



R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

WALTHAM UNION LEAGUE,

31

ORGANIZED IN

1863.

BOSTON:

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R E P O R T.

THE Committee chosen to organize a Union League in Waltham, having completed the task assigned them, submit the result of their labors, with an account of the origin and progress of the Association.

The propriety of some organization of a character which would afford every man an opportunity of placing on record evidence of his attachment to the Union, and of his readiness to uphold the Government in enforcing the laws, suggested itself to many of our citizens who desired to express their unconditional loyalty. They thought that a public declaration was called for, of their intention to give our legally chosen rulers a generous and unwavering support in all lawful measures to maintain our free institutions unimpaired.

Associations had already, in other States, been formed, giving assurance of fidelity to the Constitution and laws, and lending a moral support to the public authorities in their efforts to suppress the Rebellion. The discussion of these movements, by our citizens desirous of uniting in a similar manifestation of the loyal sentiment of this community, led to an informal meeting of some of our townsmen, who appointed the undersigned a Committee to consider the subject of establishing a Union League in Waltham, in order to give expression to their views of the duty which they owed to the country in this crisis of its history.

The Committee, and those from whom they derived their authority, were one in opinion as to the spirit and object of the proposed association, — that, carefully ignoring all party

issues, it should stand on a broad and patriotic platform of loyalty to the Union, the Constitution, and the laws, in which every true American might unite to give unequivocal expression of attachment to free institutions, and to the principles on which rest the foundations of our Government.

The terms of the Union League, recently formed in the city of New York, and generally approved at the meeting here, were recommended by many as adapted to our purpose. The Committee, however, deemed it proper to offer another form, embodying the spirit of that association, and embracing a fuller expression of the feeling of our citizens.

Some delay occurred, under an impression that a general association of the friends of the Union throughout the State was in contemplation, which might supersede the necessity of any separate town-organization; but not finding one established to meet, in all respects, the views of our people generally, an address to the citizens of the town, and the form of a League, were prepared, which they submitted to a subsequent meeting. These were unanimously adopted, and the Committee were instructed to carry into effect the wishes of the meeting by proceeding with the organization of the Association.

In accordance with their instructions, the Committee published the "Address to the Citizens of Waltham," and the "Union League," and had five hundred copies of these documents printed for distribution, that absent citizens, and every man from Waltham serving in the army and navy, whose address could be ascertained, should be supplied, as well as a portion of the press in different parts of Massachusetts.

The aim of this Association, as may be inferred from the language of the League, is, not to form a club or society, with all the machinery of officers and offices usually appertaining to such bodies, in order to perform some specific work; but is simply intended as an avowal of its members of their attachment to our institutions, which they will sustain when in

jeopardy, whoever administers the Government. It was felt, that the expression of this sentiment of our people was everywhere needed, when enemies of the Union, encouraged by the sympathy and indirect aid of European powers unfriendly to a Government recognizing the rights of the people, were desperately bent upon its overthrow. This Association, therefore, is not intended to uphold any particular political parties heretofore existing, but to pledge its support to the Government of our choice. There may be instances, though they are rare among us, of persons having neither faith in free institutions, nor love of our form of government, who are not with us; but if all others, who are eligible, have not joined the League, it is due, we trust, to a misunderstanding of the purposes of the movement. This frank statement of its intention, it is hoped, will swell our ranks, and add largely to the numbers of the Association. The list attached is not complete, as copies of the League are in circulation with the signatures of new members, of which returns have not yet been made; but your Committee decided to delay no longer the report of their labors.

The address of the Committee to the citizens of the town, and the Union League, are here presented:—

To the Citizens of Waltham.

The nation is engaged in a severe struggle with treason, which, unchecked at the commencement, assumed such formidable proportions as to endanger the existence of our free institutions.

Upon the success of the Government in subduing this Rebellion depends the fate of the Republic. Out of this contest are the issues of our national life, whether we continue, under one flag and Union, a great and growing power, the hope of humanity, or, broken into weak and warring fragments, we become the prey of more powerful nations opposed to republican principles.

In civil war, the public authorities are encouraged and strengthened in the discharge of their arduous duties by every assurance of

sympathy which they receive from the people. With this view, many of our townsmen suggested the formation of a UNION LEAGUE of the citizens of Waltham, without reference to party, for the purpose of expressing, in a public pledge over their signatures, their devotion to the principles of our Government, and their readiness to aid those legally chosen to administer it, in the work of compelling obedience to its authority.

At a meeting of a number of our citizens, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to take the subject into consideration, and report. The Committee, having submitted the following form of a Union League, which was approved and adopted, now present it to their townsmen, in the hope that every citizen will sign it, and thus transmit to his children and his children's children an evidence of his loyalty to his country in the day of her greatest peril.

J. B. BRIGHT.

I. R. SCOTT.

F. M. STONE.

WALTHAM, April 25, 1863.

Union League.

The undersigned, being citizens of the Town of Waltham, in the County of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, recognize, without distinction of party, the paramount duty that they at all times owe to the Government of aiding it to preserve the UNION, enforce the laws, and maintain the integrity of the national territory.

As citizens of this great Republic, the asylum of the oppressed of all nations, founded by wise and good men, who bequeathed a Constitution under which we have enjoyed unparalleled freedom and prosperity, we have a deep conviction of the solemn obligation which rests upon us to uphold our free institutions against all enemies at home or abroad.

We are proud to avow our love for, and our devotion to, the UNION, and our readiness to make any sacrifice to sustain and perpetuate the CONSTITUTION as it was understood by the FATHERS.

Our reverence for the principles and memory of Washington demands an earnest expression of steadfast adherence to the farewell advice of the "Father of his Country." Especially are we called upon to send words of good cheer and encouragement to the

hundreds of our patriotic young men who have gone forth from our town to battle on land or sea for these principles, under the starry folds of the glorious banner we have ever been taught to honor and defend.

A civil war, which threatens our national existence, has been forced upon our people. In such contests, neutrality is allied to treason; indifference becomes a crime; and whoever is not with us is against us, and must be considered an enemy of the Constitution to which we owe allegiance.

Assuredly, then, duty requires all true friends of law and order to manifest openly and unequivocally their fealty to that common bond which made us so long a highly favored and prosperous nation.

To this end, we propose to associate and form a UNION LEAGUE of faithful Americans, ranging ourselves on the side of loyalty, to strengthen the hands of our rulers in their efforts to maintain the supremacy of law, restrain the ignorant and misguided offender, and punish the open traitor.

In this dark hour of our history, when evil-minded and erring persons are in armed rebellion against the lawful authorities, with the avowed purpose to destroy this fair fabric established through suffering and sacrifice, we deem it fit and proper to renew our vows of fidelity, and pledge a generous support; and, by this act, we desire to record our unconditional loyalty to our Country, its Constitution, and Government.*

The Committee transmitted, as directed, copies of their Address and the Union League to the President of the United States, with the following letter, which was duly acknowledged:—

His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States.

SIR,—The undersigned, a Committee appointed at a meeting of loyal citizens in Waltham, Mass., were instructed to forward to your Excellency the accompanying documents relating to a Union League which is being successfully organized in this town.

* For list of names of members, see p. 23.

It is an agreeable duty which devolves upon the Committee, that of transmitting to the head of the nation this expression, by their townsmen, of loyalty to the Union, and sympathy with the Government in its efforts to enforce the laws.

The Committee use the occasion to convey their high sense of the faithful manner in which your Excellency has endeavored to discharge the difficult duties of your responsible position, and their unwavering faith that our institutions are destined to survive every assault, whether from traitors within or enemies without.

We remain, with great respect, your obedient servants,

J. B. BRIGHT.

I. R. SCOTT.

F. M. STONE.

WALTHAM, MASS., May 20, 1863.

A letter was addressed by the Committee to John A. Andrew, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with copies of these documents.

His Excellency JOHN A. ANDREW,
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SIR, — Many respectable citizens of this town, desirous of giving a public and earnest assurance of their loyalty to our country and its institutions, and their sympathy with the Government in its efforts to suppress rebellion, appointed the undersigned a Committee to organize a Union League in Waltham, which meets with general favor.

The accompanying documents, explaining the object and spirit of the movement, are transmitted to your Excellency in accordance with our instructions.

In executing this part of their trust, the Committee embrace the opportunity to express their high appreciation of your patriotic and arduous services in the cause of Freedom and the Union, and their confidence in the certain triumph of our country over every attempt to divide us as a people.

With great respect, we remain your obedient servants.

WALTHAM, May 20, 1863.

The reply to the communication here presented breathes a spirit which will find a response in the heart of every loyal American :—

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, June 4, 1863.

Messrs. J. B. BRIGHT, I. R. SCOTT, F. M. STONE, &c., Waltham, Mass.

GENTLEMEN,—I trust you will appreciate and excuse my omission to answer your note of the 20th ult. during the intervening days, while other cares precluded any attention to my private correspondence. And now I beg leave in one word to say, that the purposes and the methods declared and proposed in your letter, and in the printed papers which attended it, receive my cordial approval. Your desire to afford to all your loyal townsmen and neighbors an opportunity of uniting and concentrating their influence into one common and powerful activity, unmistakably and persistently exerted with the energy, zeal, and fearlessness of good citizens and good men, determined to stand or fall together with the fortunes and fate of their country and her cause, is a desire which I should be glad to see realized by a response so universal as to enroll in your League every citizen of your patriotic town.

The great public and social duty of this generation is to suppress the Rebellion. When that is done, the Union is safe, the Constitution is defended, the just rights of all are made secure. Until that is done, all are imperilled, and remain dependent on the contingencies of a struggle as tremendous in its proportions as it is grand and awful in the issues it involves. Therefore do I repeat, that our duty is, and all our duties are,—for all are contained in that one duty,—*to suppress the Rebellion*. We cannot dally with it nor with any of its adherents. We must, if need be, suppress them likewise. We cannot deal with traitors; we cannot make traffic of the blood of our brothers crying now to heaven from the ensanguined fields of two years of war waged by a nest of relentless conspirators against their country and against our common humanity. We cannot compromise with a crime so vast, that it defies comparison with any of the civil crimes of human history. We cannot yield an inch, while life and manhood remain, for the vindication of right and the punishment of wrong. We

cannot recede, we cannot hesitate, we cannot calculate chances in any political lottery for the future. We must die, die utterly, die like Thebes or Troy or Carthage, or we must conquer, with the help of Heaven, *conquer* the Rebellion. In that faith, I am always hopefully and sincerely your friend and servant,

JOHN A. ANDREW.

The Committee also forwarded to Major-Gen. Banks, of the United-States Army at New Orleans, copies of the documents, accompanied by the following note : —

Major-Gen. N. P. BANKS, United-States Army, New Orleans.

SIR, — The Committee appointed at a recent meeting to organize a Union League in Waltham have the pleasure of transmitting to their distinguished fellow-citizen the enclosed documents, expressing the loyal sentiment of his native town. This bond of union they are to place in the hands of every patriotic soldier who has gone forth from us to vindicate the flag, that he may not be deprived of the privilege of enrolling his name.

The performance of the duty assigned the Committee affords an opportunity to manifest their high appreciation of your services to the country, and to express the interest felt by your townsmen in your welfare and success.

With great respect, we remain your obedient servants.

WALTHAM, May 20, 1863.

The preceding documents were forwarded by mail ; but, as no acknowledgment has been received by the Committee, they may have failed to reach their destination, Major-Gen. Banks being actively engaged in the field.

A box will be deposited with the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, containing all the important documents relating to the League : namely, the League, with the autograph-signatures of every member ; the Address of the Union Committee to the Citizens of Waltham ; the original letters of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and of John

A. Andrew, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and this Report; also the list of voters of the town of Waltham for the year 1862, — the last published previous to the organization of this League: to which are added the names of all that could be ascertained entitled to the privilege of becoming members, not embraced in the printed list. This list, with its explanations, a general canvass of the town, is a document for future reference, of some interest as an index to the sentiment of the citizens of Waltham.

It must be a subject of regret to every member of the Association, that as our rulers, exponents of the popular will and amenable to the people, are guided by manifestations of public opinion, this assurance of our loyalty, peculiarly appropriate at this time, has not met with a universal response.

If any persons, well disposed towards the Government, have not added their names in testimony of their fidelity to the Union, none will regret it more, perhaps, than themselves and their children, when, at some future day, the roll of the humblest Union League will be held in higher estimation than the famous Roll of Battel Abbey by the descendants of the old Normans who followed William the Conqueror to England.

To the town of Waltham belongs the credit of being one of the first in Massachusetts to establish a Union League: that in a neighboring town was publicly announced somewhat sooner; but it is probable that the earliest movement originated here, though the delay of the action of the Committee referred to may deprive us of the honor of being the “*banner-town*.”

It was originally proposed to limit membership to legal voters; but this was modified to embrace all from Waltham in the army and navy, or of an age liable to military service. The Committee were authorized, if they deemed it necessary or advisable, to call a public meeting, in order to bring the subject more directly before the people of the town; but this

mode of attracting attention and influencing the action of the citizens was dispensed with, in the belief that it was not required. Had extraordinary means of creating an interest in the Association been resorted to, possibly more enthusiasm might have been awakened ; but the Committee thought best to make no special effort to produce an excitement and increase its numbers : they preferred simply to place the matter before the people, trusting that it would commend itself to the calm judgment of every good citizen.

There being no local press in sympathy with the objects of the League, its members were deprived of the ordinary means of presenting, through the appropriate channel, its claims in the manner they desired. The principles of the League required no defence ; but it was desirable to correct persistent misrepresentations of its purposes and the motives of its originators.

Some citizens may have failed, through indolence or negligence, to answer the call ; and others have declined to sign under various pretexts, such as objections to this or that clause, though professing to approve its general principles, and claiming to be loyal. Such loyalty is by no means unconditional.

It is due to some of the originators of the Union League to state, that they were opposed to the election of the present Administration ; but they willingly cast aside all party ties that they might uphold lawful authority. They were content to leave in abeyance old political questions on which they differed, with the understanding, that this connection, formed with a temporary association, did not commit them to any party save that of the Union and the Constitution. They could not remain coldly indifferent when the nation was in danger, because they had not aided to elect those who administer the Government. When armed traitors were at the throat of the nation, they felt there was but one honorable course left for true men. Still less could they affect a neu-

trality which no sane friends of their country ever feel, though it may be assumed by timid men to avoid the duties and responsibilities of the occasion, or by the unprincipled, who, in the hope of gain, endeavor to serve two masters. Intelligent men know too well, that the demands of civil war are so clearly defined, that any middle course is the crowning evidence of weakness or duplicity, which commands less respect than the position of an open enemy.

If the list of members of the League does not embrace some loyal men whose names should not be wanting, the cause may be found in their reliance on the certain triumph of the Government. They have faith in the continuance of security to persons and property, and confidence that our institutions will remain unimpaired. They therefore consider these demonstrations as unnecessary. The scene of the conflict is distant, and our ordinary affairs are as undisturbed as in profound peace. The people are prosperous; and were it not for the occasional appearance of a sick or maimed soldier in our streets, the calls for contributions, the greater demands of the tax-gatherer, and the increasing number of families whose mourning garb indicates irreparable losses, it would be difficult to realize that civil war exists in our country. This seems to be the chief reason why many are not aroused to the full sense of their duty, as they would be, if, through the apathy of a portion of our population, the contest were prolonged, and the scenes of blood and horror which are now desolating the homes of the Border States were brought within our own Commonwealth. All this may happen through a want of that bold, outspoken patriotism which strengthens authority, cheers the steadfast, saves the weak or wavering, and rebukes treason. If, as reported, there are secret enemies and associations in Free States, — “Knights of the Golden Circle,” banded together against Government, — they would cower before the united voice of the friends of the Union.

Every one who has served in the army and navy, and is acquainted with the object of the League, unless he be a deserter or be dishonorably discharged, would, it is believed, have become a member, if the opportunity had offered. Though copies of the documents were addressed to all in the service, probably many were never received; and the parties were prevented by this circumstance, or by sickness and other causes incident to military service, from affixing their names to the League.

Before the Association was established, many had fallen in defence of its principles; and if Rogers, Sherman, Howe, Banks, Field, Priest, Houghton, Wellington, Sanderson, Dillon, Holbrook, Fairbanks, Forsythe, and others, did not live to enroll their names, they had already signed and sealed with their blood an assurance of unconditional loyalty; while others, dying in the service from disease, or wounds received in battle, have given evidence of their devotion to the Union. More recently, other townsmen have perished in this war, including one officer, Lieut. Brown, to whom was forwarded a request that he might obtain signatures to the League. It is reported, that copies were circulated in the Sixteenth Regiment, containing more Waltham men than any other, and that they had been signed by numbers; but no returns have been made to the Committee. Of those who have returned from the service, if all have not signed the League, some may not have had it presented to them: possibly some have been deterred through influences having little existence in camp, but which are actively employed here to keep alive a suspicion, that the Association is another scheme of a political party fighting under false colors. It is not strange, that young soldiers, whose patriotism is beyond question, having been familiar with some instructive examples of the kind within a twelvemonth, should hesitate to join an Association which has been charged with other purposes than what its title imports. They are aware, that a "Peace Party" is not

necessarily that of the Prince of Peace ; nor a " People's Party " the *juste milieu* which was claimed for it, — a conservative barrier against the extremes of political fanaticism.

Through age or physical infirmity, the signatures of some residents are wanting ; and it is due to one, at least, who has been an influential and honored citizen, long at the head of an important corporation, to state, that he was unable, though anxious, to add his name to the list of unconditional loyal men, whose sentiments, put forth in the Union League, he fully approved.

Some persons professing to support the Government have declined to join this compact, alleging that their loyalty would not be increased by becoming members of any Union Association. If they imagine that any one is deceived by this excuse, they greatly underrate the common sense of the people. These men, so coy when patriotism calls, act differently whenever their hearts are strongly moved, whether by political or personal concerns ; and they are aware that the crisis demands a loud response to the roll-call of the Union. The signers of the " Declaration of Independence " reasoned otherwise than these pseudo-loyalists. John Hancock's bold, defiant signature indicates earnest resolve, — the spirit in which he pledged all for his country. Such men associate for every other conceivable object in which they are interested, either social, charitable, or political. In the pursuit of gain, their subscriptions are forthcoming to associations which promise profitable returns, their signatures are attached to petitions for whatever they desire, and their names are seldom wanting whenever interest or sympathy prompts. Had our young men who have taken up arms exhibited the same indifferent spirit, and declined to volunteer, on the ground that fighting for the Union would not increase their love of country, they could have escaped hardship and suffering, and none would have shed his blood or offered up his life on the altar of his country. Deciding more patriotically, they find their reward

in the approbation of their countrymen : the dead are held in grateful remembrance ; the living, disciplined and tested by fire and suffering, have gained the reputation which attaches to honorable service in the field, defending the noblest form of government ever vouchsafed to man.

Men true to their convictions of duty are ready to express, by word and deed, their sympathy with those entertaining similar views ; giving an earnest support to the Government or its enemies. A vacillating policy may be pursued by a portion of the press, — a selfish balancing of pecuniary interests inducing a less manly course of neutrality to secure patronage at the price of general contempt ; but, if the war continues, all will be forced eventually to declare whom they will serve. In the mean time, neutrality or lukewarmness alike aid the enemy.

No truth is more self-evident, than that every man should be loyal, though he may not approve the principles or the policy of the Administration. This is a plain duty in times of peace, and the obligation is stronger in case of a foreign war ; while, in civil war, whoever hesitates or holds back because every ruler and every measure are not approved is not patriotic. The right to discuss or criticise the acts of rulers is not disputed ; they are legitimate subjects of comment : but there is a wide difference between honest censure, however severe, whether by friends or generous opponents, and the sweeping condemnation of those whose sympathies, notwithstanding their professions, are evidently not with the Government, — perhaps not with the cause.

It may be said, that no one has a right to animadvert on the motives or actions of professed upholders of the Government, because they keep aloof from patriotic demonstrations and associations ; an argument plausible enough when the nation is undisturbed, but not justifiable in a crisis involving the lives, liberties, and property of the whole people.

We have considered Government only as that polity or

abstract authority which all are expected to reverence : but partisans do not readily dissociate the idea of government from the individuals who compose the administration, — their love of it apparently fluctuating with the fortunes of party ; but when this is wanting, whatever may be their protestations of attachment, it indicates a divided affection, and that love which only burns brightly when government is in the hands of a particular party. To place party before government, is a heresy akin to that which caused the Rebellion. The rebels held, that allegiance was due only to the State ; the General Government being no more binding than the “Holy Alliance,” from which any member could withdraw at pleasure.

Our country is bleeding at every pore ; great sacrifices are necessary to save us from destruction ; greater calls are before us ; more victims are to be offered up to this foul spirit of Rebellion ; new demands for men and means are to be met ; and an increasing debt to be provided for, the redemption of which will not be seen for generations. These evils, vastly aggravated by opposition to the Administration, might have been avoided, and will quickly cease when all parties in the loyal States become alive to the necessity of unanimity ; without which, the nation may perish.

Now, if any, claiming to have always been Republican, withhold their countenance from the Government because some particular men or party are not in power, they increase their own burdens, and inflict an injury on the country, which confers no honor upon themselves. If they go farther, and condemn indiscriminately all measures to preserve the Union ; oppose the Administration, whether right or wrong ; depreciate our victories, and exaggerate the power and success of the rebels ; discourage enlistments, or incite ignorant men to resist conscription, which leads to murder and pillage in our cities, — they are fast descending into those lower depths of political degradation, from which they will never rise in the opinion of good men.

There can be no third party in this contest. Those who remain indifferent spectators, through disaffection to the party which happens to be in power, are in a false position, and encourage those who are seeking to overthrow our institutions by violence.

Our existence as one of the great powers of the world depends on the result of this struggle. It requires no prophet to foretell the fate of these United States, should the Government fail to assert its authority, or suffer violators of its laws to go unwhipped of justice. All past history foreshadows the future of this people, if we permit a separation: the disruption of the Union would be but the beginning of that process of disintegration, which would crumble this fair fabric into ruins, leaving but feeble and jarring States, bereft of power to protect each from the other, or to secure immunity from outrage and foreign conquest, till a dictator arose to rule at the cost of whatever freedom there remains, if any should survive the old Constitution.

If man fails to see clearly the duty which is before him, or lacks the spirit to perform it, woman, with her more delicate instincts of right, is rarely wanting when danger threatens. There is no selfishness in her patriotism, no cold calculation of the pecuniary advantages of a neutral position; but she is willing to suffer and labor unremittingly for the cause, without reference to party interests or office spoils. In this spirit, having no political aims, seeking no miserable partisan ends, and asking no reward for well-doing, the ladies of Waltham, active and energetic from the commencement of the Rebellion, organized the "Soldiers' Aid Society," to insure system and efficiency in their labors; a noble Union League, numbering by hundreds, and rivalling our own, and which, by judicious arrangements and steady effort, has accomplished good results. By weekly meetings for work and consultation, and by the labor of members at home, a new impulse is given each day to the efforts of all; securing a constant stream of assistance to

the army, that does its work as effectually as shot and shell. It were well if their example could stimulate the sterner sex to more generous and hearty demonstrations of zeal.

Shallow politicians among us do not appear to understand the momentous interests involved in the war; as if the struggle in which the nation is engaged was a contest between the Republican and Democratic parties for the possession of office and spoils, and not the renewal of the old battle, commenced centuries ago, between the claim of the few to rule by a pretended divine right, and the Puritan democratic idea of self-government. The question is well understood by the rebel leaders; and the language of the slave-press for years before the Rebellion, particularly that of the leading organ of the secessionists, utterly repudiated the most cherished principles of the Free States; holding up the examples of stronger governments as worthy of imitation; claiming a superiority for that of England, due to its aristocracy, though maintaining that the freedom of the peasantry was a defect.

Foreign governments seem to have clearer conceptions than some of our politicians of what we are contending for: hence their sympathy and indirect aid to those they look upon as the friends of their own order. Intervention, it may be assumed, would not be delayed, were it equally safe, and did they not expect that traitors, though the weaker party, aided by Northern sympathy, would do their work as well.

But we can have no fears, in this stage of the world's intelligence and civilization, for the ultimate result of a contest of this nature:—

“For Freedom's battle, once begun,
Bequeathed by bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft, is ever won.”

The great heart of the nation is sound, and will sustain the Government in every war in defence of right; and all opposition will eventually be crushed, as was that of the Federalists in the war with England. That party had, what the

opposition now lacks, some show of reason for not heartily approving a war, rashly declared through Southern influence, and without preparation ; yet, notwithstanding the numbers, intelligence, and respectability of that body, its opposition to Government destroyed the party, — its very name becoming a by-word and a term of reproach.

If there is any compensation to be derived from a continuance of the war, its prolongation through the persistent opposition and discouragements offered to the Government, and the sympathy and aid, openly or secretly rendered, which rebels have received from the Free States, it is in the training which we undergo through the sacrifices and sufferings that are, perhaps, needed to elevate the standard of political morality. Signs of approaching calamities, which have finally overtaken us, were not wanting in the political corruptions that preceded the convulsion. Those shadows cast before by coming events, which thoughtful men foresaw, must purify or destroy the nation. The evil tendencies in American politics for a long period, acquiring fresh vigor and virulence by the introduction of the spoils-principle, culminated in secession when feebleness was at the helm, too weak or confiding to maintain authority, followed by a fratricidal war which threatens our existence as a nation. If, in the adoration of political idols, we have been false to higher principles, the penalties imposed upon the chosen people for departing from the true worship will be ours, unless we revive the old faith in what alone can exalt a nation. That we reap as we have sown, through years of political corruption and degeneracy, in which the Free States are far from being blameless, none will deny ; and he who runs may read, that obedience to the unerring laws which He has established for the moral government of the world is required of this people as the condition of their future welfare and greatness as a nation.

The prompt suppression of the Rebellion, which could have been accomplished by the united efforts of the whole people

of the loyal States, might have failed to teach the useful lessons we required. Moreover, there is consolation for our disappointments, and hopes of peace deferred, in the reflection, that greater suffering will more certainly bring national reform, and the removal of causes which have brought this judgment upon our people.

Thus conspirators in arms against liberal principles, and their abettors and sympathizers, have been blind instruments in the work of freedom; having "wrought better than they knew."

After old party connections are dissolved, as in the process of time they must be, and the political prejudices of the present hour have died out, the only question in regard to the men of these times will be as to their loyalty to the Union, and whether their record is clear when that was in danger. When the war is ended, the danger past, the Union preserved, the laws of the United States fully enforced, our flag waving triumphantly throughout the broad domain of the Republic, and foes at home and enemies abroad have been taught that no government is so strong as that which is the choice of a free people, then all who were false to the Union, their hands red with the blood of their countrymen, will reap the reward of their evil deeds; and those otherwise recreant, in any degree, to duty as faithful citizens, must expect the unfavorable verdict of public opinion, which their posterity will endeavor to conceal. Those, of all parties, who have been faithful to freedom, earnest in their support of Government and law, devoted in their allegiance to the principles inherited from the fathers, and have labored to produce these glorious results, will rejoice in the triumph of right. Then they may resume old associations, or combine to form new parties that will arise under a different condition of affairs, each diverging into the political path which to him seems the truest and best to follow; but under whatever banner they may enlist, or by whatever names they may be

designated, they will ever be associated in the minds of men with that patriotism, which, forgetting all but country, ever rallies to the rescue when freedom is imperilled.

WALTHAM, MASS., September, 1863.

J. B. BRIGHT.
I. R. SCOTT.
F. M. STONE.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

THE following, arranged in alphabetical order, comprise the names of members who have already signed the Union League :—

Adams, John. 35 Reg. Mass. Vols.	Blanchard, Edward R. 44 Reg.
Allen, W. E.	Blanchard, Wm. L. 44 "
Andrews, Joseph.	Boardman, Frederick. 35 "
Arnold, Charles J. 35 Reg.	Boardman, Leonard. 35 "
	Bodge, Charles M. 35 "
Bacon, A. T.	Bond, Henry F.
Badger, Geo. A.	Bowers, Alonzo.
Bagley, Charles H.	Bowers, Levi.
Bailey, E. B.	Bowker, Edwin.
Baker, James, jun.	Brackett, Edward J. 35 Reg.
Bancroft, T. W.	Brackett, H. G.
Barnes, Francis G.	Bradeen, C. A.
Barnes, Gillum.	Braman, H. B.
Barnett, William. 35 Reg.	Briggs, Benj. F. 35 Reg.
Bartlett, P. S.	Bright, J. B.
Batchelder, Chas. E.	Bright, William E.
Batchelder, Jacob.	Brown, Henry A.
Bates, G. A.	Brown, J. F.
Bates, Joseph C.	Brown, Rufus G.
Baxter, Orson A. 1 Mass. Cav.	Burge, Lorenzo.
Bean, C. C.	Burgin, George L.
Bean, George.	Buttrick, E.
Beard, Josiah.	Buttrick, Francis.
Bellis, J. S.	
Bellis, Mathew H.	Carter, A. R.
Bemis, Royal.	Carvill, D. W.
Bigelow, E. H.	Chace, Jacob.
Bigelow, George.	Chapin, George H.
Bill, Charles H.	Cheney, J. A.
Bill, Edwin R.	Clark, Calvin.
Blake, Charles H.	Clark, Daniel.
Blake, J. G.	Clark, Henry.

Clarke, Dorus.
 Clifford, G. A.
 Colby, Levi.
 Collins, H. A.
 Combs, James O.
 Coolidge, J. C.
 Coolidge, James E. 35 Reg.
 Coolidge, Sam.
 Corey, Amos.
 Creven, W. H.
 Crowley, Florence C.
 Cullen, Barney.
 Currier, Daniel G.
 Currier, Richard.
 Cushing, L. W.
 Cutler, A. C.
 Cutter, D. J.
 Cutter, H. P.
 Cutter, Wm. S.
 Cutting, B. L.

Daniels, P. F.
 Darling, G. F.
 Davis, F. J.
 Dean, William. 44 Reg.
 Dearborn, J. P.
 Dennett, C. H.
 Dennison, A. L.
 Dix, Edward F.
 Dodge, W. H.
 Donnell, John A.
 Dorr, George F.
 Draper, W. S.
 Dudley, James H.
 Dunn, E. S.
 Dwelle, George B. 35 Reg.

Emerson, Warren A. 13 Reg.
 Emerson, Warren F. 44 Reg.
 Emmons, S. B.
 Evans, Jacob H.
 Evans, James F.

Fairbanks, J. W.
 Fales, Thomas F.

Farmer, Nath.
 Farnsworth, Oel.
 Farrar, Daniel.
 Farwell, Cyrus.
 Farwell, Edwin A.
 Farwell, George.
 Farwell, Isaac.
 Farwell, Jacob.
 Farwell, Peter.
 Fessenden, Samuel G.
 Field, F.
 Field, George H. 35 Reg.
 Fillebrown, George E. 44 Reg.
 Finnegan, Patrick.
 Fisher, George A.
 Fisher, Henry N. 35 Reg.
 Fiske, E. W.
 Flanery, Lawrence. 35 Reg.
 Floyd, Albert.
 Foster, L. S.
 Foster, M. S.
 French, Daniel.
 Frost, Charles I. 1 Cav.
 Frost, George W.
 Frye, Charles G.

Gallupe, E. A.
 Gerould, L. P.
 Gerry, James H.
 Gibbens, Edwin A.
 Gibbs, Francis F. 44 Reg.
 Gibbs, J. Mellens. 44 ,,
 Gibbs, William.
 Gibbs, William, jun.
 Gilbert, John.
 Gilman, E. C.
 Gilson, J. F.
 Glenn, Robert. 1 Cav.
 Gooding, C. W.
 Gooding, I. B.
 Goodridge, Henry C.
 Gorham, Thomas.
 Gove, John R.
 Gragg, Charles C.
 Gragg, C. O.

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 Greene, Leonard.
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 Harrington, Charles.
 Harrington, Charles P.
 Harrington, George B.
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 Hartwell, Alonzo.
 Hartwell, D. R.
 Hartwell, Henry W. 44 Reg.
 Hastings, George.
 Hastings, William.
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 Hill, Edward L. 44 Reg.
 Hobbs, William.
 Holt, C.
 Houghton, G. W.
 Houghton, Solomon.

Howard, H. W. 38 Reg.
 Howard, W. S.
 Howe, E. L.
 Hoyt, Andrew J.
 Hull, William H.
 Hunt, G. S. jun.
 Hunter, George.
 Hutchinson, Evelyn M.

Irish, Cornelius.

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 Jennison, S.
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 Johnson, Edwin A.
 Johnson, E. P.
 Johnson, Robert.
 Johnson, R. S.
 Jones, John R.
 Jones, Joseph.
 Joyce, Alfred.

Kahart, Elbridge.
 Kahart, W. H.
 Keith, Wm. H.
 Kelly, Jeremiah. 19 Reg.
 Kendall, C. W.
 Kendall, Hy. H. 44 Reg.
 Kimball, D. A.
 Kirk, Thomas. 16 Reg.
 Knowlton, Charles.

Lane, Emory W.
 Lawrence, Edward.
 Lawton, George.
 Lawton, L. W.
 Lawton, M. A.
 Learned, T. W. B.
 Leavitt, J. E.
 Lee, C. H.
 Lewis, Charles H.

Lincoln, I. P.
 Locke, H. B.
 Locke, Samuel.
 Locke, Samuel E.
 Lovell, Thomas A.
 Lowell, Francis C.
 Lowell, Frederick.
 Lucas, E.

Magennis, Lawrence S.
 Mann, Elias. 38 Reg.
 Marsh, D.
 Mason, Charles E.
 Mason, John A.
 Maynard, C. J.
 Maynard, Warren.
 Maynard, Micah.
 Millar, John L.
 Millar, Leslie. 44 Reg.
 Millar, Wm. R.
 Millard, E. R.
 Miller, George, jun.
 Mitchell, J. W.
 Moore, Arad.
 Moore, D. B.
 Moore, I.
 Moore, Wm. S.
 Moorhouse, Thomas.
 Moseley, C. S.
 Murray, Leonidas.

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 Newhall, C.
 Newhall, Charles.
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 Noyes, Wm. P.

O'Brien, Patrick. 1 Cav.
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 Oleott, John H.
 Owen, E. H.

Papineau, Aug.
 Parker, M. D.

Parmenter, Eli M.
 Parmenter, J. W.
 Parmenter, Samuel W.
 Parmenter, Wm. B.
 Parmenter, Zenas.
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 Perry, Samuel.
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 Pope, Wm. C.
 Potter, Edwin A.
 Powars, John E.
 Powers, L. A.
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 Pratt, Wm. A.
 Priest, Granvill.
 Pyaw, M. P.

Qualters, Lawrence. 35 Reg.

Rand, Nahum.
 Randall, David.
 Richards, Walcott.
 Richardson, Charles E.
 Richardson, C. F.
 Riddell, Hy. W. 1 Cav.
 Robbins, R. E.
 Robbins, F. N.
 Roberts, John.
 Roberts, Wm. Engr. U S. Navy.
 Robinson, James F.
 Robinson, N. S.
 Robinson, Wm. II. 16 Reg.
 Rogers, Charles W.
 Russell, L. B.
 Rutter, Josiah.
 Ryan, G. W. 32 Reg.
 Ryan, Hy. J.
 Sanderson, Elijah.

- Sanderson, Nathan.
 Sanderson, Nathan, jun.
 Sawin, Michael.
 Sawyer, H. C.
 Seaman, W. G.
 Scott, I. R.
 Sherman, Hiram G. 35 Reg.
 Sherman, John M. 44 ,,
 Sherman, Newell.
 Shepard, I. T.
 Silver, I. W.
 Simonds, Wm.
 Skillings, J. H., jun.
 Smith, Alvarez.
 Smith, Charles C.
 Smith, Charles F.
 Smith, Edward P. 44 Reg.
 Smith, Elijah H.
 Smith, F. C.
 Smith, F. E.
 Smith, Joel.
 Smith, Lewis.
 Smith, Luke.
 Smith, Marshall.
 Smith, L. P.
 Smith, N. J.
 Spring, Geo. W. 35 Reg.
 Stanley, B. P.
 Starbuck, Alexander.
 Stearns, Watson.
 Stearns, W. A. 16 Reg.
 Stickney, Edward.
 Stickney, Geo. A. 35 Reg.
 Stickney, Rufus.
 Stone, F. M.
 Stratton, Thos. D.
 Sutton, David.

 Taylor, Geo. D.
 Teadley, Daniel. 19 Reg.
 Teel, Thomas.
 Tewksbury, G. M.
 Thayer, John G. Capt. 1 Cav.
 Thayer, Charles H.
 Thomas, C. A.

 Thomas, Hiram. 35 Reg.
 Thomas, Martin.
 Thompson, Geo. M.
 Thompson, W. R.
 Thompson, Thos. W. 35 Reg.
 Thurston, Richard B.
 Tinker, Law.
 Titcomb, Wm. W.
 Townsend, Augustus.
 Treat, Samuel T.
 Tucker, A.
 Tweed, John H.
 Twing, A.

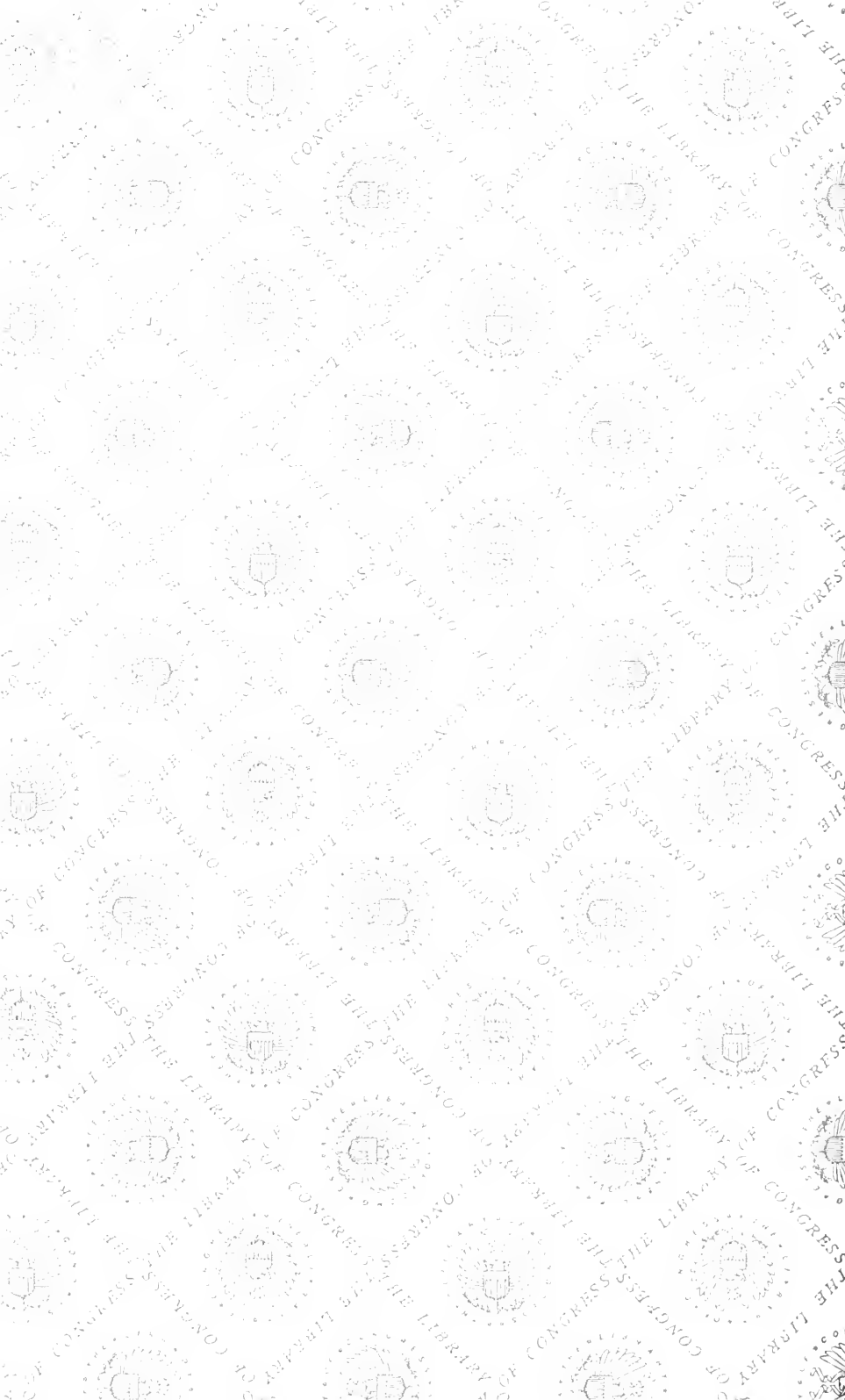
 Upham, Samuel O.

 Vander Woerd, Charles.
 Viles, George.
 Viles, John. 13 Reg.
 Viles, Nathan.
 Viles, N. R.

 Waldron, D. S.
 Walker, A. H.
 Ward, George B.
 Warren, Andrew.
 Warren, George W.
 Warren, H. F.
 Warren, Isaac.
 Warren, R. S. M D.
 Warren, S. D.
 Waters, Henry S.
 Webb, Alden.
 Webster, Ambrose.
 Wellington, Fred. D. 16 Reg.
 Wellington, Nathan W. 35 ,,
 Wellington, John M. 44 ,,
 Wellington, Seth.
 Wellington, Sullivan.
 Wellington, Theodore.
 Wellington, Thomas L.
 Wellington, W. W.
 Wentworth, B. W.
 Wetherbee, Josiah.
 Wheeler, E. B. 35 Reg.

Wheeler, Charles M. 35 Reg.	Wills, W. R. 16 Reg.
Whitcomb, Horace G. 1 Cav.	Wing, L. C.
White, Stillman.	Winslow, Zenas.
Whitney, John H. 35 Reg.	Worcester, Benjamin.
Whitney, Joseph.	Worcester, E.
Whitney, L. Henry.	Wright, Henry E. 16 Reg.
Willis, J. W.	Wright, Lyman. 16 Reg.
Willis, R. P.	

As the Committee did not employ a special agent to present the Union League to every citizen of Waltham, they have reason to believe, that thereby a large number disposed to join have failed to become members. It is hoped that every loyal man will yet come forward, and enroll his name.





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