

a member of the Com^{tee}

Saml Boyce soon followed expressing much sympathy & feeling with the Rest in his responsible position, desiring that he would look to the Lord for direction & ability to fulfill his duties - reminding him that the Prophet Daniel when the weight of a great nation was resting upon him found time morning, noon & evening to put up his petitions to the Lord. He desired that he might carry forward the great work of the abolition of slavery to its full & complete consummation - that the Lord might protect him on every hazard.

The Com^{tee} then called upon Secretary Stanton who received them in his inner office, alone. When all were seated F. J. King introduced the subject by remarking, that coming to Washington to present an address to the Rest, they felt unwilling to leave the city without calling to express ~~our~~ ^{their} thankfulness to him for the uniform kindness & consideration with which he & his Department had treated friends - that they deeply appreciated it & desired, although a people of few words, to express it to him, also to read to him the address we had just delivered to the Rest, to which he assented & it was done.

After which Wm Butler of Ohio expressed on behalf of himself & the Society his sense of the Secy's kindness & the favor he had shown friends & said that he believed the Divine blessing would rest upon him for his conscientious effort to relieve friends - that their prayers had arisen for his preservation & support.

Dr Thomas ^{on behalf} ~~then added~~ ^{of the young men of the Society} ~~whom the kindness of the Secy had often relieved, desired, to assure him~~ ^{had desired to say that they shared the warm feelings so well} expressed by his older friends - that both in the administration of his own department & in his promotion of favorable legislation on this subject they recognized his kindness & accorded him their warm gratitude.

Saml Boyce stated that he had recently expressed his feelings to the Secy -

F. J. King added that he was grateful not only for the relief afforded to our members but especially for his & the government's recognition

of the rights of conscience & the respect they had manifested for religious scruples.

The Secy of War replied with much feeling.

He said that he deeply appreciated the sentiments which had been expressed - that in the administration of his department he had ever sought to respect the religious views of the Society of friends & other religious bodies, & had been careful from the moment that he solemnly assumed the duties of his office, to endeavor to do no act which could by displeasing the Almighty bring his displeasure upon his country - that in the successful preservation of his own life, when others better able than himself & more fitted to advance the interests of the nation had been smitten down, he recognized the hand of Divine Power, the wisdom of whose decrees, it was not for us to question.

If the prayers of your people have gone up for the Government during the continuance of the contest - they ^{are} more needed now, when a greater work ^{is} before us. It was a comparatively easy matter to overcome physical force by greater physical force, although it ^{is} in the power of the Lord, as we know, not to grant the battle to the strong, nor the race to the swift - but the task before us, now ^{is} to conquer our selves - to restrain our own passions - that our successes might not turn to ashes on our lips - but that we might so act as to restore to our country the blessings of peace. If this end the prayers of all good men & women should be ^{cessantly} raised to our Heavenly Father, that his blessing might rest upon the Head of the Government & his advisors - & that whilst he continued to administer the affairs of his Department he should be actuated by these desires. (See over)

It would be difficult to convey in words the solemnity of the occasion & the deep earnestness, the simplicity & reverent manner with which the Secy of War expressed these noble sentiments, to which but feeble justice has been done.

Washington 5th Mo 5. 1865 (6th day)