

# AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"Let us have Faith that Right makes Might; and in that Faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it!"—A. LINCOLN.

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## FROM BALTIMORE.

### The Troubles About the Baltimore Police Commissioners.

The Baltimore American of Monday says:

The loyal heart of this city has been deeply stirred by the attempt of Gov. Swann—instigated by "southern sympathizers"—to violate, for political purposes, the plain letter and spirit of the laws of the State. This is manifested in the quiet and earnest manner in which the loyal people discuss this all-absorbing question, and in the unanimous determination expressed to demand and enforce a strict observance of the law in any action which the Governor may take in the premises.

During the session of the Police Board yesterday it was rumored that they were called upon by Columbus O'Donnell and Benjamin Deford, Esquires, who gave the substance of an interview they had with Governor Swann on Saturday evening, their having presented him a letter signed by some of the directors of the First National Bank, of which he is President, together with the signatures of a number of leading and influential citizens, urging him to desist in his rumored purpose of removing the Police Board. They reported the Governor to have declared that he had no intention to proceed hastily in the matter, and that he had discovered some of the charges made against the Board to be misrepresentations of fact. He was assured by those gentlemen that the charges made against them of having failed, in accordance with law, to provide a box for rejected ballots, was unfounded, such a box having been furnished to the judges of each precinct, and that the judges conducted the election strictly in accordance with the instructions of Attorney General Randall, recognizing no one as a voter at the municipal election whose name was not found upon the registry of last year.

The Governor is also understood to have intimated to these gentlemen that the character of the men who had this matter in hand, as indicated by the remarks of their spokesman on the occasion of presenting the memorial and affidavits, was not such as he had expected. That his remarks in reply to Mr. Herrington were intended by him to discourage those engaged in it, and his subsequent summons of the Commissioners was intended for a calm and impartial investigation of the charges.

The Governor, however, is said to have intimated that there was one branch of the complaint made that was reasonable, and that is, that the Judges of Election were composed of gentlemen altogether of one political party. He thought the Board ought to remedy that objection by appointing one judge and one clerk to each precinct from the Conservative party, which would, probably, harmonize the difficulty. This matter, although not in the form of a proposition from the Governor, was under consideration yesterday, having been presented by Messrs. Deford and O'Donnell as one of the points of their conversation with the Governor.

We have heard indirectly that Messrs. O'Donnell and Deford were authorized by the Board to inform the Governor, in reply to this proposition, that the judges had already been appointed, but that in case of any resignations or vacancies occurring, they would appoint loyal Swann-Johnson men to fill them, both as judges and clerks, if any such could be found willing to serve.

The Board of Police Commissioners were in consultation during the morning with their special counsel, Messrs. Thos. Alexander, Archibald Sterling, Jr., and Henry Stockbridge, Esquires. It is rumored that a communication was made to them by General Columbus O'Donnell and Benjamin Deford, Esq., in which there was an intimation that the matter might be settled by a compromise, based on a conversation they had with the Governor on Saturday evening. This not coming direct from the Governor, was of course not considered, the only question for their consideration being the summons of the Commissioners to appear before the Governor this morning at the Executive Chamber, at Annapolis, at ten o'clock.

We have no official information as to the course to be pursued by the Board, but it was rumored last night that they had resolved not to appear in person, in answer to the summons of the Governor, but that their counsel will proceed to Annapolis this morning, and enter a formal protest in writing against the jurisdiction of the Governor in the matter. That they will deny his right to remove them on the charges made, or to investigate those charges with the view to their

removal, further than to base proceedings before a competent legal tribunal for their trial for any alleged misdemeanor that may be brought against them.

If this version of the course resolved upon by the Board is correct, a direct conflict of authority arises between the Governor and the Board, and the Governor will probably proceed with the investigation in their absence. Whether the counsel of the Board will take any further part in the matter we are not informed.

The committee who presented the memorial for the removal of the Board, headed by George W. Herring, it is announced, are also summoned to appear before the Governor at the Executive Chamber this morning. There will, therefore, doubtless be a large attendance at Annapolis to-day of the friends and opponents of the Board.

It is understood that about one hundred and twenty affidavits have been laid before his Excellency, probably a half dozen of which contain vague charges of a rather personal character against the Police Commissioners. These have been taken before several magistrates, who, doubtless, are expecting a reappearance in view of their valuable services in this connection, many of the documents bearing palpable evidence of having been entirely drawn up by these irreproachable officials. The bulk of the affidavits, it is understood, embraces charges against the judges of the recent election, because of their having acted upon the interpretation given to the law by the highest law officer of the State, at the request of Governor Swann. Many of these reconstructed "southern sympathizers" seem highly indignant at what they term a disregard of their "dearest rights," after some of them have perjured themselves in order to secure its exercise for the purpose of rewarding traitors and their allies.

The "Boys in Blue" and the members of the several Union Leagues were busily engaged in canvassing the city on Saturday, and enrolling the names of such of our loyal citizens as pledged themselves to support the city authorities in resisting Mr. Swann's interference.

On Saturday evening an enthusiastic meeting of the committee appointed on Friday evening assembled at the rooms of the Unconditional Union Central Committee to report the result of their day's work. Gen. Woolly presided, with Col. Smith as Secretary. Over five thousand men were reported as ready and willing to sustain the Commissioners in the discharge of their duties and for the preservation of the peace and good order of the city. The men who defended Maryland at Antietam and Gettysburg are not willing now that the victory then gained shall be thrown away at this time.

It is said that Major General John R. Kenly, Major General Dennison and Brigadier General Woolly have all visited the Mayor and Commissioners, and tendered their services in any capacity.

Governor Swann remained in the city all day yesterday, and will go to Annapolis this morning. He was in consultation yesterday with Ex-Gov. Pratt, Outerbridge Hershey, and J. Dixon Roman.

Hon. Reverend Johnson has given the following opinion on the subject:

BALTIMORE, October 20, 1866.—To Messrs. Alfred D. Evans, J. S. Shipley and H. R. Dalany,—Gentlemen: Your note of yesterday is received. I regret that professional engagements, which I am now discharging, and which promise to occupy all of the coming week, put it out of my power to act as counsel in the matter you refer to.

In compliance with a verbal request of one of you members, I proceed briefly to state my opinion on the legal question the matter presents.

Has the Governor, in the recess of the General Assembly, the power to remove the Police Commissioners of the city for "official misconduct?" I have no doubt that he has.

The words of the law are so plain as to admit of but one construction. The duties of the board are proscribed, and to guard against failure to perform them (a contingency that might happen), the law says, "for official misconduct, any of the said commissioners may be removed by a concurrent vote of the two houses of the General Assembly, or by the Governor during the recess thereof."

This is the only provision on the subject. The offense guarded against is "official misconduct." The penalty for it is not fine or imprisonment, but removal from office alone, and the authority to investigate all the facts and enforce the penalty is, in session, the General Assembly; if not in session, the Governor. There being now a legislative recess, the jurisdiction and the power to award the penalty is in the Governor. It is suggested, I am told, that before he can re-

move the Commissioners, the fact of their official misconduct must be tried by a court and jury. This is absurd:

First. Because the courts are not named in the law, either expressly or implied, as having any jurisdiction in the case.

Second. Because the Governor, who can alone render the judgment of removal, has devolved upon him the entire responsibility; and, that being so, it must be for him exclusively to investigate and decide the fact, and not avoid responsibility by referring it to the courts.

Third. Because he has no right to call upon a court or a jury to assist him, and no one else has such right.

Fourth. Because no matter what a court might find to be the fact, it could not, if found one way, award the only penalty that can be rendered, or if found in the other, deprive the Governor of his power to award it, or absolve him from the duty of doing so.

And lastly, because his power, during a legislative recess, is the same over the facts and penalty as that of the General Assembly when in session; and I suppose that no one will hold that body could only act in association with or in subordination to any courts of the State.

It is impossible, I think, for a sound mind to entertain a doubt upon the point.

The long and well settled doctrine of the President's power to remove officers under the Constitution of the United States is in conflict with such a theory. It is now, and has been since the organization of the government, settled that the power exists.

The only doubt ever entertained about it was that it was not coincident to the power of appointment; but that as that power was in the President and Senate jointly, a removal required the sanction of both. Neither in the debate, when the question was first agitated, nor in any that has since been had, was it intimated that if the power had been given in express terms to the President, he could not exercise it, or that it was not his duty to do so without the aid of any other body, legislative or judicial.

Upon the whole, therefore, I have no doubt that it is given to the Governor (the Legislature not being in session) to investigate into the truth of the alleged misconduct of the Police Commissioners, and to remove them if he is satisfied that they have been guilty of "official misconduct."

Yours, respectfully,

REVEREND JOHNSON

BALTIMORE, Oct. 22, Evening.—The case of the Police Commissioners has been postponed till Friday. Gen. Canby, commander of the department, came here to-day from Washington, and had an interview with the Mayor and Police Commissioners. It is understood that the object of his visit was to inform himself as to the condition of affairs in this city.

## THE MISER'S FATE.

By Finley Johnson.

It is a bright, balmy morning, and the dew drops are quivering on the grass, as if the stars of midnight had distilled their essence on the earth. The song of the lark is rising loud and clear, while from the cottage roof the red-breast is sending forth his joyous notes. It is as yet too early to hear the clang of the blacksmith's hammer, or the voices in the workshops. A sense of quietness, peace and pleasantness is filling the soul, and therefore, dear reader, come with me, and loiter awhile in the old churchyard, where slumber the dead in the presence of the living. Behold this simple grave, at whose head stands but a plain stone, bearing upon it the initials W. G. You wonder who sleeps below, and vain would know his history. Then, come, and as we trudge along to the village, over which the sun is now throwing his golden beams, I will raise the curtain of the past, and present before you a picture in the scenery of life—a page from the book of human depravity.

Walter Gordon was the only child of a poor farmer living in the western country. His father had impressed upon his youthful mind the necessity of economy, and, as he grew up to manhood, those ideas took full possession of him. He was put in possession of a farm, and when he found himself his own master, all of his dormant qualities began to flow in a natural channel. He made it his business to seek every poor farmer in the neighborhood, of whom he could purchase saleable articles, always taking advantage of their necessity. Gold, gold was the object of his heart's adoration. He favored and cringed, and coaxed, ground down and oppressed to gain it, and he succeeded. For the love of gold he drove his old father from the house, and endeavored to fasten him on the village poor-house.

The children of the village cursed him, and his victims haunted him day and night. But what cared he? Gold was his god, wrapped up in his own gloomy thoughts, he strode along his path of desolation. All of his servants he discharged, with the exception of his old housekeeper, and himself he almost starved so as to hoard up faster.

His mother mourned the downward course of her son; but all her admonitions were vain. 'Tis strange how the love of gold will corrode the human heart, how it crushes beneath its sombre wings all of the nobler attributes of nature. He kept her in an old garret of a house which he had bought, and often would growl and wish for her death whenever he dealt out her weekly pittance.

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and riding his chest, his agony was unspeakable; but he was helpless.

The sun had reached midway in the heavens before any discovery was made, and when they entered, they found the old woman bound in one end of the house and Gordon in the other. They lifted him up, cut the bonds that bound him, and placed him on a seat. He began soon to revive, and then burst out into a laugh which frightened all his hearers. "Ha! ha! ha! they come for my gold!" shouted he.

Then changing his tone for one of supplication, he would cry:

"I am poor, very poor! No money have I—I am a beggar!"

He was mad! reason was dethroned!

For a few weeks after, a poor, miserable, filthy figure of a man used to go along the highway, picking up loose bits of rags, and muttering to himself an unintelligible jargon. Men evaded him—children shrunk with fear at his approach—and one day he was found upon the road-side dead!

His mother's words had been fulfilled, the gold which he had accumulated was of no avail, and, unwept and uncareed for, he was borne to his last home.

Reader my task is done. Let us drop the curtain, and when again we raise it, may it not be on so dark a "picture of life" as that presented by the miser.

## Tremendous Meeting at Jones's Woods. ADDRESS OF JAMES STEPHENS.

Jones's Wood was the Fenian rallying point yesterday, towards which all Irishmen from far and near came in almost countless thousands. The crowd there was never exceeded, or even approached, by any public gathering of the masses in this city, unless we except the grand Union demonstration in the early part of the war. Across the lots and down the unpaved streets leading to the ground came the tramping of myriad feet, and the moving of an endless procession in one direction. The cars running up reports each carried a triple load of passengers and then left an immense number behind who looked long and anxiously for "standing room only." In all this surging body of people who passed into Jones's Wood not one person was to be seen drunk, and this probably accounts for the little disturbance that took place, for such a "steady big crowd" as a Milesian who was present forcibly termed it. There was an entire absence of any police force, Superintendent Kennedy not deigning to recognize any political meeting held on the Sabbath, but a large detail was kept in reserve in the city for any trouble that might occur. About 2 o'clock, a close carriage drove in from the avenue, from which four occupants were let out at the hotel steps. The first to alight was a medium-sized, squarely-built man, wearing a blue overcoat and a black silk hat. He was received by a committee, and it soon became known to the crowd that James Stephens, Chief Organizer of the Irish Republic, was among them, and he was that noted individual who had just gone from the carriage up the stairs. The cheers which greeted his arrival continued for some minutes, and were as loud as they were long. After a short rest the great Fenian chief proceeded to a stand erected in the middle of the large-field from which he was to address the mass meeting. His passage to that point was like that of a national orator given to an Emperor after victory. On every side he was met by fervent wishes, and by many hands eagerly held out to grasp his own. Immediately on reaching the stand he commenced speaking to the vast and compressed crowd before and behind him, which was estimated at 50,000 people.

In beginning his address he greeted those about him as the friends of liberty from all lands. He saw before him he said, the representatives of all the struggling and down-trodden nationalities of the world, as well as those who, living happily under independent Government, desire to see the day when republicanism shall prevail throughout the earth. All such were watching anxiously the progress of Ireland in her struggle for independence. They had been told of late by the mercenary press of England and Ireland and America that the Fenian movement was stajped out and dead.—He would assure them to-day that this was not true; that the Fenian cause had never gone backward from the hour of its inception. This immense gathering of enthusiastic Irish patriots proved it. The cause could never die in America or in Ireland any more than the spirit of republican liberty would die, and those who discouraged and derided the Fenian work were not true to the republican principles they professed to cherish. He had

had hard word, he said, in the fact of this opposition from the American press to convince the people here that he was in earnest when he said that he would be on Irish soil before the close of this year to fight for the cause of Ireland. He would assure them again to-day that he meant to abide by what he had said, and that the Irish flag shall be unfurled in Ireland over an army of 50,000 men before the end of the year 1866. Mr. Stephens then adverted to the division among the Fenians which had occurred in this country. It was a most disastrous event, though he believed it to have been caused more by excess of zeal than weakness or incompetency among the leaders in America. One year ago England had lain in the hands of the Fenians and could have been crushed like a piece of paper, and would have been but for the unhappy condition of Fenian affairs in America. Though the conflict had been postponed, the Fenians had lost none of their strength in Ireland. If the American public could have known what he did of the present state of affairs in Ireland, they could never have acted toward us as they have, without being false to their republican principles. The only excuse for the American people and the American press was their deplorable ignorance of the state of Ireland. Neither did the Irish people themselves understand the true condition of affairs there. We have realized, said Mr. Stephens, three great triumphs in Ireland, either one of which might justly be regarded as a great moral revolution. First: The people have been taught what republicanism means. The Irish people, who had been pronounced the most inclined to aristocracy of any people of the earth, had been made republican. An army was indeed necessary; but a republic was necessary also. We wanted to get rid of landlordism and the influences which the abominable agrarian laws of England had impressed upon the Irish people. For eight years we have labored with this end in view. How could true republicanism in America depreciate and revile the Fenian cause, when it had thus made itself the propagandist of republican principles. They were either totally ignorant of the extent and value of our work, or they were recreant to their principles.—Second: We have created an army in a country where there had been no military organization among the people since 1792. This army numbers 50,000, and the men are as well trained, drilled and equipped, and are as obedient to their officers as any in the world. All this is well known, said Mr. Stephens, to those in my confidence. But it was folly and worse than folly for a New York paper to send a reporter through Ireland with the pretense of giving trust worthy information concerning the Fenian army there. No one can get any information concerning those matters except he possesses proper credentials given by me or my deputies. The third great object that had been effected was the teaching of the people, the third great point that had been gained was to have taught the people to distinguish between the temporal and the spiritual. He had seen the evil effects of the power which the priests had exercised in 1848. He had therefore determined that in this new revolution he would not have the people led to the right or left, or taken away from himself by any one. He had taught them to look to the priests as before for spiritual direction, but for nothing else. If the priest teaches the noble old principle of resistance to British tyranny give heed to him, but if he tells you to obey England do not listen to him. So have we struggled in the inculcation of these principles, not making a brawling opposition, but quietly educating the people to our ends. The priest in this coming conflict would turn back an Irish officer and his men when on a patriotic mission. Now what of the present condition of the organization? He had had he said, communication from every part of Ireland within the past three months. The army was as strong, if not stronger, in Ireland than ever before. There were advantages which the enemy had to-day that they did not have a twelve month ago; and on the other hand, the Fenians had new advantages to counterbalance their losses. So the Irish flag would be raised on Irish soil before New Year's day with as bright a prospect as it ever had. With regard to the Canada prisoners he was sure the Provincial authorities would not dare to hang Lynch, on the 13th of December. Before that day arrived there would be such news from Ireland that they would pause in their bloody work. Mind you, said Mr. Stephens, I don't say there will be fighting in Ireland before the 13th day of December, but there will be before the 1st day of January. He was glad to say that the people in this

country were more united to-day than for many months past. [A voice, "Thank you for that."] He had tried to do his duty. He looked to the present as the most vital moment for Ireland. Within three months he was confident the independence of Ireland would be achieved. Referring to the military movements undertaken on this side of the Atlantic.—Mr. Stephens said that they were unfortunate and disastrous in their effect on the cause. So long as the excitement and zeal by the people were directed toward America the force of their rising was wasted and dissipated. He hoped the American Fenians were now satisfied that no conflict could take place on Canadian soil, and that it was to come off in Ireland. The man who now prated of invading Canada was a mortal enemy to his country and his race. In conclusion Mr. Stephens said he spoke to them as one who was going into a battle from which he might not return, and begged them to believe he was in earnest. He was going from here direct to Ireland.—Mark every man, he said, who ridicules or attempts to cry down the cause in Ireland, and remember him forever. He hoped his words would have some weight for they would soon hear something that would prove that he was in earnest. [A voice: "You have proved it already.—We want to fight."] He promised that there were 200,000 men in Ireland as ready for a fight as the Irishmen here, and as brave, and the opportunity would soon be given them. It having become manifest that the great portion of the crowd who could hear Mr. Stephens could not be much longer restrained from crushing those near the stand, Mr. Stephens brought his remarks abruptly to a close. Being called upon to say something about the defaulters of the Fenian funds, he promised that a full list of their names would be published in a few days. In bidding his fellow-countrymen farewell he would say as he began, there would be fighting in Ireland before the 1st of January, and that he himself would be in the midst of it.

Mr. Stephens was frequently interrupted during his speech by the applause and uproar of the crowd, and was several times obliged to urge his hearers to give away about the stand, against which they swayed and pushed with such violence that that fears were entertained of its going down.

"Have any of Toby Continued's stories been printed into bound volumes?" inquired a country customer of a salesman in a large book-store a few weeks ago.

"Toby Continued! Who's he?"

"Why the man that writes so many stories for the papers. I see his name to more newspaper stories than any other man, and I want to get 'em in bound volumes."

"An editor was shaved in a barber's shop recently and offered the barber a dime, which he refused; because said he, 'I understand dat you is an editor.'"

"Well, what of that?"

"Why, we nebber charge editors nuffin."

"But such liberality will ruin you." O, nebber mind, we make it off de gemmen."

A lady of vivacity was by a waggish friend proposed to be made acquainted with a gentleman of infinite wit, an offer she gladly accepted. After an interview, her friend asked her how she liked him.

"She said, 'Delightfully! I have hardly ever found a person so agreeable.' The damsel, uninterested in her own loquacity, had not discovered that this witty gentleman was a dandy!"

Barton, while traveling on a steamboat seated himself and called for beefsteak. The waiter furnished him with a small strip of the article. Taking it on a fork, and turning it over and examining it, with one of his peculiar looks, he coolly remarked, 'Yes, that is it bring me some.'

"Aw! How duth you like my mustache, Miss Laura?" lisped a dandy to a merry girl.

"Oh very much; it looks like the fuz on the back of a caterpillar."

"Father wants you to send two yards of black tweed cloth; he don't care what color it is; and when he kills his pig last week, he'll pay you what you owe him."

"Prentice says that a patient is in a bad way, when his disease is acute and his physician is n't."

—Is there any bird which can sing the Lays of Ancient Rome?—Yes, they are *Heavy Lays*.