

And the said States are a Sovereign and independent Nations, and ought not to be subject to any foreign jurisdiction."

In a word Sir, we hold it to be our supreme duty and right as a Church, to maintain and propagate all Christian truth and to oppose, by purity of life, and by the pure preaching of the Gospel, all error in doctrine or practice. And in so far as the State is concerned, we declare ourselves "subject to the higher powers," believing that "the powers that be are ordained of God." And now Sir, bear with us, while in as few words as may be we re-state in entire conformity with all the foregoing principles and facts, the subject of our complaint.

It is not the United States flag, abstractly considered, that we object. "We live under that flag. We are governed by the Constitution and laws which that flag represents. We honor it as the symbol of those great principles, which our Fathers secured to us by sacrifices of which it is also the memorial. We mourn Sir, that that honored emblem should be tarnished by perversions to any use at war with all the principles which it represents, and render to that extent, utterly vain all the sacrifices which it brings to memory.

The order of Major Fish, grounded upon "disgust" said to have been excited by the display of the flag - certainly, (we trust unintentionally) misrepresented our Congregation. We said in our letter to Genl. Schenck of February 14th - that a few "may have objected." Does this mean "disgust?"

They may have objected to it as inappropriate to the worship of God, a service in which we lay aside for the time, the relations of Earth, and give expression only to our sense of our relation to the Most High. Or they may have objected, because such display was in violation of the contract with the Janitor; to remove all worldly decorations.

Or they may have objected as we do now - because they supposed it was done under an order which singled out us from all the worshippers of this land to be put, as such, under the control of the Military power, and forbidden to engage in such worship, except upon conditions and under circumstances ordained by that power.

Nor ought we be held responsible for the "few" who "may have objected," they not being members of our organization so far as we know. And when by the explanation of the Janitor of the building it was made manifest that such was not the case, no word of complaint was heard. There was an hour of quiet worship and the throng of worshippers then quietly returned to their homes without one word or look of "disgust."

This too was the case at the Evening Service. We dare aver that less dissatisfaction, or more entire respect for the flag could not, nor would have been exhibited by any other Congregation in the City.

We dare aver that less dissatisfaction, or more entire respect for the flag could not, nor would have been exhibited by any other Congregation in the City. Nor was it "in consequence of the order," that our official body was convened, on Tuesday night following; that was the regular weekly meeting of the body. And there, (not by way of endorsing that "disgust" to which Major Fish's order - at that meeting first received, referred - for we knew then, and know now, of no such expressions of feeling - but solely because we held the simple Worship of God too pure and sacred a thing to be brought under the dictation and control of any human power, so long as nothing therein conflicted with the good order, peace and safety of the State, we declined any longer to occupy the New Assembly Rooms.