

## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS.

WASHINGTON, April 10. — Hon. George C. Gorham, custodian of the private papers of Secretary Stanton, and engaged on his biography, has written an open letter to Senator Sherman, dealing with the striking portions of the Senator's recent address, and embodying sundry important historical documents not before published. After repeating the reference Sherman made to the terms of surrender made by General Sherman, in accordance with Lincoln's policy, for the forces of General Joseph Johnston and other commanders at the close of the war, Gorham said: "You would have it understood that General Sherman was set upon and insulted and his arrangements set aside by President Johnson and Secretary Stanton in a mean and narrow spirit of revenge, and that General Grant interposed and the two generals agreed on new terms and ended the war. Whatever Lincoln's policy, none knew better than you that he never usurped the powers of Congress, or allowed a military subordinate to guide him. By an authorized agreement made under the supervision of Jefferson Davis and his cabinet, a fortnight before the Sherman-Johnston negotiations, Lincoln directed Grant to have no conference with Lee, unless for an arrangement for Lee's capitulation or on purely military matters. This is proof that Lincoln would have DISAPPROVED SHERMAN'S ARRANGEMENT."

General Sherman, after receiving the government's disapproval of his terms, said: "I admit my folly in embracing in a military convention civil matters." Your reference to Grant coming to Sherman's relief would lead to the supposition that Grant had approved the agreement. On the contrary, he condemned it before it was submitted to the President or Secretary Stanton."

Gorham quotes a letter from Grant to Stanton, in which the former advises the receipt of Sherman's dispatches, and requests a cabinet council at once, as they are of such importance. In a note to Sherman, Grant advises him of the disapproval by the President of the negotiations, except for the surrender of Johnston's army, and orders a termination of the armistice and a resumption of hostilities. Grant joined Sherman, and Sherman gave notice of the resumption of hostilities. Johnston thereupon surrendered on the terms accorded to Lee by Grant. As a matter of prudence and necessity, Stanton telegraphed to General Dix in New York to publish the same with a copy of the Sherman-Johnston agreement, and its disapproval by the government, to which were appended the reasons for its disapproval, which were that Sherman had exercised authority not vested in him, and had made a practical acknowledgment of the rebel government.

## THE AGREEMENT

undertook to re-establish the State government and placed arms and munitions of war in the hands of the rebels which might be used to subdue the loyal States, and by a restoration of rebel authority enable the re-establishment of slavery. It would permit the federal government to pay the rebel debts and subject the loyal citizens of

rebel States to those debts. It would put in dispute the existence of the government of the loyal States and the new State of West Virginia. It would abolish the confiscation laws and relieve the rebels of the penalties of their crimes. It gave terms repeatedly rejected by Lincoln and better terms than the rebels had ever asked, and formed no basis for a true, and lasting peace. Gorham says that the publication of the disapproval had to be made, to prevent a serious and perhaps dangerous discontent. But no one will question the good intentions of General Sherman in making the agreement.

## IN CONCLUSION,

Gorham quotes one more authority, supporting Stanton and condemning Sherman—no less than a letter written by John Sherman from Cleveland on April 27, 1865, to Secretary of War Stanton, saying that he was distressed beyond measure at the terms granted and that they were inadmissible. Yet he felt that gross injustice was done to General Sherman, who, at the worst, had granted the rebels too liberal terms, but the same could be said of Lincoln and Grant in the Lee arrangement. Sherman had not understood the political bearing of the agreement, but looked upon the contest from a simple military view. Sherman asserted his willingness, being so troubled about the matter, to go to Washington or anywhere else, where he could render the least service. In closing, he said: "I do not wish General Sherman unjustly dealt with, and know that you will not permit it. Especially I do not want him driven into fellowship with the copperheads."

In commenting upon the letter, Gorham says he cannot find any reference to the insult with which it is now asserted Johnston and Stanton rejected Sherman's terms. He honored and admired Sherman, and also Stanton, and, being his biographer, he could not remain silent, when one of Stanton's greatest and wisest acts was misstated to show that Sherman was right when he (Senator Sherman) admitted that he was wrong.

## SUPERSTITIONS DIE HARD.

A superstition is the hardest thing in the world to kill. You may bray it in a mortar or grind it between the upper and nether mill stones, but it comes out the same old superstition. In Germany that old, mendacious superstition that caused so much bloodshed in the middle ages has come up briskly once more. At Xanten, a Jewish butcher was recently put on trial for killing a Christian child to serve as a Jewish sacrifice. He was acquitted; that goes without saying. But the anti-Semitic journals are using the case to whip up popular indignation against the Hebrew race.

But the age of superstition is interesting.

The Romans—as Dr. Blimber would say—used it as a campaign lie in Judaea, and the slander has followed the race in to all parts of the earth. It gave birth to the old ballad "Hugh of Lincoln." In 1255 the Jews of Lincoln were accused of stealing a little boy named Hugh, whom they

tortured for ten days and then crucified. Eighteen of the richest Jews in town were hanged, and the little boy Hugh was buried with great pomp. Then a man wrote the ferocious ballad:

It rains, it rains in merry Scotland,  
It rains both great and small,  
And all the boys in merry Scotland  
Must needs go play at ball.

You shall hear small lads over sea sing that today, marching about in a sort of "ring-round-the-roses" game.

Then the ferocious ballad goes on to tell how one of the children accidentally threw the ball into the Jew's garden, "where the Jews all sat in a row." One of the Jew's daughters, "a-dressed all in green," tempted the lad into the garden by means of "an apple red as any blood and a gay gold ring." This is what happened, according to little Hugh:

They set me in a chair of state,  
And gave me sugar sweet;  
They laid me on a dresser-board  
And stuck me like a sheep.  
They rolled me up in a roll of lead,  
Instead of a winding sheet,  
And the well that they did sink me in  
Was five and forty feet deep.  
Tu-lu-rooral-lu-roo lay!

And now again the old superstition, brisk as ever, is going its mendacious way. One man can start a lie rolling, but a thousand men can't stop it.

At an expense of \$79,300, contracts have been let for furnishing the Fair with boilers of 10,000 horse power capacity. The Exposition power plant will burn oil instead of coal.

One million signatures of people directly and indirectly connected with the Exposition are being collected by the World's Fair Mammoth Autograph Album Co.

Washington, April 12.—The President today issued a proclamation opening the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservation April 19th at 12 o'clock, noon.

One of the attractive features of the Australian exhibit at the Fair will be three ferns from Sydney, New South Wales. These have always been a popular exhibit at London expositions.

Edinburg, Ind., April 12.—A terrible fire is raging here at midnight. Four establishments have been destroyed and the bank and many residences are in danger, and the town is absolutely without fire protection. The loss will be heavy.

San Francisco, April 12.—The United States steamer "Adam Patterson" started on a voyage to Bering sea late this afternoon. The "Richard Rush" is coaling and is expected to leave soon for her destination.

Tucson, Ariz., April 12.—A contract has been completed for the construction of an irrigating canal and reservoirs in the Santa Cruz valley. The canal will be seventy miles long and thirty feet wide at the bottom. Three hundred thousand acres of land will be reclaimed. The cost of construction is estimated at \$1,200,000. The enterprise is wholly backed by English capital.