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TWELVE O'CLOCK M.

BOYS IN BLUE.

Immense Assemblage at Philadelphia.

STIRRING WELCOME BY MAYOR McMICHAEL.

Response by General H. A. Barnum.

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE LAST NIGHT.

MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE.

Speeches by General Kilpatrick and Others.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION TO-DAY.

Letters from Generals Sherman, Howard and Curtis.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA, October 1, 1868.

The city is quite crowded with delegates to the Soldiers Convention and visitors. The various delegations on arriving have been escorted to quarters. This noon several thousand assembled in Independence Square, where they were welcomed by Mayor McMichael. It is thought to-morrow will be generally observed as a holiday. An immense crowd attended the reception in the Square.

WELCOME BY MAYOR M'MICHAEL.

Mayor McMichael welcomed the soldiers in the name of the loyal people of Philadelphia. After referring to the aspersions cast upon them as soldiers, the Mayor said: "As I gaze on this vast assemblage, composed as it is of men who followed Donelson and scaled Lookout, and penetrated the thick jungles of the Wilderness—men who marched with Sherman and rode with Sheridan, and bled with Sickles, and conquered with Meade—men who sailed with Dupont, Farragut, Porter and Worden—who, along the windings of Western rivers and amid the rocky cliffs and wooded ravines of central mountains, and among the swampy hollows of Southern plains, performed prodigies of daring and bore with fortitude and patience the pangs of hunger and ravages of fever—I know that you bring with you the prestige of victory, and I am confident that as good and true men of all pursuits, occupations and classes participate in your feelings and will join in your action, before the Ides of November your great commander will be chosen President, and when that thrice fortunate result shall have been attained, the peace for which you have struggled, and the country yearns, will be followed by harmony and prosperity in all sections of the land—peace that will bind up the wounds and assuage the griefs of distracted communities—peace that will secure to all who dwell upon the soil, of all climes, castes, creeds and complexions absolute equality before the law—and this mighty empire compacted and perfected and knit together by indissoluble bonds, and stronger, and wiser, and better for the troubles through which it has passed, will start afresh on its magnificent career, and under the leadership of the hero and statesman, whose tried courage and approved judgment pre-eminently qualify him for the post, will press forward toward to that foremost place among the powers of the earth, to which by its magnitude, its strength, its wealth, its intelligence, its resources, it is fairly entitled.

Again, soldiers and sailors, brave defenders and protectors of the flag, that in your hands often torn has never been tarnished, again and again I bid you welcome."

RESPONSE OF GEN. BARNUM.

General H. A. Barnum, of the National Committee, responded, saying: For the hundred thousand veterans of the war whom you welcomed to your far-famed city, I thank you. For your kindly greeting the name of your noble city is cherished by every boy in blue who survives the war and your people enshrined in their hearts. The loyal bands who hurried to the defense of the capital when treason first flashed its lurid light across the southern sky, drank at your fountains, ate at your tables, and received your heart-felt God speed, and the last bronzed veteran of the war returning to the home he had preserved, partook of your boundless hospitality.

We stand to-day in a sacred presence. Here were born our liberties, and the clangor of yonder bell, proclaiming the liberty of America, blends in our memories with the echo of the guns of Gettysburg maintaining that liberty. It is fitting that today we should gather here and join with you in the high resolve that the battle-born and battle-saved liberty of our country shall be passed to our children unimpaired! Aye, more than this. Let us realize that we are a privileged generation. To us has been given the opportunity to perfect the liberty our fathers exhibited. Already by the grand victories of our armies we have reestablished the absolute safety of our government from armed attack, whether from within or without. It remains for us to so entrench the abilities of our country by rightness and just constitutions and laws, that equal and complete freedom, justice and civil rights shall prevail throughout the land.

If I know the temper of our grand old army, if I read aright your presence here, my comrades, you will never cease your efforts until the absolute freedom (which to every good citizen of the republic, in every hamlet of the land, be he millionaire or common laborer, educated or ignorant, white or black) [illegible]

He then referred to the political conflict and said: We have seen the Waterloo of armed rebellion. We have yet to see the St. Helena of the spirit of treason, and who doubts that we who sang while war waged the battle hymn, "mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord," shall see on November's day the death of the spirit of treason in the overwhelming defeat and utter rout of our political foe! Gird on your armor, then, my comrades. To the fight! Close up your ranks! The spirits of your three hundred thousand slain and maimed comrades look approvingly down upon you, and as you now again feel the magic elbow-touch, remember the invocation of our martyr President, spoken on Gettysburg's field, "we here rightly resolve that these honored dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and the government of the people shall not perish from the earth."

Generals Burnside and Kilpatrick and Governor Curtin made short speeches when the assemblage dispersed.

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE IN THE EVENING.

There was an immense gathering in Independence Square this evening of soldiers and sailors. Gen. Burnside presided. The Square was finely illuminated and the spectacle was grand and imposing.

An address was made by Gen. Barnum, who congratulated the soldiers upon their success in war and urged them to achieve further successes in the coming elections, closing as follows: We call upon every citizen who wore the Union blue, whether on land or sea, to cast his vote in the coming election for the Union State tickets and for Grant and Colfax, and further, to mark alike the sincerity and efficiency of our solemn declaration, we invoke our late comrades-in-arms to set apart the election day as a period of unremitting exertion and unceasing vigilance, and we hereby formally announce that on the 13th day of October, in the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Nebraska, there shall be observed among our comrades a general holiday, and we call upon all employers, manufacturers and business men generally, to relieve their workmen on that day who have served in the Union army, and thus assist in completing this patriotic purpose. The victory on the 13th of October will be Sheridan's victory of Five Forks, marshalling the way to Grant's transcendent triumph on the Appamattox in November.

General Kilpatrick was called upon for a speech, and in the course of his remarks said: All of you remember those proud and happy days when the heroes of Georgia and the Carolinas had joined the Boys in Blue around Grant below the Potomac, and with colors flying and drums beating, all came marching home across the hills and the valleys of Virginia, keeping step to the sweet music of the Union, and we thought when marching down Pennsylvania avenue, down before the future residence of Ulysses S. Grant, (Cheers) where we had received the greetings of ten thousand of our fellow citizens and had returned to our homes, that war had closed. But we were mistaken! The same foe, with the same leaders, North and South, is now arrayed against us. And the question now arises, will you, fellow-citizens, have Horatio Seymour or General Grant for your next President? (Cries for Grant.) Will you have the stars taken from off the shoulders of the great Sherman and placed on the traitor Lee? (No! no!) Will you have that man, Hyena Forrest, take the place of the dashing and gallant little Phil. Sheridan? (No! no!) No! my fellow-citizens! We have met here to-day to take into consideration how this great evil may be prevented. We have a duty to perform as great as that for which we fought during the war. We must place men in power whom we know will be true to those great principles for which we fought and crushed the rebellion. Not only that, but they must be also true to the interest of the widows and orphans of our comrades who have gone and whose spirits in heaven look down with approbation on the acts of their comrades who are assembled here to-day.

Can I, can you, fellow-soldiers, can you, Gen. Burnside, stand timidly and cowardly by and see the Union and liberty destroyed forever? We are to-day—[voice in the crowd, "Let us charge them!"] I wish to God we could make a charge. I just wish Robert E. Lee, Horatio Seymour, and that great scoundrel and traitor, Frank P. Blair, were here to-day in this crowd. We would put liberty and Union in the balance against them and treason.

Gov. Curtin was called for. He said: I will not speak to you, my fellow-citizens, because this is a soldiers' meeting. I was not a soldier.

During the evening a large number of speeches were made from the different stands. The meeting adjourned at an early hour to proceed to the Union League House, where a serenade was given and several addresses made.

The throng of strangers dispersed to their quarters to be ready for the procession to-morrow morning, and parade at night. Chestnut street was thronged throughout the evening. A number of arrests were made of persons engaged in exciting a disturbance in the neighborhood of the square.

LETTERS FROM GEN. SHERMAN, GEN. HOWARD AND GEN. CURTIS.

Letters are published here to-day from Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Howard Sigel, Cox, and others, endorsing Grant and Colfax.

The following are the letters from Generals Sherman, Howard, and George Wm. Curtis:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, Sept. 10, 1868.

Gen. H. A. Barnum, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR GENERAL:—I have just received your letter of September 8th, inviting me to attend a Mass Convention of the war veterans at Philadelphia, on the 1st and 2d of October next, in the interests of the Republican party in the present canvass.

It will be impossible for me to do so for many reasons, and I know no one to whom I can better impart them than to you.

First—I have too much to do in my proper legitimate business, which keeps me west of the Mississippi.

Second—I am required by a summons to attend a called meeting of the Indian Peace Commission at Chicago on the 7th of October.

No one, I trust, doubts my respect for, and absolute confidence in, Gen. Grant, at least he himself does not; and I extract for your information from a letter of the General's, dated Washington, June 21st, 1868:

"DEAR SHERMAN—Your kind letter written from New Mexico is received. You understand my position exactly. * * * * * * I feel very grateful to the officers of our army, whose military achievements made my reputation as well as their own, to know that they support me in this new field. I do not expect or want active support, but merely the satisfaction of knowing what your letter assured me of on your part. Officers who expect to make the army their home for life have to serve under successive administrations, and should not make themselves obnoxious to any party likely ever to come into power. * * * * * *