

THE VETERANS.

BY COL. E. J. ALLAN.

[Read at the Pittsburgh Soldiers' and Sailors' Convention.]

Nay, step aside and give him space
Whose stained and threadbare suit of blue
And halting gait and thin worn face
Tells of the veteran tried and true;
And heed not though with vacant stare
He gives no way amid the crowd,
But presses on with silent air,
Half muttering his thoughts aloud.

For the crowded street has gone from his
sight,
And the ring of his heel is the sentry's
tread,
The grim old walls, in the noonday light,
Have faded away, and over his head
Is the Southern sky—and sharp and clear
The challenge rings out—'Halt! Who
goes there?'
And the bayonet gleams as he paces his
round,
With the enemy camped on the hills be-
yond.

And the wild hurrah he hears again,
And the tattered flag that leads the on-
ward way,
And the 'Mighty' scream like the whist-
ling rain,
But the trenches are ours! and the lines
of grey
Are surging back as the flag sweeps on!
Oh, the patriot fire, and the might of his
hand,
As he strikes for the victory almost won,
And hears the joybells ring through the
land.

Oh, the glory of home—sweet eyes that shine
With the glow of love when the dear name
is seen
On the battle page, Oh, the faith divine
That he battles and knows, when the world
is dim,
That no Bayard of old bore a heart more
pure.

Of courage more true, though day by day,
He only showed the strength to endure,
And calmly plodded along his way,
No grief to-day for the shrunken limb;
No sigh for the empty sleeve at his side;
No regret for the past, though his eye grows
dim.

And the light fades out of the battle pride;
Remembering, as our lines sweep on,
How gallant hearts went down to the dead,
And he leaves a sigh for his comrades gone,
And he walks away with a reverent head.

Stretch out long streets, in narrowing line,
Flow numerous tides of busy life,
Beat hammer with a constant chime:
Or river, surge the wheel to greet,
Shall, reaper, in thy sylvan grove,
And harvest with a certain hand;
The strife is over, the victory won,
And gentle peace is in the land.

O Veteran! in those gleaming eyes
The glory of the past doth shine,
In coming years a grander prize,
A nation's reverence shall be thine,
And burning words shall tell the world,
Thy noble deeds, who, 'gainst the wrong,
The flag of Freedom first unfurled,
And suffering made the nation strong.

And glancing eyes shall glow with tears,
At names that stamp'd on hist'ry's page
Shall ages ring down the years—
The heroes of this patriot age,
Like martial music sweet and strong
Thy name with theirs shall ever be
Borne onward by the tides of song,
And crowned by immortality.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

THE CAMPAIGN IN PENNSYLVANIA CLOSING.

Interesting Demonstrations by Union Men.

Immense Enthusiasm of the People.

On Saturday evening the Academy of Music was again filled with a large and intelligent audience, composed of ladies and gentlemen, who were entertained by Judge Bell, of Texas, and Governor Hawley, of Connecticut, in address on the political issues of the day. The meeting was called to order at eight o'clock, and Frederick Carey, Esq., was chosen President. On taking the chair, Mr. Carey said:

We have met to-night to hold the last meeting at this place to characterize the campaign of 1866—a campaign which was to settle the question of the people and the President; between their policy and his policy. We have here brought before you people from every section of the Union, to speak freely their opinions, and to give the political issues of the day—not like the muzzled animals exhibited in the recent menagerie. He was about to introduce one of the fighting lions of the South, who would speak without shackles.

Judge Bell, of Texas, was then introduced and was received with great applause. This learned and eloquent gentleman spoke at great length, to the evident satisfaction of the entire audience.

Speech of Judge Bell.

He said he would like to be able to say something that would repay his hearers for the warm feelings manifested in the reception he had met. There had been so many abuses in the past, on the issues of the day, that it was impossible to present them in any new or more attractive form. You heard, last evening, that the whole truth, which told you that what remained of the contest is what remains of slavery and freedom. As Mr. Greeley remarked, slavery was one of the vices that crept in among the institutions of the country. He always regarded it as a great moral evil. After showing that this evil had increased with the acquisition of territory, he proceeded to show its influence in producing the disastrous war through which the country had successfully passed.

The leading people of the South, however, had persistently declared that the war did not grow out of slavery, but from social differences. It was declared by Yancy and other Southern Commissioners, that slavery was not in danger. In regard to this fact, the most studied deception was practiced upon the people, both in the South and elsewhere.

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In prosecuting the war no adequate ideas can be conceived of the lengths to which they went to oppress the people. At least three-fourths of the people of the South would have said, were they so permitted, 'Give me the old flag—the star-spangled banner.' But the leaders deceived them throughout the war. They told them that the victories that were never won. They told them of their vast resources, which they had multiplied by tens. They told them that the North would not or could not overthrow the South.

The men who acted this way toward their people are not worthy to be trusted. The South was the spirit of tyranny, and after all this, when their war was a failure—when they were beaten upon the field—when they were told that they were not to make great professions of loyalty, they are Union men, and want to come back into the Congress of the country.

The speaker then looked back at the record of the President—John Johnson, of his policy, and says that these leaders of the South are loyal. Has any man in this country made as many declarations of loyalty as these leaders of the South? Did he not say that treason is odious and should be reconstructed? That Union men should be punished? That the South should be reconstructed? That the South should be reconstructed? That the South should be reconstructed?

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The speaker then looked back at the record of the President—John Johnson, of his policy, and says that these leaders of the South are loyal. Has any man in this country made as many declarations of loyalty as these leaders of the South? Did he not say that treason is odious and should be reconstructed? That Union men should be punished? That the South should be reconstructed? That the South should be reconstructed?

These conditions were gladly accepted, as would have been others even more stringent. They felt that in falling upon the South, they had lost all their rights, and would have gladly accepted any conditions that Mr. Johnson might have thought proper to propose. If Mr. Johnson had a right, he had a right to impose any, or to be satisfied with one or none.

Mr. Johnson has now assumed to settle the whole question. He declares the people of the South to be entitled to a representation in Congress, with all the powers. His whole policy in this regard is nothing more nor less than downright usurpation. Look at Congress. It is the law-making power, and is the law-making power of the people. It is the people speaking through their representatives. The Government is divided into three branches, the legislative, executive and judicial, and Congress is the legislative, and the law-making power is confined to it alone. The Constitution gives to the President very limited powers. He can appoint and remove officers, but the Constitution gives to Congress the power to take from him only those appointments. Congress, according to the Constitution, shall make laws necessary and proper for the guidance of every officer. This is a people's Government with intent to make laws.

Every man cannot go to Washington with intent to make laws. The representative to perform that duty for him. The power is in the people. The people delegate that power to Congress, and when the President attempts to usurp Congress, he assaults the people and strikes at the fundamental principles of the Government.

With the President, whether the power of this Government belongs to him or to the American people. The speaker believed that the country is in greater danger now than when the rebel army was banded against us on the field of Gettysburg. When you let it be known that the power is in your own hands, when you let it be known that shall not be held by an accident; when you give your own representatives the power to make laws, then there will be reconstruction. Congress—then the President knows by your ballots that he is the servant of the people, and that he is as much required to represent the people as any other officer of the Government.

The Constitutional Amendments proposed by Congress are just and proper, but the people of the South will not ratify them. They would do so, however, if they were not under the control of their leaders. These amendments are not opposed because they are antagonistic to slavery, because of the basis of representation they require, but because they will disqualify seven-tenths of the people who seek power. The demand for the ratification of these amendments is to be rejected. What do you do then? How long will you wait? How long will you permit the men who have all along been faithful to the country to leave the dust at the feet of their enemies? The President is committed to the principle that all States have a right to vote on these amendments, and assumes it to carry out this principle. Three-fourths of the people are committed to ratify these amendments.

When they refuse to amend, then the speaker desired the people of the North to watch the issues that would present themselves, and to prepare to deal with them as they arise. The people of the South are not in so good a humor as many suppose. It is true they are not ready to fight; yet, if they received the needed encouragement, nineteen out of twenty of them would spring to arms if they saw any chance of success. Their darling dream is independence; and whatever they may say or do, they will work a quarrel of a century to accomplish it. Their whole object in getting into Congress is that they can agitate to that effect. The best hope of the South is that Andrew Johnson will build a party to overthrow the Union party of the North, and that they may control that party and strike again for Southern independence. They have absolute control of their own States.

In spite of all denunciations, persecutions and threats, the Union people of Texas have governed, for the last twenty years, by the political leaders. They have been pressed them with the idea that no evils would spring from the abolition of slavery, that more was required to destroy the influence of a man than to

charge him with being an abolitionist. In consequence of this, and in order to escape every twenty men who came from the North and settled in the South became more excited, and with a trifle of hostile Indians between them. They say boldly and openly that they are not in the Senate any more, but in the case in his section at the time of secession. The newspapers, as well as the leading men, indulged in all sorts of misrepresentations, and thus the people were made to believe that secession intended nothing more than reconstruction.

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