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ANDERSONVILLE.

Letter from Louis Schade, Esq., Counsel of Captain Wirz.

To the American People:

Intending to leave the United States for some time, I feel it my duty, before I start, to fulfil in part a promise which, a few hours before his death, I gave to my unfortunate client, Captain Wirz, who was executed at Washington on the 10th day of November, 1865. Protesting up to the last moment his innocence of those monstrous crimes with which he was charged, he received my word, that, having failed to save him from a felon's doom, I would, as long as I lived, do everything in my power to clear his memory. I did that the more readily, as I was then already perfectly convinced that he suffered wrongfully. Since that time his unfortunate children, both here and in Europe, have constantly implored me to wipe out the terrible stains which now cover the name of their father. Though times do not seem propitious for obtaining full justice, yet, considering that man is mortal, I will before entering upon a perilous voyage, perform my duty to those innocent orphans and to also myself.

I will now give a brief statement of the causes which led to the arrest and execution of Captain Wirz. In April, 1865, President Johnson issued a proclamation stating that, from evidence in the possession of the "Bureau of Military Justice," it appeared that Jefferson Davis was implicated in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and for that reason the President offered a reward of \$100,000 on the capture of the then fugitive. President of the Southern Confederacy. That testimony has since been found to be entirely false and a mere fabrication, and the suborner Conover is now under sentence in the jail of this city, the two perjurers, whom he suborned, having turned State evidence against him, whilst the individual by whom Conover was suborned has not been brought to justice.

Certain high and influential enemies of Jefferson Davis, either then already aware of the character of the testimony of those witnesses, or not thinking their testimony quite sufficient to hang Jeff. Davis, expected to find the wanting material in the terrible mortality of Union prisoners at Andersonville. Orders were issued accordingly to arrest a subaltern officer, Captain Wirz, a poor friendless, and wounded prisoner of war, (he being included in the surrender of General Johnston), and to be taken a foreigner by birth. On the 7th of May, he was placed in the Old Capitol Prison at Washington, and from that time the greater part of the Northern press was busily engaged in forming the unfortunate man in the eyes of the Northern people into such a monster that it became almost impossible for him to obtain counsel. Even his countryman, the Swiss Consul General, publicly refused to accept money to defray the expenses of the trial! He was doomed before he was heard—and even the permission to be heard according to law was denied him. To increase the excitement and give eclat to the proceeding, and to inflame still more the public mind, the trial took place under the very dome of the Capitol of the nation. A military commission, presided over by one of the most arbitrary and despotic generals in the country, was formed, and the parole prisoner of war his wounds still open, and so feeble that he had to recline during the trial on a sofa, carried before the name. How that trial was conducted the whole world knows. The enemies of generosity and humanity believed it then to be a sure thing to get at Jeff. Davis.

Therefore the first charge was that of conspiracy between Wirz, Jefferson Davis, Sedden, Howell Cobb, R. B. Winder, and a number of others to kill the Union prisoners. The trial lasted for 3 months, but unfortunately for the blood thirsty investigators not a particle of evidence was produced, showing the existence of such a conspiracy; yet Captain Wirz was found guilty of that charge! Having thus failed another effort was made. On the night before the execution of the prisoner a telegram was sent to the Northern press from this city, stating that Wirz had made important disclosures to General L. C. Baker, the well known detective, implicating the late Davis, and that the confession would probably be given to the public. On the same evening some parties came to the confessor of Wirz, Rev. Father Boyle, and also to me, one of them informing me that a high Cabinet officer wished to assure Wirz that if he would implicate Jefferson Davis with the atrocities committed at Andersonville, his sentence would be commuted. He, the messenger, or whoever he was, requested me to inform Wirz of this. In presence of Father Boyle I told Wirz next morning what had happened. The captain simply and quietly replied: "Mr. Schade, you know that I have always told you that I do not know anything about Jefferson Davis. He had no connection with me as to what was done at Andersonville. If I knew anything of him I would not become a traitor against him or anybody else, even to save my life." He likewise denied that he had made any statement whatever to General Baker. Thus ended the attempt to suborn Captain Wirz against Jeff. Davis.

That alone shows what a man he was. How many of his defamers would have done the same? With his wounded arm in a sling, the poor paroled prisoner mounted, two hours later, the scaffold. His last words were that he died innocent—add so he did. The 10th day of November, 1865, will indeed be a black stain on the pages of American history.

To weaken the effect of his declaration of innocence, and of the noble manner in which Wirz died, a telegram was manufactured here and sent North, stating that on the 27th day of October, Mrs. Wirz, (who actually was 900 miles on that day away from Washington) had been prevented by that Stantonian *deus ex machina*, General L. C. Baker, from poisoning her husband! Thus, on the same day, when the unfortunate family lost their husband and father, a cowardly and atrocious attempt was made to blacken their character also. On the next day I branded the whole as an infamous lie, and since then I never heard of it again, though it emanated from a Brigadier General of the United States Army.

All those who were charged with having conspired with Captain Wirz, have since been released, except Jefferson Davis, the prisoner of the American "Castle Chillon." Captain Winder was let off without trial and if any of the others have been tried which I do not know, they have been tried in the same manner. As Captain Wirz could not conspire alone, nobody will now, in view of that important fact, consider him guilty of that charge. So much, then, for charge No. 1.

As to charge No. 2, to wit: Murder in violation of the laws and customs of war, I do not hesitate to declare what about 145, out of 160, witnesses on both sides declared during the trial—that Captain Wirz never murdered or killed any Union prisoners, with his own hands or otherwise. All those witnesses (about twelve or fifteen) who testified that they saw Captain Wirz kill a prisoner, have sworn falsely, abundant proofs of that assertion being in existence. The hands of Captain Wirz are clear of the blood of prisoners of war. He would certainly have at least intimated to me a knowledge of the alleged murders with which he was charged. In most cases no names of the alleged murdered men could be given, and where it was done, no such persons could be identified. The terrible scene in court, when he was confronted with one of the witnesses, and the latter insisting that Wirz was the man who killed a certain Union prisoner, which irritated the prisoner so much that he almost fainted, will still be remembered. That man (Grey) swore falsely, and God alone knows what the poor innocent prisoner must have suffered at that moment! That scene was depicted and illustrated in the Northern newspapers as if Wirz had broken down on account of his guilt. Seldom has a mortal suffered more than that friendless and forsaken man.

Fearing lest this communication will be too long, I will merely speak of the principal and most intelligent of those false witnesses, who testified to individual murder on the part of Captain Wirz. Upon his testimony the Judge Advocate, in his final argument, laid particular stress on account of his intelligence. This witness prepared also pictures of the alleged cruelties of Wirz, which were handed to the Commission, and are now on record, copies of which appeared at the time in Northern illustrated papers. He swore that his name was Felix de la Baume, and represented himself as a Frenchman and a grand nephew of Marquis de Lafayette. After having so well testified and shown so much zeal, he received a recommendation signed by the members of the Commission. On the 11th day of October, before the taking of the testimony was concluded, he was appointed to a clerkship in the Department of the Interior. This occurred whilst one of the witnesses for the defense (Dupcan) was arrested in open court, and placed in prison before he had testified. After the execution of Captain Wirz some of the Germans of Washington recognized in de la Baume a deserter from the Seventh New York (Steuben) regiment, whose name was not de la Baume, but Felix Oeser, a native of Saxony. They went to Secretary Harlan, and he dismissed the impostor and important witness in the Wirz trial on the 21st of November, eleven days after the execution. Nobody who is acquainted with the Conover testimony, in consequence of which the President of the United States was falsely induced to place a reward of \$100,000 upon the head of an innocent man, will be astonished at the above disclosures of the character of testimony before military commissions. So much for charge No. II.

If from twelve to fifteen witnesses could be found who were willing to testify to so many acts of murder on the part of Wirz, there must certainly have been no lack of such who were willing to swear to minor offenses. Such was the unnatural state of public mind against the prisoner at that time, that such men regarded themselves, and were regarded, as heroes, after having testified in the manner above described; whilst, on the other hand, the witnesses for the defense were intimidated, particularly after one of them had been arrested. But who is responsible for the many lives that were lost at Andersonville, and

in the Southern prisons? That question has not fully been settled, but history will tell, on whose heads the guilt for those sacrificed hecatombs of human beings is to be placed. It was certainly not the fault of poor Captain Wirz, when, in consequence of medicines having been declared contraband of war by the North, the Union prisoners died for the want of the same. How often have we read during the war that ladies, going South, had been arrested and placed in the Old Capitol Prison by the Union authorities, because some quinine, or other medicines, had been found concealed in their petticoats! Our navy prevented the ingress of medical stores from the sea side, and our troops repeatedly destroyed drug stores and even the supplies of private physicians in the South. Thus, the scarcity of medicines became general all over the South. Surgeon J. C. Pilot writes, September 6, 1864, from Andersonville, (this letter was produced by the Judge Advocate in the Wirz trial): "We have but little more than the indigenous barks and roots with which to treat the numerous forms of disease to which to treat the numerous forms of disease to which our attention is daily called. For the treatment of wounds, ulcers, etc., we have literally nothing, except water. Our wards, some of them, are wild with gangrene, and we are compelled to amputate our arms and look quietly upon its ravages, not even having stimulants to support the system under its depressing influence; the article being so limited in supply that it can only be issued for cases under the knife."

That provisions in the South were scarce will astonish nobody, when it is remembered how the war was carried on. General Sheridan boasted in his official report, that, in the Shenandoah Valley alone he burned two thousand barns, filled with wheat and corn, and all the mills in the whole tract of country, that he destroyed all factories of cloth, and killed, or drove off every animal, even to the poultry, that could contribute to human sustenance. And those desolations were repeated in different parts of the South, and that so thoroughly that last month, two years after the end of the war, Congress had to appropriate a million of dollars, to save the people of those regions from actual starvation. The destruction of railroads and other means of transportation, by which food could be supplied by abundant districts to those without it, increased the difficulties in giving sufficient food to our prisoners.

The Confederate authorities, aware of their inability to sustain their prisoners, informed the Northern agents of the great mortality, and urgently requested that the prisoners should be exchanged, even without regard to the surplus which the confederates had on the exchange rolls from former exchanges, that is, man for man. But our War Department did not consent to an exchange. They did not want to "exchange skeletons for healthy men." Finally, when all hopes of exchange were gone, Colonel Ould the Confederate Commissioner, offered, early in August, 1864, to deliver up all the Federal sick and wounded, without requiring an equivalent in return, and pledged that the number would amount to ten or fifteen thousand, and, if it did not, he would make up that number with well men. Although this offer was made in August, the transportation was not sent for them to (Savannah) until December, although he urged and implored (to use his own words) that haste should be made. During that very period the most of the deaths at Andersonville occurred. Congressman Covode, who lost two sons in Southern prisons, will do well, if he inquires who those "skeletons" were, which the Hon. Secretary of War did not want to exchange for healthy men. If he does, he will hereafter be perhaps less bitter against the people of the South.

But has the North treated her Southern prisoners so well that she should lift up her hands, and cry "anathema" over the South. Mr. Stanton reports to Congress, July 19, 1866, that of Southern prisoners there died in the north 26,436, and of northern prisoners in the South 22,576. What a fearful record! Over 26,000 of prisoners dying in the midst of plenty! Mr. Stanton gives the total number of prisoners in the North at 220,000, and in the South at 126,940. Suppose this to be correct, though this statement comes certainly from no impartial source, there died of prisoners in the South, without medicines and provisions, the fifth part, and in the north, with medicines and provisions, the eighth part. But in the number of southern prisoners in the north are probably included in the paroled prisoners of Lee's, Johnston's and Smith's armies, who never entered a Northern prison. If that be so, the mortality of Southern prisoners in the North will be even greater than that of the Federal prisoners in the South!

We used justly to proclaim in former times that ours was "the land of the free and the home of the brave." But, when one half of the country is shrouded in a despotism, which now only finds a parallel in Russian Poland; and when our generals and soldiers quietly permit that their former adversaries in arms shall be treated worse than the Helots of old, brave soldiers though they may be, who, when the forces and resources of both sec-

tions were more equal, have not seldom seen the backs of our best generals, not to speak of such as Butler and consorts, then we may well question, whether the "star spangled banner" still waves over the land of the free or the home of the brave. A noble and brave soldier never permits his antagonists to be calumniated and trampled upon after an honorable surrender. Besides, notwithstanding the decision of the highest legal tribunal in the land that military commissions are unconstitutional; the earnest and able protestations of President Johnson, and the sad results of military commissions, yet such military commissions are again established by recent legislation of Congress all over the suffering and starving South.

History is just, and as Mr. Lincoln used to say, we cannot escape history. Partisan hypocrisy, self-adulation, and self-glorification will not save those enemies of liberty from their just punishment. Not even a Christian burial of the remains of Captain Wirz has been allowed by Secretary Stanton. They still lie, side by side, with those of another and acknowledged victim of military commissions in the yard the former jail in this city. If anybody should desire to reply to this, I politely beg that it may be done before the 1st of May next, as I shall leave the country to return in the fall. After that day letters will reach me in care of the American Legation, or Mr. Benedetto Bolzani, Leipzig street, No. 35, Berlin, Prussia.

LOUIS SCHADE, Attorney-at-Law.
Washington, April 4, 1867.

Our Territorial Enlargement.

The ratification of the treaty between Russia and the United States has enlarged our territorial limits to a considerable extent. That portion of the American continent which Russia has sold to the United States for seven millions of dollars may be of great importance in view of the changes that must soon occur in Asia by the opening of trade with this country, and also in connection with the overland telegraph, in which the people of this country feel such a strong interest. The location is well suited for strategic purposes, in diplomacy as well as war. From the fifty fourth to the sixtieth degree of north latitude, Russian America embraces the Prince of Wales Island. At the fifty-fourth deg. it also takes in a narrow strip about thirty miles wide on the mainland of the Pacific coast, which continues in this shape to about the sixtieth degree. Here the coast line instead of having a general direction from southeast to northwest, suddenly juts out in almost a direct general line, saving irregularities of indented outline, from east to west. At this point—the parallel of sixty—Russian America attains a width of about a thousand miles, from east to west; the eastern boundary becoming identical with the one hundred and forty first degree of west longitude to the Frozen Ocean. From south to north, it may be said to have a length of 7 thousand miles, though the windings of the Pacific coast make it considerably more on the west side—not less perhaps than fifteen hundred miles. At the northern boundary, say the parallel of seventy, the width, owing to the configuration of the earth towards the pole, narrows to about three hundred and sixty miles. For one thousand miles this territory lies directly in front of British soil, so far as the navigation of the rivers is concerned, it is claimed by the British papers that England has the same right to navigate them as Russia had; and Russia could only convey to the United States the rights she possessed. The Toronto Leader in noticing this point says: "So far as the legal right goes, there is, therefore, no cutting off of the British interior possessions from the ocean. It is no doubt true that along the whole distance from fifty four north to the Frozen Ocean, a foreign country occupies the front. This fact is however not new, though it may derive a new significance from the change of masters."

The climate of this portion of the American continent is about like that of Scotland, and the productions similar. There are valuable whale and cod fisheries along the coast, and halibut and salmon are taken in large quantities and of excellent quality. The ports obtained by this purchase and treaty will afford our fishermen advantages in the pursuit of their callings. Fuel, water and provisions can be easily obtained, sick and disabled seamen can receive proper care, and medical attention, and our whole fleet and other vessels have proper depots for repairing damages and refitting after a long cruise in the North Pacific. These advantages, coupled with the possible fact that the shortest and best way to reach Japan and China lies by the Northern Railroad line from the Atlantic seaboard, will enable our people to understand readily the importance of the treaty just ratified by the Senate.

—The Appropriation bill, as it passed the house, provides for paying out of the State Treasury over four million dollars. Probably nearly a million of this is caused by the increase of salaries. Hundreds of thousands more are, in a measure, given away. Won't this big pull make the taxpayers of the State squirm? File on the taxes!

Reflections for April.

DIVINITY OF TRAITS IN THE HUMAN COUNTENANCE.

It is an evident proof of the adorable wisdom of God, that though the bodies of men are so similar to each other in their essential parts, yet there is such a diversity in their exterior, that they can be readily distinguished without the liability of error.

Amongst the many millions of men existing in the universe, there are no two that are exactly alike; each one has some peculiarity portrayed in his countenance, or remarkable in his speech; and this diversity of countenance is the more singular, because the parts which compose it are very few, and in each person they are disposed according to the same plan.

If all things had been produced by blind chance, the countenances of men might have resembled each other as nearly as balls cast in the same mould, or drops of water out of the same bucket; but as that is not the case, we must admire the infinite wisdom of the Creator, which, in thus diversifying the traits of the human countenance, has manifestly had in view the happiness of men; for if they resembled each other perfectly they could not be distinguished from each other; to the utter confusion and detriment of society.

We should never be certain of life or the peaceful possession of our property; thieves and robbers would run little risk of detection, for they could neither be distinguished by the traits of countenance, nor the sound of their voice.

All and every crime that stains humanity, might be practiced with impunity, since the guilty would rarely be discovered; and we should be continually exposed to the machinations of the villain and the malignity of the coward; we could not shelter ourselves from the confusion of mistake, nor from the treachery and fraud of the deceitful; all the efforts of justice could be useless, and commerce would be the prey of error and uncertainty. In short, the uniformity and perfect similarity of faces would deprive society of its most endearing charms, and destroy the pleasure and sweet gratification of individual friendship.

The variety of features, then, constitutes part of the plan of divine government, and is a strong proof of God's tender care over us; for it is very evident that he has disposed the particular parts of the body with as much wisdom as he has manifested in its general structure, and we are compelled to admire his beautiful and wise arrangement in this as well as in every part of creation.

STORM'S REFLECTIONS.

Shutting the Door.

Many of the highest as well as the lowest traits of human character are often made known by very simple means. And very important principles in ethics, natural philosophy and mechanics have been discovered by accidents, incidents and details which are common in domestic life; but who would have thought, in olden times, of consulting with a four paneled door, as a philosophic and metaphysical friend, to obtain a knowledge of the hidden mysteries and the general effects of a human mind?

During the last ten years in the winter season, according to our daily record, we have noticed the manner in which 1,000 persons who called for work have opened, shut, or not shut, our store door; this, you may say, is a futile and a useless undertaking; but we entertain a very different opinion. What the facts, and what the deduction?

First, out of the 1,000 persons recorded, 355 opened the door and shut it after them carefully; when they came in, and when they went out with much noise.

Secondly, 226 opened it in a hurry and made an attempt to shut it after them when they came in, but did not, and merely pulled it to when they went out.

Thirdly, 202 did not attempt to shut it at all, either in coming in or going out.

Fourthly, 95 left it open when they came in, but when reminded of the fact, made ample apology, and shut it when they went out.

Fifthly, 102 opened it in a great hurry, and then slammed it to violently, but left it open when they went out.

Sixthly, 20 came in with "how do you do, sir," or "good morning," or "good evening, sir," and all these went through the operation of wiping their feet on the mat, but did not shut the door when they came in nor when they went out.

REMARKS.—We have employed men out of all the above classes, and during that time have had an opportunity of judging of their merits, &c.

The first class of 355 were those who knew their trade, and commenced and finished their work in a methodical manner, were quiet, had but little to say in their working hours, and were approved of by those for whom we did the work. They were punctual to time, and left nothing undone which they had been ordered to do. They did not complain about trifles, and in all respects they were reliable men, and were kind and obliging in their general conduct.

Class the second, 226. These were not methodical in their work, had much to

to talk about, were generally late but were willing to quit work early. They were always in a hurry when we overlooked them, but they did not do so much work in the same time as class the first, and often left little things unfinished, and if they were told of it, would make trifling excuses, but highly extol their own abilities.

Class the third, 202. These were negligent in their personal appearance and in their work. They talked much about their own good qualities, and were better acquainted with the business and domestic habits of their neighbors than with their own. They also belonged to the temperance society when first set to work, but in a few days afterward their breath would smell more like an old rum cask than that of human beings. These men were not steady at their work, were always short of money, and could not be relied on with regard to truth and honesty.

Class the fourth, 96. These were careless in their manner of work, committed many errors, but when they were pointed out to them would apologize most willingly; soon forgot particular small items; were tenacious of their own rights, but not very nice about the rights of others; still there was something rather pleasant in their manner at first sight, but they did not improve on further acquaintance. They required much watching, and what they had been, and what they could do, and what they intended to do, but they seldom did anything properly.

Class the fifth, 102. They were of a strong, nervous temperament—always in a hurry—little order and method in their work; often met with accidents, and often got themselves into difficulties by their hasty proceedings; otherwise they were kind and willing to oblige, but the promises they so hastily made were soon forgotten.

Class the sixth, 20. These were better dressed than the others, but were not good workmen, as they had tried many things, but they had not mastered any one in particular. Their politeness was artificial, and one day was often sufficient to expose their deception. Innocent and small impositions seemed to be their legitimate business. They were too ignorant to blush at their own folly, and too proud to acknowledge their own faults. They were vain in the extreme, and unreliable.—Correspondent Scientific American.

A Bibulous Inuendo.

Some years ago when the total abstinence excitement was at its height, and the Maine liquor law was the great social question of the day, I called, with George Kendall, of the New Orleans Picayune, at the office of the Brothers Harper, then in Cliff-street. George was running his new book on Mexico through their press at the time, and having been acquainted with the Brothers for many years previously, was of course on the most intimate terms with all of them.

James, the Mayor, was at that time a leading apostle in the temperance cause, and used occasionally to rally George up on what was evidence of an undue bibulous propensity. "Your face looks rather reddish this morning, George, I'm afraid you indulge." Which Kendall certainly did; but always in moderation—never to excess.

After sitting a few minutes, George said to the younger brother Fletcher: "Fletcher, where's Jim? Where's the Mayor? I want to see him."

"He's in the library room," replied Fletcher, "entertaining a committee of old women from the Martha Washington Temperance Society. They held a meeting at the Tabernacle to-morrow night, and the Mayor is going to preside."

"Good!" said George; "I'll go right in and see him. Come, Clark, add Kendall, 'let's see how the city's chief magistrate looks in council.'"

George rapped at the door.

"Come in," answered the Mayor.

Kendall opened the door slowly, as if in hesitation, glanced around at the eight or ten old women, winked knowingly at the Mayor, and then said, with an inimitable maudlin Jimmy Twitchever air: "J-i-m, let's go and get another drink!"

It is not often that any one can fluster James Harper; but "you better believe" he was flustered on this occasion. He looked horror-stricken at the very idea, as he returned the astonished gaze of the old ladies. "Another drink!" as if they had already had one together, early as it was in the morning!

Last summer I saw George on his return from Paris. We reminisced upon this incident, and Kendall said:

"I have never heard anything from Jim from that day to this about my indulging."—Lettie Gaylard Clark.

—The Tioga Advertiser, a radical sheet says: "Daniel Webster was a licentious, intemperate man; and his example is one which ought to be covered up away from public gaze." Yes, cover it away from the splendors of such modern "grand moral ideas" as Zach Chandler, Dick Yates, Ben Wade, and a score of others.

PLANT FRAS DEER.—The theory recently advocated of planting pear very deeply in the earth, in order to prolong the bearing capacity of the vine, has been well tested and found to be correct.