

PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG OF THE TWENTY- SECOND REGIMENT TO THE SOCIETY.

FESTIVAL OF THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

[From the Iowa City Republican, February 24, 1864.]

This affair came off last Friday night, and was a complete success. Metropolitan Halls were filled to overflowing, and all entered into the spirit of the occasion. Niching's Band enlivened the exercises with music until about 9 o'clock, when the crowd was called to order by N. H. Brainard, who, after a song from the Glee Club, introduced Gov. Kirkwood with the Flag of the 22d Regiment, which he presented to Prof. Parvin, Secretary and Librarian of the State Historical Society, in the following remarks :

Mr. Parvin, The 22d Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry is composed, in large proportions, of our immediate friends and neighbors—seven of the ten companies of the regiment having been recruited from this county. For this reason, while we feel a deep interest in all the regiments from this State, and more especially in those in which our county is represented, it is natural we should feel a deeper, a more absorbing interest in this than in any other. We regard it, not only with deep and absorbing interest, but with great, and I trust, commendable pride. Its leader, when it left us, and for a long time in the field, was the distinguished citizen and gallant soldier who now so worthily fills the office of Governor of our State; and its gallant bearing and noble achievements fully entitle it to the praise, than which none can be higher, that it is worthy to be ranked honorably and equally with the other gallant regiments, whose deeds of noble daring have contributed so much to the cause of our country, and to the honor and renown of our State.

When this regiment left its rendezvous, near our city, it carried with it, as all our regiments have done, our national banner—that flag that is so endeared to us by all that it symbol-

izes of what is glorious in the past, valuable in the present, or hopeful in the future. The banner it then bore was new, its colors were bright, its texture unbroken, its folds had been lifted only by the pure, free breezes of our prairies, stirred by the prayers of fair women and brave men, for the welfare of the gallant spirits that upheld it, and for the good cause for which they went forth to battle. Since then it has hung, drooping and lifeless, in the tainted atmosphere that has brought death to many of its brave defenders, and it has floated freely and defiantly in the sulphurous canopy of many a battle-field, amid the roar of cannon, the rattle of musketry, the deep, stern battle cry and the heart-stirring shouts of victory. The sun, rain and winds have done their work upon it, and its brightness has faded—the shot and shell of the enemy have pierced through it, and rent and torn it hangs from its staff in shreds and tatters. Unfit for longer service in the field, it is now here, sent by the men who have borne it so far and so faithfully, to be deposited with the Historical Society of our State, of which you are the Secretary. Take it, Sir, and keep it safely and securely. Although so faded and tattered, it is now a thousand times more valuable than when it went out from us in all its freshness and beauty. It tells now not only of glorious deeds done before that time, but of equally glorious deeds since. It tells us that what it symbolized of value then, is still more valuable now, because of the toils endured and the blood spilled since then, to add to its value; and it tells us that what was hopeful then is more hopeful now, because it tells us that at Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge and at Vicksburg, over all of which, when it left our State, floated the foul flag of treason and slavery, now floats the proud banner of loyalty and freedom, never again to be removed.

Place it where the young men and young women—our boys and girls—the children of this age and of future ages, may look upon it, and, by looking, may learn to emulate the loyalty, the patriotism and the bravery of our fathers and of their fathers.

Prof. Parvin, on receiving the flag, responded in the following words :

I receive, most honored Sir, from your hands, this *National banner*, the symbol of freedom which has been borne by the strong hands of our friends and neighbors, which has cheered the hearts of the brave boys who have gone forth from our firesides, in the toilsome march and amid the conflict of danger, which has comforted the last moments of those who went down to death beneath its scarred folds, struggling not in vain to "enlarge the area of freedom."

I take it, Sir, as the gift of men who have hewn for themselves and their noble regiment a name worthy of "honorable mention," men who, under gallant leaders, have borne it triumphantly to victory on many a blood-stained field, and now commit it, faded and torn, with all its hallowed memories, to the sacred keeping of our State Historical Society instituted "to collect and preserve the materials illustrative of the history of our young and patriotic State."

Go tell our brave countrymen of Johnson, to whom you, as Chief Magistrate, gave this flag when bright and whole, that now, though faded and torn, we doubly value it, and shall place it in our archives, a silent but impressive monitor to teach all who look upon its faded and tattered folds the sad lessons of the past and the bright and hopeful lessons of the future.

As the *aged* look upon this sad havoc a traitorous war has made, they will weep for the brave who have died in its defence and the glorious principles it symbolizes—and rejoice with the living that its keeping was entrusted to heroic men who faltered not in the thickest of the strife, but went right on to victory and success, and acted well their part in securing to us and our children the rich inheritance of our fathers.

The *young*, as they gaze upon this gift of their fathers, brothers and countrymen, a precious legacy to them, will read in the history of the

"Brave, good and true,
(And say of all as of one)
I see him stand before me now,
And read again on that clear brow,
Where victory's signal flew,
How sweet is life"——

when consecrated to country, to freedom and to God.

The old and the young, the friend and the stranger, as they look upon this mute but eloquent symbol, may read the record of noble deeds done at Port Gibson, of heroic struggles and battles won in the death charge at Black River Bridge and at Champion Hills, and of the patient siege and successful assault upon the enemy's stronghold at Vicksburg, where our noble 22d

“Right in the van,
On the red rampart's slippery swell,
With hearts that beat a charge, they fell
Foeward, as fits a man.”

And from this learn the lesson, that “eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”—and having learned, resolve in their minds that the boon is worth the price, and pledge upon this rent flag of our Union the sacred honor of their hearts that they will maintain unto death the indissoluble “Union of the States,” and swear they will cease not their efforts till a peaceful flag floats all over our country, on every breeze that blows, the breath of the Omnipotent One who has decreed in the “Court of Heaven” that this land shall be the “land of the free and the home of the brave.”

At the close of these exercises, the crowd was dismissed to the supper tables, where ample justice was done the bountiful repast. After supper, the floor of the main room was cleared, and the young folks (and some not young) started a dance, which, when we left, was in full blast. The net proceeds were nearly \$250. It was a great affair, enjoyed by all present.

WHAT IS A POUND?—The original pound under William the Conqueror was a pound of silver coined into twenty shillings, which pound of silver is now coined into sixty-six shillings, and there have been no less than thirty-three different pounds since William the Conqueror.

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