

been in a very humorous way. Notwithstanding this, they 'spun it out' for five glasses more, when, we suppose, those who were able 'reeled it home'."

Among a number of songs in the English and German languages, adapted to the festive hour, two new ones, composed for the occasion, were sung with much spirit and received with great applause. They were published in *The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Wednesday, March 11th, 1801.

A similar celebration was held in the county. The Pequea Republican Volunteer Rifle company, commanded by Captain William Slaymaker, met at Thomas Algeo's tavern, on the turnpike road, nine miles from the borough of Lancaster, to celebrate the triumph of Republicanism. They were joined by a number of their fellow-citizens. After performing some military evolutions, and firing sixteen rounds in honor of the day, the company sat down to an excellent dinner. Mr. Isaac Ferree was chosen president, and Mr. Benjamin Vernor, vice-president. When the company was seated at the table the Declaration of Independence was read; and, after dinner, sixteen toasts were drunk. "Volunteers" were offered by Isaac Ferree, Benjamin Vernor, Major Lefever, Captain Slaymaker, Lieutenant Smith, Lieutenant J. Ferree and Ensign Slaymaker.

Meetings in Lancaster County to Oppose Slavery in District of Columbia

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

A MEETING was held at the house of Samuel Kinzer on Friday evening, October 22nd, 1830, for the purpose of considering measures for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. John Connelly was called to the chair, and Dr. William Happersett was appointed secretary.¹

A preamble and resolutions were adopted unanimously, as follows:

"We believe in the declaration made by the patriots of 1776, 'that all men are born free and equal; are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'; and these being with us not abstract beliefs but the effect, we trust, of rational and virtuous conviction, we cannot but feel deep regret that,—in the country of our birth, and under the government of our choice, having a reputed republican and Christian population,—more than half a century should have been permitted to elapse with so little evidence of sincerity on the part of those who claim it as the charter of their rights, who profess attachment to its doctrines, and acknowledge fealty to its implied requisitions.

¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 29th, 1830.

"That the people of the United States, who cultivate friendly relations with all the world, who have opened their homes and their hearts to the stranger of every land, and have given him common protection, and equal benefits, should yet, at this hour, withhold from a seventh part of the native population all religious, all political, and, what is incomparably more, all personal rights, is, to us, strangely anomalous. With all the means they possess of obtaining correct views and all their inducements to just practice, why should they permit this fraction to remain under the absolute control of creatures of their own conformation? It will, in our opinion, be a crime which no penance can expiate; a blot on the national character which no ablution can remove.

"Fifty-four times has the anniversary of American Independence been celebrated, and slavery, cruel slavery, instead of being exterminated, has greatly increased. Even in the District of Columbia, over which Congress has exclusive supervision, nearly one-third of the whole population are slaves. Sundry attempts have been made to abolish it there, and the citizens themselves have petitioned; but, thus far, every republican effort to effect an act of simple, natural justice, has been thwarted by the exertions of aristocracy, aided by the apathy of indifference.

"Shall it forever be said, to the reproach of the republican name, that where there is most profession, there is least consistency of practice? Shall foreigners sarcastically say, that the tree of slavery flourishes and spreads in the land of liberty, and that the pestilential atmosphere of monarchical Europe contains for it no nutriment?

"Perfectly prepared to give negative answers to these and all similar questions, and having our feelings excited for suffering humanity, our pride wounded for our degraded country, and a strong sentiment of disapprobation for the doings of the oppressor, therefore

"Resolved, That we will exert ourselves in calling attention to the subject of slavery, which produces so much misery to one portion of our fellow beings.

"Resolved, That we will circulate petitions for signatures, representing to Congress our abhorrence of its continuance in the District which they govern; and requesting them in respectful, but emphatic, terms to show by their acts that they appreciate justice after a manner without precedent in that body.

"Resolved, That we will take such measures as offer the best prospects of success, to induce the legislature of our own state to give Congress proof that the excitement is not local, but that the true spirit of freedom pervades Pennsylvania throughout its whole extent."

An essay was read, which was also approved.

Another meeting of citizens friendly to the freedom of man, was held at the house of D. Witmer, Jr., in Paradise, Lancaster county, Pa., on Saturday, November 6th. Mr. D. Witmer, Sr., presided.²

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the proceedings of the meeting held at S. Kinzer's on the 26th ultimo,³ being in accordance with our views, we therefore adopt them as our own.

² Lancaster Journal, Friday, November 19th, 1830.

³ The Lancaster Journal of Friday, October 29th, 1830, states that the meeting was held on the 22nd.

"Resolved, That we recommend it to our fellow-citizens throughout the Union, who appreciate liberty, to hold meetings and make proper exertions, that by a simultaneous effort the subject may be brought before Congress with a respectability of number not to be disregarded.

"Resolved, That a copy of this meeting's proceedings, together with those which we have adopted, be addressed severally to the Speaker of the Senate and House of Representatives of this state and the United States."

Committees were appointed to carry these resolutions into effect, and report to an adjourned meeting to be held at the home of D. Witmer, Jr., on Saturday, December 18th, 1830. Whether or not the meeting was held as announced, is not known, as subsequent issues of local papers contain no references to it.

Clerk in Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

IT is not generally known that at least as late as 1816 the First Presbyterian church of Lancaster, Pa., employed a clerk. The special duties of this official are not now known. In all probability, they corresponded to those of the parish clerk in the Church of England in America, which, after the Revolutionary War, became the Protestant Episcopal Church. The parish clerk announced the hymns, led the singing, made responses during the rendition of the liturgy, read the lessons, and made himself generally active about the church. His usefulness waned during the early years of the nineteenth century; and shortly after the War of 1812, the office was discontinued, for the most part, in America.

That a clerk was employed in the First Presbyterian church, Lancaster, as late as 1816, whose duty it probably was to direct the music during divine service, is evident from a notice which appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, September 27th, 1816. The advertisement was as follows:

"E. W. Jenkins (clerk of the English Presbyterian church) and James Snodgrass, respectfully inform their friends and the public that they will open a singing school at the house of Mr. Stacy Swem, in North Queen street, on Sunday evening next, where they hope to merit a share of public patronage. Those who have subscribed, will please to furnish themselves with Smith's and Little's Collection of Sacred Music, to be had at Mr. Dickson's bookstore.

"Terms of tuition, for two evenings in the week, two dollars per quarter, one dollar payable at entrance. One evening in the week, one dollar and fifty cents, one dollar to be paid in advance."