

felt that I had been unjustly dealt with by the colonel of my regiment. The commanding general seems to have held the same opinion, as will appear from the following endorsement on my resignation :

HEADQUARTERS, CAVALRY CORPS, PARIS, KY., April 7, 1864.

Disapproved and respectfully forwarded. This is an excellent officer, too valuable indeed to be lost to the service. He was severely wounded at Taswell, Tennessee, under Col. Graham, last December, and is estimated as one of the best officers of my command. This is not the only resignation which has been offered on account of promotions of inferiors having been made in the 5th Indiana Cavalry over the heads of superiors, based upon political or other considerations, and altogether regardless of merit. By this system, junior and meritorious officers find themselves cut off from all hope of advancement, and compelled to serve subordinate to others for whose qualifications they can entertain no respect. While therefore I disapprove his resignation for the public good, I would respectfully urge that some policy be initiated or recommended by which officers can see the way open for their advancement according to merit.

S. D. STURGES, Brig. Gen. Com'g. Corps.

These, with other communications, of a similar character, prove conclusively that although I have, as acknowledged yesterday, violated the laws of the land, I still love those laws. I revere them, and when the opportunity came, and the occasion required, I showed my willingness to fight, and, if necessary, to die for them.

As one of a persecuted race—as one who had suffered at the hands of tyranny and oppression in my native land, I came to this country full of hopeful confidence that I should enjoy that liberty which was denied me at home. I came to America like thousands of my countrymen, because I had been oppressed in my native land. I came to this country for the purpose of making a dutiful citizen of the land of my adoption, and except in this instance, and perhaps another of a similar character, I think my past history and record will show that I have made a good citizen, and that I have been willing when called upon to offer up my life for the land of my adoption. But while I have felt the duties of an American citizen, and while I felt that I was in duty bound to respect the laws of the land of my adoption, I could not, I cannot, and I never shall forget the land of my birth. I could not, while fighting in the armies of the United States, when face to face with those who would haul down and trample beneath their feet the flag of freedom, and baring my bosom to their bullets—I could not forget that I was born in another land—a land oppressed and tyrannized over. I cannot now forget it ; I never shall forget it. No matter what may be my fate here—I am still an Irishman, and while I have tried to be a faithful citizen of America, I am still an Irishman, with all the instincts of an Irishman. And let me remind your Honors, that it is my solemn conviction that if I were capable of forgetting the land of my birth, I would show myself to be unworthy the rights and privileges of an American citizen. I may have been imprudent in my endeavors to ameliorate the condition of my native land. There is a diversity of opinion on that subject, as there always must be upon such subjects. Had George Washington failed in his endeavors he would have been a rebel, and treat-