

Governor Oglesby was then introduced, amid thunders of applause and waving of handkerchiefs. The gallant hero has a strong hold upon the popular favor, and the people of Illinois are justly proud of their brave and loyal Governor. We subjoin his speech, which was brimfull of eloquence, patriotic fervor, biting sarcasm and telling wit:

The hour has arrived for the formal inauguration of the Northwestern Commission and Soldiers' Home Fair. At seven o'clock this evening the doors of these spacious halls will be thrown open for the admission of the public, to march in and view these generous and elegant contributions from all parts of the country, from Europe, and some from the far East.

A few days ago the honorable President of the Committee having in charge these arrangements, telegraphed me at Springfield, requesting me to make a few remarks at the opening of the Fair. There are so many important things to be done, and it is so essential that all hands be employed about them, I shall occupy but a few moments of your time in doing so.

We do not know who shall write the history of our times. How can we estimate what importance will be given to the mighty events which have arisen and passed away in the last few years! But it is certain that if this day shall not be written down in the calendar of history as one of the most imposing of the era, it will go unrequited of its just honors.

The United States Sanitary Commission, the Northwestern Sanitary Commission, the Christian Commission, and all similar subordinate commissions throughout the country, will stand out prominently before the world and the history of the country as the great moral benevolent features of the past four years.

The just estimate of the total good accomplished in all the ramifications of good works and good deeds of kindness, of tenderness and of mercy, can never be fully or adequately summed up.

To the art of war in all future time is to be added the morality of organized benevolence. No civilized nation can again go to war that does not carry to the field its sanitary stores. No nation can succeed in war that does not provide, in relation to well and humanely regulated hospital accommodations, effective voluntary sanitary assistance.

Our people have done all this in this war, and have done it well. I believe the first great combined co-operative effort was organized in the Northwest, and it is fit and appropriate that here it should terminate.

The object for which these wonderful labors have been chiefly performed, has substantially passed away. The war is at an end; the rebellion is over; the Union is saved; and Peace is almost generally established throughout the country. Our soldiers—the soldiers of the Republic—the soldiers of Liberty—the brave, noble, scar-worn soldiers, are returning home to be citizens again, and soldiers no longer. And as they file through the cities, over the mountains, and across the prairies, let the flag of the Sanitary Commission wave high before them, and the soldiers' home, the great heart of this nation, greet them warmly as they come.

Every contribution to the Northwestern Sanitary Commission and Soldiers' Home Fair; every dollar spent here is to the purpose and for the good, in some way, of these soldiers. Every cent of the net profits of which shall and will be appropriated to them and theirs. We come here to day to organize and inaugurate this Fair, alone and solely for this pure object, and let us see that we make no feeble effort to sustain the vast labor and constant and difficult employment of all those who have been contriving and toiling in every imaginable way for weeks and months, to bring it to this consummation.

I do not know how to praise women, but I can say nothing so good as our late honored President once said on a similar occasion, "God bless the women of America." They have been our faithful allies in this fearful war. They have given expression to the most encouraging sentiments and have toiled steadily by our sides with the most enduring constancy through the frightful contest. They healed our sick and dressed the wounds of the dying! They sung our songs, gave us our flags and wept over our dead.

They have gathered for us trophies, too, and have them here, some that would make a philosopher laugh and a privateer weep. The last sad winding sheet of the last rebel that died in the last ditch. The disingenuous old coward might have known that in such a dress he could not escape a soldier who, not having seen one for a long time, would take after the first woman he could lay eyes upon. Imagine under these

distressing circumstances, outraged at such rude impertinence, Jeff. Davis, when she drew her knife on her affrighted pursuers. That was a sad plight for the confederacy, the corner stone of slavery gave way, and when last heard from was at Fortress Monroe, cased and in irons. I have said the war is at an end. It has been a terrible one, and though frightful in its career it is august in its results. Liberty has come safely through the conflict. She is on her throne to day more beautiful than ever before, for she takes to her bosom and covers with her shield two races of men, with her gentle hand she wipes away the stain of the lash and says, as only Liberty can say, slavery thou art dead! In this nation to day there is but one flag one constitution and one people, singing the same national airs and swearing the same oath, that the Union shall live forever. I do not know that it is possible, within the range of human effort to provide against every devilment that may arise to annoy society and disturb the desirable relations of life, as we strive to make them pleasurable and enduring. But this I do know, we have so thoroughly lashed the spirit of rebellion—have so completely cowed and subdued it—have so triumphantly thrashed and dishonored it—and that, too, in such a decent and gentlemanly manner, that ages will pass by before it will attempt to rear its bloody head again against these United States. How happy is that man to day who knows in his own heart he has been the faithful friend of his country.

What a heritage to hand down to his children. What a theme of ever pleasant delight returning upon him ever and ever, with the same holy sanctions of the conscience to make him a better man for having been a patriot. The purity and sublimity of those feelings can never, never, be realized by that other creature, who having been the smirking friend of the enemy of our country, puts on a hard but chop-fallen face, and with a conscience full of offense declares that he too has been true and faithful! While he would like to say something, else he is compelled to submit to the tyranny of a falsehood, and, to his death deny himself that pleasure. But let us be good natured, it may not be wise to stir up strife with a fallen foe. The rebel we know has been our deadly enemy; about his feelings there has been no disputing, no political wrangling, he has been frank enough to declare himself our enemy, and mean enough to act it out. It is he, after all, with whom we now have more immediately to deal, and once for all to be as prudent, in these exceedingly trying times, as one is expected to be, I say that as the rebels are again to become in time our neighbors, and to bear the responsibilities due from the citizen to his country, all of those at least who are determined to remain under our flag and not to flee from the wrath to come to them, and to you, and to all my friends everywhere looking, as I believe, at the very best interest of our country and cheerfully abiding its fortunes, whatever they may be, I here to-day declare that I am in favor of moderation towards all those we do not hang or otherwise punish. They are in our hands to be dealt with as we please, with these views of intelligent humanity which require us to look at the general good of the whole community in balancing and determining any question affecting the public weal. When legislating upon morals we always have vice in view. I say again, the war is over, and we must very soon settle down upon some well defined policy with reference to these creatures, which shall be final. During the whole time the war continued, I was constantly in favor of subjugation or extermination. I thank God we succeeded in the former. They have laid down their arms upon our own terms and conditions. They are conquered, and the world cannot deny it; universal morality, the safeguards of our liberty. The very existence of our nation demanded that they should be. They are crying for peace with proclamations of a positive purpose to return to obedience to the laws of the land, as they are honored and obeyed by all good citizens of the United States. Their morality has been so improved by the terrible thrashing they have received, I do not know, but what we may be safe in venturing to believe on this subject what most of them say. There are some grave charges against them, however, which deserve to be gravely met by our injured country, and unpleasant as the task may be, it must yet be performed. It is very difficult to find and mark the distinction so generally made between leader and follower.

In the monstrous offense both are guilty, but as it may be impossible in the administration of justice to reach all. Those most prominent in guilt should be made to suffer most. In theory, I know no distinction amongst them, every man in rebellion against the United States is

guilty of treason and deserves the punishment of death. As to whether we shall inflict that punishment, or some other, or upon some of them, none at all, these are questions for our determination; questions to be judiciously considered by an outraged but intelligent and forbearing people, who I fervently believe, will under all circumstances, look at what is best for the public good. "With malice towards none and with charity to all." I notice lately the practice generally prevails of putting the question in this manner—what are they going to do with Jeff Davis, Gen. Lee and Breckinridge. I think the more forcible way to put that question should be, what are we going to do with them, and where the multitude of offenders is so large, whom we can never forgive, I do not see why the interrogatory should generally be confined to this small lot. I am frank to declare it as my opinion that we must get rid of more than them. We, at least, should be allowed one representative from each State in Rebellion, and reorganized by the Confederacy as it was, and some from its army and navy, and thus when the majesty of the law shall have been justly vindicated we will be in a mood to forgive the others. It may be unpleasant to them but they must receive the forgiveness of a Yankee. I have thus fellow citizens in the few moments I have addressed you, taken the liberty, simply as a citizen, and one of you deeply interested in the exciting scene through which we are passing to submit these suggestions for what they worth, and have been prompted to do so as I know not what more fittingly to talk about. It was difficult to recognize for some time the state of war. We must now realize that we have peace; the army is being rapidly reduced, and I do not care how soon so much of it as we can spare is mustered out. I earnestly hope your Fair will be a complete success.

Appropriate music was interspersed by the 8th Reserve Corps Band, and the crowd dispersed with three rousing cheers.

FAIR CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FOLLOWING LETTERS FULLY EXPLAIN THEMSELVES.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Apl. 25th, 1865.
 GEORGE S. BOWEN, Esq., Chairman, Dear Sir: Yours of the 7th inst. was duly received, drawing my attention to the Sanitary and Soldier's Home Fair to be held in your city, and proffering to make such contribution to it as I might suggest. You will please hand to the treasurer \$50 and charge my acc't. I would be glad to make a larger subscription but it is not in my power to do so just now and I hope the above will suffice. In consequence of the War which has operated disastrously to our City and State, our ability to give is not so great as in former times when we were more prosperous. Hoping your Fair may prove a success, as I have no doubt it will, I remain, yours truly,
 L. RICHARDSON.

EXCELSIOR WHEELING GLASS WORKS, }
 WHEELING, V.A., May 5th, 1865. }
 GEO. S. BOWEN, Esq., Chairman, Dear Sir: We are in receipt of your circular for contributions to the Northwestern Sanitary Fair to be held in your City.

We regret that we will not have time to get up any goods expressly for the occasion, but always being willing to add "our mite" for the relief of the suffering soldiers who have severed the ties and endearments of home to maintain in all its purity our Government. We will send you a contribution of such things as we have on hand, and that we think will sell readily. We are sorry that it will make but a meagre show and will not be a fair representation of our product, but such as we have we give freely. Wishing you abundant success in all.
 Yours truly, SWEENEY, BELL & Co.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS., May 9th, 1865.
 MR. GEO. S. BOWEN, Chairman, Dear Sir: Your circulars concerning "Northwestern Sanitary Fair" were duly received and we send you as our contribution, one bale sheeting, as per memorandum. Enclosed, our clothman, (an Irishman,) understanding the object to which these goods are devoted begged the privilege of putting in a few yards and you may, therefore, consider his contribution 25 yds. Illinois B. sheeting. Hoping the Fair may prove a success,
 We are, yours truly,
 GREENVILLE MANUFACTURING Co., }
 A. L. WILLISTON, Sec'y. }

NEW YORK, May 15th, 1865.
 GEO. S. BOWEN, Esq., Dear Sir: We have this day shipped to your address 1000 boxes each containing three spools of our new thread—six cord spool cotton—together with one paper of Milward & Son's best Helix eyed sewing needles. You will be pleased to accept the same as our donation to the very laudable object which you have the honor to represent. Wishing you every success, we remain,
 Your most obedient servants,
 GEO. A. CLARK & BRO'S.

FITCHBURG, MASS., May 17, 1865.
 GEO. S. BOWEN, Dear Sir: Above you have invoice of 1 piece of our cadet cassimer forwarded this day to your address as a slight tribute

towards the Northwestern Sanitary Commission and Soldiers' Home Fair.

Trusting that the cloth will safely arrive and with our best wishes for the success of the noble object,
 I am, yours respectfully,
 W. H. VASE, Treas.

FITCHBURG WOOLEN MILLS CO.

NEW YORK, May 17th, 1865.
 GEO. S. BOWEN, Esq., Chairman, Dear Sir: We send by express, as per your circular, a package of shell combs amounting to \$60, for the Northwestern Sanitary Commission and Soldier's Home Fair With our best wishes for success, we are,
 Yours truly,
 STORRS BROTHERS,

BOSTON, MASS, May 18th, 1865.
 GEO. S. BOWEN, Esq., Dear Sir: We send you a small case of goods for the Fair to be held in your city on the 30th inst.

We have had so many calls of the kind that we are feeling somewhat poor, but what we do send we give cheerfully. You will please accept them for what they may be worth to the cause.
 Yours with respect,
 FLETCHER BRO'S & CO.

BOSTON, May 18th, 1865.
 MR. G. S. BOWEN, Dear Sir: We forward you to-day, by American Express, 98 yards of our soft finish and cord spool cotton, which we contribute to the Northwestern Sanitary Fair.
 Yours truly,
 CHAS. ARMORY & Co.

PHILADELPHIA, May 22d, 1865.
 GEO. S. BOWEN, Esq., Dear Sir: We herewith beg leave to hand you our check, No. 859, on National Bank of Commerce, in New York, to your order for one hundred dollars, as our contribution to the Northwestern Sanitary Fair. Wishing you the success which your laudable enterprises so richly merits, and congratulating you on the flattering prospects of lasting peace and union.
 We are very truly,
 JOSEPH LEA & CO.

NEW YORK, May 24th, 1865.
 GEO. S. BOWEN, Dear Sir: We send by Express this day for Northwestern Sanitary Fair, 34 of our best duplex elliptic and double spring skirts, value one hundred dollars, (\$100.) We trust you will outdo all previous efforts, and your deeds shall be rewarded by hundreds of thousands.
 Yours truly,
 WEST, BRADLEY & CARY.

NEW YORK, May 25th, 1865.
 G. S. BOWEN, Esq., Dear Sir: We have shipped to your care, by Express (freight paid,) a case of skirts for the Chicago Sanitary Fair, to be opened on the 30th of May. Hoping the success of said Fair will be commensurate with the noble object it is designed to benefit, we remain,
 Respectfully yours,
 The Union Skirt and Corset Manufacturing Company,
 by J. WOLBACK.

PROVIDENCE, May 24th, 1865.
 GEO. S. BOWEN, Esq., Dear Sir: It has been my pleasure and privilege to contribute to the various city wards and neighborhood fairs held here, and to join all the various societies for the relief of the soldiers, and also to contribute over \$1000 for the Freedmen and Refugees, and therefore had not thought of sending goods to the Chicago Fair; as this may be the last great fair held, (as the war is over,) I will contribute my mite, as follows: 10 dozen nubias, value \$150. With my best wishes for your success, I am,
 Yours truly,
 JOS. CARPENTER, Agt.

LOST.

Last evening, either in Horticultural or Union Halls, a Cross, made of Charter Oak, with "Charter Oak, Hattie Josie, July 20th, 1864," engraved thereon. It is valuable only as a keepsake, and the finder will receive the thanks of the owner by leaving it at the office in the Fair Building.

SNAPS.—A young gentleman lately entered the shop of a confectioner in a Scottish town, and, standing at the counter, with considerable gusto discussed a pretty large tart. He tendered to the good woman in charge a shilling to pay for his repast, which she had to take to a neighboring shop to obtain change. Left alone, our friend had found his appetite return, and he proceeded to help himself to some small neatly twisted, altogether very enticing looking ginger snaps which lay close by. He had demolished twelve of these, each being only a bite, when the shop-mistress returned. The gentleman pointed to the remaining snaps by way of inquiring what was the damage, and was rather surprised by the exclamation, "Gude save us! ye haena eaten any o' the snaps?" just twal o' them said the youth; what for no? what for no? Because they are medicine for bairns; ilka yin's a dose for a wean—it has two grains o' julep and a grain o' calomel in't; ye've got phesick for yince, I'm thinking.' It was enough. How much he paid or whether he paid at all, or how he spent the afternoon, has not been heard; but the next day he was seen wandering perturbedly through the streets pale and sorrowful.

—"Waterfalls" are going out of fashion. In Paris the back hair is now being worn up high on the head.