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of personal application. He was also exceedingly generous and charitable, giving with a free hand and without ostentation. His character was one that was easily understood, and, when understood, it won respect. With all his oddities and eccentricities, he was, in the best sense of the word, a MAN useful to himself, beneficial to his native city, and conferring honor upon mankind by the constant exercise of qualities which add dignity to human nature.

Respect to the Dead.—Last evening, a town-meeting was held in the Supreme Court Room, in respect to the memory of John Price Wetherill, whose death is so much lamented by all classes of the community. The meeting was called to order by Samuel H. Perkins, Esq., who nominated as Chairman, Charles Gilpin, Mayor of the city, and for Vice Presidents, Samuel Break, Jos. M. Thomas, James Page, Morton McMichael, Lawrence Lewis, Pierce Butler, Samuel W. Wever, Thomas B. Florence, Thomas Snowden, Isaac Elliott, James Magee, Samuel Allen, Wm. J. Leiper, C. F. Jones, John B. Myers, James M. Cooper, H. Campbell, Wm. Badger, John Robbins, Jr., George W. Parr, and W. H. Witte; Secretaries—B. E. Smith, J. G. Brenner, Robert Donnell, George H. Martin, and J. E. Eldridge.

Mayor Gilpin, upon taking his seat, made the following remarks:—
Fellow-Citizens:—About a fortnight since, we assembled here in general town meeting, to pay respect to the living; the President of the United States was expected. John Price Wetherill was amongst us and with us.

We are now again assembled in general town meeting—assembled to pay respect to the dead. There is a vacant place; that old familiar face is missed; John Price Wetherill is not amongst us; he is no more. We, his fellow-citizens and friends—professional, mechanical, commercial, laboring men—are here to pay respect to his memory—to do him reverence now.

In hopeful youth and lusty manhood, we hardly miss from the ever-active and agitated crowd those who sat around us; but when we feel and know that we are getting into the sere and yellow leaf, the death of each friend—he was our friend—the friend of all of us—leaves a gaping wound, an aching void, which time cannot heal or fill—the only hope left is blissful reunion in eternity.

“Passing away” is written on the remnant of his age and generation; the still contracting circle opens day by day, as one by one we drop, like leaves in wintry weather, into the silent, inexorable grave!

You all knew John Price Wetherill. I knew him right well. To know him was to love him. Tomorrow's setting sun will gild, on the banks of the beautiful Schuylkill, a new-made grave—the memory of its occupant will be illustrated by the parting regrets, and embalmed in the grateful hearts, of his fellow-citizens.

It is for you to say what further respect is due to his memory.

Mr. Isaac E. Elliott submitted the annexed resolution:—
Whereas, our esteemed, respected and beloved fellow-citizen, John Price Wetherill, has been suddenly and unexpectedly called from among us, and whereas, it is becoming a community like this to recognize, in some formal manner and by some appropriate expression of feeling and sentiment, the merits, the services and the worth of one, who, for more than a quarter of a century, devoted his time, his talents and his fortune to the prosperity of the city of Philadelphia, therefore,

Resolved, That we have heard with the deepest regret of the death of John Price Wetherill, a citizen of undoubted integrity, unsullied character, unbounded generosity and noble public spirit, one who was able an honor to his country and to his human nature.

Resolved, That we remember with grateful and kindly feelings, his many acts of individual benevolence and patriotism—acts that served to cheer and brighten the homes and hearts of the desolate and needy, and to infuse energy and zeal into the bosoms of his fellow-citizens.

Resolved, That we consider his death a public loss; a loss not only to the poor and the afflicted, who were assisted by his generosity, but to the community of Philadelphia, of which he was a cherished and an influential member.

Resolved, That the sympathies of this meeting be, and they are, hereby, tendered to his bereaved family, to whom a copy of these proceedings, duly signed by the officers, shall be transmitted by the Secretary.

Resolved, That we will attend the funeral of our deceased friend and brother, and thus pay a fitting tribute to his memory and character.

Morton McMichael seconded the resolution. In doing so, Mr. M. spoke quite feelingly in reference to the deceased, whom, he stated, he had associated with by day and by night in a round of public festivities upon the occasion of the late visit of the President of the United States to this city. That during the silent watches of the night in the same chamber in a neighboring city, they had conversed freely about the events of the day, and those which were to be participated in during the morrow, and that while engaged in those then pleasant reflections, he repeatedly inquired after Mr. McMichael's health, knowing that he was somewhat indisposed, and gave him such advice in relation to it as evinced the greatest anxiety for his welfare. Then, the speaker never thought for a moment, that John Price Wetherill would so soon be called to his final account. Mr. McMichael further spoke eloquently of him as a citizen, as a man of business, and one of the authorities of the city.

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

Mr. Joseph M. Thomas then submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed by the Chairman to determine on and carry out such further measures as they may deem proper, in honor of the memory of the deceased.

Mr. Charles Brown, Col. Thomas B. Florence and Col. Page, further spoke of the deceased and the great loss the city has sustained by the death of Col. Wetherill. Col. Page suggested that a monument should be raised to his memory, with the simple epitaph, “An honest man's noblest work is God.”

The meeting then adjourned.

in business matters, that energy, firmness and resolution were all that were necessary to vanquish the most formidable obstacles, and, without making due allowance for the difference between public and private affairs, he believed that the same qualities would produce like results upon general interests. At times he was precisely right; at times he was undoubtedly wrong. There are many influences and interests which bear upon public affairs, against which the citizen in the business of life does not have to contend.

In the course of his public career Mr. Wetherill made some mistakes, and, as his influence was strong in Councils, they were generally of a serious character, though usually but temporary in their effects. The greatest error of his career was that in reference to the District Water Works. The City Councils, years ago, when corporate rights were much more liberally construed than now, bought from the Schuylkill Navigation Company the right to use the water of the Schuylkill for the supply of Philadelphia. The works which were erected furnished the City Proper, and as new districts were created, the pipes were extended into them. It was a source of just complaint, that higher water rents were charged to the inhabitants of those districts than were paid by the citizens of Philadelphia. Mr. Wetherill, as Chairman of the Watering Committee, resisted a reduction. Finally, in 1843, an act was passed by the Legislature, authorizing the incorporated districts to erect water works of their own. A proviso to this act directed that if the city corporation should, in a specified time, reduce the water rents of the districts to the same rates as those paid by the citizens of Philadelphia, the act should not go into effect. Here was a fair opportunity for the City Councils to preserve a lucrative source of revenue, and to protect their own claims. The influence of Mr. Wetherill was strongly urged against the compromise. He believed that the city had the whole right to the water of the Schuylkill, which had been bought and paid for. He did not think that the Legislature had authority to pass a law violating a solemn contract. He advocated a rejection of the terms of the proviso. He was most urgent in sustaining his views, and under his influence, most especially, the members of Council resolved to maintain the unequal water rents which were demanded of the districts. This was a most serious mistake, as the sequel proved. The districts resolved to erect water works. The city endeavored to restrain them by law, relying upon their contract. Then did the Supreme Court pronounce that most important principle so consonant to reason and equal rights, that the rivers of the State were great highways, over which all citizens had a right to pass—the waters were God's free gift for drink, for the uses of cleanliness, and for domestic purposes—and that no law could deprive citizens of these rights, and grant them in monopoly to any persons. This decision was a fatal blow to the city of Philadelphia. Thousands of dollars of annual revenue from the district water rents were swept away at once. The city treasury was impoverished, the city's means were straitened, and injury resulted, in many ways, to the corporation. All these misfortunes might have been avoided if the compromise, suggested by the Legislative proviso, had been accepted, and the failure to do so has been a serious injury to Philadelphia in many respects.

The errors of a Man's life should be regretted—his virtues commended. None who knew John Price Wetherill could fail to be impressed by his singleness of purpose and sincerity of intention. He was free from every deceit, open and honest as the day, and true to his word and to his friends. His likes and his dislikes were un concealed. He cared not for the consequences, so that he was not misunderstood; and he never hesitated at revealing his soul wherever it was necessary to show his feelings and motives. In all that he did in public life, there was this constant truth: that what he did wrongly was as honestly supposed to be beneficial as that which he did rightly.

In private life, Mr. Wetherill was a good citizen. In his business relations, he dignified labor by constant toil. The possessor of a very large estate, calculated to be worth eight hundred thousand dollars, he did not think that the possession of so much wealth released him from the necessity

The “City Father.”

The death of John Price Wetherill, late President of the Select Council of Philadelphia, has excited much more feeling than would have been anticipated during his lifetime. There was about him such an utter disregard of the supposed opinion of the world in matters of etiquette and ceremony, such an independent exercise of personal freedom in everything to which his eccentricities incited him, that it would scarcely be supposed that one who seemed to set at defiance the conventionalisms of life would have secured a strong hold on the respect and esteem of those to whose opinions he paid so little attention. But these very qualities were calculated to gain him admirers. In the disregard of mere fashionable dictation he showed an honest and sincere truthfulness, and the possession of that spirit which prefers an indulgence in individual taste to a forced deference to the opinions of others. There was no sham about John Price Wetherill—no deception by which he sought to conceal his real feelings in order to gain the good will of others. What he thought, he said; and what he said, he did. He acted out in the fullest manner his own particular views, without reference to the actions of others, and justified himself by the approval of his own conscience.

Some men obtain their mental and personal peculiarities by inheritance, and some form them in consequence of the opinions which they imbibed in early life. Perhaps Mr. Wetherill was the heir of ancestral peculiarities. At a time when personal independence was most needed, and when the force of example and even of menace was used to effect particular ends, the ancestors of John Price Wetherill took a stand which few of his religious faith dared to take. Born and educated in the strictest tenets of the Society of Friends, Samuel Wetherill, Jr., and some others, during the American Revolution, dared to take the side of the colonies and to counsel resistance against the tyranny of the mother country. Their offence was doubly grievous to the Orthodox. The Quakers were well-wishers of, and in some cases the abettors of, British supremacy. The course of Wetherill was not only in opposition to those desires, but it was also in violation of the non-resistant principles which the society professed. There was but one course, and that was to disown the discontented members who sympathized with their own countrymen. Expelled from the Society of Friends for these causes, Samuel Wetherill, Jr., and his friends, were faithful adherents of America, and, at the close of the war, they found themselves severed from their brethren, and without the soothing influences of religious communion. On the 27th of May, 1781, the Free Friends published a statement of their case and of the principles which had actuated them. Renounced by their old associates, they formed a new society, and the generous contributions of citizens secured them the meeting-house at the southwest corner of Fifth and Arch streets. From this independent stock John Price Wetherill was descended, and the principles of his ancestor seem to have actuated him in the prominent features of his character.

In the City Councils, John Price Wetherill was the leading spirit for the last twenty years. He won the respect of his colleagues by the honesty of his purpose and the unceasing nature of his industry. No man was more thoroughly devoted to the interests of the city, and no one was more willing to use every personal endeavor which would contribute to that end. He was no parlor councilman. His habits and mode of thinking were all opposed to dignified display and empty ceremony. He was one whose highest ambition was to work. In committee or in Council, wherever he was placed in discharge of his duty, faithfulness, assiduity and attention, were his characteristics. Feeling the most enthusiastic desire to accomplish everything thoroughly, he at times placed too much reliance upon his own ideas, and was led to disregard those of others. This was the greatest defect in his character. He was honest, constant, laborious and vigilant, but he was obstinate. What he thought was right, he ever maintained; and he rarely changed a position which was once taken. It was not that he despised the views of others, or that he had any personal feeling for them but profound esteem, but he was led to place too great reliance upon what he considered to be experience. He knew by his own tests