

# The Patriot

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### Principles Reaffirmed

"In politics it will be Democratic, representing the highest principles and best traditions of our country, but endlessly free from the control of any political faction or of any power, corporate or individual, which conflicts with the public good. It will be devoted to the interests of the people and of the people and will labor to advance their welfare. It will not only gather the news of the world, but it will publish the local events in the daily lives of our city and its suburbs, which are worthy to be known and remembered. It will be fair and just to all men, whether in or out of office, and will not be influenced by party movements, and in its comments upon them, it will print the fact and not the prejudice. It will always unite with its newspaper contemporaries and all good editors to secure the prosperity of our city and make secure its honor, its peace, its happiness."—From THE PATRIOT of August 1, 1862.

### FAIRBANKS ON LINCOLN

The speech of Hon. Charles W. Fairbanks at Chestnut Street Hall last night was the crowning feature of a great event; an event that cannot be duplicated within another hundred years. It was a great speech, on a great occasion, in every way worthy of the orator, the Vice-President of the United States, worthy of the audience embracing the Governor and leading citizens of a vast Commonwealth and worthy of the great man in whose memory it was delivered.

The oration, which is printed in full in THE PATRIOT this morning, will endure as one of the most admirable reviews ever made of the life of the great Liberator; sympathetic, appreciative, truthful, dignified, scholarly and so interesting and eloquent that every one who starts to read it must read it to the end.

Mr. Lincoln's life and services present an almost inexhaustible subject for the orator and the poet, yet it is one that has been treated so often, so ably and from so many different standpoints that it is not easy to present a new study of it in a way to enthrall the attention and instruct the mind.

This Mr. Fairbanks did last night and in doing it he added to his own just fame as a student of history, as a master of the English language, as an analyst of the motives and characters of men and as a philosophical observer of stupendous movements.

At the same time he did an inestimable service to the people of Harrisburg and Pennsylvania that they will ever hold in grateful remembrance.

### AS TO A STAGE CENSOR

The storm created by Mr. Hammerstein's intention to produce Salome at his new opera house in Philadelphia has opened up the whole subject of indecent stage performances and the best method of eliminating them. It has been suggested that a censorship be established and there are many and divergent ideas as to whom the powers of a censor should be entrusted.

We think it is highly important that such operas as Salome should be impossible of production upon an American stage. No beauty of music can be a sufficient excuse for the perpetration of such a dance as that of the seven veils, in which the mere nudity of the dancer is the least offensive phase. Perverted sensuality should not be publicly paraded under any circumstances—and that is all the leading motive of the Wilde-Strauss opera amounts to.

But the establishment of a censorship is an entirely different matter. In the first place it is unnecessary. Unclean theatrical performances usually have a hard financial row to hoe in America. None of them are such money makers as to make them especially desirable from the box office point of view.

What is needed in this country, however, is free dramatic criticism. In a great many of the important theatrical centers of America, espe-

# Lincoln at Gettysburg

By Professor J. Howard Wert.

(Continued From Yesterday.)  
As Gettysburg was in many respects the most hotly contested and most decisive battle of the Civil War, so was it the first field upon which a cemetery for the fallen Union soldiers was planned. An extensive and durable one. The work was planned less than a month after the conflict, and carried on energetically and efficiently.

Immediately after the battle Governor Andrew G. Curtin, always on the alert in behalf of wounded and suffering soldiers, came to the field to do all in his power to alleviate distress. When his executive duties compelled him to return to Harrisburg he deputized Hon. David Willis as his personal agent to carry on the work. He could not have selected a more competent man. Utterly shocked by the horror-stricken view of the shocking sights presented to his view on the recent field of carnage—sights incident to every great battle, which it is not necessary here to particularize, he wrote to Governor Curtin in regard to the collection of the Union dead in one burial ground. The reply of the Governor was promptly given, and was an emphatic endorsement of the plan. The authorities of the other seventeen States having died at Gettysburg were addressed on the subject. The plan met the speedy concurrence of all.

### Work of Removing the Bodies

The work of removing the bodies was most carefully and conscientiously done by competent men. It was begun October 27, 1863; but, on account of the severity of the Winter, was not completed until March 1, 1864, so that not all the dead were reposing in the consecrated ground at the time of Lincoln's immortal address. The total number interred during this time event was 5,512. This, however, was far from including all the soldiers of the Potomac Army killed in the battle or who subsequently died in the hospitals from wounds received in the battle. With its location in the North, afforded facilities for the removal of the dead which had not existed in the case of southern fields of carnage. Consequently, for months after the year of the cannon had ceased and the contending hosts had departed, the embalmers' tents were numerous, and all did an extensive business. Sometimes as many as five dead from Gettysburg were carried in a single train, to be forwarded to various locations, North, East and West.

### Location of National Cemetery

The spot selected and purchased by Mr. Willis was a most admirable one, and the elevated position on Cemetery Hill, facing toward the Blue Mountains through the passes of which the foe had advanced and retreated. It was the centre and very key of Meade's admirable strategic position.

"When I saw the lots, which afterwards became the cemetery, on July 4, 1863, the whole surface was a great, unimproved, rocky, shrubby, fruitless, and unproductive tract, and I swept away by the beam of destruction. The whole length through which this beautiful field of the dead now extends, from the Ball to the cemetery, was a continuous line of masses of cannon. Other guns thickly studded the pile itself and the adjacent knolls of East Cemetery Hill. Lincoln and Everett could have stood on no portion of the field more inspiring to their utterances. At their feet were gathered the dead of the Civil War. From the rostrum they occupied could be seen substantially the whole of both lines of battle, the wooded heights of Cemetery Hill, the field of the Round Tops on the other, against which the southern legions had been hurled in charge after charge. A mile or more away, mountainward, sat the low spinning tops of the ridge, along which, had extended Lee's line of battle. Against the hill on which the speakers stood had beat the furious attacks of the Louisiana Tigers on one side, of the veteran commands that picked their way left supports on the other—but all in vain.

### Delegation of Fifty Wounded Soldiers

But to the ground hallowed with so much costly patriot blood and to the dead of the field, there was added an additional and touching feature—the struggling nation's Chief Executive. In the presence of fifty men wounded in the battle who had come up from the York hospital to pay a last tribute to their fallen comrades, the exercises there flowed copiously down their bronzed cheeks, indicative of their heartfelt sympathy in the solemn scene before them.

### Emerson Tells the Reason

If then it be asked why Everett's brilliant production is unknown today, Lincoln's few lines, immortalized by the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "I believe it to be true that where any orator at the bar or the Senate, rises in his thought, he descends in his language; and that the higher the height of thought or passion, he comes down to a language level with the ear of all his audience. It is the merit of John Brown and of Abraham Lincoln—one at the command of the United States Senate; and the equally fervent invocation and benediction pronounced there by the scholar, Rev. Dr. E. L. Laughery, president of Gettysburg College; and town. The reception was one of respect and profound silence, every man in that vast assemblage uncovering as the Chief Executive ascended the steps and thus rendering a considerable time. But it was noticed and commented on that none seemed to gaze with as loving fondness upon the nation's head as did those fifty wounded heroes.

### Effect of His Speech

Immediately following Everett's oration the hymn of E. B. Follen was written for the occasion was sung by the Union Glee Club, of Baltimore. Then Lincoln arose. During the entire delivery of his brief address his eyes were turned to the faces of these fifty wounded survivors of the great battle. As to the veterans themselves, they appeared to drink in every word, whilst many of them were weeping as they listened. Apparently those men, many of them comparatively young, had grasped instinctively, long before numerous auditors of much higher culture, the fact that one of the wisest words of the President spoke to their very souls, and touched them as the sublime flights of Everett had not.

### Everett's Oration Compared With Lincoln's

In a recent communication I called attention to the fact that, to many of the listeners, the President's few words were a temporary disappointment. They were not able on the instant to grasp their sublimity. There may have been those that would have doubted the idea that they would live with ever-increasing vigor the world over when Everett's glowing periods were entirely forgotten. I have before me a newspaper, published immediately after the exercises, which gives Everett's oration in full, extending through twelve columns, aggregating some 15,000 words, whilst what Lincoln said is crowded into an obscure corner and presented in thirty-six lines type the minutest.

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# "THE GLOBE"

322-324 Market St., Harrisburg, Pa.

cession, as well as an eloquent and careful speaker. He was invited to deliver an address in the Presbyterian church, at the corner of Baltimore and High streets, and accepted, the time scheduled being 5 o'clock in the evening. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, and for each one within there were ten without unable to gain admission. President Lincoln and many of the Governors were present, and an interesting story is connected with Lincoln's presence.  
There had been an old man resident in the town for many years who was the most bitter foe of the rebel Government in the United States that I have ever heard speak. Despite his seventy years, he had made repeated and frantic, but unavailing efforts, to get into the army in some capacity. When the battle of July 1, 1863, was fought within a mile of his own door, this aged veteran of the War of 1812 saw the coveted opportunity of fighting without any one's leave, being granted, and called in.  
He received three wounds, and a few days later the name of John L. Burns had flown around the world on the wings of fame. The man, who had been in earlier life a drunken village cobbler, and, at a later day, a constable who was the butt of the boys and young toughs of the place, the man who had been treated with scant courtesy by a majority of his townsmen, was now extolled in song and story. Pecuniary contributions in considerable sums were showered upon him from distant points, whilst the greatest of the nation, as they visited this field of the nation's glory, felt themselves honored in being permitted to enter his humble cottage and clasp his hand.

Now to return to Abraham Lincoln. He sent a deputation of three to Burns, asking him to come to the Willis mansion to accompany the President and Secretary of State to Colonel Anderson's address. But more street was a surging mass along the fourth of a mile that Lincoln and Burns marched arm in arm, the President and his tall silk hat towering far above the little stooped veteran beside him, and above all who were on the street.  
They seemed an ill assorted pair, and they certainly could not keep step, try as they would; but Burns looked reverently up at the man towering above him, and the one who towered above him looked lovingly down at the bent and wounded patriot to whom he had said, with fervor, when he first clasped his hand: "God bless you, old man."

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