

THE LATE SECRETARY RAWLINS.

Preparations for the Funeral—His Last Utterances for the Welfare of His Family and for the Freedom of Cuba.

Proclamation of the Mayor of Washington Closing the Municipal Offices—Beautiful Floral Tribute to the Deceased—The Hearse—Distinguished Citizens to be Present at the Funeral—Order of the Secretary of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8, 1862.

The Mayor of Washington has issued a proclamation closing the municipal offices to-morrow. The indications are that all secular business throughout the city will be then suspended. The veterans of the Soldiers' Home and survivors of the Mexican war, under the officers of the association, will participate in the ceremonies of respect to the late Secretary; also the survivors of the war of 1812.

The heads of the bureaus of the Treasury Department held a meeting this morning to take suitable action relative to the death of General Rawlins. Major T. L. Smith, First Auditor, was called to the chair, and John Bay Knox, Deputy Comptroller of Currency, appointed secretary. Major Smith on taking the chair made some remarks pertinent to the subject of the meeting, and resolutions of respect and condolence were adopted.

This afternoon an unknown party, consisting of three ladies and a gentleman, visited the corpse of the Secretary of War, and left a beautiful bouquet of flowers and evergreens arranged in the form of a star, the entire arrangement being about twenty inches in diameter. Accompanying it was a card with the following inscription:—"On this altar of the greatest sacrifice for our country's good, the Lone Star State offers her emblem as incense to renewed fraternal love. A wayward sister, yet she is still a sister." The officers in charge placed the tribute at the foot of the coffin.

The hearse will be drawn by six gray horses, each with a black plume in the headstall, and led by a groom with black ribbon attached to the bridle bit.

The remains will be followed by nearly 300 carriages, containing the family, friends, members of the diplomatic corps and the officials of the government, in addition to the military and various civic associations. After the religious services at the Congressional Cemetery, a salute of three volleys of musketry and twelve guns or salvos from the artillery will be fired. The funeral pageant will doubtless be one of the most solemn and impressive ever witnessed in this city. Among others who have arrived to attend the funeral is General Van Wyck, of New York.

Secretary Fish left here last Sunday evening for New York to attend the wedding of his son, which took place at Newport yesterday. At the time of the Secretary's departure he was advised that Secretary Rawlins had improved, and that there was no immediate danger. When he reached New York, however, on Monday morning, he learned that the Secretary of War was much worse. Abandoning his intention of going to Newport to attend his son's wedding, Secretary Fish put his family on board of one of the Sound steamboats and returned himself on the next train to Washington. He arrived the next morning after Secretary Rawlins died.

A despatch received from Attorney General Hoar to-day states that he will be here to attend the funeral of Secretary Rawlins. It is understood that Secretary Boutwell, the only other member of the Cabinet who is out of the city, will not be here to attend the funeral.

Mr. Henry Pinheiro, secretary to the Cuban envoy, Mr. Lemus, received the following telegram to-day from New York:—

New York, Sept. 8, 1862.

H. PINHEIRO—You are commissioned to represent the Cuban Junta and Minister and the Cuban people at the burial of General Rawlins. J. M. LEMUS.

It was the intention of Mr. Lemus to be present himself, but he found it impossible to get here in time.

The following general order was issued to-day by Secretary Robeson:—

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8, 1862.

The death of General John A. Rawlins, Secretary of War, which occurred on Monday, September 8, 1862, is hereby announced to the navy and marine corps. He will be buried with military honors, at ten o'clock A. M. on Thursday, the 10th inst. Orders for closing the department and draping it in mourning, and for the attendance of officers at the funeral, have been issued. As an additional mark of respect for the very distinguished soldier and statesman who has just died in the service of his country the flag will be displayed at half-mast from sunrise to sunset, and fifteen minute guns be fired at noon on the 9th, or on the day after the receipt of this order, by mail or telegram, at all the navy yards and stations and on the vessels of war of the United States in commission, and at the Naval Academy. Crape will be worn by the Secretary and by the officers of the navy and the marine corps for thirty days.

GEORGE M. ROBESON,

Secretary of the Navy.

Last Utterances of Secretary Rawlins—His Love for the President and Anxious Wish for the Freedom of Cuba.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8, 1862.

On Sunday afternoon, having confirmed his faith in the teachings of Christianity by observing two of its most sacred forms—receiving baptism and partaking in the last sacrament of the Lord's Supper—General Rawlins expressed his relief and peace of mind on religious matters. After a few moments, apparently wrapped in wondering thought over the vastness of eternity and the consolations of religion, he opened his eyes, and, noticing Postmaster General Creswell standing by his bedside with an extreme sadness pictured upon his countenance, signified a wish to say something. Mr. Creswell drew close by the side of the helpless form and said:—

"General, have you anything you wish to say to me?"

Making a feeble effort to raise himself, he replied, "Yes, I have something to say to you. I have not long to live. My days are fast passing away; but may God spare me to see the President. Give my love to the President. Tell him how I wished to see him. I have always tried to serve him faithfully. Tell him to go on in the Administration as he has begun. Give my love to the Ministers of the Cabinet. Tell each of them how I love them for their integrity, for their virtue, for their earnestness in their duty. Tell them how I honor them all." Here General Rawlins made some effort to change his position.

Mr. CRESWELL said, "General, do you feel easy?"

General RAWLINS—I am comfortable, but something troubles me.

Mr. CRESWELL—It is the future comfort and protection of your family?

General RAWLINS—Yes; that grieves me. I am poor in the world's goods. I have nothing to leave them to guard them against want. Could I survive I could take care of them, but who will take care of them when I am gone?

Mr. CRESWELL—Do not grieve yourself about your family. They will be kindly cared for. They will be cared for by the nation.

General John E. Smith was also standing by the bedside. This officer entered the service in 1861 as Colonel of the Forty-fifth Illinois regiment, in which General Rawlins was to take the majority, but at the solicitation of General Grant, as "offering better advantages," accepted a position as aide-de-camp, with the rank of first lieutenant. After Mr. Creswell had given assurance of the care the nation would have for his family, General Smith leaned over the bed and said:—"The Army of the Tennessee, your comrades, General, will take care of the wife and children of their adjutant. Will you allow them to do it?" General Rawlins shook his head three times—a habit familiar to all personally acquainted with him. He then closed his eyes, apparently feeling a great weight of anxiety removed from his mind. Here a few moments' pause interrupted the conversation. Mr. Creswell soon broke the silence, saying:—"General, is there anything more you would like to say?"

General Rawlins again opened his eyes, which now beamed with unusual brightness, and said, "Yes, I have something more to say. There is Cuba, poor, struggling Cuba. I want you to stand by the Cubans. Cuba must be free. Her tyrannical enemy must be crushed. Cuba must not only be free, but all her sister islands. This republic is responsible for this. I am passing away, but you must look after this. We have been together; now, you must see to this."

The question of Cuba seemed to occupy a large share of the thoughts of General Rawlins in these last moments. He manifested great anxiety on this subject, as if one of his desires to

prolong his life was to see Cuba freed from the galling yoke of Castilian pride and oppression. The statements that General Rawlins made some observations in relation to reconstruction are entirely incorrect, though he did, on a former occasion, express as another reason why he wished to live a little longer was to see the questions still agitating the country harmoniously settled. But the notes taken by Postmaster General Creswell of these last utterances of General Rawlins, and of which the above is the substance, do not mention the subject of reconstruction at all. The conversation was confined to three things—his love for the President and his attachment towards his associate Ministers—all of whom he honored; second, provision for his family, and third, the independence of Cuba.

The earnestness of General Rawlins may be judged from the fact that he never failed at every Cabinet meeting to bring up the question. On one occasion he spoke with great vehemence. After he had finished he apologized to the President for his manner, saying, "I have been your adjutant, and I think you will excuse me for being earnest." The President promptly replied, "Certainly, and you are still my adjutant."

Honors to the Deceased Secretary in This City.

The obsequies of the late Secretary of War will be duly and appropriately respected to-day at all the offices of the government departments in this city.

Minute guns will be fired and flags displayed at half-mast at the forts in the harbor, as well as upon all vessels in port and municipal public buildings.

At a special meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Fire Commissioners, held yesterday, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That the Board unite with their fellow citizens and other public bodies in a tribute to the memory of General John A. Rawlins, late Secretary of War of the United States.

Resolved, That his fidelity, honor and intelligence as a public officer, combined with his services in the field, entitle his name to be recorded with those of Hamilton and Knox, soldiers of the Revolution, who were similarly honored.

Resolved, That the flags of the Department be hoisted at half-mast on the 9th inst. from sunrise to sunset.

The Fifth Assembly District Union Republican Association last evening passed resolutions expressing sorrow at the decease of the lamented Secretary of War.

Collector Grinnell has issued the following:—

CUSTOM HOUSE, NEW YORK.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, Sept. 8, 1862.

I would respectfully request that the flags of all vessels in this port be displayed at half-mast to-morrow (Thursday), 9th inst., in testimony of respect for the memory of the late General John A. Rawlins, Secretary of War of the United States.

MOSES H. GRINNELL,

Collector Port of New York.

The New York Stock Exchange yesterday voted \$3,000 to the fund for the family of the deceased Secretary.

Major General Butterfield, Assistant Treasurer of the United States, and treasurer of the Rawlins fund in this city, made the following announcement yesterday:—

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the following subscriptions to the fund for the widow and children of the late General John A. Rawlins, Secretary of War. Due formal acknowledgment will be made of all subscriptions hereafter:—

Amount previously acknowledged.....	\$18,000
New York Stock Exchange.....	5,000
John J. Cisco.....	1,000
Duncan Sherman & Co.....	1,000
Rufus Hatch & Co.....	1,000
Morton, Bliss & Co.....	1,000
J. B. & W. W. Cornell.....	1,000
Dabney, Morgan & Co.....	1,000
G. Cabot Ward.....	500
Benjamin H. Field.....	500
O. D. F. Grant.....	500
H. Lenox Kennedy.....	500
John Stewart, Jr.....	500
J. G. King's Sons.....	500

Total subscriptions.....\$30,000

DANIEL BUTTERFIELD, Treasurer.