

# A STANCH FOE OF SLAVERY

## DEATH OF JANE GREY SWISSHELM, THE PHILANTHROPIST.

A NOBLE WOMAN'S LIFE WORK—HER APPEALS IN BEHALF OF THE NEGRO LABORER AND THE WHITE WIFE.

Mrs. Jane Grey Swisshelm, the philanthropist and journalist, whose name has been prominent before the people of this country for nearly 40 years, died at her residence in Sewickley, Penn., yesterday, at the age of 68. She had been gradually sinking for some time, and her death was no surprise to her daughter, who watched reverently by her bedside. On Sunday she fell into a stupor, from which she never recovered. Mrs. Swisshelm did a great work for humanity by her earnest writings, especially in behalf of her own sex, while her powerful appeals in defense of human liberty, and attacks upon slavery in the days of its existence in the South, did a great deal toward arousing that abolition spirit in the North which finally resulted in stamping out the institution. During the later years of her useful life she was greatly respected and revered by her friends and neighbors, and enjoyed to the fullest extent the reward which comes from the consciousness of work well and honestly performed.

Mrs. Swisshelm was born in Wilkesburg, Penn., in 1816, and passed the first few years of her life quietly at her home, unknown to the world, and giving no signs of the prominent position she was to hold before men in the near future. In 1838, at the age of 22, she paid a visit to Louisville, Ky., and there for the first time observed the system of human slavery in its practical workings. The gentle-minded woman had conceived a hatred for the institution in childhood, from accounts which she had read and recitals which she had heard, but when brought face to face with the reality she was horrified, and determined at once to do whatever she could to put an end to the terrible crime against humanity. It was several years before her opportunity to do effective work came, and in the meantime a new field was opened before her by her own domestic troubles. She was married quite early in life to a man who proved to be a tyrant, who exercised his power under the authority given by law to a husband, and her life with him was a most bitter experience. At the death of her aged mother, after a long illness, during which Mrs. Swisshelm had watched with her ceaselessly, and tended to her wants carefully, the husband was enraged because the mother had left her little property to the daughter instead of to him. He demanded that his wife should transfer it to him, and when she indignantly refused he threatened, as Mrs. Swisshelm afterward expressed in her own autobiography, that "being the owner of my person and services, he had a right to the time spent in nursing mother, and he would file his claim against her Executors." This brutal threat opened Mrs. Swisshelm's eyes to the miserable condition of women before the law, and from this time she had for an object in life the abolition not only of negro but of woman slavery.

She began her appeals for freedom through the press in 1844 with contributions to the *Spirit of Liberty* and the *Commercial Journal*, publishing in the latter paper a series of letters on the right of a married woman to hold property. In the *Spirit of Liberty* she appealed earnestly and ably for the freedom of the negro slave and of the white wife. Her articles were copied far and wide, and she sprang at once into an honorable fame. In January, 1845, she began the publication of the *Pittsburg Saturday Visitor*, taking complete editorial charge of it and sending it forth each week fairly ringing with passionate arguments for liberty. The *Visitor* was successful from the beginning, and in 1850 its editor had gained such a reputation that Horace Greeley secured her as a correspondent to write letters to the *Tribune* from Washington. She was the first woman who had ever been regularly engaged in this business, and she opened the way for woman reporters by inducing President Fillmore to open the reporters' galleries in Congress for her. Meantime she did not neglect her *Pittsburg* paper. This was merged in 1852 into the *Family Journal and Visitor*, of which she became associate editor, and retained this position until 1857, when she resigned and moved to Minnesota, intending to retire to private life. She was induced, however, to take charge of the *St. Cloud Visitor* in January, 1858, and in the July of that year she assumed control of the *St. Cloud Democrat*. The anti-slavery agitation, which was soon to result in secession and the war, was then at its height in Minnesota, and Mrs. Swisshelm's vigorous editorials came very near making a sacrifice of her at the hands of a mob at one time. She was not a woman to be frightened, however, and she continued the fight until Jan. 2, 1862, when she resigned her position and went to Washington, where she engaged in hospital work until the war closed. Since then she had lived quietly in *Pittsburg*.

Mrs. Swisshelm, in addition to her journalistic work, published an autobiography, under the title of "Half a Century," which is a vivid history of the stirring times preceding and during the war of the rebellion. Her "Letters to Country Girls," which she began publishing in 1849, were also collected in book form and issued in 1853.

### GEN. A. H. REYNOLDS.

Gen. Anthony H. Reynolds, who died at his residence in Philadelphia on Monday, after a brief illness, was a veteran soldier of distinction. He served with great credit in the Mexican war and also in the war of the rebellion. He was President of the Scott Legion, and Marshal of the National Association of Veterans of the Mexican War. Anthony H. Reynolds was born in Ireland in 1826 and came to this country when a child. His parents settled in Pennsylvania, and when the Mexican war opened young Reynolds was a resident of Philadelphia. He was eager to become a soldier, and with a number of friends he went over to New-Jersey and enlisted as a private in the New-Jersey battalion. His bravery in active service won rapid promotion for him, and before the close of the war he was breveted Major. He was then but 22 years old.

When the first gun fired on Sumter Major Reynolds was engaged in trade in Philadelphia. He hastily settled up his business and went to the front as a Captain in the famous Scott Legion, then commanded by Col. Gray. After serving three months with the legion he organized the Sixty-eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, and was made its Colonel. He enlisted for three years, and he was one of the heroes of Gettysburg. In the several engagements of that protracted fight all of the commanding officers of the brigade in which his regiment was placed were killed, and he assumed command at a critical period. For meritorious services on that occasion he was promoted and breveted Brigadier-General. After the close of the war Gen. Reynolds retired to private life in Philadelphia. He became quite popular with his fellow-citizens, and was once nominated for Congressman by the Democrats of the Twenty-sixth District, but he declined to run.

Gen. Reynolds was a prominent Odd Fellow, and was also a Freemason and a member of the order of the Knights of Pythias. He was a member of the cloth firm of Biddie & Co.

### THE REV. JOHN A. LANSING.

The Rev. John A. Lansing, of Brooklyn, died yesterday in Lisha's Kill, Albany County, in the sixtieth year of his age. Mr. Lansing was born in the place where he died. His father was Abram A. Lansing, a pioneer farmer of Albany County, who reared a large family. John Lansing was graduated from Union College at the age of 26 years. He at once accepted a call to the Dutch Reformed church in Dey, Saratoga County, where he preached for several years, and then became the Pastor of the Reformed church in Bethlehem, in the township of Adamsville, where he remained nine years. His next call was to the Reformed church in Catskill, where he preached for nearly a decade. He was then appointed Secretary of the Board of Publication of the Dutch Reformed Church in this city, and he took up his residence in Brooklyn. For the last few years he had been preaching as a supply in different churches of his own denomination in this State. He visited his brother at the old homestead in Lisha's Kill this Summer, where he died of consumption. His health had been failing for several months. He leaves a widow and a son and daughter. Funeral services will be held in Lisha's Kill on Friday, and the remains will be interred in the Albany Rural Cemetery.