National Convention of the Soldiers and Sailors.

The Mass-Meeting in Independence Square.

Serenade at the Union League House.

During the reception ceremonies in Independence Square, yesterday afternoon, and after the conclusion of General Barnum's speech, there were loud cries and shouts for General Buchtel, who was upon the stand.

General Barnabas then came forward and said: *Comrades!*—I beg you pardon for not saying anything this afternoon. Some time before we separate—if the Convention, perhaps—I may have occasion to say a few words to you. I am not very much given to public speaking, and never say anything without a little preparation. But you won know that my whole heart is with you; that I support Grant and Colfax with as much energy and industry as I displayed during the war. [Applause.] I am glad to see so many of my comrades here, and am glad to join my voice with theirs in support of that great man for the Presidency. [Cheers.]

Gen. Julius Kilpatrick was then called for. He said:

Fellow-citizens, fellow-soldiers, gentlemen of Pennsylvania, and of the United States:—I am proud and happy to meet you this night. We had thought, fellow-citizens, when, three years ago, Robert E. Lee and Joe Johnston had turned over their respective swords—the one to the great Sherman, down among the hills of North Carolina [cheers,] and the other beneath the apple tree of Appomattox—that there would be no [great applause,] to the next President of the United States [renewed cheering,] but the war had ceased and peace had come. But we were mistaken.

All of you remember those proud and happy days when the heroes of Gettysburg and Vicksburg was had joined the "Boys in Blue," around Grant, when the Potomac and the James, Colors flying and drums beating, all came marching home across the Virginia and Valleys of Virginia, by the roads to the sweet music of the Union. And we thought the war—when marching down Pennsylvania avenue, down before the future residence of Ulysses S. Grant [cheers], when we had received the greeting of ten thousand of our people, and when we had returned to our homes—that the war had ceased. But we were mistaken. The same men, with the same leaders, North and South, is now arrayed against us, and the question is now, as it was then, fellow soldiers, have Horatio Seymour or General Grant for your next President? [Cries of "Grant."]

Will you have the state taken from the shoulders of the great Sherman and placed upon that traitor, Robert E. Lee? [Cries of "No!"] Will you have that man-hyena, Forrest, take the place of Sheridan, at the head of the cavalry? [Cries of "No!" "No!"] No! my fellow-citizens; we are now to-day—I vote in the convention—to decide whether the great civil war is to be renewed or not. Whether the bloody scenes of the past shall be renewed by the same feelings, the same principles that have governed me throughout the war, to decide by the ballot-box instead of by the sword. Whether we must place men in power and position whose hands are red with the blood of our soldiers, and whose principles for which we fought and crushed the Rebellion. Not only that, they must also be true to the interests of the widows and orphans of our comrades who have gone, and who have fallen in battle, and down with opprobrium upon the acts of their comrades who are assembled here to-night.

Can I, can you, fellow soldiers, can you, General Barnaby, stand silently by and see the men of the see Union and liberty destroyed forever? We are to-day—I vote in the convention—to decide on them." I wish to God that we could make a charge, just with the old yell, upon Horatio Seymour, and that scoundrel and traitor, Frank Blair [cheers], were here. I wish that the sword alone we would put Liberty and Union in the balance against the Democratic party. [Cheers.] If I had the lungs of Stephen A. Douglas, or the roar of some of the copperhead orators here, I should like to speak further. I have been in the country sixteen days, and I have made eight or nine short speeches. I have got to speak until General Grant is elected, if it takes all winter. [Laughter.] Excuse me.

The General then retired.

Ex-Governor Curtin, who was also upon the stand, was next called for. He said:

"I will not speak to you to-night as a soldiers' meeting, and I am not a soldier. [Cries, "Yes, but you were the friend of the soldier!"] In lieu of a speech, I am requested to state that this meeting stands adjourned until to-morrow night.

The meeting then adjourned amid vociferous cheering, to assemble at 7 o'clock and draw up and march.

Shortly after the adjournment of the meeting the New York delegation arrived in the city and made a short parade. They numbered about 2,000 men, and presented a fine appearance.

The Mass Meeting in Independence Square.

The demonstration in the evening was a very imposing one. Independence Square, where the meeting was held, was filled by a crowd larger than ever before witnessed within the enclosure, and as the preparations for the large concourse of people were on a scale commensurate with the occasion, the scene was a very striking one. Along either side of the main avenue space were arranged, about twelve feet above the ground, and at intervals of about ten feet, as many or general's name in letters of fire was displayed. Across the entrance to the Square on Walnut street, in gas jets, was shown the device, "Freedom to All." Over the rear of this was the inscription, also in gas-jets, "As a Soldier to Soldiers." In the middle of the square, spanning the main avenue, "Grant is Peace" was displayed. Three stands were provided for the speakers. The main platform was in front of the door of the Hall. It was brilliantly lighted with gas forming the devices, "Union and Liberty," "Army and Navy." In the southeastern and southwestern corners of the square the other stands were located. Over each had jets of gas, in the form of stars to supply the necessary light. At all the standards and in the gas fixtures the national colors were festooned, the whole producing a very pretty effect. Before the meeting organized the Hall was the scene of stereopticon views of the war were given and received with applause.

In front of Independence Hall, immediately over the main doorway, a large eagle surrounded by stars, in gas, was lighted, illuminating the whole scene, although not a very brilliant display. Independent of the immense crowd gathered within the square, contributions of citizens of Philadelphia and the delegates from abroad, Chestnut street was thronged during the evening, and the marching to and fro of the various delegations, with their music, made up a stirring scene.

THE MAIN STAND.

The meeting at this stand was called to order by General H. A. Barnum, who announced the following officers:

President—General A. E. Burnside.

Vice Presidents—Maine, General George N. Beal; New Hampshire, General A. F. Stevens; Vermont, General Stephen Thomas; Massachusetts, Major Chorch Howe; Rhode Island, General Charles Dodge; Connecticut, Colonel Crosby; New York, General Alfred Plesanton; Pennsylvania, General J. K. Sigfried; New Jersey, General Robert McAllister; Delaware, General A. T. A. Torbert; Ohio, General Joseph Darr, Jr.; Indiana, Colonel O. M. Wilcox; Illinois, General J. F. Farnsworth; Iowa, General G. M. Dodge; Missouri, General John McNeil; Minnesota, Dr. W. T. Collins; Wisconsin, General Lucius Fairchild; Michigan, General R. A. Alger; Kentucky, General J. M. Crawford; Tennessee, General William Cayehart; Virginia, Captain A. T. Maupin; North Carolina, Major J. W. Schenck; South Carolina, Colonel Stoithard; Florida, Colonel S. B. Conover; Texas, Captain J. W. Throckmorton; Arkansas, General A. W. Bishop; Nebraska, General J. M. Thayer; New Mexico, General A. P. Morrison; District of Columbia, Major W. S. Morse; Montana, Captain J. M. Sanders; Maryland, General D. L. Stinson.

Secretaries—Maine, General Caldwell; Vermont, General George J. Stannard; Massachusetts, General W. F. Bartlett; Rhode Island, Captain H. Barker; Connecticut, Captain Swentzel; New York, Colonel M. W. Burns; Pennsylvania, Colonel George Hay; New Jersey, Colonel Joseph Broughton; Delaware, Lieutenant James Lowin; Ohio, General W. H. Gibson; Indiana, Colonel George Humphreys; Illinois, Maj. R. T. Brown; Iowa, Colonel N. B. Howard; Missouri, Captain Frank Nolen; Minnesota, J. Edward Dwight; Wisconsin, General George Bryan Allen; Michigan, General Dwight May; Kentucky, Colonel B. R. Milward; West Virginia, General J. H. Duvall; Virginia, Captain G. G. McLelland; North Carolina, Col. John T. Dowser, South Carolina, J. L. Haines; Texas, Colonel Dr. D. Whitsinger; New Mexico, General H. H. Heath; District of Columbia, Major Richard Middleton; Montana, John S. Slater; Maryland, Col. J. C. Hill.

SPEECH OF GEN. BURNSIDE.

General Burnside, upon taking the chair, said: Comrades and fellow-citizens:—I consider the honor of presiding over your deliberations as one of the greatest honors that has ever been conferred upon me during my life. Often have the State and Government called upon me to perform duties, but I say in the outset here I felt that the honor was so great as this conferred upon me to-night. During the war it was my purpose and intention to do all I could for the good of the country. In some instances your expectations of what I could do were not realized.

I fully appreciate the disappointment you must have felt, and I say to you, fellow soldiers, in no instance was there a moment when I did not think that all was for the best interests of the country. [Great applause.] Now, fellow-citizens, I stand before the men with whom I expect you here to-night. When the war closed it was our object to unite entirely peace and liberty to our people in my business, which had been too long neglected during the years of the war, and I commenced to give my attention to that business, and up to the time of the nomination of Grant was not aware that I was doing so; but now I feel it is my duty to give to this campaign all the attention that I can command. [Great applause.]

I have a great many comrades here in Pennsylvania who served with me during the North Carolina campaign, the Virginia and the Tennessee campaigns. [Applause.] I am glad to see you them to-night that before high Heaven I am determined that I consider it for the interest of my country. [Applause.] I believe that it is for the best interests of the country that the blue uniform is a badge of disgrace in the South, and that every man that commits crimes against general and state laws to the private in the ranks, has been, and should be punished for the crime, by imprisonment, assault and persecution of the rebel leaders. He should be punished by the men who elected Horatio Seymour and Blair. Union men have been assassinated, and are being in the Southern States.

But while these remorse arouses a righteous resentment, there are other feelings of sorrow and gratitude. We feel that we are indebted to the Republican party for standing by us in the contest, finishing through all our perils and privations, and today we find persecution and hostility, and for conforming pensions upon the widows and orphans of our fallen comrades.

For organization controlling the great Banditary and Christian Commissions, and a thousand other noble agencies of patriotic benevolence, for holding cemeteries for the illustrious dead, for relieving all branches of the country from taxation. For enforcing by constitutional prohibition the perpetual freedom of the rebel debt. For consecrating by constitutional guaranty the payment of our just national debt, including the pensions and bounties to our soldiers and sailors. Men, more than all, for responding to our earnest appeal by nominating our beloved leader, General Ulysses S. Grant, as candidate for the President of the United States.

To give, therefore, of those hostile preparations for a new recellion, with a profound sense of our obligations to every country and to the Republican party, we call upon every citizen who loves the Union Sun, whether on land or sea, to cast his vote in the coming elections for the Union Republican ticket, and for Grant and Colfax. [Great applause.]

And further, to mark alike the sincerity and the excellence of our patriotic declaration, we support our late comrades in arms to set apart the election day as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, and encouraging vigilance, and we hereby formally announce that on the 15th day of October next, the Sunday-school soldiers of Ohio, Indiana and Nebraska, there shall be observed among our comrades and soldiers who fought against treason, employers, manufacturers and business men generally to relieve their workmen on that day, who have served in the Union army, and thus resist by compelling this patriotic proposition, victory on the 15th of October will be Sheridan's victory of Five Forks, and victory for Gen. Grant's transcendant triumph on the Appomattox in November.

SPEECH OF GEN. KILPATRICK.

General Judson Kilpatrick was then introduced, and, after the cheering had ceased, he said:

Fellow-soldiers, comrades of many a battle-field: I am proud and happy to meet you here to-night. We have assembled, loyal citizens, brave soldiers, heroes of Georgia and the Carolinas, "Boys in Blue," members of the old army of the Potomac, of the armies of Sherman, and Sheridan and Thomas—we have assembled here in Philadelphia—the very city where, ninety-two years ago, our grandsires assembled to give birth to a free and independent nation, and to give to the world the immortal Declaration of Independence.

We have assembled here to-day to take measures to insure the perpetuity of the existing stability of the other. [Applause.] We have assembled here to-day to talk over this momentous question. Shall the unrepentant Rebels South, and the miserable, vile traitors North, [cheers, and cries of "Go in,"] overthrow the result of our victorious valor has prescribed? [Shouts of "No, no!"] Shall the men North, headed by Horatio Seymour [hissing,] be permitted to come into our councils and partake of the full benefits of our labors? Shall those men who deserted the Ship of State when the waves were rolling mountain high now man its decks?

No, fellow soldiers, and we have met here to-night because we believe the Union to be the best government on earth. The very air is full of treason that comes from the South brings to our ears the same old rebel yell, the battle-cry that we have heard and defiantly answered on many a battle-field. [Cheers.] And who have we opposed us to, fellow soldiers? the same men who opposed us when we fought for Union? the same men who opposed us north by their sympathy with the rebels? the men who say they are the South who have joined heart and hand with the Copperhead traitor at the North? Robert Guld is one of them.

Perhaps there are some here who don't know what he was or is—but there are Union prisoners here to-night who remember well—who, when starved and famished and sixteen days' confined in Libby Prison or Belle Isle, thought that they were in the last stage of existence, that they would die—and took them himself. [Laughter.] Do any of you know who Wade Hampton is? [Laughter.] The man who told me at the surrender of Joe Johnston that he would rather be one of the ragged altogether shattered than live with the "unwilling" of the North. He told me that he would be happy to have the privilege of putting a torch to the cotton crop of the North, and threatened me to him that as we had our hands in, we would do the burning in the future.

He occupied a front seat in the Democratic Convention that assembled in the city of New York on the 4th of July last. Who else was there? Wright, ex-Governor Vance, of North Carolina, who, in a speech delivered in the Park, said: "Come forward, brave Southern gentlemen, and fill mill up full of Yankees, ladies that feels well all stick out of the garret windows." [Laughter.]

Well, some of the men in command, under Captain Rees, captured him, and had the pleasure of seeing him to a ride of two hundred miles on a bare-backed mule. [Laughter.] He and Wade Hampton had made arrangements to go into guerilla business, but this ride of two hundred miles on a mule rather got him out the notion, and discovered the partnership. [Laughter.] He, Vance, was accepted a horse and ran.

Who else is there that will oppose us this fall? Why, there was the man who coveted and surrounded a garrison of a few hundred men with twenty-six thousand men, and who was then left to be held out from daylight to afternoon, sent forward a flag of truce, and under cover of that succeeded in threatening his men to the rear of his garrison, and murdered, singly, every one of them. He deserted them, the living and the dead, in the same ditch. And he, fellow-soldiers, is one of the rebel peace-makers who proposes to go before in forgiving and forgetting!

Comrades, the campaign that has since taken place in the South, and charging this and all other outrages upon the Democratic party, the politicians of the Democratic party, he said that they were not ashamed of the Democratic platform and candidates. Three workmany men said that Frank Blair was not a traitor—certainly the speaker said that he had just returned from Ohio, and that Frank Blair was not a traitor—in fact, he was proud of him. He was honest and conscientious, and was proud to call him his friend. [Laughter.] He could say, for one, that he would not be ashamed