Personal Reflections
By Rev. J. Blanchard, President of Wheaton College, Illinois.

Radueh Stevens.

The true character seems itself alone
when one is far from God and His power.

Whenever attempts to write or think of events past or present to this country,
whether taken into account the present presence of God, is rather a shallow
feeling or something worse. We have seen the Great Transcendent, indeed
Charles Hammond, depicted the Harmed House, or the "Drinking Houses"
of Chay. Yet home has become a life of intolerance, and at the same
time, a life of prayer. To God! and, if devotion to the right of the "last"
spirit of Christ's human nature. The life, the devotion to Christ, then also
of devotion to Christ!

If I pray, receive guidance, and help, in some
Christian matter, is checked at the idea of a more thing at once intolerable
and a Christian, I cannot help it. This I know, that Hammond could do
as honestly as Bud: 'We will not that this man sit any more within our
house,' when I heard from the local man of his State, he said, his name is Austin,
nothing with devotion: "We will now have you fold," and get at that per
neciety in the United States.

I another quiet day was
still more fortunate; I mean the new papers. The Yankee Americans had
had the dance site of propers, and the ecumenical of this sort of Baptist who, take
Samuel. Agnew, are at once the violations of God's law and the champions
of his cause. I want not Mr. Stevens in Harrisburg, Pa., in 1853-6.

Either was there Governor of the State, and Stevens was in government.
He had then never been beyond the river house in the State Legislature, and
it is curious that he never went 1856 political life beyond the capital house
in Congress. And though I do not wish to decorate our thoughts of the
pure and holy Samuels in a profane companions, I am not for it, in passing,
that the common people heard these stories. I said, I saw Mr. Stevens in
Harrisburg, in 1853-6. Saw him in the City of Washington, just before his death,
our acquaintance in the interim of thirty-three years never went beyond an
occasional letter. With the single exception, in Lancaster, Pa., forever saw him
in all that time.

When I first knew him, he was the leader in the
only the Masonic State Government, a successful lawyer in Philadelphia, Pa.,
whether he went from his birth State, Vermont. He had ever allowed a slave
hunter to take his negative out of the courts where practiced. The chronic
affirming, chronic, than noble, noble and ten, in a tone and place, where, though
there was the rule, not the exception, among Southern men. He had forewarned
an application for Pennsylvania (College Sufferers) and when Cooper
was Cooper (a former law student of Stevens), by Norman Catlin and
other influences, prevailed and sent him instructions not to aid that college.
He wrote them a saucy letter telling them that he should obey their instructions concerning the principles of the party: but when he wanted their advice about education and religion, he would ask it." And when Cooper, taking advantage of the hamstring which this latter occasioned,2 stormed his district to throw him out of the legislature and take his seat, Stevens went down and attended Cooper's meetings and, when he had done speaking, followed him. The two points of Cooper's attack were Stevens's trust in temperance and education; that Stevens's course of temperance on which he had lectured, would rob the farmers of a distillery market for their corn; and that his hitherto Pennsylvania College was unjust to the Catholic voters in his constituency.

 Tradition says that the harangues of Stevens were perfectly terrific. Certain it is that he convinced those honest Germans that Cooper's spirit in defending distilleries and opposing education was to get them drunk and make their children ignorant like their kins and the Illeys, in which the idea, so that he Cooper could get their liberties away and make himself a lord over them; and that such was the natural tendency and effect of Cooper's doctrines, there can be no doubt. Cooper's raid was utterly demolished, and Stevens went back to Pennsylvania with larger majorities than ever in his establishment in the National Congress and in the Common Schools in the several counties. And the Quakers, zealous their own, wrote home to the Reinhold's,3 zealously with their denominational particularities and having good schools of their own and the Germans adverse to taxation, and pretending that their children, taught in Johnish, common schools, would soon be unable to read the Dutch inscriptions on their father's and mother's grave stones, had always opposed a state common school system; and the Democrats had urged on these grievances their political capital. It kept themselves in power, and to steadily increased every attempt to put democracy on the wise grade of Common-School system with their older states. And this men who professed the name of democracy, content to live in popular terror and ignorance, and pay the people for their votes by depriving them, were causing the children that vast state to grow up as civilized barbarians.

This state of things attacked, he might have floated and scrambled with the west. The leaders of his own party were, multitudes of them, on better than Democrats. He had popular talents, and knew how to use them for personal success; and no one would have blamed him for doing so. But while the ambition, the stupid, the mercenary and the Corrupt, were explaining Stevens's conduct by attributing it to the motives of which each was conscious in himself, Stevens attacked popular ignorance as a physician does disease, because he was a statesman, and knew that a population, who can not write a quiche for an election, or read their own vote, would be but tools of tyrants. As therefore Democrats used ignorance and prejudices of the people for their own selfish ambition and their Stevens used the same ignorance and prejudices of the people for their own good.
There was a specific state tax, now called a "direct tax," established by the United States Congress. This tax was opposed by many in Pennsylvania, who believed it was unfair and should be repealed. Among the states, Pennsylvania was one of the few that did not accept the tax, and it was supported by several prominent figures, including Chief Justice John Marshall. However, the tax was eventually enacted and became known as the "Nonimportation Act." This act prohibited the importation of certain goods, which some believed would help to reduce the federal debt. The act was unpopular, and there were several protests against it. Despite this, the act was passed and became a significant piece of legislation in the early years of the United States.
I turned aside to see the Tree of Liberty, "burning out its Uses." I stopped on my way and lectured a year in Pennsylvania against our national sins. And travelling in Harrisonburg, at a popular Boarding House, observed my Brother-in-law, the Clergyman, lecture to the young ladies in a popular Boarding School, "preached before Governor, Judges, and his political suit from the post-office of Dr. William D. Bowdoin. Not all these, coupled with as melodious and genteel manner of declamation as I was capable of, did not forbid me from being his host, fed, lodged, and carried every time I passed the street in that city for three weeks. Christmas with very few exceptions, drained me. Ministers joined me, and the people mobbed me, while politicians in broad cloth coat, with velvet collar, canvassed and called on me with a bitterness which was perfect打ち聴き where it struck.

Then I went to Boston, where my utter astonishment, asked one down to dine with him at Stage Hotel, where sat a hundred members of his own party in the Legislature, most of whom would have been aliens, sooner than with the devil than me. I told Stevens my business and he gave me letters. Took out of his pocket-money, handed me twenty dollars, and a fifty dollar bill, and told me to go down into Adams and speak there, and if the Massachusets would not make a party out of it, and then I suppose he would depend on contribution from him, and take all the sum of ninety dollars, he applied to me and asked me to go down and to Adams and tell them that such things cannot be done without money. Just in opposite, and while debating on the next day, I heard Judge Nead, judge of the Court there at school, and who, with much encouragement, went down a sheath of eggs, which broke up the debate. And as my issue had suffered much in the operation, I said in the recitation, of Judge Nead, after observing the Ords: "This gentleman is a judge in the Court, and older in the Church, and if he goes to Holy Would it be wise to find promotion there?" And though I had repeatedly paid for clearing the eggs from my clothes, my reasoning between, who had no word of rebuke for the judge, were particularly justified in condemning me for any distasteful and abusive language.

I have my eye stables on, and Stevens and only give this little episode as there was that mischievous project of the Ministry and the President, but small effect on his mind. Then Stevens heard that I had been mobbed in his own town, whether he had sent me, the same report by newsmen, called a meeting at the Court House, and invited me to be present, and after several had refused the chair, Stevens nominated a man, a tenant, keeping a Hotel, the meeting was organized, resolutions offered, and Stevens got up to speak. To attempt to describe either the speech or its effects would be like attempting Whittell's proportion to prevent a thunder storm.
He told his constituents, in substance, that he was proud of their conferred honors; that he had pledged them his services, but had not told them his plans; and that while he held himself friend by the principles on which they had elected and sent him to the legislature, there were certain great principles underlying all civil government, such as the right of trial by jury, which he never would go for denying to any living human creature, whether the thing in question be his horse, his hog, or himself.

We then came to freedom of speech, which the recent mob had made use of when an attempt to describe him would come. The description is from a speech, Judge W. H. van had consented that a Universalist preacher should occupy the Court House a week or two before. Slaves, torn along by his own torrent of illustration, argument and invective, cried: But you tell me that it is improper to discuss slavery here. Indeed, the question of slavery and freedom is a local question in it. There comes along a Universalist here, and you put him up and hear him deny all the doctrines that Christ and the apostles preached. He passes on, and the harm done. But there comes along another to preach in favour of Universal liberty, and you answer with violence and violation, and then you answer with turns and turns, with burning blisters, with human immolation, with universal destruction.

And this secondary attempt, in the ten of our American liberties, was made by ignorance and a reduced order of our town; not alone by some pale-birds escaped from the pententary, here, where the southern students in the galleries hissed, when Stevens, rushing up, continued, Some men have not yet been to the district? The wit and nature of this allusion is the district schools which he had lately established, were like throwing a charged battery with a conductor, and the wedged mass of people surged, leaned, and shouted with applause.

When it had partly subsided, Mr. Stevens continued at the top of his voice, but by our grave and learned citizens, elders in our churches and judges in our court. By this time Judge J. W. van, who had set in the mob, and who had crept in among the people, hoping, perhaps, that Stevens would beushed down, seeing the mass wholly in Stevens, power, as his terrible oration approached him, began to tremble, and at the above direct allusion to himself he sprang through the crowd toward the Court House door, take a smoke fleeing from a twining rush that, seeing which men and boys, old and young, rush and citizen, stirred with a sudden fit of the studious at his flight, set up a roar of laughter—at the poor old gentleman's expense.
As drowned for a line all speech hearing
and thought, sense of the incident which had let
out the tide, there was no more writing
in Kellyburg.

I had hoped to have completed in this article your request
statement of this wonderful man. But a reasonable limit for a
single number only tells us where this history becomes interesting.
If I give your readers the narrative of his swamping the
"Convention of Friends of the Union", called against the abolitionists
by a political opponent—Steven, a Democratic lawyer of Doane
Street, who then lived in Washington County, to which Convention
the former showed seven hundred delegates. Elected in a short
time from all parts of the State, they must wait for this
article till I have leisure and you can afford space.

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