

end of Union avenue, and to its inspiring tones a procession proceeds up towards the speaker's stand in the following order:

Police.
 Chief Marshal and Aids, with the Executive Committee.
 Bishop Simpson, Mayor Henry, and Chairman of Executive Committee.
 Reverend Clergy, specially invited.
 Governors of Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.
 Judiciary.
 General Cadwalader and Staff.
 Commodore Stribling and Officers of Navy Yard.
 Presidents of Select and Common Councils.
 Members of Select and Common Councils.
 Members of the General Committee.
 The judiciary was represented by Judges Woodward, Strong and Read. General Cadwalader and Admiral Dupont worthily represented the Army and Navy. A number of other prominent officers were present.

A MISHAP.

After the distinguished personages had taken their places upon the stage, and just as Mayor HENRY was about to take the chair, an accident occurred which caused some confusion and delay. The temporary platform upon which the ladies and gentlemen, who were to sing an anthem, and the Star Spangled Banner, as a portion of the ceremonies, were seated, gave way, and threw the singers and musicians to the ground upon the top of the wreck. It was at first feared that serious injuries had been sustained by the persons who had fallen with the stage; but the imperilled persons were speedily rescued, and the gratifying announcement that no person was seriously hurt, restored quiet and order, relieved the general suspense, and enabled the Committee of Arrangement to proceed with the regular programme. Hon. ALEXANDER HENRY, Mayor of the City, was the first speaker. During his address, a National Salute was fired upon the outside of the Fair enclosure. Mr. HENRY spoke as follows:

MAYOR HENRY'S ADDRESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—We enter to-day upon the realization of the zealous efforts which humanity and patriotism have alike incited, and as we should, upon the threshold of an enterprise rarely equalled in extent, never surpassed in the grandeur of its purpose, we may rejoice at the rich promise of its success, while we are yet mindful of the sad urgency that has called it forth. Gratitude and sympathy have before them full scope for their most generous and untiring exertions. No claims more sacred, no appeals more powerful were ever addressed to loyal people than come to us this hour from the maimed and suffering defenders of our Union. [Cheers.]

The gigantic contest that is now waged between loyalty and rebellion is preëminent in magnitude as are the hills and plains that behold its deadly strife. No military resources, however well directed, can adequately provide

relief for the thousands of brave men who have sunk under the fatigue and privations of the march or have been stricken down upon the many fields of battle. In this emergency, the noble, heaven-prompted associations of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, offer to you wide channels through which the oil and wine of soothing kindness and of strengthening cheer may flow from the plenty of your homes to the need of the sick or wounded soldier. Of these organizations, the Sanitary Commission is the chosen dispenser of the liberal offerings which the people of our own, and of two other sister States, have brought hither on this holy cause. [Cheers.]

Enlarged views, refined tastes and unflagging energies have originated, planned and matured this grand undertaking. All that may delight the sense and gladden the heart has been gathered into this spacious temple, dedicated to loyal benevolence, or has been stored within its numerous courts. The eye will wander with pleasure over each attractive scene and brilliant group; the ear will drink in the surging melody of the joyous voices with which these arches shall reverberate, while yet each passing moment may add new claimants of your benefactions from among the heroes who even now are assailing treason in those last strongholds, which, by God's blessing and man's valor, shall witness the death throes of the rebellion. [Cheers.] With unusual gratification, I accept the honor tendered by the Executive Committee of the Great Central Fair, of presiding on this occasion of its opening ceremonies.

Right Rev. W. B. STEVENS, D.D., Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, followed in an impressive prayer for the success of the great undertaking.

JOHN C. CRESSON, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, was then introduced. He formally delivered the building and its contents to the Executive Committee. In performing this he said:

REMARKS OF JOHN C. CRESSON, ESQ.

Mr. Chairman of the Executive Committee:—The hour has come in which the hopes and labors of many anxious months have reached their end. It was made the duty of the Committee on General Arrangements to choose a site, arrange the plans and erect the buildings for the Great Central Fair. It was to be properly fitted for the display and sale of the many gifts gathered by the zealous efforts of the men and women and children of three sister States, to help on the holy work of the United States Sanitary Commission. With the help of a host of skilful and busy hands, guided and urged on by cunning heads and earnest hearts, the work has been done within the allotted time. This great hall and its branching corridors, devoted in name and purpose to the Union, are the results of these labors. In many things they are defective and fall short of our wishes; but it is hoped they may afford room enough for the gifts to be displayed, and shelter for the throngs that will come to see them, and buy. These buildings, and the goods they are filled with, we now hand over to the executive body, over which you, sir, so worthily preside. We who were charged with the duty of building them, and our colleagues who have so well arranged and decked the interior walls and tables, are most happy to give place to our other fellow-laborers, in whose hands remains the crowning work in this good and noble cause.

THEODORE CUYLER, Esq., on behalf of the Executive Committee, received the buildings and their contents. He said:

REMARKS OF MR. CUYLER.

Gentlemen, Chairmen of the Committees of Arrangements:—In the name, and by the authority of the Executive Committee of the Great Central Fair, and by request of its Chairman, I accept this perfect work.

This beautiful structure, so fair and graceful in its proportions, and its vast and varied contents, more eloquently proclaim your title to our thanks than any words which I could utter.

By the same authority I present them to you, sir, whom the President of the United States has honored as his appointed representative, so that through you they may be dedicated to those noble uses to which they were designed, and to which they have been consecrated. Consecrated by no human rite or ceremony, but by an indwelling spirit of pious patriotism which inspired their givers, and by their devotion to the holy purpose of comforting those who toil and suffer, that millions, who, perhaps, may never hear of them may be free, and great and happy.

These noble buildings and their precious contents are the free gift of the grateful people of three States—New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania—to the army and navy of the United States.

They are worthy to receive them. These living heroes who battle on the field and on the flood will prove it. These maimed and wounded heroes who crowd our highways and meet us in our walks, will prove it. These sick and dying heroes in our hospitals will prove it. These dead heroes *have proved it*—who sleep beneath the wave or upon a hundred battle-fields, who moistened with their blood the soil torn with shot and shell and trampled with mailed feet, beneath which they were buried, almost before the red light of battle had faded from their eyes. But I speak not now of the dead. They reckon little of our remembering or our forgetting, and are beyond our ministry, though the time will come when the peaceful, prosperous, reunited people of a now shattered but then *Restored Union* will build enduring monuments to the immortal memory of those who, with heroic devotion, have sealed their convictions with their blood, and died to teach the world that there are truths dearer than life, and wrongs more to be dreaded than death, and if there be a spot on earth where the grass of summer will grow greener, and where the winds of winter will blow less roughly, and the leaves of autumn will fall more gently than on another, it is on these soldier's graves.

But I speak now for the living—for those who make good now suffering and in blood, at the sword's point, our own brave speeches—who bear the cross, that we, at last, may wear the crown—for those who give us those great days, which, to our children, are an inheritance better than riches, and of which our posterity, long generations hence, shall read with quickened pulses and eyes dimmed with tears. For such as fought upon the bloody fields of Hanover and Malvern, of Antietam and Gettysburg, of Chattanooga, or the bloodier and more recent battles of the Wilderness.

I speak for the seamen of our navy—for men such as fought the gallant Cumberland and went down with her, nobly disdaining to surrender, as she was sinking fast beneath the engulfing ocean, with the banner of our country proudly floating from her mast-head,