The Press.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1865.

THE CITY.

Closing of the Refreshment Saloons—The Academy of Music Filled—Interesting Proceedings.

The *Academy* of Music was crowded last evening with an appreciative and intelligent audience, comprising the beauty and fashion of our city, to witness the exercises consequent upon the closing of the Cooper-shop Volunteer and the Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloons.

The meeting was called to order at fifteen minutes after eight, by William M. Cooper, after which ex-Governor Pollock was introduced. He was received with applause, and spoke substantially as follows:

We have met to-night to celebrate the closing of two of our Philadelphia institutions—singularly Philadelphian and strictly American—the Union Volunteer and the Cooper-shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloons of this city. They were rivals, it is true; but their rivalry was generous, for both worked only for the comfort of the brave men who passed through the city on their way to fields of death, or afterwards to their homes. They were institutions of no ordinary fame. Begun amid the rush to arms and the thunders of war, their grand work flourished amid the return of peace and the triumph of the Union armies. They were actuated by noble impulses, and everything they did was characterized by a noble unselfishness; and, though distinct in organization, they had but one object. They were organized in May, 1861, almost simultaneously, and while all honor is due to the gentlemen that controlled it, the credit of its conception—the grand inspiration of the work—belongs to man's superior—woman. [Applause.] The first regiment that went through found no refreshment saloon; but, while the men were standing in line, footsore, weary, and hungry, the ladies of the neighborood brought them refreshments from their own tables. About that time many a husband found his breakfast table or tea table unused, stripped of its dainties for the soldiers. [Applause.] The women loved their husbands, but they loved the soldiers, who represented the cause and all that was dear to them, far more. What was home without a country and a flag—the symbol of power—to protect the enjoyment of all the rights of humankind, and all that *they* could value on earth! [Great applause.]

As an instance of the great work performed by the joint labors of these organizations, let me say that not less than one million two hundred thousand substantial meals have been furnished to soldiers going and returning, or, in other words, they have fed a population twice as large as the city of Philadelphia, counting every man, woman and child. [Applause.] The contributions in money during the four years of operation amount to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the value of goods and provisions contributed would be seventy-five thousand dollars. In short, the value of the time and labor contributed to the good work, coupled with the contributions before mentioned, will scarcely fall short of one million of dollars. Truly, it is a small sum, but considering the political and national aspect of the question, the grandeur of the work is plainly visible.

New York, with all her boasted superiority, did not contain such an institution. A New York regiment once came in, and, after the men had partaken of a bountiful meal, their colonel made them a speech, contrasting their reception here with the one they received in New York, and, although the men could not tell that city, *they* gave three rousing cheers for Philadelphia and three *groans* for New York.

Our cities acted like true sisters of the *Friends*. These men, true to their grand principles, would give nothing to support the war or the soldiers. One would subscribe, but his principles forbade; so he bought a picture of one of the Saloons, and paid fifty dollars for it. Another said "these men in blue are not soldiers; they are the National Police; they have a disturbance in the country, and the police are supposing it," and he made a liberal donation in provisions. [Laughter and applause].

The speaker paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of Miss Anna Ross, who had been one of the foremost in perceiving and ministering to the needs of the soldier. It was not granted to her to see the dawn of peace on the earth, but she has her reward.

Amid the deepest stillness, the speaker adverted to the great National calamity. Where is the noble form of him whose name was upon every lip, and whose features were in every heart? The man of peace, simply, purely great; the representative of humanity and freedom throughout the world, is not with us to hear the shouts of victory and join in the pæans of peace. He sleeps; but his tomb will be a shrine to the American patriot. He was a martyr to his country's love. In the hour of his country's danger, in the midst of a startling and tremendous war, he dared before the world and before high Heaven to proclaim the eternal truth that all mankind are free and equal. [Applause.] With one immortal dash of the pen, he proclaimed liberty for four millions of people, and asserted the dignity of humanity. He has gone to his reward.

The speaker retired amid a storm of applause.

LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND OTHERS.

Mr. W. H. Ruddiman then read the following letter from President Johnson:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 22, 1865.

Corresponding Secretary Joint Committee Volunteer Refreshment Saloons, Philadelphia:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the invitation you extend to the joint committee of the Volunteer Refreshment Saloons of your city, to attend their closing ceremonies on the 28th inst. I desire to thank the committee for the compliment thus tendered me, and to express my sincere regret that circumstances prevent my compliance with their invitation. I avail myself of this occasion to assure them of my high appreciation of the great and good work in which they have been engaged during the past four years, by which they have gained the gratitude both of the brave soldiers they served, and they have so efficiently ministered, and of their friends throughout the Union.

I am, very respectfully, your obt. servant,
ANDREW JOHNSON.

And the following from Gov. Curtin:

HARRISBURG, August 28th, 1865.

To Secretary Union Refreshment Saloon, Academy of Music:

SIR: I regret that I cannot be with you this evening. I have long desired an opportunity to express to the members of the patriotic associations assembled to-night, my appreciation of their unstirring Christian benevolence; the estimation in which they and their good works are held by the great body of the people; and to be honored by participating in the coming ceremonies of the volunteer associations which are to be forever identical with the honor of your city and our State.

A. G. CURTIN.

Letters of similar import were read from Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State; Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of Navy; Hon. W. Dennison, Postmaster General; Hon. J. Harlan, Secretary of the Interior; Hon. J. S. Hoster, Acting Vice President of the United States; Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts; Jas. Y. Smith, Governor of Rhode Island; Gov. Parker, of New Jersey; Andrew Shuley, Adjutant General of Massachusetts; and G. H. Stuart, Esq.

SPEECH OF HON. HENRY D. MOORE.

Hon. Henry D. Moore was then introduced. He said: We are here to-night to rejoice over the closing labors of one of the most useful organizations of the city—one whose reputation is not limited by the confines of our city, but which spreads through the length and breadth the land. In dispensing the benefits of these institutions, how true has it been shown that it is more blessed to give than to receive. He (speaker) asked whether there was a lady or gentleman present, who had loaned their services to these institutions, who would exchange the pay they feel at having done so much, for all of earthly wealth that could be brought them. They have been engaged in a great national work—a work in which soldiers from every part of the country have been benefited, and the prayers and blessings of these soldiers will be showered upon these benefactors for all time. If there ever was a period in the history of our country when we should feel it a proud one to be an American citizen, that time is now. However much that title might have been respected before, hereafter it will command a higher and more respectful tone in every nation of the civilized world. Our institutions have been looked upon as an experiment. They have proved to be a reality. What nation could have gone through the trial through which we have gone and have come out unscathed as we have done. What are the teachings of the war? They made the people determined to and by their government no matter what other nations might say about them. We not only carried on this gigantic war with our own resources, but really fed the nations of Europe which were laughing at our imbecility. At the time the nations of Europe were leering at us we were sending out from our ports vessels, with the stars and stripes at their masthead, carrying bread to the famishing millions of the nation who were scoffing at our weakness. To whom are we indebted for the glorious results that have attended the war? If we fail to ask this question and answer it properly, the blessing of God will never follow us as a people or as a nation. If we forget the gallant heroes of the cause of liberty, then will God forget us. Let no one say that, because he has contributed even thousands of dollars towards the cause, that his duty is performed. Let him look at the maimed heroes around him—let him ask himself the consequences which would have attended a defeat at Gettysburg. It were better that we should leave our children a Republic and pensioners than to have left them millions and a broken and dismembered Confederacy. He appealed to the ladies, and to all present, in behalf of the fair form the Soldiers' Home, and expected in the fall to see contributions at the fair not only from our citizens, but from every State in the Union. Let the demonstrate to the world that we are great in our benevolence and our charity to our soldiers and the blessings of God will follow us and our children forever.

The band then played "Rally Round the Flag." The American flags were produced and waved on the platform. The whole audience rose to their feet, waved hats, handkerchiefs, &c., and at the conclusion of the air some one in the audience cried, "Three cheers for Old Glory." The cheers were given with a will by ladies and gentlemen, handkerchiefs were waved, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed for some minutes. "Rally Round the Flag" was followed by "Half Columbia," "Yankee Doodle."

The cheers of the audience almost silenced the music, and it was some minutes after the band had ceased playing, before quiet enough existed for the Chairman to introduce Hon. James M. Scovel, of New Jersey.

SPEECH OF HON. J. M. SCOVEL.

Mr. Scovel said:

On such an occasion as this, the Republic might, with propriety, send gratulation to the city of Philadelphia. I dare not compliment the city at the expense of the State, or, I would say, with Dr. Corres, that Pennsylvania is a sphynx—of which Philadelphia represents beauty, and the rest of the State—the beast! [Applause.]

New York may give 38,000 majority to perpetuate despotism, but this beautiful city, with its mighty charity—the Sanitary Fair—which made last summer so memorable—during the war, by the voluntary contributions of her people, has given nearly a million meals to the soldiers in the armies of the Union.

The perished Republics of the East fade before the splendor of the regenerated Republic of the West. The new nation, in the glory of the present, cannot forget the name of a greater than Pericles—the MAN

"Divinely patient right and wrong to bear;
Great in his goodness, humane in his state,
Firm in his purpose, yet not passionate."

And to me the character of Abraham Lincoln seems to stand out upon the canvas of history, like the mournful beauty of the Parthenon upon the illustrious landscape of Athens, till the strength of the statesman's character is hidden in its harmony and its grandeur is lost in the pathos which attends its beauty.

It seems but yesterday we welcomed him in our streets with shouts of victory; and to-day he sleeps in the village he loved so well. But why weep for him?

"He needs no tears who lived a noble life,
We will not weep for him who died sh'will,
But we will gather round the hearth and tell
The story of his strife."

Alas! that history should repeat itself in such terrible lessons. England had its Charles the First; the United States its James the First, the Sage of Wheatland. [Applause.] The one lost his head, while the other gained—the contempt of the world. America must now repeat the great and common error of looking at the past through centuries of distance. Moral chronology teaches us that history is essentially successive.

Cromwell's brigade of Ironsides, made invincible by the impulse of a sentiment (trusting in God, while they kept their powder dry,) crushed the last effort in England to enslave the race in body and mind, in the bloody fight of Marston Moor, on the 2d day of July, 1864. Two hundred years later, in the same month, Gen. Meade, at Gettysburg,

"Stood like a rock on which the fiery spray
Beat out its life, then slowly ebbed away,"

till the shattered remnant of the rebel hosts sought refuge in a retreat from which there were never any returning steps. Yes! there have been returning steps for that leading spirit of a lying civilization, and those steps have led to the casemates of Fortress Monroe (in woman's apparel,) the latest example of the truth of Shakspeare's aphorism, that "Conscience doth make cowards of us all." To what further elevation he shall ascend, let the people, and let *Justice*, not blind, but sharp-sighted, say. [Applause.] He will be like one of Paganini's compositions—executed on a single string.

But, the war of bayonets having ended, the war of ideas advances. There are solemn questions, involving the salvation of the country, which we cannot escape, political conventions to the contrary notwithstanding.

If the African can successfully end a rebellion with the bullet, I think he can, with fatal effect, handle a ballot! I advocated carrying the war into Africa with Africans. [Applause.] Two hundred thousand of these men were clothed by our Government with rights (muskets), which the rebellious white man suddenly fell bound to respect. He fought at Port Hudson and Vicksburg. He died at Wagner with the gallant Shaw, and was buried with him. [Applause.]

When that brave officer of the 54th Massachusetts fell with his feet to the foe, and his back to the field; when the standard fell, and the standard-bearer was killed—a black sergeant dragged himself forward, wounded and bleeding, and crawled back with that flag, and when he was borne to the hospital, modestly said, "I saved the flag," the white soldiers greeted him with "Three cheers for the man who saved *our* flag"!

I have already spoken longer than I intended. Let us remember that liberty to exercise the faculties is the first condition of individual life; the *liberty* of each, limited only by the like liberty of all, must be the first condition of social life. As all men are equal before the Divine law, we will strive to make them equal before the human law. [Applause.] To you gentlemen of the Cooper Shop and Union Refreshment Saloons, who have dressed the wounds and tenderly cared for so many thousands of the nation's dead and dying sons, you need no reward other than an approving conscience. If you did, you have the gratitude and praise of the vast assembly and the thanks of every patriot heart. Right well have you done your work, bringing to the bedside of the sick that tenderness which creates the "light that was never yet on sea or land."

You will bear with you, among the sweetest and latest recollections of a life well spent, the hearty cheers which greeted you and your hospitable entry from the brave boys who have since fallen by the side of the brave Reynolds and the manly and gentle McPherson, or gallant Sedgwick, or our glorious Philip Kearney. [Great applause.]

"Our good knights are dust,
Their swords are rust,
Their souls are with the saints, I trust."

By the victories of peace, which are no less glorious than those of war, you have taught us, among the other lessons of the war, that the "

"Time was when he should gain his spurs of gold
From royal hands, who wooed the knightly state;
The hell of old formalities is toled
And the world's knights are now self-consecrate."

SPEECH OF REV. KINGSTON GODDARD, D. D.

Rev. Kingston Goddard, D. D., was next introduced. He said the record of these charities shall endure to all eternity. They will endure to all eternity, and we come in this evening to celebrate their expiration, but to rejoice that the rebellion has been crushed that called into existence these charities. He had thought in reference to a charity proposed to race—what should be done with the eagle that now adorns the refreshment saloon? The eagle that had been carried and placed in its position in the city during the war, which seemingly despising adversity, it raised its head and spread its wings, welcoming the brave defenders of the country. He concluded by saying that the eagle should be placed on the battle-field of Gettysburg, an emblem of a grateful people to their martyred sons, and a token of battles fought and victories won. The speech was received with much favor.

SPEECH OF DR. REBINGER.

Dr. Nebinger was next introduced. He said these two Refreshment Saloons organized and carried out efficiently the first two hospitals that ever did any good in the Union soldiery. The Refreshment Saloons grew out of the necessities of the sick soldier. The necessity for a Soldiers' Home also suggested itself to the citizens of the war, and the Committee of the Refreshment Saloons saw this and went to work. Donations for the asylum were at once commenced. On the 22d day of December that Home was dedicated. It is an out-cropping of the Refreshment Saloons. It was not necessary to point to the maimed soldiers, unable, by reason of their injuries, to work. They are all around us; they must be cared for; they must have a retreat in which they can receive all the care and comforts of home. The Home thus far has worked and is working to the satisfaction of all giving of their bounties or receiving its benefits. The Home is full. Shall we stop and say that our work is done? No, that home is only an incentive to the grander idea of erecting a large and commodious home for the accommodation of soldiers' widows. He could not ask them whether they would come forward and assist in the movement. He would answer for them—yes. He knew that was their answer. He would only ask them one favor, and that was that they should assist this movement, and withhold their assistance from any other movement. There is another home afoot; but let us get through one at a time, and when we have the first one through then we will go forward and do all in our power to assist another. The movement contemplates holding a fair in this building in October next. That fair will represent not only this State, but every loyal State in the Union. The movement is a grand one. It is a ladies' movement, and we ask you to give to it your firmest, energetic, and best pecuniary support.

The band then played "Auld Lang Syne," and the audience slowly separated.

ARRIVAL OF THE 104TH REGIMENT.—The 104th Regiment, numbering 748 officers and men, arrived in Philadelphia at an early hour yesterday morning, and steadily marched through with torn banners flying and drums beating, from the Baltimore Railroad Depot to the Cooper Shop and Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloons, where they shared the hospitalities of these celebrated establishments. The regiment then proceeded to Camp Cadwalader. This organization opened the battle at Fair Oaks, (General Casey's Division,) after which it shared the defeats of the army under McClellan. The regiment was composed of as brave a set of men as ever shouldered a musket. After going through the Peninsula campaign, the regiment proceeded to Charleston, South Carolina, and took a prominent part in the gigantic and bloody assault on Fort Wagner. It was formerly commanded by Colonel W. W. H. Davis, who returned with that portion of the regiment that did not re-enlist. He was severely wounded. Those that arrived yesterday are mostly re-enlisted veterans. They looked hardy, and decidedly sunburnt, and appeared to be in the most excellent spirits. The regiment was organized in Doylestown, Bucks County, in September, 1861, by Colonel Davis, under orders issued by the War Department. Attached to it are Durell's celebrated Battery. The following is a summary of the battles this regiment was engaged in: Siege of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks.

It may be said that the regiment fought against fearful odds, and bravely too, at Fair Oaks; there being ten rebels to one Union soldier. The result was that the advance of Casey's division was driven back, and because of which could not be accounted for by General McClellan, in his official despatch relating to the disaster to General McClellan, however, in the next despatch corrected a portion of the first one, and explained that he was led into error, as he was on hot the battle-field at the time of the engagement. After McClellan's seven days' retreat, the regiment proceeded to Gloucester Point, Va., where it remained until December, 1862. It then joined an expedition to the South, and arrived at Hilton Head, S. C., where it spent the first week in January, 1863. After remaining in North Carolina a month, it proceeded to Port Royal, S. C., and participated in Sherman and Hunter's attack on Charleston, April 8, 1863. Upon the failure of the attack, it was ordered to Beaufort, S. C., where it remained until July, when Gilmore landed on Folly Island, and again attacked the defences of Charleston. The 104th served in General A. H. Terry's division during these operations, and took an active part in the successful capture of Fort Wagner, after a fearful struggle of two months.

The regiment remained at Morris Island until the 10th Corps came north to Virginia, when it was ordered to Hilton Head. The regiment was in the attack on Charleston, made by General John E. Foster, on Stono River, by way of John's Island, and afterwards was ordered to Florida, where it served until August; it was then ordered to Washington, and was placed in the 23d Army Corps. In the following month, September, the regiment was reorganized, and the veterans were given furloughs