

IN MEMORY OF JOHN JAY

Evangelical Alliance, of Which He
Was President, Honors Him.

THE FRIEND OF THE COLORED MAN

Eloquent Addresses by Seth Low,
Edward L. Pierce, Joseph H.
Choate, Chauncey Depew,
and Bishop Coxe.

The memory of John Jay was honored by a memorial service under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance for the United States, given last night in the concert hall of the Madison Square Garden.

In the absence of W. E. Dodge, the President of the alliance, who is now in Europe, President Seth Low of Columbia College, Vice President of the alliance, presided. Among those on the platform were the Rev. Dr. Tiffany, the Rev. Josiah Strong, the General Secretary of the alliance; the Rev. W. S. Rainsford, the Rev. Cornelius B. Smith, the Rev. Dr. Sabine, John A. King, Salem H. Wales, Dorman B. Eaton, W. H. H. Moore, the Rev. James M. King, Henry G. Marquand, and Judge Charles A. Peabody.

The exercises were opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Stoddard.

President Low said that the Evangelical Alliance had called the meeting to do honor to the memory of John Jay, who had been for many years its presiding officer. He esteemed it a high privilege to be called upon to preside and to give expression to the high esteem which he felt for the memory of Mr. Jay.

Mr. Jay was President of the Evangelical Alliance from 1868 to 1885, when he retired from the Presidency, but remained its First Vice President until his death. During his long service he did whatever he could to serve its interests and advance its cause, cheerfully and willingly. He was also the Chairman of the first Civil Service Board of this State. It was due to him that the first civil service rules ever formulated in this State were laid down. Much of the success of the civil service reform was due to his untiring energy and unselfish exertions in its behalf.

Mr. Edward L. Pierce of Boston spoke of Mr. Jay as a reformer. He said that the whole career of Mr. Jay was as a reformer. It was his aim from his youth to strive to make things better, and to his latest hour he was always ready to do battle for reform. At the age of seventeen he espoused the anti-slavery cause, which brought upon him derision, contempt, and personal abuse.

The speaker reviewed in an eloquent manner the services which Mr. Jay in his youth and early manhood rendered to the cause of the slave. He led a forlorn hope, a small band of patriots who had sworn to banish human slavery from the American continent, and he lived to witness, after a struggle of thirty years, the emancipation of the slaves. He was interested also in the education of the freedmen, and was in favor of national grants in those sections of the country where illiteracy existed. Jay's defense of fugitive slaves was sufficient in itself to win the gratitude of the Nation.

After his return from Austria, where he added to his renown as Minister from the United States, he had become interested in civil service reform. He was appointed as a member of the Civil Service Board of this State by Gov. Grover Cleveland, and was retired from that position by Gov. David B. Hill.

Jay's example as a reformer was a glorious inheritance. He made it possible for a minister of the Gospel, without office and without a party, and in spite of sneers and calumny, to become the leader of a great reform movement which culminated in the redemption of the city, and whose triumph has given hope to the friends of good Government the world over.

This reference to Dr. Parkhurst and his success was greeted with loud applause.

Mr. Joseph H. Choate was then introduced. His theme was "Mr. Jay as a Patriot." He said:

"Jay was born a patriot, if ever a living man was so born. He inherited by divine right those qualities which go to make the true patriot and good citizen. His courage and unflagging public spirit came also to him by inheritance from his illustrious progenitors. It is rare that young men of good family and property take part in public affairs. It is rare that young men of high birth and position have done good work in rescuing this city and State from the degradation into which they had fallen.

The Evangelical Alliance has for one of its objects the protection of the public-school system from the influence, domination, or invasion of any sect. This is one of the objects in which Mr. Jay was greatly interested, and in his zeal he may have done injustice to an ancient, noble, and perennial Church, which he suspected of an intention to invade the public-school system. But such an attempt would be futile, for any Church that attempts to lay hands on American institutions will be crushed by an angry people. The people of this State at the last election approved of a clause in the new Constitution which provides that never henceforth shall one penny of public money be given to the support of schools where denominational tenets are taught.

Mr. Jay was also ardent in civil service reform, and the people have now incorporated in the organic law of the State that public office shall be the reward of merit and fitness, and shall no longer be the object of the struggle between contending parties. He was also much interested in the proper dispensation of charity, and it would have pleased him greatly had he lived to see it made a portion of the law of the State that not a penny of public money shall be given to be disbursed in charity by private hands unless the authority goes with it to recall it or cut it off if devoted to improper purposes.

Mr. Chauncey M. Depew spoke of "Mr. Jay as a man." He said that Mr. Jay never forgot that he was a descendant of the Huguenots. He was taught religious toleration by the edict of Nantes. This was exemplified in his repeated endeavors to have colored delegates admitted to the Episcopal Convention.

John Jay for nine successive years as a representative in the Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Church, after the Bishops and the clergy and the laity had solemnly reasserted with eloquent periods and brilliant eloquence the doctrines of the New Testament and the love of God for man, and men for each other, would rise, and, as a fitting supplement to the speeches, present a resolution that the delegates from the African Church of St. Philip be admitted to seats. Instantly the scene changed. The prelates hurriedly consulted, the laymen arose in indignant and angry protest, and the resolution was shelved or defeated. Christ went out of the door and the Church remained behind. Prelate and layman alike gathered their garments about them as they passed by this disturber of the peace of the Church.

Then they came back and voted down the resolution. Most men would have cut loose from the Church, would have denounced its organization, its members, its doctrines. But every defeat simply strengthened the devotion of Mr. Jay to an organization which he was wise enough to see had in it all the elements of a great church, and that time and labor would redeem it from its errors.

Mr. Depew spoke eloquently of the courage with which Mr. Jay had espoused the cause of the fugitive slaves and the courage and modesty which distinguished his public actions.

The last speaker was the Right Rev. Bishop A. Cleveland Coxe of Buffalo, who spoke of "Mr. Jay as a Christian." He and Mr. Jay had been intimate friends from early youth, and he spoke eloquently and touchingly of his simple Christian life. Bishop Coxe said that Mr. Jay never coveted public office and never sought public recognition for his labors for the public good. He spoke feelingly of the last years of Mr. Jay's life, which were filled with suffering that only brought out more clearly his truly Christian feelings and sentiments.