

interests of the Colonies and could perhaps furnish sufficient information as would point out the way to a reconciliation, besides he was personally acquainted with every member of Congress. To this motion the ministry acceded, and he was examined at the bar of the House of Lords, where he stated most positively "that the Congress did not aim at independence; that they had been elected according to the constitutional law and usage of Great Britain. They were chosen by the constituents, and were trusted with almost unlimited power; that the Province of Pennsylvania alone could afford a militia of 60,000 men, of these 20,000 before his departure had attached themselves to the common cause, armed at their own expense and serving without pay; that Congress had purchased military stores in abundance, that they were casting iron cannon at Philadelphia and would be well prepared to carry on a contest; that sanguine hopes were entertained of the success of the petition he brought over, it bearing the euphonious name of the olive branch, and he feared the consequence of its rejection would be fatal. The most vigorous measures would be adopted, and he had every reason to suppose the Colonists would not want the assistance of foreign powers, possessing ample resources." It is impossible in this transaction to tell what most to admire, the effrontery and downright falsehood of this plausible and treacherous hypocrite or the ignorance and want of principle of the opposition who listened to his fable with avidity and instantly made a motion that the lying petition, supported by the greater falsehood of its bearer, afforded sufficient ground for reconciling the unhappy differences subsisting between Great Britain and her Colonies, and although this motion was rejected after prolonged debate it helped the cause of rebellion in no ordinary degree.

Penn told direct and deliberate falsehoods when he asserted that the Congress did not aim at independence—he himself being one of the leaders of the movement—when he stated that body was elected by the people (at the time it represented one third of them), and he knowingly and willfully misrepresented the population of Pennsylvania by making them more than one-half what they really were. In fact the whole of his evidence is a tissue of lies, quirks and evasions, and it certainly argues great forbearance on the part of the administration that he was not imprisoned for "the most barefaced attempt on record to deceive Parliament."

An attempt to bring in a bill having conciliation in view, by Mr. Burke, was defeated. The part that great man acted throughout this contest is a matter of just reprehension, as it could only be inspired by the most factions of motives.

The Colony of Nova Scotia transmitted a memorial praying that a revenue should be raised within the Colony in conformity with

the Act of last session, and the mode was by levying a stipulated sum in the hundred on imported goods. The prayer of the memorial was granted, and all other taxes or duties except those regulating customs were at once repealed.

A motion of the Duke of Grafton, relative to the petition of Congress, was the last offered in the interests of conciliation. It stated the fact that two French gentlemen had been despatched to North America, and on their arrival had at once repaired to Congress. But it was fitly answered that the Colonists had amply proved they did not seek peace, and that they seemed to think the mother country did not possess sufficient power to compel obedience, or that if her resources were adequate to the task she was afraid to use them. That it was necessary to give no time for preparation, and if the intimation of foreign aid was of any value it was the more necessary to strike vigorously and promptly. The motion was negatived by a majority of sixty.

DOCTOR PHIL. H. SHERIDAN.

The *Detroit Post* thus good naturedly announces the new honor conferred upon the Lieutenant-General by the University of Vermont:

Philip H. Sheridan, L. L. D.—that's his name and title. He is a Doctor of Laws. The University of Vermont, the Green Mountain State, has proved its claim to perennial verdure by conferring this degree on "Little Phil." Dr. Sheridan is as well as could be expected. He is a doctor of both ecclesiastical and civil laws—that's what the degree means. The learned doctor has long been noted for his familiarity with some portions of ecclesiastical literature. He is said, in moments of excitement, to use liberal and emphatic quotations from the prayer book, the hymn-book, and the Scriptures. As to his knowledge of civil laws, we are not so sure; but we suppose the University was satisfied with the way he doctored 'em in New Orleans. We have no doubt that, should Dr. Sheridan attempt to deliver a lecture upon ecclesiastical and civil jurisprudence, his proofs of erudition would astonish the country. Should he accept a chair in any university, as a doctor of laws, we doubt not the students placed under his care would be severely disciplined in the matter of obedience to the laws, at least.

The University of Vermont has very properly, in matters of learning, ignored social and official proprieties. Bachelor or Arts, or Master of Arts, Schuyler Colfax—whose degree was conferred by the Hillsdale College, if we remember rightly, which only pays its president about half the wages earned by a skilful stone-mason—is, in the eye of the constitution of the United States, of superior rank to Dr. Sheridan. But L. L. D. is superior, in learned rank, to B. A. or M. A. As a doctor, Prof. Sheridan ranks above Prof. Colfax. Moreover, the legal proprieties have been outraged in another direction. General Sherman is Sheridan's military superior; but General Sherman is not a doctor of laws. As a learned jurist, the University of Vermont places Dr. Sheridan infinitely above Mr. Sherman. "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war;" and this victory by Sheridan over his military superior, Sherman, is one of them. From his lofty height as a recognized eminent scholar, he can look

down even upon President and late General Grant. He takes rank, indeed, in legal oration, with Dr. Longfellow—whose title comes from Oxford—and with Chief Justice Chase and Attorney General Hoar.

At present, Dr. Sheridan is engaged in delivering instruction concerning the laws to the Indian savages of the West, in which he has proved eminently successful. His favorite style of instruction is remarkable for its vigor, and for the rapidity with which his pupils finish their course. But, doubtless, as soon as he has graduated his present class, he will be open for an engagement elsewhere; and we call the attention of the regents of the Michigan State University to his eminent title and recognized merits as a learned scholar. Before tendering the now vacant presidency of the University to Dr. Sheridan, however, the faculty might make a point toward inducing him to accept by conferring upon him one or two more degrees—say M. D. and D. D. Everybody knows that he is eminent as a practitioner of certain surgical operations, such as amputations and perforations, while his familiarity with theologic nomenclature we have already alluded to. Communications may be addressed to Phil. H. Sheridan, L. L. D., Chicago, Ill.

THE BYRON SCANDAL.

The *New York Times*, perhaps the most respectable paper published in the American metropolis, devotes an article to Mrs. Stowe's "revelation" concerning Lord Byron. It so fully expresses the opinions we have formed after a careful perusal of Mrs. Stowe's statement, and other writings upon the same subject, that we make no apology for reprinting it entire. The *Times* says:—

"We cannot but deplore the publication of a narrative such as that which Mrs. Stowe has thought proper to lay before the world. It sets no question at rest, and consequently it will not even satisfy the morbid curiosity of those persons who are more interested in the scandals of Lord Byron's life than in his works. Mrs. Stowe has been made the means of circulating a revolting aspersion on Byron's half sister—sister Mrs. Stowe calls her—of whom all that is known is that she was faithful to him in the darkest hours of his life, and followed him with her sympathy in his exile. It is no justification of the course which Mrs. Stowe has unfortunately been advised to adopt, that Lady Byron originated the calumny of an innocent lady. Lady Byron pursued the poet with a systematic malignity which was sometimes scarcely compatible with the theory of her sanity. There was no offence of which she did not accuse him. It was only after he and his half sister had both been buried for years that she ventured to link their names together in infamy. Then it was done in a conversation with a comparative stranger, and no proofs whatever were given in support of the odious charge. Mrs. Stowe was not called upon to revive this miserable story of domestic unhappiness. She can produce no evidence in substantiation of the narrative. All the facts and all the probabilities contradict it. Respect for the memory of Lady Byron would certainly have suggested the propriety of allowing a mystery which can never be cleared up to sink into oblivion. She has now stepped forward with unsupported allegations of a character so abominable as to compel us to receive them with incredulity, and it is but little extenuation of her fault that she suffered herself to be imposed upon by a woman of implacable disposition and relentless temper."