

I am glad to hear you say that you still reverence that flag as you do that you honor it as the symbol of those great principles which our "Fathers secured to us" - Under the influence of such feelings I may hope still to hear you, as I suggested in my last letter, rebuke those who insulted it and disavow all hostility to it or the Government it represents -

It is painful to remember how that "honored emblem" has been desecrated within the last two years by Southern Mobs, as they dragged it at their "Horses heels or trampled it under foot, but whilst the remembrance of these proceedings renders it all the more incumbent upon us to promptly screen it from even implied dishonor, I can hardly hope that these are the occurrences to which you refer, when you say you mourn over the perversions which have tarnished it.

In endeavoring to show as you do in your last letter that there was no such expression of disgust on the part of any of your congregation as was imputed to them by Major Fish, you will pardon me for saying that I think you have hardly met the question with that frankness to be expected of you - You say "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" or they may have objected to it because such display was in violation of the Contract with the Janitor to remove all worldly decorations" - Now let me ask you as truthful & candid men, do you believe that they did object on any such grounds? Was it really, in your opinion, their pure and spiritual ideas of the proper adornments or appearances of the Sanctuary that gave rise to their objections? A Portrait or a Fancy painting, a Kettle drum or a Bass viol are each and all of them about as much of a "worldly decoration" and have quite as much "relation to Earth" and as little "relation to the Most High" as the American Ensign, but do you really think that if the Janitor had by chance left in view any such appliances of the Assembly of the previous night, that the men who left the Room or refused to enter it whilst the flag was there, would have manifested the same holy horror of such worldly mementoes, and refused to worship until they were removed? - If such is your opinion you are of course right in suggesting the possible explanations you do -

Equally imaginative as it seems to me, are the monstrous evils you predict as likely to result from the unhallowed proceedings of General Schenck, and by reason of which you tell us, that "the efforts and endurance of a generation will hardly suffice to restore to us our birth right of religious liberty" - It seems to me almost impossible to conceive how the most exuberant fancy can upon such a ground-work conjure up so alarming a picture; and how it is that though the General had covered all the walls of the Assembly Room with the National Ensign, that would lead us to expect him in the next place to "suppress the Liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church and take away the Insignia of the Roman Catholic Service" - That you should dwell as you do upon such unfounded and fanciful evils, and regard them with such engrossing and ominous forebodings in times like these when the whole Nation is groaning under the calamities which this unrighteous Rebellion has brought upon us,