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PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1863.

THREE CENTS.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1863.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

ITS OBSERVANCE IN PHILADELPHIA Yesterday having been set apart by the President of the United States as a day of general thanka-giving to Almighty God for the recent victories achieved by the army and navy of the Union, the response was as near universal as could wall be expected in a great metropolis like Philadelphia. The churches, as a general thing, were open, and to-day we present a picture of the religious and patriotic zeal that animates the bosoms of a very large portion of the community of the great and loyal city of

Philadelphia. Business was suspended generally. The time would have passed for a peaceful Sabbath. indeed, but for the lingle of the hells and the noise of the passenger cars passing along our streets. As in the churches, so in the various camps in and about and around our city, devotional exercises were not forgotten among the brave men o form a part of the invincible army of the Union. It was a day of thankegiving that will not soon be forgotten. It was the embodiment of one vast universal response from the people to their God—the Catholic and the Protestant alike joining with their own accord in prayer and praise to the Almighty Ruler who doeth all things well. The broken war clouds have permitted a ray of glory to shine in upon the nation, but the final rainbow of peace may not yet have spanned the storm. The brilliant achievements of the Union arms, under the providence of God, are sufficient, indeed, to awaken a world of thanks to the great Being patriot pulsates with rapture, as each succeeding victory of our army adds another jewel to the crown of the nation's glory. The weather yesterday, though warm, yet was tempered with a breeze from the southwest in which the glorious old flag waved ma-

estically, the hope of the patriot, the admiration of the world. We have endeavored to present to day a pleasing ploture of the religious world. It has beauty and attraction enough for a little attention on the part of that class who seldom see the interior of a building dedicated to the worship of the Almighty Ruler of men and nations. Services at the Central Presbyterian Church.
The religious services arranged for the day at the Central Preshyterian Church (Rev. Dr. Clarke's), at

Eighth and Cherry streets, were of a deeply solemn and highly interesting character. The lower part of the church was well filled. The pulpit, which was occupied by the Revs. Dr. Musgrave and Matthew Newkirk, Jr., was gracefully draped in the colors of the Union, whilst a large flag also fell in festoons from the gallery occupied by the choir. The services of the morning were opened by the latter singing, in effective style, "The Star Spangled Banner," at the close of which Mr. Newkirk read the President's proclamation setting the day apart for the purposes to which it was being devoted. Mr. N.

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abiding welfare of the human race, would be a proclamation either of becotted ignorance, or of supreme hypocriey.

No, biethren, there is no avoiding this issue, at the very threshold of this day's work. Our honest participation in this Thanksgiving service is a direct, personal, emphatic condemnation of this stupendous rebellion, its origin, its origi

purposes, permit the wrong to triumph for awhile; but in the end His favor will rest only upon the right.

I know of nothing, then, which will help us more to enter heartily and honestly into the solemn services of this day, and make our anthem of praise an acceptable offering unto God, than to contemplate for a few moments the real answer to the question I have asked. Is it right for a Christian people to rejoice over such victories as those which have recently been purchased to our cause at so fearful a sacrifice of human life? Is it right for us thus publicly to proclaim our exultant and grateful joy? Ought we to thank God for them? And if so, why? I believe the answer, my brothren, will give notonly a larger measure and a purer character to our gratitude, but an intenser glow to our patriotism, and a loftier purpose to our loyalty. It will give us, if I mistake not, a juster conception of the real nature of the contest we are waging, and of the sublime issues which are to be wrought out in its progress. If such are the fruits of the day, it cannot but prove acceptable to God—a blessing to our people. Why, then, is it right that we should rejoice in these victories, and thus publicly praise God for them? I answer, ist. Because they but illustrate and confirm our faith in the assertion that this terrible war, with all its bendarous cruelties, its bloody carnage, and its fiendish hate, is designed less for our destruction all its barbarous cruelties, its bloody carnage, and its fiendish hate, is designed less for our destruction

May be honestly rejoice in the triumph of our arms, when won at such a cost and in such a cause?

This is the question, my brethren, which wells up in our hearts as we gather here to-day. And it involves the very life of our gratitude. It is a very solemn service, brethren, thus to gather as a neouble into the temple of a pure and holy God, and offer up to Him the deep homage of our National Thanksgiving for victories anhieved in so dire and terrible a conflict; for, look; to thank God for them is to make Him the author of them. It is to make Him the author of them. It is to make Him the author of them. It is to make Him our ally against our enemies. It is to assume that He wills our success—that His Divine sympathies are with our cause. And on any other supposition our thanksgiving is but a pretence, and a mockery. And we have no busicess here to-day, in the house of God, unless we can honestly do so. To thank God for victory in the cause of injustice and wrong, is a crime against Delty itself. To thank. Him for successes simply on the score of personal advantage to ourselves, without regard to the inherent rights of those whose military power we are seeking to crush, and with no reference to the bearing of the contest upon the great principles of the Divine government, and the true development and abiding welfare of the human race, would be a processing overnment, and the true development and abiding welfare of the human race, would be a processing to crush, and with no reference to the bearing of the contest upon the great principles of the No. Portrained and the same, and this independence will remain uninterrupted and unharmed by any foe at home or abroad; that what God has given to our forefathers and children, He will still maintain while we keep in the way of truth and the parts of the contest upon the great principles of the contest upon the travel sixty more this evening. This is pretty warm trave ing a day like this. I got up at twenty minutes after four this morning, and expect to leave again at four this evening. I did this in order to have the privilege, for such I esteem it, of knoeling down with you in prayer, and returning thanks to Almighty God for his interference in our behalf.

The Fourth of July is an ever-memorable day, but in time to come it will be ushered in with increased lustre, because, on that day, was developed the fact that God not only assisted us in obtaining our independence in 1776, but eighty-seven years after, on July 441, 1863, maintained the same, and this independence will remain uninterrupted and unharmed by any foce at home or abroad; that what God has given to our forefathers and children, He will still maintain while we keep in the way of truth and the paths of fighteousness.

I do not think that any people for the past two years could have been engaged in a more diabolical war, than this war of the South. History informs us of two wars in which there was a greater loss of life, but we have not yet passed through this one. Never was there a battle of such magnitude in which such great interests were at stake. Never in this world's history was there such a war, when we take into consideration that the two contending forces are of kith and kin born to the manor. We come to the conclusion that it is the greatest war which the world has ever witnessed. God has during the past month interested himself in our behalf. Some think that it is wrong for Ohristians to engage in war, or engous ageit in any manner. If it were a war for conquest, I would think so too, but as it is, I

some think that it is wrong for Ourishans to engage in war, or enguest it would think so too, but as it is, I think that we do not repudiate the golden rule, "do re'unto others as ye would they should do unto you," nor do we throw at defiance the example of our Exampler when engaged in this terrible war. We are

sampler when engaged in this errabativest. We are not out of our line of duty. We can do our duty when we present a dashing front against the citadel of treason. We lift up our voices for leve and order, in the cancer sentence is if the voices for leve and order, in the same sentence is if the voice we will entertain her and exemined to the voice will entertain her and exemined to the voice of the voice of the voice of the work of the voice of

unparalleled outrages on the part of rebel traitors waging a war of oppression and high-handed wrong and super-disbolichi infaury.

There are men who yet say that God has no hand in this rebellion agazist the best Government in the world. Ah! God has been with the rebels as with us. The mighty impress of his finger can be seen, for He has given them up to the delasion of their own heart-lasts; he has given them up to the lie of alavery; he has hardened their licartias hed did with Pharach of old; he has given them up to a soounge, the fire and the sword, and he has humbled them and us also, in our intolerable disposition to rely in self-command; he has given the whole nation to drink deeply of the cup of his wratti. Her has been with millions of our Southern brethren to bring them to a better state of mind. Already do we hear the voice of reason coming purified from Missouri, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, and North Carolina. He has achieved for us of the North what we could not do for ourselves. What we regarded as retreats from the foe were victories for us. He has smitten us with his wrath until, at last, the whole nation has begun to appreciate the reality of the cause of the rebellion, and now he will assist urin removing that cause, and restore us, in his own good time, to peace and happiness, such as was intended by the framers of that document of the liberty of 1776, which contains a sentiment of truth that can never die. The rebellion in a word, is a testing furnace, in which our institutions are thrust to be cleaned of Their dross.

After a few more consolatory remarks, the wpeaker retried, with the words, "Let us sing Hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Address of the Rev. Gorge Morton.

compulsory act of Government, could be applied to a self-governing people? What more than the acquiescence in this severe necessify could show the capacity of the nation for free government, and intelligent self-rule? We are told, it is true, that the unity of the North is not absolute. It would be suspicious if it were. It would be suspicious if it were. It would be suspicious if it were. It would be suspicious if the North is not absolute. It would be suspicious if it were. It would be suspicious if it would be suspicious if it would be supported in the North. There are men who can still find no use for the war except that it may insure the power of size very at the sacrifice of freedom—men with minds so invirted that they have lost the judgment between right and wrong, and to whom Olay, Jackson, and Webster would appeal in vain. But the matu current is running in the right direction, and freedom is growing more naturalized and ingrained in the Northern character. Our cause owes none of its strength to foreign aid. We had once looked for moral sympathy from England. Gonnections of education, language. It indeed, had bound us together, as no two independent nations were ever bound before. We had expected something from her avowed friendship for liberal government. Her great suit-slavery professions, her sympathy, her incessant thunders across the Atlantic in scorn of alliance with dealers in human firsh, would have been more to us than whole fleets of her piratical fron-clads. But England does not find it inconsistent with her honor to send the pirate from her ports, where the vessels of America were sent laden with charity for her starving poor. We can bear all this with perfect composure. We have sainst us what we have always against us—the monarchies and aristocracles, which are by nature hostile to free institutions; but we have still Address of the Rev. George Morton.

At the West Arch street Presbyterian Church, the pestor, Dr. Edwards, heiga absent, the exercises were conducted by the Rev. George Worton. After appropriate prayers and singing of praise he chose for his text the lith verse of the 103d psalm. "He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our infoutites." He remarked that these words were appropriate to us as individuals, and also as a nation. That the recent victories of the national arms were afforded unto us by the goodness and favor of Almighty God, and not on account of any merit of worthiness of our own. And that if the sword of the traitor had been turned back from our free and happy Commonwealth, and our beautiful city been saved from the fire, carnage, and decolations of war, to God ought to be ascribed the glory, thankegiving, and praise. He saved us while we are unworthy in His sight, for our sins as a nation are creat and numerous against Him. desolations of war, to God ought to be ascribed the glory, thanksgiving, and praise. He saved us while we are unworthy in His sight, for our sins as a nation are creat and numerous against Him.

The speaker said he intended to improve the occasion by alluding to a trio of our national sins, that it might appear how that the Lord had not dealt with us according to our unworthness.

The first he specified was the latent atheism found in our Constitution and laws—a disowning of God and his authority. This atheism is embodied in the common maxim, "The people are the ultimate fountsin of power and authority," which denies to God the power and authority which He claims, and srejustly His due. He showed that God is the only source of rightful authority among men, and that civil government is His ordinance, and ought to be organized and administered in subordination to the Divine authority, and in accordance with His revealed will. He showed, too, that the nation had sinned, not only in discovning the Lord, but also His "anointed." It was quite manifest from many symptoms, especially the second psalm, that the Lord Jerus Christ is the rightful Sovereign of the nations, "the Prince of the Kings of the earth," and therefore that all nations, in their national capacity, ought to acknowledge the authority of the "Lord and His anointed" are wholly ignored; no allusion to them even in a single instance.

The next national sin mentioned is that of disregarding the law of God as to the character of the men selected for civil rulers. The law of God is explicit in defining the character of such as are to be appointed for rulers. It says they should be "Able men, such as fear God; men of truth, hating overousness." And again, it says, "He that ruleth over men must be just: ruling in the fear of God." But this is the law as laid down in the Old Teatament, and in the New it is not different. "He is the minister of God to thee for good," and, hence, ought to be's a good man; "just, and ruling in the fear of God." But this law of the of that new and greater dawn of civil and moral freedom.

Dear friends, notwithstanding our many sorrows, that we miss beloved once, and that the trial is severe and long. God, is doing great things for us. In the sacred work wherein our brothers are suffering, we must aid with heart and hand; the sacrifice must be soothed and sustained. Let us so labor and endure to the end, that it shall not be in vain that this great price of blood is nowed out. this great price of blood is poured out. Address of the Rev. James Caughey. The Salem M. E. Church, in Lombard street, be-low Broad, was well filled yesterday, to listen to a

termon from the Rev. James Caughey. The devo tional exercises were of a very appropriate charac ter. Mr. Caughey, upon rising, made a few preliminary remarks in reference to his anticipated depar-ture from this country. He said that he had received a letter from a brother requesting him to preach from a certain Psalm, but had already selected his own text. The sermon delivered, although full of interest and touching in its points, was not up to the usual standard of discourses from this staunch old patriot. The sermon was one suited more for an ordinary occasion than for a day of national thanksgiving and prayer. As it was, however, the speaker commanded profound attention, and, at times, his hearers were moved to tears. The text selected was the eleventh verse of the 16th Psalm: "Thou

well remembered the meeting to erect a fifth church. He remembered when Rev. John Hughes, now the bright star of America, was there appealing for the erection of another church. We had then only one orphan asylama, containing one hundred and thirty girls. Now we have asylumns and institutions on all sides and 1.957 there were fears that Catholicity in Philadelphia avoild be swamped. The affairs of the diocere were not flattering. A new Bishop came amongst us. N.19 vigor was installed into our Catholicity. We were influenced, not so much by Protestantism as by inflicitly, and this reinvigoration was one of the results of a growing infidelity. Instead of being discouraged now, at the hearing that the debt of this church is so large, the Catholice should rejoice at the vivality of the Church. Cost with it may, this building outs ge up, and go up according to the plans of the Essaye. very Rev. Dr. O'Hara also made on address, and the assembly dispersed. Archbishop Purcell on the Day of Thanks-

giving.

In the Cincinnati Catholic Thegraph is published the patriotic order of the architchop of the diocese for the celebration of the national Them sgiving Day:

The observance of thanksgiving days, and of days of fasting, humiliation, and prayor, recommended by the President of the United States and the Gavernor of Chio, was left by the ecclesiastical authority of this diocese, in former years, to the well-known public spirit and picty of our reverend clergy, and their respective congregations. Events, however, of recent occurrence, seem to require that the sixth day of the present month should be observed with special devotion by all our people. We trust, therefore, that our churches will be thrown open, and solemn religious services be performed, to thank the Lord of Hoats that victory after victory has been granted to the justice of our cause and the valor and patience of our armies; that the devastating ravages of war have been repelled from our beloved State; that the obstructions to the free nevigation of the glorious rivers which fertilize our territory, and bear on their bosoms our rich commerce to the ocean, have been removed; and that the resistance to the laws, and the wicked and disgraceful rlots which have elsewhere occurred, have found among us but few accomplices.

In raising our hearts and voices to God in gratifude for these blessings, we protest against the unjust imputation that we rejoice at the evils which have overwhelmed brethren, who, by their own-counsels and acts, became enemies. It is not, Heaven a thousand times forbid, for the shedding of their soldiers, the storming of their strongholds, and the crushing of their industry, that we rejoice, but that rebellion has been suppressed, treason discomfited, and suicidal overtures to foreign Powers disappointed and baffied. It is for these results we lift our eyes and bands to Heaven. And we pray in his words who was once the honored chief of our hierarchy, the kinsman of one so long known as the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, the friend of Franklin, and his solleague in the mission from our Government to the Canadian for the celebration of the national Thanksgiving Day:

bited our Constitution and laws as the wisest and best ever framed by man for his welfare and happiness in this temporal state.

And we add to this prayer the expression not of a hope, but of a conviction, that the people of the United States and the Government at Washington will not impose hard conditions on the State, or States of the South that may desire to return to the Union, but welcome them back with the magnanimity of a great Christian nation, forgiving and forgiven the past, in the joy of a present and everlasting reunion. ing reunion.

By order of the Most Rev. Archbishop,

C. H. BORGESS, Secretary.

that the Secretary of the Navy made application to him, through an agent or agents, to-build vessels for the Government of the United States. Mr. Laird remarks:

"Now, I will go a step further shout the Northern States."

"Now, I will go a step further shout the Northern States."

"Now, I will go a step further shout the Northern States. It is not improbable that the country for the American Government—the Northern Government. Its agent in this country made inquiries;" &c.

It is not improbable that Mr. Livind and his friends may have interchanged views on the subject of building vessels for the United States as a private moneymaking transaction; but it is not true that any application to build a vessel for this Government was ever made to that gentleman, directly or indirectly, by myself or by any agent of the Navy Department. No person or persons have been employed by me as agents, or been authorized by the Navy Department, or by the American Government, to make application to Mr. Laird, or the firm of which he is a member, or to any other person or firm abroad to build a vessel or vessels for the Government of the United States, or for the navy of the United States. I remember applications were made to me at the beginning of the rebellion, by persons professing to be the agents of English or foreign firms, to procure tressels to be built for this Government; and I have an indistinct remembrance that this department was importuned by more than one person in behalf of the Mezers. Laird; and very probably they, like others, presented plans and solicited our views; but I unsued a uniform and undeviating policy in regard to each and all of these applications, declining in every instance any proposition to build, or procure to be built, vessels for our navy abroad.

When, therefore, Mr. Laird stated or intimated in the House of Commons that any agent of the Secretary of the American Government, he stated what was not true. I have never, at any time, had such purpose in view, and, consequently, I have never authori

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or the Peteral Government can found a complaint that her Mijestyle Government have not done and the fitting sut of ships in this country. There is a further difficulty. I will empose a ship built for warlike purposes. Trem you must prove that he was seament that parties may be in combination to evade the law, but in that case nothing can be reasoned that parties may be in combination to evade the law, but in that case nothing alout the vende the law, but in that case nothing alout the vende the law, but in that case nothing alout the vende that parties and the foreign Eolutament and, and add the word "building," as well as "ymore and a gouiphed." But that goes beyond the shigs of warring the complex of the parties do not not see the only rational and manly answer. THE POLISH DEBATE IN PARLIAMEN T.

THE FOLISH DEBATE IN PARLIAMEN T.

Polish affairs were debated in both Houses ton the 24th and general dissatisfaction was expressed with the Russian reply. In the Educe of Lord Enthorough thought was appreciated the Russian reply. In the Educe of Lord Ellenthorough thought was answer of 1 frince Gorfschakoff was a practical termination of a till attempts at dipromacy with any loope of useful teas.

We now knew exactly where we were, and it was for her Majesty's Government executily to cone the what they would do next. With regard to the a wocities committed in Poland by Russia, he contented that the proclamations of General Mouravielf we rein themselves atrocities. Every day he felt mo to convinced, be the prudence of Cabinets what it might, decirous as they might be to prevent the advance of war into Europe, now peaceful, their efforts twould be of no effect if these atrocities were to be continued. He trusted that Russia would sectiously consider the position in which she was placed in reference to Poland. We were not, in this country, the enemies of Russia; on the contrary, we desired the continuance of the state of things which was established in Vienna. We acquiesced in it—Europe had become accustomed to it. It would break up almost the whole of Europe if it was materially altered; but Russia would render it impossible to maintain it, if she persisted in the country had been for the last thirty-three upon which she had entered. Had she derived any advantage from Poland in the state in which that country had been for the last thirty-three years to the in the contrary, Poland had cost Russia more than it bad ever produced. At the present moment the Emperor of Russia was the first revolutionist in Europe. He was placing himself at the head of the emancipated serfs against their late masters, and against all the proprietors of land in every part of Poland. It was a popular insurrection in Poland against property, and the Emperor was at the head of it. But it would never answer to continue that policy; and the