# [illegible] CHARTER.

## [illegible] Reorganization [illegible] Municipality.

## [illegible] TO BE STUDIED.

[illegible] the Plan of Our City Government [illegible] Which This City Has Never [illegible] to be Imposed Upon It by [illegible]—Shall Lancaster be [illegible] from Harrisburg?—A [illegible] Meeting Called for Next Tuesday Evening to Discuss the Bill.

[illegible] Board of Trade, of this city, will hold [illegible] and public meeting in Fahnestock's [illegible] next Tuesday evening, March 22, [illegible] citizens of Lancaster generally, [illegible] and conference, relating to the [illegible] pending before the Senate, for [illegible] and changed government [illegible] and other cities of the state.

[illegible] of this legislation, if enacted in [illegible] in which it is pending, would be [illegible] put Lancaster city under the [illegible] of a new charter; and to materially [illegible] many existing forms of government; [illegible] some old offices, institute others [illegible] new and untried here; to alter offi[illegible] duties and responsibilities; [illegible] the modes of assessing property; [illegible] and providing for the cost of [illegible], sewerage and other improvements; [illegible] managing the water and light supply; [illegible] to radically reorganize the school system of the city, destroying its present independence from councils and the even balance of parties in its membership, and establishing new methods of administration.

These and other proposed changes are so [illegible] that the citizens' meeting to consider them should be well attended; there should be free discussion, for public enlightenment and for the instruction of our representatives as to the wishes and interests of their constituents.

To promote this the reading portion of our citizens ought to study some of the salient features of the bill in advance of the proposed meeting. The act covers 44 pages of a pamphlet, and is entirely too lengthy for newspaper publication. But the following statement, prepared with a view to especially present the departures it makes from Lancaster's present form of government, affords simple material for reflection.

The present body of municipal law governing Lancaster is made up of its original charter of 1818; with the supplement thereto enacted in 1867, when the new division of wards, reapportionment of councilmen, &c., took place; together with various general and special acts of legislature passed in the intervening years since our municipal organization, and the ordinances adopted from time to time by city councils under the authority vested in them.

LANCASTER NOT UNDER THE WALLACE ACT.

[illegible] specified "Wallace act" of 1874, governing the cities of the commonwealth, was [illegible] municipal legislation enacted since the new constitution became operative; and various acts have since been passed to revise its provisions, to remedy its alleged defects and to supply its supposed deficiencies. Many of these, if not special in name, were so in effect, their operation being limited to a certain class of cities, or to those within narrow limits of population; and many of these laws contain the "option clause," condemned them before the [illegible] ration.

[illegible] part of the law of 1874, from section 14 to section 57, related to cities of the (then) third class (between 10,000 and 100,000 population) which might be incorporated after the passage of the act; or to such only of them then in existence which would formally accept its provisions instead of continuing under the old charter.

This formal acceptance was made by Scranton, Reading, Harrisburg, Erie, Altoona, Williamsport, Allentown, Titusville, Newcastle, Carbondale and Oil City.

Only the first thirteen sections of this act of 1874 have been regarded as binding on all cities. The others were optional.

*Lancaster never accepted that act*; it never surrendered nor merged the charter under which it had existed as a municipality for over half a century; hence it avoided the embarrassments into which some of its sister cities have fallen; it does not need and has not demanded the relief, to procure which they would seek to bring all the cities of the state under a form of government adjusted to their own pressing wants and peculiar conditions. Thus it happens that many of the forms proposed by the new legislation of 1887, while familiar to cities already living under them—for they are substantially reenactments of the act of 1874—are novel and unfamiliar to Lancaster; and the question of their enactment now is of more concern to this than to any other considerable city in the commonwealth.

THE RANK OF THE CITIES.

The new act reaches the cities classified as follows under its provisions:

| CITIES. | Population 1880. | Classification. |
|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 847,170 | 1st class. |
| Pittsburg | 156,389 | 2d class. |
| Allegheny City | 78,682 | do |
| Scranton | 45,850 | 3d class. |
| Reading | 43,278 | do |
| Harrisburg | 30,762 | do |
| Erie | 27,737 | 4th class. |
| Lancaster | 25,769 | do |
| Wilkesbarre | 23,339 | do |
| *Altoona | 19,710 | do |
| *Williamsport | 18,934 | do |
| *Allentown | 18,063 | do |
| Chester | 14,997 | do |
| †York | 13,940 | do |
| *Easton | 11,924 | 5th class. |
| Bradford | 9,197 | do |
| *Titusville | 9,046 | do |
| Meadville | 8,860 | do |
| Lebanon | 8,778 | do |
| *New Castle | 8,418 | do |
| *Carbondale | 7,744 | do |
| Oil City | 7,315 | do |
| Lock Haven | 5,845 | do |
| Corry | 5,277 | do |
| Franklin | 5,010 | do |
| Monongahela City | 2,904 | do |
| Parker | 1,835 | do |

*Adopted Act of May 23, 1874.
†Incorporated 1883.

THE ACT IN DETAIL.

Art. 1. Classifying the cities, according to the above rank of population, is expressly framed to put Allegheny city into the same class with Pittsburgh, according to the desire of its authorities. While the census of 1890 will undoubtedly promote Lancaster from the fourth to the third class, this would not materially alter its situation under the new law, which is framed substantially the same for operation upon cities of the third, fourth and fifth classes—and provides about the same government for Parker and Monongahela as for Scranton, Harrisburg and Lancaster.

Art. 2. Relating to the creation of new or the division of existing wards, is not materially different from the present law to which Lancaster is subject in this respect.

Art. 3. Relating to the annexation of adjacent territory, adds no material provision to the act of June 8, 1874, which at present regulates the mode of annexing a borough to township or part of a township to a city.

Art. 4. Setting forth the general provisions relating to councils, is substantially the same as the existing law in its regulation of the manner in which bills are to be passed. Its prohibition of councilmen acting in self-interest; its regulation of the sinking fund; of the creation, increase and restriction of city debt, and the times of city elections under it, are not essentially different from the present law.

Under the provisions of the new law, as in Lancaster at present, every ward shall have one member of select council; to be chosen every two years, one-half the body going out every two years. In common council, instead of an attempt to apportion by taxables, population or voting precincts, the division is made uniformly two to a ward, to serve two years, and half the body retire every year; except when the number of wards exceeds fifteen, when each ward shall have but one member of common council, the body being thus constituted on the same plan as select council, a similarity which does not exist nowhere where the bicameral system of two co-ordinate legislative bodies prevails.

Art. 5. Prescribing the manner of incorporating new cities, has no special interest for Lancaster.

THE POWERS OF COUNCILS.

Art. 6. Defining the corporate powers of cities of the third, fourth and fifth classes, does not greatly enlarge or alter those powers as conferred by the act of 1874; *but as Lancaster never accepted that act*, it is now to be made subject to new provisions well deserving attention. At present the powers of Lancaster's councils are generally expressed in its charter, as the "authority to make, ordain, constitute and establish such and so many laws, ordinances and regulations as they shall deem necessary to promote and preserve the peace, good order, health, benefit, and convenient government of the said city, subject to the approval of the mayor as hereinafter provided; and to annex penalties not exceeding one hundred dollars for the breach thereof, and the same to enforce, put in use and execution by the proper officers, and at their pleasure said laws, ordinances and regulations to repeal, alter and make anew, as occasion may require; provided, that the same shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States or of this commonwealth."

But by the new law it is proposed to give councils authority, besides many other things, "to levy and collect taxes for general revenue purposes, not to exceed ten mills on the dollar in any one year, *on all persons*, real, personal and mixed property within the limits of said city, taxable according to the laws of the state of Pennsylvania for state *and* county* purposes, the valuation of such property to be taken from the assessed valuation of the property therein, made under the provisions of law regulating the same.

"To provide for the assessment and collection of taxes, in addition to the above, not exceeding one per centum on the dollar upon the assessed valuation in any one year, on all persons, real and personal property, and all other matters and things within said city taxable for state and county purposes, for the payment of interest on bonded indebtedness, and for the payment of loans to support the government and make the necessary improvements in said city.

"To impose a poll tax for general revenue purposes, not exceeding one dollar annually, on all able bodied male inhabitants between the ages of twenty-one and fifty years.

"To levy and collect for general revenue purposes, an annual tax on auctioneers, contractors, druggists, hawkers, peddlers, produce or merchandise vendors, bankers, brokers, pawnbrokers, merchants of all kinds, persons selling or leasing goods upon installments, grocers, confectioners, butchers, restaurants, taverns, public boarding houses, saloons, liquor-sellers, bowling alleys, billiard tables and other gaming tables, drays, hacks, carriages, omnibuses, carts, wagons, street railway cars, and other vehicles used in the city for hire or pay, lumber dealers, furniture dealers, saddle or harness dealers, stationers, jewelers, livery-stable keepers, real estate agents, market house companies, insurance companies or agencies, express companies or agencies, telegraph, telephone, steam heating, gas, natural gas, electric light or power companies or agencies, or individuals furnishing communication, light, heat or power by any of the means enumerated, and regulate the collection of the same."

It will be seen that the present authority of Lancaster councils to levy a total city tax of one and a-half per cent. is extended to two per cent.; the power is created of levying a poll or personal tax; and of taxing every kind of mercantile pursuit for city purposes.

ENLARGEMENT OF COUNCILMANIC AUTHORITY.

The following powers, also conferred anew upon councils, seem to be a serious enlargement of their present authority:

"To purchase, by and with the consent of a majority of the qualified electors obtained at an election held therefor, at a time and place to be fixed by councils, lands and premises for public parks, and to levy and collect such special taxes as shall be necessary to pay for the same.

"To have the *exclusive* right at all times to supply the city with gas or other light, and such persons, partnerships and corporations therein as may desire the same, at such prices as may be agreed upon; and also to have at all times the unrestricted right to make, erect and maintain the necessary buildings, machinery and apparatus for manufacturing and distributing the same, or to make contracts with, and authorize any person, company or association so to do, and to give such person, company or association the privilege of supplying gas or other light as aforesaid for any length of time not exceeding ten years.

"To have the *exclusive* right at all times to supply the city with water, and such persons, partnerships and corporations therein as may desire the same, at such prices as may be agreed upon, and for that purpose to have at all times the unrestricted right to make, erect and maintain all proper works, machinery, buildings, cisterns, reservoirs, pipes and conduits for the raising, reception, conveyance and distribution of water, or to make contracts with, *and authorize any person, company or association so to do, and to give such person, company or association the privilege of furnishing water as aforesaid for any length of time not exceeding ten years.*

"To enter upon the land or lands, lot or lots of any person or persons within the city, at all reasonable hours, by their duly appointed city engineer, in order to set out the foundations and regulate the walls to be built between party and party, as to the breadth and thickness thereof, which foundation shall be laid equally upon the lands of the persons between whom such party wall is to be made, and the first builder shall be reimbursed one moiety of the charge of such party wall, or for so much thereof as the next builder shall have occasion to make use of, before such next builder shall or may use or break into said wall."

Does this grant mean that the councils of a city shall have power to give a private company the "exclusive" right for ten years to supply its "persons, partnerships and corporations" with water or light; and to fasten for that time on them a monopoly, from which there shall be no relief for a decade?

It would require most careful legal examination of the forty-seven sections of Article VI—and, in all probability, judicial construction of many of the sections and clauses would be needed—to determine what powers are to be conferred upon the Lancaster councils in addition to those they now possess in the event of this bill's passage. The sections quoted will serve to illustrate how decided are the changes.

On the other hand, subsequent sections of the bill seem to contract and restrict the powers of councils; to utterly destroy local self-government, and to regulate by state law many details of administration heretofore regulated by ordinance and adjusted to the local conditions of each city.

THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Art. VIII., Relating to the executive department makes the term of the mayoralty in Lancaster four years instead of two. It renders the incumbent ineligible to reelection. It gives him authority, in addition to many other powers, "upon occasions of threatened public disorder to require and enforce the closing up of bars, or any establishments in which liquors are sold during the continuance thereof." It requires him to send his annual message to councils in January instead of June. Instead of the police force being made up in half part of the constables elect of the several wards, as the law now prescribes for Lancaster, councils shall have power to fix by ordinance "the number, rank and compensation of the members of the city police force, and prescribe all necessary rules and regulations for the organization and government thereof, in accordance with this act, *and it shall be a misdemeanor in office for any policeman to ask, demand or receive any other compensation or reward whatsoever for his official services, to be followed by dismissal from office.* The mayor shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the select council appoint the said policemen, and may suspend or dismiss any or all of them for incompetency, inability or misconduct, and in like manner shall fill all vacancies."

The new law requires two-thirds of the members *elected* in each branch to override the mayor's veto; the executive is given power to veto any item of an appropriation bill; in default of his signature or veto an ordinance becomes effective after fifteen days.

Policemen shall be *ex officio* constables.

Ward constables shall be elected for three years, instead of one, as at present.

The city treasurer is to be elected by the people for two years. The city controller, a new officer here, is to be elected by the people every two years. He shall be the general fiscal officer and auditor of the city, with all the powers now exercised in Lancaster by the finance committee of councils, and with about the same judicial power as is exercised by the controller in Philadelphia.

The city solicitor shall be elected by a joint convention of councils every two years.

The Board of Health provisions are not essentially different from the present system in vogue here, except that its members are appointed by the mayor by districts for five years, instead of by the court at large for one year.

All the duties of the foregoing officers are prescribed with great particularity; and no freedom is given the different municipalities to modify the law to meet their varying wants or different local conditions.

The fiscal year shall run from January to January, instead of from June to June, as now. The assessments are to be made before April 1; the city tax collected between May 1 and August 1.

SOME RADICAL CHANGES.

The most sweeping and radical changes in the existing order of things in Lancaster would be made by the 13th, 15th, 16th and 17th sections of the bill. They provide entirely new methods for governing the public schools, for managing the water and lighting department, for making and paying for sewerage, and for assessing street damages and benefits.

It is to these sections of the bill especially that attention should be drawn, and upon them that public discussion should be concentrated at the meeting on Tuesday evening.

The 13th article substitutes for the present Lancastrian system—a school board of 36 members, evenly divided between the two parties, one-third retring every year, and chosen at large from the city—a board of two members from each ward, to be chosen entirely by the dominant party of the ward, to serve four years, one-half retiring every two years; the secretary, if compensated, must not be chosen from the school board membership, the city treasurer to be treasurer of the school board and the city controller to control its accounts. It is moreover made a requirement of the school board to levy and collect a special *tax of not less than one mill*, and not exceeding three mills upon the assessed value of the taxable property of each of said cities, which shall be paid into the school treasury, and shall be applied toward the extinguishment of school bonds and funded debt in the order of priority of the date of its issue, and to no other purpose whatever. This would be a very material innovation upon the present practice of our local school board, and would necessarily heighten the tax here, which has not exceeded three mills altogether for many years, and which finds no present occasion for levying any such special sinking fund tax. In fact, the incorporation of the school article into this intermunicipal bill is found odious to the school interests of nearly every city in the commonwealth; and even should the bill in other respects be made acceptable, this article and all the sections dependent upon it would likely be stricken out.

WATER AND LIGHT.

The article creating* a water and lighting department provides for a districting of the city into four sections, from each one of which there shall be chosen, by joint convention of city councils, a commissioner; to be elected on the plan of minority representation; to serve for four years; two retiring every two years; these commissioners, who are to serve without pay, are to have entire charge of the water and lighting department; to select the superintendents, mechanics, employes and clerks; and, besides the power now exercised by councils of electing the water superintendent, the commissioners are to be invested with those prerogatives that here have long pertained to the water and lamp committees.

It is also prescribed by this new law that all the expenses of extending water facilities and of laying new mains or pipes shall be paid by a special frontage tax on the properties along which they pass. This is a radical departure from the present and past system in Lancaster, where all the existing mains have been paid for by general taxation.

SEWERAGE AND STREETS.

Art. XVI relates to sewerage, which it puts under direction of the city engineer; it gives councils considerable discretion in prescribing by ordinance what portions of the cost—estimated on the proportionate expenses and advantages of local and of main sewerage—should be paid by the particular properties benefitted, and what ought to be assessed upon the lands within an entire sewer district.

Art. XVII prescribes a new method of assessing the damages and benefits, and of paying the expenses of opening and laying out new streets, or widening and extending existing thoroughfares. At present Lancaster has an elaborate special act for this purpose, and a standing commission created by the court assesses these damages; all that portion of them being for land taken is now paid by the county, and out of the city treasury only the price of buildings destroyed. Under the new law three freeholders of the city, viewers appointed by the court, would fix the damages and assess the benefits, subject to appeal; and the law seems to be open to the construction that all the damages would hereafter have to be paid out of the city treasury.

NEW SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENTS.

Under the new law the present system of ward assessors elected annually would be abolished; and in their stead the following is substituted:

"The qualified electors of each of said cities of the third, fourth and fifth classes, shall, at the municipal election, elect three persons, residents of the city for at least five years previous to their election, qualified electors thereof, and owners of real estate therein, as a board of city assessors to serve for three years from the first Monday of April succeeding their election. No two of the said assessors shall be residents of the same ward, and at the first election held under this act one of the said assessors shall be elected for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and thereafter one assessor shall be elected annually for the term of three years. The member of the board serving in the last year of his term shall be president thereof during such year. The terms of all assessors for city purposes now in office in any of said cities shall cease and determine upon the election and qualification of the first board of assessors chosen under this act."

Any vacancy happening in the board shall be filled by councils. The board shall, every third year, have authority to appoint assistant assessors, not exceeding one from each ward, to serve not exceeding sixty days, removable at the pleasure of the board. The *per diem* compensation of the members of the board and of the assistant assessors shall be fixed by ordinance of councils. Provision is made for a triennial assessment of all city property, which is to be "full [market value], just and equal"; with power to modify the same in the intervening years, as changes of condition or ownership may require or justify.

Delinquent taxes are to be collected by collectors appointed by the city treasurer.

Elaborate provision is made for entering, enforcing, reviving and collecting every sort of liens for city taxes, frontage assessments, &c.

Councils are empowered to establish systems of land registry, topographical surveys, redemption of indebtedness and other features of municipal administration; and while these are not made mandatory the forms of them are set forth with much detail.

Upon the whole, therefore, it will be seen that this act substitutes in large measure for many of the existing ordinances and forms of procedure, to which our city is accustomed, new and different methods and regulations. It proposes to establish by legislative direction a uniform system for nearly all the cities of the commonwealth; to prescribe for Lancaster many features which its councils have refused to accept, and for which its people have never asked; and it is certainly meet and proper the citizens and taxpayers of Lancaster should assemble, to discuss and to listen to the exposition of a measure which will affect them so largely in their municipal affairs; and which, if once passed, is fastened upon them almost irrevocably; for no special legislation to relieve them in any part will be possible under the constitution.

*HOUSE BILL, NO. 16.*

**Another Plan For the Government of Lancaster and Other Cities of Its Class.**

The bill introduced into the House of Representatives, by Mr. Shaw, which passed second reading on Wednesday, but which does not seem to have attracted the same attention nor to be as influentially pressed as the Senate bill, relates only to cities of the fourth class, including Lancaster. It defines the powers of councils in something like the terms of the other bill; under its provisions select councilmen are to be chosen for three years; common councilmen, two from each ward, for two years; councils must meet the first Monday of each month; the mayoralty term is made four years and the executive ineligible to re-election.

The executive departments are to consist of the departments of public safety; public works; water and gas; treasurer; controller; law, and education. The mayor is to have charge of the police, fire department and board of health; the public works includes streets, bridges, lighting, &c.; water and gas to be run by companies as provided by the Senate bill; the treasurer, controller and city solicitor are given about the same rights and duties as by the other bill.

In the Shaw (House) bill the school department is vested in six controllers, to be elected for three years, two retiring each year; the city treasurer is to be treasurer of the school board, and the same requirements, for the levy of a one mill tax for sinking fund purposes, as contained in the Senate bill, are in the House bill.

The court is given power to appoint three assessors to make assessments for all tax levies; subject to appeal to the county commissioners. The same general provisions as in the other bill, reviewed before, are made to apply to sewerage and street improvements.

*Some question may arise as to whether this section governs a water and lighting system already established; but if the law is intended to be general and not local, special or optional, the uniform regulation must govern all the cities classified.

*NOTES ABOUT THE FASHIONS.*

**Points That Never Lose Their Interest for the Fair Sex.**

The Philadelphia *Ledger* says: The first need for spring wear is what is called the between season (*demi-saison*) suit. Either the soft, light-colored checks or striped goods or the self-colored tweeds are used for this costume. A favorite style of making this suit is to have the overskirt arranged in fine flat plaits taken bias and fastened on the left side of the belt. This overskirt is very long to allow of its reaching the lower part of the skirt, where it turns up and forms a shell trimming on the back of the hip. All the back and a small part of the left side fall in large straight plaits. A very tight-fitting jacket opens over a waist front. It is rounded on the lower part. The jacket is in part of plain velvet or of silk, matching the prominent color of the check. The hat for wear with this suit is in turban shape. It is either of felt, with a velvet brim, or of the suit material. The revival of the turban is a feature in spring millinery. The suitable trimmings are pompons, and a bow of Scotch plaid ribbon, with one side plain and the other fancy.

Suits composed of plaids or narrow stripes for the underskirt, and plain material in the same shade for the drapery, will be even more worn than last year. Terra cotta and fawn colors, with wide plaids in the same tone, mingled with a dead leaf shade, will be united for walking suits. Tight-fitting jackets showing off the long spiral waist to best advantage, will be worn with these suits.

Showy suitings of camel's hair checked, or rather cross-barred, for the white appears to be thrown out on the surface, are in china blues and white, red and white, lavender and black or white, two shades of gray, gray and black. Dark green and gray are extremely stylish combinations, seen either in cashmere of the two colors put together or in the combination woven goods. Brown and gray, pink and gray, or two shades of steel chosen for afternoon wear. Pretty stone and brown costumes are made up together, the contrasting color making the mere outline by means of watered silk as trimming. On the bodice, a single diagonal revers across the front of the waist is of the silk, and cuffs are buttoned up on the outside of the arm. The woolen skirt hangs in straight folds at the back, and has a row of buttons on either side of the straight panel of the watered silk at the right. The left forms a winged drapery, which leaves space for additional ornamentation by slashings of the silk if desired.

An elegant style for spring wear consists of a soft long-haired, cloth skirt in pale pink, chamois or dove's gray, embroidered to a depth of a quarter of a yard at the bottom of the skirt in front, and showing a repetition of the embroidery in a straight band up the front of the basque and upon the high collar and cuffs. The drapery is long, and arranged so that it falls flat in a series of graceful, graduated folds upon one side. The work upon these costumes is done by hand, in beads and chenille—in browns and greens upon fawns and cool stone-colored cloths.

With some of these are seen on imported gowns the very new waistcoats and cuffs with high collar, of the creamy white inside (the wrong side) of kid or dogskin. Turn a new glove inside out and you have the precise effect. This is in much better taste (and scarcely more perishable) than the attempted introduction of kid and leather, with the finished side uppermost, for waistcoats and cuffs. Something too hard, too much like harness or the saddle, prevented this kid trimming from becoming really fashionable. The other side of it, however, is charmingly dainty and refined.

Soft white felt or ivory tinted turbans, oval or boat shaped, are brought out to wear with these lovely cloth costumes, trimmed with an aigrette matching the color of the dress and held in place by silver pins. Pins, in fact, take the place of stitches in millinery, and have long done so, the difference being that more of them show, and they are made ornamental on purpose to show.

Black costumes, worn expressly for Lent, are lightened a little with silver, just a touch of it, here and there, as a bonnet pin and clasps for the wrap, or a buckle that lifts the draperies of the dress.

Black *faille francaise* is very fashionable for Lenten gowns and for spring costume purposes. It is trimmed with silver or jetted passementerie.

Dark blue camel's hair serge, trimmed with the new cream-white silk gimps in Venetian arabesque designs, makes a stylish and becoming dress for the seashore resorts at this time of year. Another favorite is dark heliotrope or golden-brown Irish poplin, which has the revers, panels, waistcoat, collar and cuffs trimmed with flat silk cord in bands and applique ornaments, in a still darker shade of brown or heliotrope.

Poplins for afternoon wear are appropriately trimmed with Irish lace. These goods are very durable and have exquisite shadings in the folds of their grays and pale browns.

Satin ribbons as trimmings have been displaced by ribbons of faille and gauze, with deep and decorative picot edge and clustered stripes on one half, leaving the other solid. Narrow, solid ribbons will also be much used; the pretty adding to their effectiveness, especially when used in groups of clustered bows and ends.

"Jacob's Ladder" is a name applied to trimmings of these ribbons. "Runners," or trellises of ribbons explain themselves. A stylish effect is given to the high standing collar by a gauging of one of these ribbons, that displays both its fancy edges and fastens with a bow on the left side. There was quite a discussion over one of the dresses, a simple muslin, worn by Madame Bernhardt, last week. The high-standing band appeared to have no opening in it whatever, to get the head through. Viewed at the back and side, it showed not a lapping, or seam or sign of fastening. It was closely gauged, however, at the back of the neck, and somewhere in this gauging were the tiny hooks that closed it. This band headed a waist that had jacket fronts of yellow figured muslin, lined with pink batiste, very delicate and appropriate lining for a figured cotton dress of a transparent material. The inevitable "Fedora" waistcoat was of piece lace, not very full. The back of the corsage was gathered into a long waisted bodice and the skirt set on as muslin skirts used to be twenty years ago, with a bias cording sewed directly to the bodice. This gives greater firmness to the bodice of wash dresses than either the polonaise or the basque cut, which are more effective in materials that do not lose their firmness.

**The Faith of Childhood.**

From the St. Paul Globe.

There is something very beautiful in the faith of childhood. It was the morning of the last day of the carnival when a seven-year-old boy in a St. Anthony Hill family was singing around the house in an unusually happy spirit.

"What makes my boy so bright to-day?" inquired his mother.

"Oh, it's 'cause, I asked God two weeks ago to make sister Mary well and not to let me have the measles till the carnival was over. This is the last day of the carnival, and I guess God 'membered what I said to Him."

**Prayer Meeting at Home.**

From the Boston Journal.

A minister's little boy, who had apparently heard liberal views upon the subject of woman's influence and duties in the world, made a practical application of his theories. When asked by his father why he did not rise earlier one morning, replied: "Well, you didn't."

"True, but I did not retire as early as you did. I had to conduct a prayer meeting."

"That wasn't any reason for not going to bed. Mother can hold prayer meetings just as well as you can."

**Mr. Beecher's Choice.**

From the Boston Traveler.

The talk of a monument for Henry Ward Beecher recalls what he said on that subject in his Star paper on "New England Graveyards." Referring to the desolate condition of many of these places, he said: "Oh, may the sun pierce through the trees dear to many birds, to fall in checkered light upon my grave! I ask no stone, or word of inscription. May flowers be the only memorials on my grave, renewed every spring and maintained through the long summer!"

## DRIFT.

WHY should not the nation mourn when a man like Henry Ward Beecher dies as much as when one of its great statesmen or great soldiers passes away? Why should not the whole world do him honor?

LOOKING at it only from the political standpoint, what general during the late war by any battle or campaign, by anything at all he may have done, won a greater victory for the union, one that was worth more to our cause, than the moral victory Beecher gained for us when he went to England to meet, battle with, and overcome the almost universally adverse and even violently inimical public opinion there, that seemed on the point of giving England as a virtual ally to the South? I know of no more wonderful example in all history of heroic courage, and the triumph of reason and conscience over prejudice and passion, than that presented by Henry Ward Beecher when alone he stood up before a hissing, yelling, multitude in Manchester, and forced those thousands of enemies first to silence, then to attention, then to sympathy, and finally made them burst out into cheers for the stars and stripes and the cause they represented. And what he did there was only an epitome of the moral battles he fought and victories he won in a dozen English cities, until this one man, this mighty man, had conquered the stubborn opinion and gained the whole heart of all England for the Union. It is safe to say that the men of our country who would have dared to attempt what he dared were few and far between. It is as safe to say that Henry Ward Beecher was the only man in America who could have accomplished what he did.

AGAIN, what American statesman ever did more than he to rid our country of the curse of slavery? For it must never be forgotten that Henry Ward Beecher was one of that original little band of abolitionists whose many years of self-denying and persistent labors, hammering away at a perverted public opinion and conscience, alone made it possible for Abraham Lincoln to issue his Emancipation Declaration. And of that little band none did more important service than he whose recent death we mourn. Mrs. Stowe with her "Uncle Tom's Cabin" reached and influenced the largest number. Garrison with his newspaper stirred up to action, often to frenzy, a smaller number, and mainly of such only as already sympathized with the cause of abolition. But Beecher, together with Theodore Parker, reached and influenced by far the weightiest and most important class. They appealed not only to the sentimentalists of the land, nor stirred up to white heat the luke-warm friends of the cause, but they worked upon the reason and conscience of the thinking portion of the country, convinced the public intellect, converted the public brain. And of the two, Beecher with the most far-reaching effect. His service in this matter, it seems to me, has never received the recognition it deserved; that is, not from the masses, the few who are at all acquainted with the inner history of the abolition movement, always knew and confessed that Beecher as much as any one man made emancipation possible at the time when it was declared.

Is there any other man of our country of whom as much can be said? Is there any one to whom the country owes more than to him? If ever a national monument was deserved, the memory of Henry Ward Beecher deserves one.

BUT great as were his services in the two directions referred to, I consider them only a very small part of the good he has done in our land, and for the human race. Who did more than he to emancipate the American pulpit from the stiff and cold formalism of by-gone days? Who did more to humanize our preaching, I will not say popularize, for that word has been too much abused by religious quacks to convey my meaning? Who taught preachers as he did how to mix heart with brains, and brains with heart in a sermon? Who brought more sound, practical common sense into religion, and more of the true spirit of religion into our American common sense, than he?

BUT, they say, his theology was not "sound." Well, I am not enough of a theologian to pass judgment on any man's theology. If his religion is all right, that's about all I ask or can understand, unless he sets himself up for a professional theologian, which I don't think Beecher ever did. And I happen to know that in some respects his religion was a good deal better than that of a number of preachers whose "sound theology" is their strong point. He may not have been able to "understand all mysteries and all knowledge," as men like Joseph Cook and Talmage can, but he did have a beautiful supply of that charity about which Paul wrote to the Corinthians, which "seeketh not her own," "hopeth all things," and by the depth and breadth of its love is "the fulfilling of the law," and "the bond of perfectness."

LET me tell you how I know this. Not only by the fact that Mr. Beecher in his life showed himself capable of acting out the broad principle of Christ that "whosoever is not against us is for us," and ever refused to call down fire on any one because he "followeth not us" while casting out devils in the name of Christ, nor cared whether or not such an one were of Cephas or of Apollos, of Luther or of the Pope, of the XXXIX Articles or of the Westminster Confession;—but also by a little circumstance that came under my immediate observation only a few years ago. A young pastor of an humble church in Philadelphia had conceived the ambitious plan of getting up a grand course of lectures, something like Pugh's famous Star Course, in the Academy of Music, the proceeds to go to the cause of foreign missions of his denomination. Filled with the idea, he wrote to about a dozen of the most celebrated lecturers in the country, telling them his plan, and asking them for their lowest terms. Among them were such "sound" theologians as Drs. John Hall, Philips Brooks, and if I remember rightly, Richard Storrs, besides other men like John B. Gough and several more equally famous. He also wrote to Mr. Beecher, though, knowing that he could at any time get five hundred dollars an evening in Philadelphia, he had hardly any hope of even an answer from him. What was his amazement, then, when the very first reply that he received was from the great Brooklyn "heretic"; and it was a letter full of the noblest, tenderest, truest Christian love and fellowship, not only offering to lecture free of any charge, but also giving much valuable counsel as to how to make the scheme a success. He also after a while heard from the various "sound" brethren, a few lines from each, all uniformly refusing his request! He realized as never before what Paul meant by writing about "the tongues of men and of angels" becoming "as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal," when divorced from charity. He understood how a man's religion may be better than his theology. He felt deeply that charity is the greatest of virtues, and the possessor of it the greatest of men. The theology of a Hall and Brooks may have been the more orthodox, but that pastor at least felt that the charity of Beecher was the more Christlike.

BUT, it is said, he had bad stains upon his reputation. Yes, but not upon his character,—not one has ever been proved. On this point let me quote the words of one who probably knew Mr. Beecher longer and more intimately than any other man living, Dr. Lyman Abbott. He wrote in last week's *Christian Union* these words, among others as noble and true, coming from the tender and loving heart of an affectionate friend:—"The charges of duplicity and falsehood which a foul conspiracy brought against him some years ago were to all who knew him as intellectually absurd as they were morally monstrous. He had not the necessary capacity to act a part."

HE continues on this subject as follows:

"Great natures have great faults. But Mr. Beecher's were only faults; flaws on the surface, not vices that corrupted the heart. His heart was always true, pure, faithful. The soul's true nature is seen in great crises, such as arouse all its powers whether for good or evil, and enkindle all its motives whether generous or base. Then the faults which have sprung from carelessness, and the simulated virtues which good nature and appreciativeness have for the hour assumed, are flung off, and the real man appears. In all great crises Mr. Beecher appeared a man; true to himself, to his convictions, to God, and to his fellow-men. It was this loyalty of his to God and God's truth that made those that knew him so loyal to him. In him they saw no more than Mr. Beecher; they saw God and God's truth manifested, and to them he was loyal. Even when they thought his judgment had played him false they believed his loyalty was true. Independent himself, he taught his pupils independence. They never followed him so closely as when they refused to follow him at all; love never bound them and him together with bonds more indissoluble than when they radically differed. The controversies of loving and loyal hearts do but weld them more closely together.

"God's best gift to his children is a great and good man; for in every great and good man faith sees, though in a glass, darkly, the great and good God. God be thanked for Henry Ward Beecher! Death cannot wholly take him from those that loved him. His name remains a blessed memory and a sacred inspiration."

OF Mr. Beecher's sermons and preaching Dr. Abbott says, and his words are so temperate and just that I cannot forbear quoting them in full:

"He was always more than his sermons; his life was more eloquent than his speech. He was, indeed, most eloquent when he most failed to say what he wished to say; when he struggled to give utterance to the experiences which were unutterable, to afford to others a glimpse of the visions which had been revealed to himself. He was not logical; the seer never is. He was a revelator. What he had seen in the closet he disclosed in the pulpit. His power lay not in his physical dignity, his skillful but inartificial elocution, his often marred but often matchless use of language, his commingled sublimity and humor, his pictorial imagination, his philosophic perception of great principles crystallizing all details, his broad human sympathies, his lightning-like rapidity of mental action; these were all but instruments of a power greater than either, greater than all combined—the power of a great and a godly personality, a noble and a divinely irradiated spirit. For no one who knew Mr. Beecher intimately could doubt that he was pre-eminently a man of God and walked with God."

I WILL quote only one more paragraph, for it expresses so clearly and truly what was the greatest service of all that Mr. Beecher rendered, not only to "many a son of New England," but to thousands more in all the world, who all ought to be glad to give him credit for it, and to thank God for having raised up in our land so great and blessed a teacher. Says Dr. Abbott:

"Like many a son of New England, I began my Christian life with faith in a God who is just, belief in a law which is inexorable, and submission to the primacy of a conscience absolute but not infallible. From Mr. Beecher I first learned that God is love, that law is redemption, and that love, not conscience, is the soul's primate. Who that has learned this lesson from any teacher can ever forget the lesson, or look with other than a reverent affection on the teacher from whom he learned it? Mr. Beecher has rendered his generation many and great services—political, moral, social, theological; but his greatest service is in this, that he has taught the Puritan church that God is love, and law is love, and life is love; that love is all and in all."

THIS week's *Christian Union*, by the way, which at this writing I have not yet seen, will have a memorial supplement containing estimates of Mr. Beecher's character and work, full accounts of the funeral and memorial services, and other valuable and interesting matter not to be had elsewhere. It will be a number worth getting and preserving. UNCAS.

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