

Jefferson

## OUR LOCAL COLUMN.

### Thanksgiving day in Watertown.

Last Thursday our National Thanksgiving day was observed in Watertown, by the closing of stores and places of business generally.

Most of the churches held service during the day or evening, and many thankful hearts therein gathered, to express their love and gratitude to the supreme Ruler for deliverance from the threatening destroyers of our noble country.

The streets were very quiet and had it not been for the hundreds that came in from abroad to listen to the address of Hon. FERRIS SMITH, we should almost have thought that the Sabbath had stolen prematurely upon us.

People walked about in pensive silence as if inwardly rejoicing, at the bright prospects and flattering promises, held out in our recent victories.

Every one appeared thankful that we had a country, that he with pride, could call his own. Thankful, that we had sent our noble sons to the battlefield; thankful that hundreds in our midst are now preparing to go, and apply the finishing stroke to the backs of our rebellious subjects. Thankful that our nation had the strength and courage to prosecute this struggle to so hopeful a consummation.

We give below the proceedings at the different churches of the village:

#### AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Services were conducted by the Pastor of the Church, S. J. MATTISON, and the sermon preached which we give in a condensed form, from the following text:—

Samuel 7: 12. "And Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpeh and Shen and called the name of it Ebenezer saying, hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Israel was in sorrow. The nation had suffered from invasions and defeats. The ark had been carried away. Samuel knew how to remedy the matter. He appointed a day of fasting and prayer. Israel asked God to help them. And He did help them. They were victorious. In the flush of success Samuel stops to acknowledge God's agency. He erects a triumphal stone, saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Israel's experience has, in part been ours. We were defeated, humiliated and wounded. We fasted and prayed. We asked God to help us, and He *has* helped us. Let us stop and say so. Let us erect our monument of gratitude, saying "hitherto hath the Lord helped us." To this place of victory and triumph He hath brought us.

Do we owe our successes to God? Bad as the world is, it is *not* God-forsaken. The Almighty shapes both individual and national destinies. The proud king of Babylon doubted it; but God sent him forth to eat grass with the oxen "until he should know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men" He claims to "do his will

among the inhabitants of the earth and none can stay his hand." The history of the Israelites and the surrounding nations teaches us that He *does* rule the nations. Our national senate unanimously declared at their last session that they distinctly recognize the just government of God in *all* the affairs of men and nations. Enough! It is a thing made out: God reigns. We are not drifting over this stormy sea with none but human wisdom at the helm. God is there. Were He not we should perish.

1. All our reasons for rejoicing are from God. He gave us the moral triumph we have gained over the slave power. How completely were we all in its bondage. It made our Presidents, shaped our National Legislation, domineered our commercial interests, cracked its whips over our Northern cities, and scouted free speech and a free press in its borders. For a time it paralyzed our arms. No General would have Negro soldiers. Even New England volunteers would not serve with them. McClellan, when on the Chickahominy, sent back fugitive slaves who were whipped to death in Richmond. This is no proof. Yes, men who were ready to die for us and our country, were sent back to be whipped to death by masters who were slaying *your* sons and brothers, *your* husbands and fathers. Oh my God! *are* these things so? *Did* we ever live in such times? Behold the change! No slaves are sent back now. No General would be glad of brigades of such tawdry heroes as fought at Helena, Port Hudson and Wagner. No white soldier lifts his voice against them. Scarcely a hiss is heard from those venomous Northern creatures with Southern hearts which crawl about our streets or lurk in their dens of in and shame. Our Capital is free!! Missouri is following the Capitol. And the conquered States are following in their train. The last election in Kentucky was a victory for freedom. Who is it that thus changed the minds of our soldiers, our Generals and our slave States? Oh, it is God! His be the honor.

2. The *cause* of the war is to be removed. This calls for the profoundest gratitude. It was slavery that estranged us. But for it there would have been no war. Thank God then that He is removing it! Pray Him that He will burn it from our land as with lightning glance, so that not even the smell of it shall be left on our garments. "But if you touch slavery you destroy the Constitution." By no means. My constitution as a man entitles me to a right arm. But to save the rest of my body it may be necessary to cut off my arm. So to save the National life and the rest of the Constitution it may be necessary to cut off slavery, which till recently has been the right arm of the Nation. It will be better to enter into National life and peace with one arm, than having both arms to enter into the hellfire of attempting to live again with slavery. "If thy right hand offend thee cut it off and cast it into the fire." And God *is* cutting it off. It's only little more than a year since he put the knife to it, and He has cut from Washington clear around to New Orleans. Let our prayers to God be, that as to this half severed arm of slavery, "He will finish the work, and *cut it short* in righteousness." And he will finish it. Don't attempt to prevent him. Don't rush upon the thick bosses of Jehovah's buckler.

3. Our victories on the field are from

God. Here is great cause for thanksgiving. A few months ago Rosecrans was sitting, incapable of advance. Grant was digging at that famous ditch. Our army at New Orleans was reduced and fearful of attack. Our iron-clads, shattered and peeled, had just come forth from that inferno of fire at Sumpter. And Hooker's army broken and bleeding had again sought the inglorious entrenchments of the North Rappahannock. Now behold the change. Rosecrans has driven the foe. Grant and Banks have severed the main artery (as Davis called it) of the Confederacy. The Mississippi is open, and our armies are striking right and left into the two halves of rebellion. Gilmore is gathering a storm of "leaden rain and iron hail" over devoted Charleston—Lee is defeated, and within 40 days 100,000 soldiers have been lost to the Confederacy.

We besought God with strong crying for these successes. *He* has given them to us. *He* helped us. To this place of victory and triumph *He* brought us.

Other causes for thankfulness exist. What if our President, like Taylor, had died! What if Grant, like Mitchell, had fallen! What if yellow fever had broken out in our camps! What if Lee had reached New York! What if France and England had interfered! It makes one shudder to think what "might have been." From all these things God hath preserved us.

It is evident that whatever we have had that is good we must thank God for, or He will withhold His favors in the future. Therefore be profoundly grateful. Whatever we have had that is afflictive, is from the Almighty. We must be submissive to His visitations, and walk softly, or He will humble us with greater sorrows. We must "weep with those that weep."

It is manifest that though God can get along without us we cannot get along without Him. It will not do to trust to our vast armies—to our brave generals—to our mighty fleets, or to our vast resources. We must trust in God; we must have his favor continued to us or we shall never succeed. Whether God will help us or not depends upon how we demean ourselves in these days of triumph. If grateful and humble we may expect future and greater victories, and a day near at hand when "my yoke shall be broken" and "this whole nation will be in perfect enjoyment of union and fraternal peace."

• AT DR. BRAYTON'S CHURCH.

The Pastor, Rev. Dr. BRAYTON, conducted the opening exercises and delivered a sermon from the following words:

"We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners; the Lord fulfil all thy petitions. Psalms 20 :-5

We give an abstract below.

After alluding to the Proclamation which had called us together he said:

There are times when the Providence of God seems to call for special thanksgiving: when every one feels that thanksgiving is a tribute due to God, for the tokens of his goodness; when we should be justly chargeable with forgetfulness of God, and practical atheism if we did not render sincere thanks to Him.

To those who do not believe in war under any circumstances, or to those who do not see that any thing has been accomplished, it may be a very doubtful question

whether this is a proper time for thanksgiving. As to the first of the proposition, I may observe that I am a peace man. I deprecate war. It is a terrible evil. I believe that there is a better way in which national difficulties might be settled than by an appeal to the sword. It is the very last remedy to which a people should be willing to resort for the purpose of settling their difficulties, or righting their wrongs. I believe it to be always unnecessary when there is a willingness to deal fairly and justly. But so long as there are so many wicked and ambitious men in the world as there are; and so long as there is so great reluctance on the part of nations to practice justice in their dealings with one another, it may be expected that there will be wars. Individuals will trample upon the right of individuals, and nations upon the right of nations in violation of the principles of justice. And I maintain that it is fit and proper to rejoice over the punishment or destruction of those who so trample upon human rights, whether they be rebels at home, or enemies abroad.

The preacher reviewed at some length the history of the rebellion, and alluded thus to the attack on Fort Sumpter:

On the 12th of April the decisive step was taken that plunged the nation into civil war. The attack was made upon Fort Sumpter. That old flag which had waved over every sea—which had been honored in every land—which guaranteed its protection to every American citizen the world over: that old flag which had been the symbol of freedom to the oppressed in other lands: that old flag, under which the nation in the course of three-quarters of a century, had grown from weakness to strength, and prosperous beyond all precedent: that old flag which never before had been dishonored, was now dragged down and trailed in the dust by paricidal, traitorous hands. Oh! Shame where was thy blush! Tell it not in Gath! Publish it not in the streets of Ascalon! That was an act of treachery so base as deeply to wound the heart of every true lover of his country.

He then noticed the achievements of our army and navy, expressing the belief that we have God and right on our side.

I believe, also, that we have might on our side. That is, there is power enough on the part of the Government, with the Divine blessing, to put an effectual end to this rebellion. The nation is not near exhausted. The resources are great; only let the strength of the nation be brought out, and these resources be judiciously employed, and in a short time the rebellion which has already received such heavy blows, causing it to reel and stagger, must die. The insurgents have been terribly in earnest. Only let the friends of the Government be as much in earnest and as united; let them heartily sustain the executive in the use of all lawful and necessary means to bring the war to a successful issue, and I see no reason why peace may not return before another Spring, or before the coming in of a new year. Let the people of the loyal States be but united in this one thing, and the insurgents must see that their cause is lost. But divisions and dissensions here encourage the rebels to hope. A Southern paper said, that the riot in New York, and the divisions in the North amply compensated them for the loss of Vicksburg and Port Hudson. I do not ask, or mean, that

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you should approve of all the measures of the Administration; but that you should render it your cordial, hearty support in the use of those measures which you know to be lawful and necessary to bring the war to a speedy close;—that you show that you are honest and in earnest in wishing this rebellion to be put down. You know that if it be put down within the next 18 months, it must be done under the present administration. If you want it put down by that time, show it! It will be put down in less than half that time, if the people will it. Why, what sacrifices have been made by you—what deprivations or hardships have you endured for the preservation of the Union? And cannot you—people of the North—afford to make as great sacrifices for its salvation, as they can for its ruin? Shame on your patriotism, if you cannot! You are not fit to enjoy the blessings of the Government under which you live, if you cannot. I cannot but admire the heroism, the patient, cheerful endurance of privation, and want, even, which the men, and women too, of the South have shown in a bad cause. The heel of almost a military dictator is on the necks of the people, and yet they stand by the government and their cause. They are willing to suffer and fight for it still. And there are yet true, noble, whole-souled men scattered all through the South, who are unconditionally for the Union. They have suffered all but martyrdom for their love for the old Union. They stand by it still. They are determined to stand by it to the last. And will you now

desert them, and by your divisions and carping censures dishearten them, and strengthen the hands of their enemies?

By all that is valuable in a free government—by the blessings, for which, under God, you are indebted to that government—by your regard for future generations—by all that is noble in true patriotism I pray you stand, shoulder to shoulder, by the Government. Be one—openly, unmistakably, heartily—in putting an end to this cruel rebellion, and we may reasonably hope that the day is not distant when we shall be permitted to meet again, as now, to unite in rendering glory to heaven and thanksgiving and praise to God for the return of peace.

SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHURCHES.

The two Methodist Churches united in their services as follows: exercises commenced in the Arsenal Street Church at 10½ A. M., with singing by the congregation. Rev. O. C. COLE State Street M. E. Church then offered an appropriate and earnest prayer. Singing by the congregation. Sermon by Rev. J. W. ARMSTRONG of Arsenal Street M. E. Church, from the text, Ps. 60, and 4th. "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth." Synopsis as follows:—

We are called upon to rejoice, while we are sad; to give thanks while we mourn our losses, and repent our sins. We rejoice over our victories, over the glorious history of our successes in the month of July. We will thank him whose army endureth forever. We mourn over the brave fallen, sympathize with the widow, the fatherless, the bereaved. We renounce all fellowship

with the cruel rebellion, the Godless tyranny that is pouring out the nations' blood and treasure. Notice the rights which the Constitution guarantees to rebels. Appeal to the mechanic, the laborer, not to countenance a tyranny which degrades him to the level of the "poor white trash" of the south, and which drives the colored man, as fast as he can accomplish it, to leave the sunny south, which he loves, to chill and freeze in the uncongenial north. A banner has been given to us, inscribed with our political gospel. "All men are created free and equal." "All have inalienable rights, as life, liberty, happiness." Under that banner our nation was born. All the world bows to the truth of its mottoes. Kingdoms were mad, the earth trembled. No foreign nation has dared to dishonor it. Americans had to commence the work. Then Napoleon dared to express his sympathy. Then the English aristocracy might timidly, barely, hiss onward the serpents of rebellion. Appeal to Americans, mechanics, laborers, all, to save themselves from a worse degradation than drove millions of them from oppression and poverty in England, Ireland and Germany, to freedom and plenty under our gospel banner. A confession of our sins, in compromising and sympathizing with traitors to our glorious bill of political and civil rights. Pity for the poor rioters of New York; blame for the men who misled them, and indicated the occasion of the outbreak. The position the rebel sympathisers will occupy in history, a warning to them, to escape from the scorn and indignation hanging over them, and an appeal to them and to all, to rally around the banner given them, to display it because of its truth, that the United States may be saved to us and to the world.

The congregation then sang a hymn, and Rev. G. BAKER, dismissed the people with the benediction.

At the State St. M. E. Church, a union prayer meeting was held at half past seven P. M. It was conducted by the Pastor, Rev. O. C. COLE, and was of a character to inspire the heart with increased love and zeal for our Country, and the perpetuation of our civil and religious liberties, and a firm reliance on Divine Providence to so control the affairs of the Nation as to bring us safely through our present difficulties, and forever remove from the land the sole cause of this wicked rebellion; and for which the Throne of Grace was fervently addressed in behalf of our Rulers and the Commanders of our forces, as well as those associated with them.

#### SERVICES AT TRINITY CHURCH.

The day was observed with appropriate services, besides the customary prayers, the form of Thanksgiving and the prayer for the country authorized by the Bishop, together with a prayer for those bereaved by the calamities of war, were offered. The Rector, owing to domestic affliction, had not prepared a formal discourse for the occasion, but addressed the congregation in a few and earnest words; showing that through a great calamity had befallen us, yet there were many things to be grateful for—abundant evidences, that though ha-

ing us under discipline, the Government Providences and nations had not deserted us—and proofs even and hopes that He would not yet suffer this people, thus far led by His merciful hand, to fail utterly of their promised mission : urging a confident and reposing trust in His goodness as our greatest comfort, and the faithful fulfillment of duty towards Him as the ground of our highest hope—and finally believing and praying with devout desire, that we might come out of this furnace, a better people not only chastened, rebuked, and made wise by this discipline, but stronger, purer and greater than ever—fulfilling the good purposes of God towards our fathers.

#### **Loyal League Meeting at Brownville.**

Pursuant to the call of CHARLES ALLEN and A. A. GIBBS, Esqs., a Committee appointed for that purpose, at the County Convention, held at Watertown, July 17, 1863, a large number of the loyal inhabitants of Brownville, met at the Hall of JAMES SMITH, in Limerick, on the 21st instant, for the purpose of forming a Town Loyal National League.

The meeting was called to order by the temporary President, CHARLES ALLEN, Esq. HENRY SPICER, Esq., was chosen temporary Secretary.

After remarks by Hon. JAMES A. BELL, the usual form of compact, used by the Loyal National League, was presented for signatures, and signed by about one hundred persons present.

The League then proceeded to form a permanent organization by the choice of F. J. HALL, President, HENRY SPICER, Vice President, and A. HARLETON, Secretary.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**—J. B. Kimball, B. F. Rounds, Beriah Allen, A. C. Moffatt.

Mr. F. J. Hall declined to serve as President, and the Hon. James A. Bell, was chosen to fill the vacancy. It was voted to form District Leagues in each Election District in town, and Committees were appointed to call such meetings.

A Committee was appointed to draft Resolutions, and they presented the following, which were adopted separately :

*Resolved,* That on the decided victories of our Government over rebels in arms, at Gettysburg, at Vicksburg, Helena, and at Port Hudson, we find a sure presage of the final and complete triumph of the Government over the slaveholders, conspiracy and rebellion against the people and Government of the United States.

*Resolved,* That the Mobocratic uprisings and riots, manifesting themselves in various parts of the country, in opposition to measures employed by the Government for the suppression of the rebellion, including the draft, and the tenderness and sympathy expressed towards those thus engaged, and indications of a wide spread conspiracy on

the part of the sympathising friends of the rebellion, at the north, to forcibly revolutionize the Government, and subjugate it to a southern slaveholding confederacy.

*Resolved,* That in the recent riot and rebellious resistance to lawful authority, in the city of New York, its arsons, murders, and savage barbarities, we witness the sad and vicious, but legitimate effects of the teachings of those persistently and constantly opposing, speaking, and rioting against the measures employed by the Government for the suppression of the rebellion.

*Resolved,* That we most earnestly intreat our fellow citizens, who through the arts and wiles of the emissaries of the rebellion are being led on, step by step, to the fatal error of open resistance to lawful authority "to pause," and ponder well the guilt and consequences of attempting to overthrow the Government of the United States: a Government founded by the people, and presided over by Washington and Jefferson, and once and again, protected and preserved by Andrew Jackson, and still enthroned in the hearts of the American people.

*Resolved,* That the Loyal men of Brownville, will sustain the National Administration in all its efforts to suppress the present rebellion. That we view the conscription act as a necessary measure, as just and lenient as is compatible with the object sought, and that the execution thereof shall receive our firm support.

*Resolved,* That we cordially and earnestly invite all citizens of the town of Brownville, who honestly desire to sustain the Government of the United States in its efforts to suppress the present rebellion, to join our association by signing our declaration of principles.

It was voted that Hugh Smith, W. P. Massey and A. Harleton be a Committee to revise resolutions, and report of proceedings for publication. It was voted to give three cheers for the Flag, and they were given with a will, only some two or three could not quite go it, "it wasn't constitutional," suppose. The League then adjourned.

**PROPERTY TO BE CONFISCATED.**—At the next term of the United States Court in this city, an important confiscation suit will occupy the attention of the court. It appears that at the outbreak of the Rebellion, Commodore Tatnall was living at Sackett's Harbor, in this State, where he had accumulated a considerable amount of property. He left immediately on the alarm of war being sounded, for his native State, and was lately at the head of the Rebel Mosquito fleet, which was so gloriously scattered by our Naval Expedition at Beaufort last week. The furniture of his house at Sackett's Harbor, consisting of property worth about \$15,000, has been confiscated by the Government. A libel and information were filed by the District Attorney, and last week a motion for condemnation was made in the United States Court, at Buffalo. Hon. Eli Cook appeared for Commodore Tatnall as claimant of the property, and proposed to answer and defend. The District Attorney then asked leave to amend the libel, which was granted, and then three weeks were allowed Mr. Cook to answer the amended libel after it should be served. In this form it will be brought before the Court, when the District Attorney will urge its confiscation.

HON. GERRIT SMITH spoke yesterday for a full hour to one of the most compact and intelligent audiences ever assembled in Washington Hall.



Contrary to the expectations of many, the orator defined his position as holding the Union paramount to every other and all other questions of State or national policy. He declared himself ready, abolitionist as he was, and a Temperance man as he was, to fight for the preservation of the Union by the side of the rankest pro-slavery man on his right and the greatest drunkard on his left. Preserve the now imperiled Union, he said, and when that trouble is over we can settle all questions that can arise under it, temperance, slavery and all.

Mr. Smith spoke on the draft, demonstrating that it was in fact one of the most kind, considerate and humane conscription acts ever passed by any nation. He said all the objections to the act were ill-timed and malicious, and intended to aid the rebellion. He was listened to throughout with marked attention and decided interest.

—A County Convention is to be held at Washington Hall, Watertown, on the 17th at 11 A. M., for the purpose of organizing Town and County National Leagues.

—The Annual Fair of the Floral and Horticultural Society will be held at Washington Hall, Watertown, on the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th of July, day and evening.

—A few evenings since, A. D. Remington, residing near Hancock's tavern, about two miles from Mannsville, attempted to steal about \$100 worth of wool from the barn of Mr. George Cooper. After getting started with it, he was pursued, but escaped, leaving the wool, his horse and wagon and pocket-book, containing a good endorsed note for \$100.

**NATIONAL LOYAL LEAGUE MEETING.**—Pursuant to notice, a County Meeting was held at Washington Hall, in this village, yesterday, for the purpose of organization. The meeting was composed of substantial men, and the best feeling prevailed—a feeling of determination to save the government, and a willingness to make all needed sacrifices to accomplish that object.

Hon. JAMES A. BELL presided, E. R. Keene and Lawrence Gage officiating as Secretaries.

A Business Committee was appointed, consisting of E. S. Lansing, Henry Esselstyn, J. Main, C. A. Benjamin, Geo. Babbitt, J. E. Willis and B. Brockway, who reported a plan of organization for the County, under which Leagues were established by the delegates in attendance as follows:

Adams—G. W. Bond, President; A. J. Brown, Vice President; T. C. Chittenden, 2d, Secretary.

Adams Center—W. C. Bailey, President; H. E. Hale, Vice President; C. D. Potter, Secretary.

Antwerp—John H. Conklin, President; S. Sawens, Vice President; Alonzo Cha-  
Secretary.

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pin,

Brownville—Charles Allen, President; J B Kimball, Vice President; A A Gibbs, Secretary.

Clayton—Henry Esselstyn, President; A R Calvin, Vice President; Horace Hitchcock, Secretary.

Depeauville—Gaylord Enos, President; A W Peck, Vice President; James Johnson, Secretary.

Henderson—G G Whitney, President; W H Rice, Vice President; E Tyler, Secretary.

Smithville—O M Stanley, President; Geo Babbitt, Vice President; B W Dewey, Secretary.

Hounsfield—Theodore Canfield, President; Jay Dimmick, Vice President; Henry J Lane, Secretary.

Lorraine—Elisha Allen, President; Erwin Pitkins, Vice President; Henry Bailey, Secretary.

Lyme—Wm Dewey, President; Joshua Main, Vice President; A H Francis, Secretary.

LeRay—Edwin Converse, President; Isaac Howe, Vice President; Sidney Cooper, Secretary.

Orleans (Stone Mills)—Lorenzo Baldwin, President; Harvey Bailey, Vice President; H M Stevens, Secretary.

Pamela Four Corners—Jas Jones, President; Walter Fox, Vice President; Curtis Goulding, Secretary.

Pamela—William Usher, President; Isaac Wait, Vice President; G H Failing, Secretary.

Philadelphia—J B Ackerman, President; John Allis, Vice President; Daniel Scofield, Secretary.

Rodman—O O Wyman, President; Chas D Moffat, Vice President; Isaac Jenks, Secretary.

Rutland—L D Olney, President; J B Tamblin, Vice President; A W Hardy, Secretary.

Watertown—W V V Rosa, President; D M Bennett, Vice President; A H Hall Secretary.

Wilna (Carthage)—W A Peck, President; O H Holcomb, Vice President; R Galligher, Secretary.

North Wilna—Sanford Lewis, President; Jerome Stevens, Vice President; B F Brown, Secretary.

Worth—J H Rising, President; H B Chapin, Vice President; A S Gillett, Secretary.

A County Corresponding Committee was appointed, consisting of A. H. Hall and J. L. Hotchkins, 1st dist., Luther Barrows and Wm. Dobson, 2d dist., and Henry Esselstyn and Wm. Estes, 3d dist.

B. Brockway read the pledge of the Loyal National League, and moved that efficient measures be taken to afford every citizen in the county an opportunity of signing it and thus becoming members of the Loyal Nation-