

COLUMBIA.

Saturday Morning, May 13, 1865.

Charleston Tributes to Lincoln.

A Charleston *Courier*, of the 22d ult., gives us, under the title, "The Great National Calamity," the full report of a meeting of the citizens of that place, to express their sorrow on the death of Abraham Lincoln. A preliminary meeting took place at the house of John Phillips, Esq., where application was made by a committee, consisting of Wm. Aiken, George W. Williams, James Lynch, James S. Gibbes, Wm. E. Simons and Augustus L. Taveau, to Col. Gurney, for the use of Hibernian Hall.

Their prayer was graciously granted, and the meeting took place on the 21st of April. Col. James Lynch called the meeting to order, and proposed the Hon. Wm. Aiken for the Chair, Mr. Augustus L. Taveau and Mr. Jacob Williams were made Secretaries. The committee, as appointed by Mr. Aiken, consisted of Messrs. John Phillips, Chas. J. Manigault, Jas. S. Gibbes, Elias Vanderhorst, George W. Williams, E. Geddings, M. D., Hon. T. L. Hutchinson, Dan'l Horlbeck, John S. Riggs, N. R. Middleton, Col. James Lynch, Samuel Hart, sr., Wm. E. Simons, John Ferguson, Benj. M. Seixas, E. H. Rodgers, O. Reeder, W. H. Houston, James Moultrie, M. D., Wm. Bird, James Marsh, John Van Winkle, Edmond Ravenel, M. D., Hon. Chas. Macbeth, Wm. H. Gilliland, A. S. J. Perry, Benj. D. Roper, Wm. Kirkwood, James W. Brown, Rev. Jos. Seabrook, Robert Thurston, James Brawley, W. S. Fitch, M. D., B. O'Neill, John S. Ryan, T. Tupper, sr., T. A. Whitney, T. Street, A. Bischoff, John E. Cay, John Remeker, William P. Knox, H. W. DeSaussure, M. D., W. Postell Ingraham, Wm. Laidler, David Barrow, R. W. Seymour, A. G. Mackey, M. D., John F. Poppenheim, P. J. Coogan, C. W. Seignious, L. T. Potter, E. B. Jackson.

Such are the names of this committee as reported. They may have been present, all of them, or not. It is a frequent thing to put forth the names of parties on such committee, assuming for them a sympathy for the object in view, when, in fact, they may know nothing about it. We give the following speech of Hon. Mr. Aiken, on taking the Chair:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: We are assembled to pour out the general grief which has been felt in this city for the sudden removal from this life of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States. The horrible and atrocious assassination of President Lincoln has filled every feeling heart with sorrow and indignation. I did not know, personally, the late President, but those who did have spoken of him in the kindest manner to me; his heart was benevolent and forgiving, and we are told, and have reason to believe, that through him our difficulties would soon have been adjusted and peace once more restored to our distracted country. Our expressions of disgust for the dastardly wretch who could have conceived and executed such a diabolical act, can scarcely be uttered. Murder is always appalling, but more particularly so in this momentous crisis of our country—now our most anxious moment.

Can it be believed that in the nineteenth century that a human being could be found to have in his bosom so diabolical an idea—and with an accomplice, enter the sick bed-room of another eminent and distinguished personage, the Secretary of State, and plunge into his

bosom the deadly weapon! The heart sickens at the recital of such horrors.

We sympathize with the late President's family and that of Mr. Seward's. May the Almighty stretch over them the hand of mercy, and enable them to bear the sad bereavement with pious humility.

At this critical juncture of our national affairs, our thoughts are naturally turned to the Vice-President, now President of the United States, Andrew Johnson. When the people of Charleston District did me the honor of making me their representative in Congress, I met there Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee. I now take pleasure in stating that I soon became acquainted with him and found him a most intelligent man. He soon impressed me in the House, by his oratory and his arguments in debate, as one of the most talented men there; and it is no little praise to say so, when such men as Stephens, of Georgia, sat on the floor, and other prominent persons from the different States of the Union.

I have the most entire confidence in his ability to administer the Government true and faithfully, having the Constitution of our country as his true guide.

May a precious Providence, in His mercy, direct his ways towards peace—and let us again, under the folds of the American flag, once more and forever be one and indivisible.

Mr. Aiken was succeeded by Mr. John Phillips, who, in the following speech, moved the appointment of a committee, and became its chairman:

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are convened on no ordinary occasion and for no ordinary purpose. Our times, measured by the course and wonderful events, has stretched into years, and it seems an age since the people of our ancient city have assembled for any peaceful purpose.

We are again in Hibernian Hall, under the flag of our country; the memories of the past are clustering around our hearts, not unconscious that the incidents of this moment are becoming historic, and truth stands out in bold relief more wondrous than fiction. We have withdrawn from the avocations and the labors of the hour. We have taken a respite from the drudgery of business and the corroding anxieties which oppress the wearied mind. We have come here to express our sentiments at the demise of his Excellency Abraham Lincoln, the late President of the United States. At the grave, there can be no place more propitious for cherishing and enlarging the noblest of all the virtues—charity. There can be no place chosen more fitting where passion and prejudice should be buried.

The late President, Abraham Lincoln, was an extraordinary man in extraordinary times. He was by birth a Kentuckian. From his native State, he emigrated to Indiana and subsequently to Illinois, where he settled and then commenced the practice of law. His public discussion with the late Senator Douglas, and the publication and circulation of his argument, gave him world-wide reputation, and led to his nomination and election as President of the United States. The country divided and distracted by civil war, in the exercise of the functions of his great office, exhibiting indomitable energy, fixed determination and unswerving consistency in executing the high trusts confided to his care, he rose to the occasion, and however severe the ordeal through which he had to pass, he realized and justified the opinion formed of his character and patriotism by his constituency, the American people.

The President's official duties ordinarily are onerous and perplexing, but from the unparalleled embarrassing circumstances attending his administration, they must have become excessively toilsome and distressingly laborious. Each moment came freighted with care; every transpiring event was replete with anxiety.

Mr. Lincoln's re-election to the Presidency was the people's crown—popular approbation conferred for the meritorious discharge of duty.

Next to the approbation of conscience, the highest distinction the American citizen ought to recognize should be the people's approbation. The sordid mind seeks office for its honors, its powers and its emoluments; the just man accepts office for the good he can be the means of effecting.

On his re-election to office, he expressed the hope and cherished the belief that peace would soon be restored, that the opportunity would be presented enabling him to fulfill his determination to mitigate, if not remove, all cause for the continuance of civil dissension. His acts have now passed into history. The dissension of them would now be out of place, and I will not trespass longer. I do, therefore, sir, move you that a committee be appointed to prepare and present to this meeting a preamble and resolutions expressing their sentiments at the demise of the late President.

During the absence of the committee, Col. James Lynch entertained the assembly with the following discourse. He said:

The blow that deprived President Lincoln of his life, was a blow struck at the heart of humanity itself.

No plea before God or man can justify, extenuate or excuse it. If the destruction of the President had even been indispensable to the peace and happiness of the whole nation, the assassin must still be condemned, and bear with him to his grave the stigma and the awful sentence pronounced by God with his own voice on Cain, the first murderer, "A fugitive and a vagabond thou shalt be in the earth."

Cruel and hard, indeed, must be his heart—harder than the rether millstone—who, in such a place, in the hour of rational and pleasurable recreation, in the relaxation of arduous magistratical functions and duties—the very highest perhaps confided to any man upon earth—seated by the side of her who was the partner of his joys and his griefs—presenting to those around them that most touching and most sacred of all the relations in life, that of husband and wife—to deal the blow at such a moment was truly the deed of a monster. Every human heart will shrink wherever this tale of horror shall be told.

Our sympathies, therefore, as men—our sacred obligations as Christians—our judgment as citizens, deeply interested in the observance and practice of whatever can maintain the supremacy of the laws, both of God and man—call upon us to declare and deliver, not only to this community, but to all other communities, our reprobation and abhorrence of this appalling murder. We avow our profound shame and grief that so horrible a crime will have to blot and blur the annals of American history. As it is the first death by violence of a Chief Magistrate of a republic, so may God in His mercy grant that it shall be the last.

We avow our sincere sorrow at the sufferings of a fond wife, who felt the blow entering her husband's body as a blow piercing her own heart, and who was not allowed to hear his last farewell or receive the parting clasp of his hand.

No friend of the President but must weep—no enemy but must bow his head with a solemn respect to the *requiem* of Abraham Lincoln.

At this juncture, Col. Phillips returned with his committee, and reported the preamble and resolutions on the death of Abraham Lincoln, which we give below, and which were unanimously adopted. There were yet other proceedings in this connection—perhaps other speeches—which the editor of the *Courier* regrets that he could not find place for in that day's issue, but promised them in his next. We need make no comments.

A national calamity has befallen our country. Excited as this community has been for the last four years by war—its rumors, its miseries and its desolations; familiarized by passing events to feel, not mark, the bitterness of death in all