

# THE STALWART SPIRIT IS AROUSED.

Rank and File of Republicans  
Resent Slander.

## THEY REMEMBER GARFIELD.

Governor Hastings Sounds the Key-note of the Campaign.

The Governor Goes Through All the Libelous and Scandalous Charges of the Enemies of the Republican Party and Exposes Their Weakness.

(Special Correspondence.)

Philadelphia, Oct. 18.—The Republicans meeting at the Academy of Music at which Governor Daniel H. Hastings was the principal speaker was the event of last week. It marked the revival of stalwartism. The sort of Republicans who stood by Grant in '72, who had stood by Lincoln, and who stood by Blaine, were brought to realize that the same old agencies were making another endeavor to bring triumph to the Democratic party by vicious and unscrupulous personal assaults on Senator Quay and those who are known to be his friends.

When Governor Hastings appeared he was greeted with an ovation, and spoke in part as follows:

"One of the candidates for governor in February last year charged in a religious newspaper, of which he was editor, that new metal furnishings have been paid for by the state, but old ones in use by the state carried into the state house cellar, cleaned and returned, were made to personate the new ones paid for."

"That in the purchase of material and labor for making additions, alterations, repairs and furnishings, the capitol buildings, and cellars and grounds, also for the executive mansion and now for Grace church, the state has lost many thousands of dollars as the result of an unfair system of competitive bidding. In other words, that the cost to the state has been two, three, four, as high as eight times, in some instances, as much as it should have been, and that not all of this money went to the persons furnishing the materials and labor,

"At the trial in the Dauphin county court, above referred to, the candidate, in his defense, brought out, of course, everything he could to justify his charges in regard to the fitting out of Grace church, and inasmuch as he was found guilty of criminal libel, after producing all the testimony within his reach, it is hardly worth the time of this audience to make any further reference to it. As a matter of fact, the church was fitted up for the occupancy of the legislature in four days and four nights. I took personal charge of the work myself, and if the Dauphin county jury had brought in a verdict of acquittal there might be some ground on which the defendant might rest his allegations. It was necessary to fit up rooms for the senate and house of representatives. The cellar was utilized for committee rooms. There were required new boilers, partitions, windows, electric light, steam heat, plumbing, retiring rooms, desks, chairs, tables, carpets and whatever else was necessary to make the church habitable by the legislature, its officers and employees. Every bidder who had obtained, after competitive bidding, the yearly contract for furnishing the supplies to the state government, was summoned and directed to do his part of the work by the following Monday night."

"The fire occurred on Tuesday. The contractors went to work on Wednesday, and although the church was not completed, the church was habitable for the legislature, and the two houses met on Monday evening, according to my promise to them. There was a division among the members of the general assembly to take a recess of 30 days.

"Defendant admitted the publication, but denied that he intended it to refer to the board or its members, or that it in fact charges them with the offenses alleged in the indictment.

"The burden was of course on the commonwealth to prove that these paragraphs would be understood by the public to charge the members and superintendents of the board or some of them, as alleged in the indictment, and the jury was instructed that if the commonwealth failed in this proof defendant could not be convicted. In view of the verdict we must assume the jury found with the commonwealth on these points.

"To establish the defense that the publication had not been maliciously or malignantly made, defendant testified at length, giving in detail all the facts claimed to be within his own knowledge, and all the information that he had received which led him to make the publication; and nothing of this kind, however remote, was excluded.

"Since then the convicted editor has mercilessly abused the trial judge, the jury, the opposing lawyers and the state, reiterating the same charges, particularly about Grace church. Who would not command at least his misdirected energy? His defense must have been well prepared. He was indefatigable. He left no stone unturned. He was several times at my stable cross-examining my hostler and the cook in our kitchen to find out something in the garbage or the manure pile to injure me or my family.

"II. Again this candidate in the same paper charged 'That articles have been furnished for the soldiers orphans' schools that cost the state eight fold more than reliable bidders were willing to furnish the same articles for.'

"The soldiers orphans' schools commission immediately held a meeting in the executive chamber, its members consisting of General Gobin, Senator Mitchell, Captain William F. Stewart, Hon. Ira F. Mansfield, Hon. Robert M. Foster, Colonel Ezra H. Ripley and Captain George W. Skinner. The members of the commission at once resolved to arrest him and the warrant was served. When he faced the jury his principal defense was that there was no malice intended. This was the first case tried, and the jury leniently found him 'not guilty, but pay the costs.' It was in effect notice to him that we will let you off this time, but pay the costs and don't do it again.

"I am sure you will admire his modesty when I tell you that he shortly afterward wrote me a letter—here it is, I hold it in my hands—asking me to donate him some money to help pay these very costs. This is the letter:

"Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 16, 1897.

"Governor Daniel H. Hastings:

"My Dear Sir: The suit against me on the charge of having libeled the commission of soldiers orphans' schools,

of which you are a member, should never have been brought, as I am now prepared to demonstrate to the satisfaction of all concerned, including the taxpayers of the state.

"The \$600 bill of court expenses, including the names of witnesses who were never subpoenaed, should not have been incurred, or at least should not have been placed on me.

"The bill of expenses, over and above \$600, and which I was compelled to incur in my defense, including my witnesses, my time, my lawyers' fees and incidental expenses, amounting in all to \$1,250, is a burden I should not and will not be compelled to bear unaided."

"In view of all the circumstances, the commission should, and can well afford to, pay both of these bills, aggregating \$1,910, or less than \$175 for each of the 11 commissioners. This should be attended to by or before Dec. 1, 1897.

"Yours truly,

"S. C. SWALLOW."

"III. The same candidate has charged repeatedly on the stump and in the newspapers 'that the sum of \$8,330.01 was paid for carpenter work on the rose propagating house, which the state authorities admitted was worth, including material and labor, not more than \$1,800.'

"The rose propagating house referred to was built under an act of the legislature of the session of 1895, in which the general appropriation bill the sum of \$1,800 was appropriated. The language used in the act is as follows: 'For the payment of the erection, construction, completion and furnishing of a rose propagating house, the sum of one thousand eight hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary.' Under this act a house was built, together with all the excavation, masonry, carpenter work, glass, iron, painting and material of every kind, finished complete for use, for the sum of \$1,800, the amount appropriated, built by Charles H. Miller, who took the bid.

"I have these figures taken from the record of the auditor general of the state. The statement, therefore, that this building cost over \$8,000 is utterly and unqualifiedly false, and I challenge any practical builder, who understands the value of material and labor, to construct a duplicate of this building for any smaller sum than was paid for this rose propagating house by the board of public grounds and grounds of the commonwealth, and I also challenge any man to show that the building in question cost more than \$1,800.

"IV. At the trial in the Dauphin county court, above referred to, the candidate, in his defense, brought out, of course, everything he could to justify his charges in regard to the fitting out of Grace church, and inasmuch as he was found guilty of criminal libel, after producing all the testimony within his reach, it is hardly worth the time of this audience to make any further reference to it. As a matter of fact, the church was fitted up for the occupancy of the legislature in four days and four nights. I took personal charge of the work myself, and if the Dauphin county jury had brought in a verdict of acquittal there might be some ground on which the defendant might rest his allegations. It was necessary to fit up rooms for the senate and house of representatives. The cellar was utilized for committee rooms. There were required new boilers, partitions, windows, electric light, steam heat, plumbing, retiring rooms, desks, chairs, tables, carpets and whatever else was necessary to make the church habitable by the legislature, its officers and employees. Every bidder who had obtained, after competitive bidding, the yearly contract for furnishing the supplies to the state government, was summoned and directed to do his part of the work by the following Monday night.

"The fire occurred on Tuesday. The contractors went to work on Wednesday, and although the church was not completed, the church was habitable for the legislature, and the two houses met on Monday evening, according to my promise to them. There was a division among the members of the general assembly to take a recess of 30 days.

"I was opposed to the recess, and it was only when I gave them my personal word that the building would be ready for their occupancy on the following Monday night, that they agreed to my wishes. A delay of 30 days would have cost the state, at a conservative estimate, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, perhaps more than the latter figure. The old Capitol building was completely destroyed by fire. Nothing but a small amount of furniture was saved. Mark you, every contractor was required to furnish his material and do the work, under his contract price for the year, after the competitive bidding and letting on the previous first of June. Two sets and sometimes three sets of workmen worked alternately through 24 hours of each day. The desks, chairs, tables, bookcases and paper files comprised a large part of the expense, amounting to \$16,531.63. The lumber used was measured after it was put in place, and paid for on that measurement. I am informed the defendant himself had it measured, at least he had the opportunity to have it measured for use in his trial, and still the jury found him guilty. Since his conviction he has been as assiduous in repeating his charges as he was before. This must convince the people of the Commonwealth that if the defendant could not be convicted. In view of the verdict we must assume the jury found with the commonwealth on these points.

"To establish the defense that the publication had not been maliciously or malignantly made, defendant testified at length, giving in detail all the facts claimed to be within his own knowledge, and all the information that he had received which led him to make the publication; and nothing of this kind, however remote, was excluded.

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right to be present, and the awards are made publicly, and each and every bidder has the opportunity to see and examine the bids of his rivals for the contracts. Inasmuch as the material furnished and work done is for the state, the rivalry for the contracts is always spirited.

"On last Saturday night in this hall, and standing on this platform, this same candidate made the following charge:

"In Grace church they bought 146,000 feet of lumber when only 65,000 feet were used. Those familiar with their methods say that they had the lumber carried in by the front door, charged to the state, and then removed half of it by a back window, but I do not vouch for this. But that 146,000 feet were charged to the state while the amount used was 66,000 I do vouch for. The bills were regularly O. K., and would have been paid had we not arrested them."

"The answer to the assertion is that it is not true. The state did not buy 146,000 feet of lumber, as alleged; neither did the state buy 66,000 feet of lumber, as stated by the candidate. I did buy exactly 115,222 feet of lumber and paid for it the sum of \$2,910.04. The total cost of the lumber that went into the church repairing was \$2,910.04, and the total cost of the planing mill and carpenter work was \$2,382.51, making a total cost of the lumber and the labor upon it of \$5,292.55. Here are the bills, and the voucher for it over the hand and seal of the auditor general of the state.

"Again, this candidate for governor has declared in his newspaper and on the stump that the burning of the state capitol building was by design and that it was done for the purpose of burning up public documents which might be used as testimony against certain members of the Republican party; and that further, there is convicting evidence of criminal carelessness and neglect on the part of the state house custodians."

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