

Obsequies of the President

The last two days have been the most gloomy of any we remember to have seen in Geneva. The stores and places of business were all closed, while from every pole and flag staff drooped the stars and stripes clad in mourning and raised at half-mast. The sable tokens[?] too adorned the windows of nearly every building in town, expressive of the deep feeling of sorrow and mourning felt in the loss of the highest officer of the nation—the President. We doubt not the same sad [illegible] would have been displayed had his death been less tragic.

Yes, President Lincoln is numbered with the dead! Little did our readers imagine while perusing the last issue of the *Gazette*, and glorying over the recent victories of our armies, that so soon would their joy be turned into [illegible] or that the bells which so merrily pealed out the tones of gladness, would so soon toll the sad requiem of the nation's highest office. Yet it is so. President Lincoln has looked his last upon earth—his spirit has gone to the God who gave it. His mission on earth is ended—"he sleeps his last sleep. He has gone to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

Abraham Lincoln, like all mortals, had his faults. No man there is that breathes who is free from corruption; yet as we hereafter hope to be forgiven, even so must we forgive him.

On the receipt of the news here Saturday morning last, all business was suspended, while the people seemed as if paralyzed by the sudden shock. At an early hour the Trustees issued circulars calling a meeting of the citizens at Linden Hall to take action in regard to this great calamity. The meeting was quite largely attended, and was presided over by Judge Dusingberre. Remarks appropriate to the occasion were made, and a committee appointed to frame resolutions which were adopted as follows:

Whereas, The Chief Magistrate of our nation and Commander-in-Chief of our armies has been suddenly removed by a wanton, cruel and infamous crime, a crime against the nation, against humanity, and against [illegible] and whereas we recognize in his death the bloody hand of treason and murder, the most appalling, atrocious known in history and whereas, for the first time the annals of our country have been stained by a political assassination, turning their joy into mourning and bathing the nation in tears, and whereas [illegible] treason on the same dark night conspired and essayed to murder our honored Secretary State, one of New York's nobles sons—the guide and counsel of our faithful President, now dead.

Resolved, that we bow in deep humility before him by whose will nations are cast down or stand and ask His support and guidance in this the darkest hour of the Republic, and as we approach the Altar of our God, we should draw near the altar of our country, and there take new vows that this nation must and shall forever be preserved.

Resolved, that while bowing with reverence for this inscrutable dispensation of providence, and expressing our unqualified abhorrence of the foul act of murder and treason [illegible] was brought about the perpetuation of [illegible] crime at this crisis in the history of the country—when the military power of the rebellion had been broken, when there were unmistakable evidences on the part of the Southern people of a desire to return to their former allegiance, and when the action of our lamented President clearly foreshadowed a policy eminently conducive to a restoration of Peace and the unity of the nation upon the basis of the Constitution—cannot but be regarded by all good men with feelings of the deepest sorrow, anxiety, and alarm.

Resolved, That laying aside all party feeling, we will rally as one man to the support of our Government, at which treason has so lately aimed a double blow and that we will have no creed but the Constitution of the United States, and no peace inconsistent with the integrity of the Nation.

Resolved, That while condoling with the nation at large upon this inexpressible bereavement, we would tender our sympathies to the widow and the children of our late President, trusting that the widow's God and the God of the fatherless will sustain them in this the hour of the deepest grief.

Resolved, That we recommend that on the day of the funeral of the late President the several religious congregations of the village open their respective places of worship and hold therein at the same hour of the funeral at Washington, appropriate religious services adapted to this mournful event.

Resolved, That during the hours of such exercises, viz., from 10 1-2 A. M. till 3 P. M., our fellow citizens be requested to close their respective places of business and attend their respective places of religious worship.

Resolved, That during the obsequies of the President, viz. from 12 to 1 P. M. of the same day, all the village bells be tolled and minute guns fired.

These were carried out by our citizens with but one exception to the very letter. A union meeting was held at the Presbyterian Church which was densely packed by a sorrowing audience. After the usual preliminaries, Rev. J.L. Robertson arose and addressed the audience at some length.—The tolling of the bells, the booming of minute guns, the low, mournful strains from the church organ, the heavy folds of crape [crepe] that adorned the walls, formed a striking contrast to the excited war tones of the orator.

Governor Fenton's appointed fast for Thursday was generally observed, and Divine services were held in all the churches. The crape still hangs from the windows, and the Stars and Stripes continue to float at half-mast. The nation's chosen Chief Magistrate has fallen and just at a time when the country needed his services most.

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