

This great actress was an ardent student and rapidly rose to distinction. She was thrilling in tragedy, masterful in the delineation of passion, and highly successful in Shakesperian characters. In her younger days she was distinguished as a performer in high comedy parts. In the autumn of 1844, she went to England, where, in London, her acting was received with every mark of approval. She added greatly to her professional reputation, and made many warm friends in the higher social life of England. Her home in Mayfair became a centre of artistic and literary gatherings. During the dramatic season in London her acting was received with enthusiastic applause. A part of her winters was passed in Rome.

During the last six years of her life, Miss Cushman devoted much time to dramatic readings, giving scenes from Shakespeare, and reciting ballad and dialect poems, and humorous selections, with a success not less marked than her histrionic triumphs. She died in the city of her birth, Boston, Mass., February 18th, 1876, the year after she retired from the stage.

¹⁵ The Lancaster Examiner and Democratic Herald of Wednesday, July 14th, 1841, stated that they closed their engagement on "Tuesday evening last."

Public Meetings Against Supporting Schools at Public Expense

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at the sessions of 1821-2, passed an act to provide for the education of children at public expense within the city and incorporated boroughs in the county of Lancaster.

A meeting of citizens of Leacock, Earl, Manheim and Lampeter townships, in the county of Lancaster, convened at the public house of Michael Johns, in Leacock township, on Saturday, January 25th, 1823, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning the Legislature for the repeal of the act referred to in the above paragraph.¹

John Graff was called to the chair, and George Bear and Isaac Carpenter were appointed secretaries. The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Viewing as we do the disadvantage to the citizens of the different townships not included in such school districts,

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, it is highly necessary to petition the Legislature of this Commonwealth praying to alter and repeal the act entitled an act relative to certain school districts in the city and different boroughs in this county.

¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, January 31st, 1823.

Resolved, As the opinion of this meeting, that the city, boroughs and townships in this county should bear their own expenses for educating the poor residing within the bounds of the city, boroughs and townships in this county, who are deserving of the public aid.

“Resolved, It is the opinion of this meeting to recommend earnestly to our fellow-citizens in each and every township in this county to take immediate and active measures to hold meetings in each township on Saturday, the 8th of February next, and take into consideration the propriety of the act and the proceedings of this meeting; and all those who may approve of this meeting are requested to forward their petitions to the Legislature of this Commonwealth as soon as possible, in order that the subject may be investigated before more expenses are incurred under the present act; for it is specified in the act aforesaid that the citizens of the boroughs of Columbia, Marietta and Strasburg have the same privilege to build and erect edifices at the public expense as has the city of Lancaster.”

A meeting of inhabitants of Donegal township was held at the house of Jacob Barr, in Maytown.² Henry Haines, Esq., was called to the chair, and John M. Whitehill appointed secretary. The committee appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, reported:

“We cannot but agree with the inhabitants of Earl township that the law in question is unjust and oppressive—unjust, because its benefits are extended to a few; and oppressive, because a great majority of the people of Lancaster county have to pay for advantages in which they have no interest either immediate or distant, and which but a very small portion of the county can enjoy. That this is the case will appear evident from the fact that Donegal township pays more tax than the city of Lancaster or the boroughs of Columbia and Strasburg.

“In common with the inhabitants of Earl township, we cannot but regret that an act passed for so laudable a purpose as that of educating the poor, should by its operations for the advantage of one portion of the community to the exclusion of another, render it necessary to be repealed. Also we cannot refrain from deprecating the passage of such a law at a time when the taxes, already severe, have been increased one-third.

“The committee deems it unnecessary to make any further remarks as to the policy and justice of repealing the law, as our opinions are fully expressed in the appeal of the inhabitants of Earl township, but we submit the following resolutions to the consideration of the meeting:

“That in the opinion of this meeting, the law of 1822, constituting the city of Lancaster and the boroughs of Columbia, Marietta and Strasburg a separate school district, is partial in its operation and consequently unjust and ought to be repealed.

“That a committee be appointed to circulate petitions for the repeal of the law, and that its members attend at Harrisburg to promote this object.”

Whether anything was accomplished is not known, as subsequent issues of local papers do not contain any references to the matter.

² Lancaster Journal, Friday, February 14th, 1823.