

and sacrifices, the mourning and death daily being endured for that flag and under it, nothing would be more likely to provoke a breach of the Peace than to witness any demonstration towards it savouring even of indignity or insult, and its Military Guardians suffering it to pass without rebuke.

I regret, Gentlemen, that for such reasons as you have indicated or indeed for any reasons, the condition of things to which you so feelingly refer should now exist in your Church; that your "People are scattered," that your "Large and flourishing Sabbath Schools can not meet" and that your "Children go without that religious Sabbath training so beneficial and so important to the rising generation." But who is responsible for this state of things? Surely Civil. Schenk has issued no Interdict calculated to scatter either your School or Congregation. If when on the morning of the 8th of Feby. some of your Congregation manifested their disgust at sight of the flag, or as you have expressed it, "may have objected to it" and upon their Conduct taken as the expression of the Congregation, Major Fish predicated his first order; you, or the official members of your Society representing the Congregation had rebuked the conduct of the few who manifested this contempt, and had disclaimed all intention to offer insult or offence to our Government or the flag that represents it, I feel authorized to say that the order you deem so obnoxious, would have been immediately revoked.

But instead of that your official members convened in consequence of the order, after reciting its purport, resolve "that by reason of such order and interference we decline any longer to occupy the New Assembly Rooms" thereby authorizing the inference that instead of repudiating the course of the few objecting members, you approved and adopted it as a Congregational right and determined to abandon your Church services and Sunday School at that place as long as the flag was there displayed.

As a matter of course, after this official action, when you selected another Concert Room the flag was ordered to follow you. To have done otherwise would have been but to suffer an easy evasion of the order and contempt of the Authority that issued it.

Even now, I will venture to say, notwithstanding the past action of your official members, if they will still rebuke the expression of contempt referred to, and disclaim all hostility to the Government or the flag, your Congregation and Schools may again come together and enjoy all the advantages they ever did.

If you ~~would~~ refuse this and will not tolerate the presence of the flag, but rather than either choose to suffer your people to be scattered and your children to go without religious instruction, an intelligent Community especially jealous of all its religious rights but still perfectly understanding the principles on which they rest, will be able to determine where lies the fault.

I am very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.

A. W. Bradford