

THANKSGIVING SERMON.

Delivered in the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Lewistown, on Thanksgiving Day, by Rev. J. S. McMurray.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.—Psalm 100. A. Few nations of earth, at any period of human history, have failed to make some recognition of His merciful power, in their more marked social events. Nor could we, as citizens of Pennsylvania, and of this great Federal Union, fail to do so without the most alarming designation, in obedience to the voice of custom and the injunction of magisterial authority, we have assembled in the house of God, in recognition of that Divine hand which has unbarred to us blessings so many and so great; to unite, as with one accord, in ascriptions of praise to their great adorable Source. Thus, in the very act of worship, we distinctly recognize God's agency in all our affairs—His agency which embraces as well all worlds, all beings, and all things both great and small—and continuing to the pious sentiment of the Psalmist, under a grateful sense of His beneficence and bounty, we enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; to be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.

I. As to what we were, but have reason to thank God for national existence. No one can trace the early history of this Republic of the new world, without perceiving the hand of God, distinctly marked, in its formation and its establishment as one of the powers of earth. To no other source can we attribute the wonderful preservation of our pilgrim fathers when they threw themselves on these desert shores, amid savages wild as the wildderness through which they roamed, the various elements of nature conspiring with these barbarous hordes, to crush that germ from which the nation sprang. So also in the war of the Revolution, when a mere handful of colonists were called to meet in death grapple their powerful oppressors. How did the God of nations then vindicate the cause of justice and right, and turn the scale in favor of our freedom! And no less in the construction of our civil fabric, the framing of our great national charter, whose matchless wisdom surpasses all that had ever been elaborated in the whole history of the world.

II. We have reason to thank God, for the unexampled progress and prosperity attained, under His kind and benignant providence. No nation of earth ever experienced such rapid growth in every material element of true greatness; and because no other nation (excepting, perhaps, the covenanted descendants of Abraham)—has ever experienced richer results from the interference of Divine agency; becoming the richest, the happiest, and mightiest power on the face of the globe. No other nation was ever furnished with such abundant resources; in the vastness of territory; exhaustless fertility of soil; friendliness of climate; incalculable mineral wealth; navigable waters; inventive genius; intelligence, and energy of its population; and withal free in her institutions; sublime in the march of its progress, and illustrious in the hope of its great future; standing out on the map of the world, the most magnificent dwelling place for man the world has ever seen. No such a heritage as this, has the Almighty Governor of the Universe ever given to any other people.

III. Another ground for thanksgiving is found in the vigorous measures adopted in the army and navy, looking to a favorable issue, and the speedy termination of the war. We have had, it is true, some sad reverses; but we have recovered from them; and they have had, at least, a good disciplinary effect in preparing us for the magnitude of the issue before us. And these reverses, perhaps, were allowed to prevent more serious disasters, that would have followed, if success in these first attacks had crowned our arms. There may be a providence thus in our very misfortunes; while the enemy has reaped from them no substantial gain.

IV. It is said of a celebrated general, that after a severe engagement, in which he had suffered great loss, being congratulated on the victory achieved, he said: "Another such victory, and I am undone." In the same manner our reverses have been exhausting to the enemy, and now the tide of war is turning. Late in the year, he has crowned our arms with great successes, both by sea and land; the more valuable because of the preceding disasters. Now, the gloom is breaking, the clouds dissipating, the sky of freedom growing bright and clear! The Cause of the Union and Constitutional Government is beginning to triumph! The Hydra of Secession crushed on the soil that gave it birth and being! Treason and anarchy being trampled under foot in the very nest of dissimulation! The stars and stripes waving in triumph, where the executioner of our nation's glory was first dishonored—that noble flag first insulted and trampled in the dust! The State, which inaugurated the great crime of rebellion, has been made to feel the heaviest load of the authority so wantonly assumed. South Carolina, the seat of a most odious aristocracy, the land of nullifiers, the rendezvous of treason plotters, has been made to feel, at her own hearing, the power of an avenging government. She, who led the traitor van, and forced the other rebel States out of the Union, is in a fair way of being brought back into the national fold, though it be in chains, though re-baptized in blood. As one has said, "If poverty and despair crouch like gaunt spectres at her feet, it will be a poetic retribution for having sent poverty and despair to other firesides in all the States of this Union."

But the success at Port Royal and Beaufort is but the beginning of other brilliant achievements along the whole southern coast, until, in every port and inlet, the flag of the Union floats nobly, grandly as of yore. Nor can it be long until the mother of waters returns to her loyalty, and commerce resumes its wonted channel, from the great North West to the Gulf of Mexico. In Eastern Tennessee and North Carolina Union men are beginning to assert their loyalty; nor can Eastern Virginia—exhausted, impoverished, and desolate—long remain the bulwark of secession, or defy the grand army of the Union. Our youthful Commander-in-chief knows when to strike, and when he does move, the blow will be effectual.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Bit of Romance. Among the many coincidences brought about by this war, we relate the following: Mr. John Stewart, Tyrone city, a young man about 18 or 20 years of age, and a member of Capt. Jones' Tyrone Company, which belongs to the Juniata Regiment, and which was encamped in Camp Crossman, met a Miss Drennon, of this place, for the first time on Wednesday evening last, and it appears that they both "loved at first sight," perhaps not wisely, but too well; for between 12 and 1 o'clock on Thursday night, they went to find the Chaplain of the regiment to marry them, but failing to find him at that hour, nothing daunted, nor yet the least discouraged, but woefully disappointed, they gave it up to renew their search for him at early dawn. As the regiment was to leave in the morning there was no time to be lost, and at an early hour they were on the look-out for the chaplain, but did not succeed in finding him until a short time before the trains started, when they repaired to the Penna. Central station house, and were then and there united in the holy bonds of matrimony. Their honeymoon was of short but sweet duration, for they had but a few minutes to chat together, when he was ordered to jump aboard. With a few fond and affectionate embraces, such as only a newly married couple know how to do up to perfection, and the shedding of tears on both sides, which flowed copiously and without restraint, he was gone. He to renew his pledge to his Country, in some new field of action, and she to her temporary place of residence, to mourn over the departure of her husband of but an hour. A bride for an hour, and a widow, perhaps, the balance of her days. We are told that Miss Drennon, (now Mrs. Stewart) is a lady of unimpeachable character, and her friends are very much astonished at her conduct in this affair. She has not been acquainted with her husband ten days yet, but to every intent and purpose, is already a widow. Such is life. In this case we are reminded very forcibly of the old axiom, "Marry in haste and repent at leisure." Should he be so fortunate as to return to his wife after an eventful career with the rebels, we wish them all the felicity and joys of this life, for he has certainly shown his undying devotion to the Union.—Huntingdon Globe.

The following anecdote is told of the President by The Boston Journal: "One of the soldiers in the Vermont regiment to which private Scott, the soldier sentenced to be shot for sleeping upon his post, belonged, relates an incident which shows in a strong light the kindhearted character of our President. Scott was to be shot early in the morning. On the afternoon before, it was decided to pardon him, but the place of his confinement was six or seven miles from Washington. President Lincoln telegraphed to the officer in charge of the execution, but getting no reply, and fearing that his message might have miscarried, he went himself after dark to the encampment, to make sure that all was right."

She Died Young. Beneath this stone, a lump of clay, Lies Isabella Young, Who on the twenty-fourth of May, Began to hold her tongue.

A 'good one' is told of a Quaker volunteer who was in a Virginia skirmish. Coming into pretty close quarters with a rebel, he remarked— "Friend, it is unfortunate, but these strands where I am going to shoot, 'and, blazing away, down came the scescher." "I tell you that I shall commit suicide, if you don't have me." "Well Charley, as soon as you have given me that evidence of your affection, I will believe you love me." He immediately hung himself upon her neck and said: "There now, is not that an act of Suyside?" She wilted. A contemporary says, 'a female recruit in Rochester was detected by trying to put her pants over her head.'

THE MINSTREL.

NATIONAL HYMN. BY EDWARD STORRS WELLS. Anthem of liberty, Solemn and grand, Wake in thy loftiness, Sweep through the land: Light in each breast anew, Patriot trees, Pledge the old flag again— Ring all thy bells abroad, Banner of light! Wave, wave, forever, Ring of our bright God for our banner, Freedom and right! Amen! Amen! Spirit of Unity, Potent divine, Come in thy kindness, All hearts entwined: Prove to our enemies Ever a rock, Aid to each traitor-scheme, Rhinoceros shock! Wave the old banner word! Shake it again. Union forever! Once and again! Union forever! God it maintain! Amen! Amen! Shades of our forefathers, Pass through the land, Gaze on the full majesty, Terrible grand! Faith, Hope and Charity! Rule in each breast! Faith in our Fatherland, Hope in our Lord, Charity still to all: Blindly who've erred! God save the Government! Long it defend! Unity is the kingdom, Father and Friend! Time be the glory, World without end! Amen! Amen!

EDUCATIONAL.

For the Educational Column. Reviewed.

I have a number of times heard this sentiment given by teachers at our County Institutes, "Not how much, but how well"—a sentiment well worth repeating but better worth acting upon. This, however, I fear is not done as thoroughly as it should be; if it were, we should have more review done in our schools. The importance of going over with what has been learned some time after the lessons have been first recited—in short, of reviewing frequently, cannot be over-estimated. There are many scholars who learn very readily and always have the lesson for the day so that they can recite it fluently, who nevertheless (for the very reason that it is so easily committed) do not remember so that at the end of a week they can give any correct synopsis or even general idea of that day's lesson. Such scholars will be greatly benefited by a weekly, or more frequent, review. It will tend to give them a more thoughtful and less hasty way of preparing the lesson at the first and will assist them in retaining what they learn. Many, indeed the majority of pupils, learn each day's lesson without any special thought of its connection with or dependence upon those which have preceded it. The weekly review will show to them the close and interesting connection between different chapters and rules; and how Thursday's lesson depends for its especial proof or force upon the ideas and truths found in Monday's, or that Friday's portion can only be thoroughly understood and appreciated when it is shown how delicate threads of connection attach it to all the preceding lessons of the week. Thus it will be not only more beneficial, but doubly interesting, to the pupils. But many teachers do not follow the plan of reviewing. There must be for this some reasons; what are they? A few (?) teachers have an idea that to get through the book is the great desideratum. Most scholars are possessed with this heresy. Of course there can be no possible objection to one's getting through the book at any time provided one understands it well. It is not the being through that is objectionable, but the hurrying, skimming, coming through with a superficial knowledge of what one has been over, with a vague idea that Arithmetic has to do with ciphering, Grammar with conjugating I love, History with the record of a few battles. I know scholars who have been studying American History for several sessions who could not tell me now where the battle of Lexington was fought, between what parties and from what cause. To get through, is not the idea, but to grasp the parts thoroughly, understandingly, so that in the end the whole may be attained with perfectness. Some teachers are too lazy to take the trouble to review. Now nobody has any right to be lazy, particularly not you, O teacher! Aside from the higher considerations of duty that are suggested by such commands as, "Be diligent in business," "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," and the responsibility that every Christian teacher ought to feel to use every moment to the benefit of the scholars under his charge, there is another idea not so lofty or noble, but yet true and worthy of consideration—the School Directors do not hire you to be lazy. They do hire you to be as active as you can to secure the good of your pupils during the time you are with them. Your time in the schoolroom is not your own in which to take it easy or not, as you please, but is your employers' and your scholars' to use to the full in whatever way seems best for the advancement of your school. And if reviewing is conducive to that advancement, then it is your duty to attend to it, even though it take more time and talking and attention than every time to let them "take from where you left off to the bottom of the next page." S. S.

TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

There are some special reasons for trying to render the Convention at Milroy during the Holidays highly successful. This county has a very respectable name for the attendance of its teachers upon Institutes, and their praiseworthy efforts to make the best use of all such aids to improvement. It is to be hoped that the number at Milroy will be so great as to add to this reputation. The real benefit which may reasonably be expected from a careful attention to the exercises of the Convention, and participation in them, should induce all teachers who can, to be present on that occasion. This should be inducement enough, but fortunately we can urge a far stronger motive. Prof. Bates, Deputy State Superintendent, will be there and will speak at length upon Physical Education, and will illustrate his remarks by various exercises suitable for introduction into Schools. It is very desirable that all the teachers of the county be witnesses of this part of the proceedings of the Convention. Let every teacher who is conscious of any necessity for improvement in knowledge or professional skill, determine to attend. A. S.

A Good Education.

True education is the most desirable of all that is good; and therefore should not be neglected. In the soul of man, good and evil lie near each other. If the latter, for want of education, get the upper hand, the man falls beneath himself. But education, which promotes goodness, raises him above himself. It is by education that the man first becomes truly a man. Excellent was the saying of the Lacedaemonian educator: 'I teach the boys to take pride in what is good, and to abhor what is shameful.'

This is in truth the most beautiful and most noble aim which man can have in education. The remark was well founded which Crates the Theban was accustomed to make, that if it were possible, he would stand on the highest place in the city, and cry out, with all his power, 'What are you thinking of, you people, that you are devoting all your industry to the acquirement of riches, but take no care at all of your children, to whom you are going to leave them?'

I might add, that such a father behaves like one who bestows all his care on the sandal, but neglects the foot above it. The young should be accustomed to obedi-