

and as she sank—so does the story read—a dying seaman crossed her decks, upon the raw and bleeding stumps of his shattered limbs, to pull the lanyards of his gun, and fire a parting shot towards the foe.

Need I speak for such men? The impressive scene before me is my answer. These costly and beautiful gifts are the embodiment yet not the measure, of the patriotism and the humanity of the people.

In their name I commit them to you, sir, and through you to their holy mission of comfort to the sick and wounded, and consolation to the dying heroes of our army and our navy.

Right Rev. Bishop SIMPSON, of the M. E. Church, who had been delegated by President LINCOLN to act in his stead and receive the munificent gift, made an eloquent speech in discharging the duty entrusted to him. He said:

BISHOP SIMPSON'S ADDRESS.

"At the request of the President of the United States, and in his behalf, I accept from the honorable Executive Committee the vast treasures contained in these immense buildings, the generous offerings of the citizens of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, to be dedicated, in the name of the people, to the use of the sick and wounded in our army and navy. No one more than myself regrets the absence of our Chief Magistrate, in view of the unparalleled magnificence of these arrangements, and the character of this assemblage, combining, as they do, to form a gathering worthy of his presence. We should be delighted to hear from his lips his acknowledgement of the great good being done by Christian and Sanitary Commissions, and to hear of the promises of glorious results of the present national struggle. [Cheers.] But he could not be with us. His eyes are upon Richmond. [Cheers.] He is listening for tidings from the brave general and from the equally brave advancing hosts. [Cheers.] He is waiting to give such assistance as the interests of that army may demand. While he is not with us, he is *of* us. He is deeply moved at the distresses and privations of the soldiers and sailors, and all that the government could do he has promptly done for the officers of the Sanitary Commission."

The Bishop briefly reviewed the work of the Commission, and referring to the magnitude of the present struggle, declared that, although our young men have been swept away by the hundreds and although amid the smoke some stars have been dimmed, yet the Star Spangled Banner still floats, and men still rally around the flag. [Cheers.] In concluding, he said: "It is true that many sleep in the dust. A LYON, a BAKER, a SEDGEWICK, and a WADSWORTH rest in their glory, but we have a host still left. SHERMAN has shown that he is 'a Northern man with Southern proclivities!' [Cheers.] We have a THOMAS who never doubts, and we have a HOOKER who pushes his way through the clouds. New England has given her HOWARD, and, one-armed as he is, he is still a host. She has given a BUTLER who is a terror to the whole South. [Cheers.] Pennsylvania proudly looks at her HANCOCK as a tower of strength, and she wears next to her heart her MEADE of honor, while the kindly West, from the borders of the Mississippi, sent us a GRANT of unconditional victory. [Cheers for GRANT, and for the Army of the Potomac.] Our marines are equally precious. A gallant FOOTE rests in his glory;

but we have left a PORTER, a FARRAGUT, and a DUPONT. [Cheers.]

And now, in the name of the people who have proffered all these generous gifts, and whose hearts are with the brave soldiers on land or ocean—in the name of the people who reverence the Constitution under which we live, and who have sworn to uphold it—in the name of the people who are resolved to live and die under the Stars and Stripes without a bar across them, I dedicate these buildings to the use of the sick and wounded in our army and navy who have perilled their lives in defence of their country. May God restore them speedily to health, and may they soon return to their homes, and may these donors feel that it is more blessed to give than to receive. [Cheers.]

PRAYER OF DEDICATION.

Right Rev. Bishop STEVENS then delivered an impressive prayer of dedication.

THE GOVERNOR OF DELAWARE.

Governor CANNON, of Delaware, was then introduced, and in a brief address he stated that Delaware had endeavored to do her share in the good work, and expressed the hope that the Great Central Fair would exceed the anticipations of its most ardent supporters. He trusted that his State would soon enroll herself among the list of Free States and take her proper position in the Union.

THE GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY.

Governor PARKER, of New Jersey, followed with an interesting address, giving a somewhat detailed statement of the work done by his State for her soldiers in the field. Referring to the political topics of the day, he urged forbearance and a toleration as to difference of opinions.

THE GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Governor CURTIN closed the ceremonies. He said:

I will not detain you very long. I notice by the programme that I am to declare the formal opening of these buildings. I will discharge that duty quickly and in a few words.

It is pleasant, indeed, to know that while Western Pennsylvania is engaged in the pious work, the people of Eastern Pennsylvania have joined with the people of Delaware and New Jersey, in offering, at the altar of our country, these treasures and have united in the dedication of these buildings to the sick and wounded soldiers of the Republic. [Cheers.]

My friends, if there is one man more than another, whom you can admit to your sincere reverence and respect, it is the private soldier. [Cheers.] He is the true, noble man of this land. [Cheers.] He falls with unrecorded name; he serves in the army for small pay; no pageant marks his funeral, and he may fall with those, who at Gettysburg fill the graves of the "unknown," and while you are ministering to him when he is sick and wounded, pray, in God's name, do not forget his widow and orphans when he falls. [Cheers.]

Recollect, too, that the work before this great nation is big enough for all, and here, where rich and poor join in making their offering to their country, let us forget all differences in opinion in politics, in sects and in religion, and declare, with one voice, for our bleeding and distracted country. [Applause.]

[To Governor CANNON.] Sir, I welcome you to our city. PARKER, of New Jersey, I welcome your loyal heart, as the representative of the loyal people of your State. And now, when the whole country is trembling under the rude shocks of armed rebellion, the greatest known in history, all differences should be forgotten, for the work is big enough for all. [Applause.] Now, when human foresight is balked; when no man can tell the future of the country; when armies, generals and soldiers fail; when all human combinations fall short of the destruction of the rebellion, let me dedicate this great building to the American Soldier. [Cheers.]

The accident which took place in the early part of the proceedings compelled the Committee of Arrangements to dispense with the musical part of the programme. At the close of the benediction, by Bishop SIMPSON, a proposition was made to sing The Star Spangled Banner, and the vast multitude joined in singing the national anthem with grand effect. Cheers were given for the Union, for President Lincoln, for Generals Grant, Meade, and Hancock, and the audience then scattered to ramble through the Fair, and glance at some of its wonders.

The following anthem, written by Dr. Holmes for the occasion, was to have been sung, but in consequence of the accident to the singers' platform, it was necessarily omitted:

HYMN.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Written expressly for the Great Central Fair.

Father send on earth again
Peace and good will to men;
Yet, while the weary track of life
Leads thy people through storm and strife,
Help us to walk therein.

Guide us through the perilous path;
Teach us love that tempers wrath;
Let the fountain of mercy flow
Alike for helpless friend and foe,
Children all of thine.

God of grace, hear our call;
Bless our gifts, Giver of all;
The wounded heal, the captive restore,
And make us a nation evermore
Faithful to Freedom and Thee!

READ, YE UNBELIEVERS!

Among the various statistics elicited by the great Sanitary movement, we have the following:—Since Fairs have become fashionable, it has been estimated that, by working for them—One million, nine thousand and forty young ladies have advanced in "worsted work" so far as to be competent to darn stockings. Two millions and twenty-three have, by writing letters for the Fair Post Offices, improved their "hand" so as to be able to indite killing *billets doux*.

Three millions one thousand and twenty-five have carried needlework so far as to be able to sew on any button whatever.

And yet there are people who "do not believe" in this Fair business!!