how woefully all is changed.

America has drawn its sword against itself. By American hands American blood is shed, American cities are ruined, American fields are ravaged and laid waste.

A civil war of a magnitude and destructiveness scarcely ever equaled in the annals of barbarous ferocity rages throughout the land.

American ports are blockaded, American commerce is swept off by American ships, American money is levished, American lives are spent in perfecting and applying the most efficient means of spreading among American dwellings, horror and desolation.

Christianity, shuddering, veils its head in woe.

Even the common human instincts revolt at the horrors that accumulate on the devoted peoples; yet, statesmen and statesmen, poets, preachers, and philanthropists seem to take pleasure in the scene, and pronounce it good. The greatest benevolence glow over the gallant spirit which they believe to be capable of slaughter. Nay, even ministers of the Gospel, Bible in hand, incite their congregations to war and bloodshed, and invoke the God of peace, the God of love, the God of benediction of the God of peace. The strangest inconsistencies cross one another. One is bewildered in a maze of contradictions. What does it all mean? The civilized world stands aghast. Which of us is mad—the civilized world or we? Was Cain but performing a meritorious act in slaying Abel? Was his sacrifice rejected more acceptably because it was seen with his brother's blood? Is Christianity all wrong? Must we unlearn it and accept the creed of Attila and of Omar Alra?

Are we right in what we are doing in America? May there not be some doubt about it?

I do not speak now with the voice of this faction or that. I do not echo their watchwords or share their animosities.

These things are only the bubbles that float for a minute on the great current of a nation's history. And twenty years hence as it is to the memory of him who stood in life on an eminence so high that the gusts and storms of faction, of jealousy and intrigue, rolled far below, so shall the memory of those who shall be the strong pulse of a nation's life, of a nation's destiny and hopes—to-day, for his sake if not for our own,—let us raise our hearts as near as we can to his level, and strive to look at events and judges of them as they would have been seen and judged of by him. Remember, a time will come when all these things will be history. There will come when all these things will be history. There will come when all these things will be history. There