

Isaac S. Miller

(- 10 Oct 1862)

Miller. On Friday, 10th instant, Isaac S. Miller, in the 73d year of his age. The friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral on Sabbath, 12th, at 3 1/2 o'clock p.m., in Rev. Dr. Sunderland's Church, on 4 1/2 st. (Baltimore Sun, Newark, N.J., papers and St. Louis papers copy).

The Evening Star, July 31, 1861

The Arsenal Arrest

Yesterday, Mr. Isaac Miller, one of the persons arrested at the Arsenal, was released from jail. Mr. M. is an old resident of the city, and for many years has been in the employ of the Government. His son, Dr. A.W. Miller, is said to be one of the officials in the army of the "Southern Confederacy" as Artemus Ward calls it, while a more sensible son is on the other side. The investigating committee did not design that the military arrest should be made, though it was certainly made upon the testimony they were in possession of. It is claimed by Mr. Miller's friends that he is a loyal citizen, and as such he subscribed readily to the oath of allegiance.

The Evening Star, July 31, 1861

Arrest of Mr. Isaac S. Miller

Editor of the Evening Star: I ask a sufficient space in your columns that I may render some service to an injured man. In your local notice of "the discoveries made by the Select Committee of the House of Representatives, investigating the condition of the various Departments," you say there was "ample testimony of the sympathy of certain employees at the United States Arsenal with the rebellious States, and of their hostility to the United States Government," and that Isaac Miller and eight others of those employees were arrested and committed to jail by Justice Donn.

Yes, sir, here in the capital of this free Government, in the middle of the nineteenth century, an aged citizen, who for nearly forty years has served the Federal Government with the utmost fidelity, who has spent that period of a long, useful and Christian life at the post assigned him in that Arsenal with an unceasing and faithful devotion to his duties that has obtained for him the highest encomiums from those under whom he has served, was suddenly seized, marched like a felon to the common jail, and there incarcerated as though he was a thief or a burglar.

He was not permitted to know the accusations against him, nor who had preferred them; but in the quiet performance of his public duties, he was petrified with astonishment at the announcement that he was a prisoner, and that without bail or main prize, he must like thief or a vagrant enter behind the prison gates. Suddenly torn from a tender and devoted family—ignominiously stripped of the domestic associations and the united domestic worship of a family altar, at which he had nightly communed with his Maker for almost a generation, he, at an age exceeding the scriptural limit of three score years and ten, was compelled for once to address that Being from the damp dungeon of criminals. And how was this wicked and cruel persecution brought about? He is paragraphed in the city papers as though he was a mere vagabond, under the significant caption, "In Jail,"—and the public who have been thus informed of that arrest, shall also be informed of his release, and of the outrage that has been committed upon as loyal a citizen, as true a patriot, and as pure a Christian as has ever adorned the community and the church.

It has resulted wholly through the black plague of American politics—office-seeking—place hunting. Application had been made for his removal from the position which he has so worthily and so profitably to the Government, filled through all the changes and vicissitudes of party and political fortune. The application failed because of his value to the Government. But the savage ferocity of political lust knew no limits. The disappointed applicants availed themselves of the necessary secrecy of the inner chamber of a Congressional inquest, and there, by means of that gigantic iniquity, false swearing, gave him the cowardly and dastardly stab which the highwayman deals to his unsuspecting victim. They swore that he had justified the assault upon the U.S. troops to the city of Baltimore on the 19th of April—that he had asserted that the aggressions upon the South had been such that they were driven to take up arms against the Government—and that he had rejoiced at the disaster at Bull Run, and wished for a like result to all future engagements.

Not one of the creatures who swore to this dare to meet their victim face to face and repeat their perjury. He has not only not used the language ascribed, but has never uttered a sentiment from which any such inference can be drawn. Throughout the whole contest, his loyalty to the Government has been as firm and unshaken as that of the President himself or the General-in-Chief of the army. Like the true Christian patriot which he has always been, he has adhered with unswerving fidelity to that Government to which he has been so valuable.

His honored pastor, the newly-elected Chaplain to the Senate, in company with other near and dear relatives and friends, promptly commenced the task of restoring this persecuted old gentleman to his home and family. It was at once ascertained from the committee that even the testimony taken, did not contain a single allegation which could lead to his arrest, and that the committee were surprised and confounded by the measures which had been resorted to. They promptly informed the justice of this fact, and stated that the only question that could arise out of that evidence was whether the accused persons should be kept in the employ of the Government.

After much effort the case was investigated by the military authorities and through Gen. Mansfield the Justice was informed that they knew of no cause for the detention of any of the accused in custody; and directed him to act entirely under the directions of the House Committee. This committee, indignant at the bare imputation that they had caused the false arrest, promptly refused to give any directions in the case; but just as promptly informed the Justice that they had never for a moment conceived the idea that there was the slightest ground for arrest, or for any proceeding beyond a fair and impartial investigation as to whether the accused should be retained in the employ of the Government. Finding that Mr. Miller had been arrested, and was detained by a purely "false imprisonment," he was, after something more than a day's incarceration, released from the prison.

Thus has a man, who, by a life of undeviating integrity, of unostentatious modesty, and of sincere piety, richly earned for himself a character as spotless as the falling snow, been subjected to a cruel and inhuman persecution—to a degrading and humiliating indignity, that has brought sorrow and distress upon a heart stricken family, purely through an insatiate greediness for employment which the Government has found so faithfully attended in his hands.

As to the allegations made by means of this cowardly skulking behind the necessary secrets of the committee room, Mr. Miller defies his pursuers. He dares them to meet him in an investigation, where they will have to confront him. He denies them in the aggregate, and in detail. They have not the weak foundation of any hasty or incautious expressions, which even their wicked and greedy imaginations could torture into the slightest assemblance of what they have alleged.

Permit me to add, in conclusion, that this is written by one who has left the luxuries of home, to take the hazards of the war for the maintenance of the Federal Government, and whose loyalty has for its foundation a hearty, undeviating, and I may say, industrious support of the Republican organization from the hour of its birth—and an enthusiastic support of its policy for a period extending many years anterior. I.M.T.