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•:MILLIGAN:•

In Memoriam.

Alexander M'Leod Milligan.

Born in Ryegate, Vt., April 6, 1822.

Died in Wyoming Territory, May 7, 1885.

With every President from Lincoln to Arthur, he labored privately and by personal appeal, that they might not take the godless oath of the Constitution, but might use the Divine name in it. With Hayes and Arthur he was successful. The following is his letter to Mr. Garfield, and his autograph reply :

M'CLURE AVENUE, ALLEGHENY, Pa., }
October 25, 1880. }

Hon. J. A. Garfield,

DEAR SIR : I am encouraged to write you from a long and pleasant interview with our mutual friend, Hon. Samuel Plumb, of Streator, Ill. I have deferred writing until assured that you are quite certain to be our next President.

I have no favors to ask for myself or my friends, but I wish to speak a word to you for the honor of our common Lord and Master, and for the welfare of our common country. So far as I can ascertain, you are to be the first Chief Magistrate who, at the time of his election, was a member of a Christian church. I believe that your nomination and election have been providentially brought about in answer to earnest prayer.

Permit me to call your attention to the fact that the framers of the Constitution of our country, in their effort to form a government that should be neutral in religion, have given us a Constitution that is devoid of a single allusion to God, or His law, or His authority in the nation. Even the oath prescribed for you to take when inaugurated to office, does not contain the appeal to God, which is the very essence of the oath. It was so framed in order that an Atheist might consistently swear it ; but can a Christian consistently swear it ?

When Gen. Washington was inaugurated, after the Chief Justice had read to him the prescribed form of the oath, lifting the Bible to his lips he added the words, "So help me, God." From his time till President Hayes, no President,

so far as I can learn, ever used the appeal to God in taking the oath ; but took it simply as framed in the Constitution. Previous to President Lincoln's inauguration, I wrote to him on the matter, and asked him to honor God in taking the oath. He sent me a kindly reply, saying that he would gladly comply with my request, but as he entered on his office under critical circumstances, he did not feel at liberty to depart from the letter of the Constitution. In a private interview afterwards, he expressed his hope that as his first administration had purged slavery out of the Constitution, his second might secure a proper recognition of God in it.

After Mr. Hayes' election, I wrote to him and quoted the history of Washington's inauguration oath, and asked him to follow the example of the Father of his Country. He did so. You will remember that the oath was twice administered to him, and both times he added the words, "So help me, God." I may add that the administration of President Hayes has been distinguished by a high moral tone and character that has never been excelled or equaled in the White House. And the heroic conduct of his noble wife, in setting an example of strict temperance in entertaining the guests of the nation's Chief Magistrate, has entitled her to the lasting gratitude of the sober moral people of the nation and the world, and to the appellation recently given her at a great meeting in London, "The Queen of America."

My dear sir, permit me as a minister of the gospel, to congratulate you and your most estimable wife in anticipation of your coming election, and allow me to express my assurance of the coming fact, and also my confidence that the mere calling of your attention to the matter of the oath will be sufficient to secure from you a proper meed of honor to our blessed Master in the oath by which you receive your commission to exercise supreme executive authority over a great Christian nation.

With distinguished consideration and high regard,

Your most obedient servant,

A. M. MILLIGAN.

MENTOR, Ohio, October 30, 1880.

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 25th instant came to hand, and was read with interest. In the great burden of duties now pressing upon me, I have only time to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and thank you for its suggestions.

Very truly yours,

REV. A. M. MILLIGAN.

J. A. GARFIELD.

The congregation of Pittsburgh made a call upon him in 1866 to become their pastor. He was comfortably situated, laboring successfully among a united and loving people, and strongly bound by family ties to remain. This time he was guided by the Lot to leave the question as to its acceptance to the decision of Presbytery. This he did. The delegates of his congregation strongly remonstrated. The members of Presbytery were divided; but after protracted discussion unanimously agreed to present the call, which he accordingly accepted. His installation was appointed for Monday, May 14, 1866. He preached his first sermon to them on the previous day; and just nineteen years after these dates his lifeless body was brought back to the city, and his funeral took place.

These nineteen years cover the period of his manhood's strength and power, they were marked