

When the news of Lee's surrender reached Washington, in that happy time of national rejoicing which the assassin's hand cut off so sharply a day or two later, a jubilant crowd blocked around the White House to call on the President, whose words of sadness, of hope, of encouragement and high resolve had given value to the people's hearts on many less cheerful occasions of the war. The speech which Mr. Lincoln then made, short, appropriate, full of feeling and of wisdom, was one of his best efforts, and the circumstance of its being his last public words will be very felt by his hearer, and

It to be especially prized and remembered by the public afterward. As the President slowly and impressively read the address which sketched out his probable plan of restoration, a gay party of ladies filled the window next to that from which he spoke. Regarding the crowd with its glaring torchlights as a mere spectacle, this company chatted and laughed with almost boisterous animation, until the noise quite drowned the voice of the speaker. Borne with patience at first because in the chief offender, gorgeously dressed as for an evening party, the crowd recognized the wife of the chief magistrate they had come to honor, this unnecessary interruption at length became intolerable; and the sharp hiss of rebuke from a hundred tongues brought silence. The President paused in surprise, thinking that some word of his own had called forth the unwelcome demonstration; but a glance showed that no disrespect to him was intended, and with an expression of pain and mortification which came over his face as if such strokes were not new, he resumed his reading.

This little incident has some suggestions which recent developments make opportune just now, so apparent that we need not direct attention to them more explicitly. The wife and widow of the President may do things which shock the public taste, as they would have grated upon the heart of her husband, but respect for the memory of one of the best loved and most worthy of the sons of the republic, requires that no more notice than is unavoidable should be taken of unpleasant displays of a lack of discretion for which he, at any rate, was not responsible.