

Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Sept 20th 1848.

This is to certify, that Mr Josiah P. Smeltzer has been in regular connection with the Theological Seminary during a year & a half, in which time he attended to the major part of the studies of the regular course. His deportment has uniformly been characterised by Christian propriety, & he is confidently recommended to the confidence of the communicating laity, & of the ministers & members of the Lutheran Church in particular.

J. S. Schmucker,
Chairman of the Faculty &
Professor of Christian Theology.

6. September 20, 1848

Statement from Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, certifying J.P. Smeltzer as a duly enrolled student.

T.I.E. #09353

Wittenburg College Nov 16th 1848

Respected Sir

In compliance with a unanimous resolution of the Excelsior Society of Wittenburg College it becomes my agreeable duty to inform you of your election to honorary membership in this body.

Only appreciating the honor your intellectual qualifications and moral worth will confer upon us and trusting this may be received with the same sentiments in which it is tendered and that I may soon have the pleasure of announcing your acceptance

I subscribe myself yours with sentiments of the highest regard
W. M. Cornwell Secy

Rev Amelizer

7. November 16, 1848
Notification of election to honorary membership in the Excelsior Literary Society,
Wittenburg College, Springfield, Ohio

It is customary, among all learned and great men, to present to the world, their actions and adventures. Some of them have given a complete history of their lives; others only detached memoirs, or rather particular extracts, which happened at particular times. Some have presented us with good and worthy actions, others with the details of some heinous perpetration, or some fiend-like murder. Some have been grave, serious and morose, others pleasant, agreeable and ludicrous. Some have been long, others short. But I intend in this essay to give you an extract of my own adventures; which you must not regard as fictitious, but receive as a story of real life, a tale of truth. It shall neither be a memoir, nor an extract, occupying any considerable portion of my time. Neither do I regard it as a noble action worthy the example of others; nor a heinous deed, which might curdle your blood in relating. But a fine piece of fun, which happened one gloomy Autumn evening, in one of those delightful sports, which are familiarly termed in old Maryland "popper hunts"; at which time ghosts and hobgoblins are likely to be seen.

During such a gloomy evening, two others with myself, traversed the darkened grove, to see how many of the Marsupialia tribe we could safely bring home in our satchel. The sun had long sunk in Thetis' Lap, the dusky clouds overspread the vaulted blue, no star was seen glittering between the withered boughs, the snow was preparing to descend in copious flakes, the chilling winds hummed round the grave old oaks, the faithful cur, with bristling tail, and laughing chin, joyfully skipped around us, indicating that he was ready for the chase. Wrapping our cloaks closely around us slowly onward we proceeded from grove to grove, over hill and dale, and to all appearance we were to be disappointed that night. Our canine companion would often approach us, after having searched the woods, bringing the sad tale that the animal had no notion of traveling that night. At last being wearied we nestled ourselves at the side of an old oak, conversing upon the probable causes of our disappointment; one asserted that the gloominess of the

T.I.E. #09363

8. Undated
Memories of his youth in Maryland

night, the indications of fallen weather, was perhaps the probable cause of the animals keeping so closely at home; another thought. The unfaithfulness of our canine friend, his inability to follow the animal in his complicated wanderings, was a better cause; while the third asserted that the white haired quadruped perhaps had stated periods to travel. The conversation then turned to the many wonderful sights and spectacles which were seen during such after-midnight ramblings, the very rehearsing of which made my blood run cold, and the damp perspiration to moisten my whole frame. Whilst revolving these strange things in my mind, Lo! the fierce yelling of the Cur, plainly informed us that something more than usual was in the wind. Quietly starting on our feet, we ran with all possible speed in the directed course as if chased by some frightful apparition; when the extremity of my boot caught the remnant of some broken tree, plunged me headlong into the bushes piled before me. Before I could extricate myself from this dilemma my companions had almost reached the desired spot. On reaching the cur, we found him barking up a small tree around which we walk several times, but could discover nothing. Then flashed across my mind the horrid adventures of other sportsman, the wonderful spectacles they have seen, the awful sounds and groans they have heard, and I exceedingly did quake and fear. One of the company ascended the tree, but nothing in the shape of the animal we were seeking, was there. The dog becoming as weary as ourselves had no inclination to leave us. We then concluded to march homewards, but in this march we had to descend the rugged side of a hill noted for the many wonderful sights and strange apparitions seen there. On arriving near the place, we consulted each other whether we should descend the hill or walk some miles around, Disliking very much the idea of passing the haunted grounds, yet equally disliking the journey round, and the stigma upon our bravery and courage. We concluded to descend the hill, but the cold shills ran up my back.

After descending the hill about half way, to our wonderful
astonishment, there lay our faithful dog, between two broken
limbs of an old oak, deposited there during a late storm
evidently in much fear, snarling and whining as if he feared
the blow from some sturdy hand. I gazed on the poor dog
with utter astonishment, the pupil of my eye expanding
I could distinctly see him a few feet from me, as if in
agonies of death. Then flashed across my mind the singular
light that was seen there a few years before, and the ghostly
figure walking up and down the hill guarding the fire.

There I stood, my eyes fixed steadfastly on the dog before
me, my hair rose on my head, in such a manner that I thought
I should have lost my hat, the cold chills ran freely up my
back, my knees trembled beneath me. Every moment expect
my some frightful apparition to start up before us, one of the
Company advancing towards the flag exclaims, "hold on we have
the animal now" but on drawing near, the dog, by some re-
markable occurrence, was released from his critical situation
& bid us good night. We quickly left the enchanted ground
and bent our course homeward. On reaching the desired
haven, our canine friend, who arrived before us, greeted us
with playful smiles, thus ended the adventure of the
night

LICENSURE.

IN NOMINE JESU, AMEN.

This **CERTIFIES** that *Mr. J. P. Smeltzer*
after proper examination in **THEOLOGY**, and
the **ASSOCIATED SCIENCES**, has been duly licensed by the
EV. LUTH. SYNOD OF Maryland
to preach the gospel of **JESUS CHRIST** and admin-
ister the sacraments according to the forms of the
Lutheran Church for one year from this date,
wherever the **HEAD** of the church, **JESUS CHRIST**,
may call him to labor.

Benjamin Kurts President

Of the Ev. Luth. Ministerium of

John Heak

Secretary.

Oct. 19th. 1848

Bro. Tompkins

Virginia.

Jefferson County, Va.

This shall certify to all whom it may concern, that, at a Court held for Jefferson County, on the 21st day of May, in the year, one thousand, Eight Hundred and forty nine, J. P. Smeltzer produced credentials of his ordination, and also of his being in regular communion with the Lutheran Church, took the oath of allegiance to this Commonwealth, and entered into Bond, as required by an act reducing into one the several acts to regulate the solemnization of marriages: prohibiting such as are incestuous, or otherwise unlawful: to prevent forcible and stolen marriages: and for punishment of the crime of bigamy: and that he is thereby authorized to celebrate the rites of matrimony, agreeably to the forms and customs of the said church, between any persons, ^{to him} regularly applying therefor within this State. Given under my hand and seal, the day and year above written.

Attest

J. A. Moore, Clerk

J. P. Smeltzer

10. May 21, 1849

Court document from Jefferson County, Virginia, authorizing J.P. Smeltzer to perform marriage ceremonies that are not incestuous or otherwise unlawful, to prevent forced or stolen marriages, and not to participate in the crime of bigamy.

ORDINATION.

To all to whom these Presents shall come;

BE IT KNOWN, THAT THE REVEREND

Josiah P. Smeltzer

CALLED TO THE OFFICE OF
PASTOR OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN

Harpersfory, Virginia.

has been received as a Member by the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of

Maryland,

and set apart and ordained as a Minister of the Gospel of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ, by the imposition of hands and the customary solemnities, in

*Hagerstown Maryland, — on the twenty third day of
October — in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and forty nine.*

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names, and affixed the Seal
of our Ministerium.

Salomon Kentman President

Of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of *Maryland.*

Joseph Aug. Seiser Secretary.

11. October 23, 1849

Ordination papers issued by Evangelical L...

Called...

NO.

DATE

TITLE

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Made in U.S.A.

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Another anniversary of our Independence is here, & we have met to enjoy this great national festival. This is W.S.'s great Holyday.

The achievement of our Independence is an event that holds the most intimate connection with the progress of civil & religious Liberty in our world. The Hand of our God can be distinctly traced in the formation & future progress of the body politic. God taught our fathers to fight, & led them on step by step, not only to victory, but the establishment of the wisest, & most judiciously balanced government in the wide world.

The 4th of July 76 years ago was a memorable day in the history of our country. When that noble band of Patriots, assembled in Volun. Council, having in their hands the seal & war of the Colonies, had signed the declaration of Independence, & publicly published it from the door of State house in Phil^a. it was received with long & loud shouts of Commendation.

12. July 4, 1853, 1854, and undated
Fourth of July Speeches

The ringing of Bells, the Booming of Cannon, the shouts of the populace, the excitement of the Children, the thrilling emotions that pervaded the land, were tokens of rejoicing, were proofs that the great Crisis was past, & the Colonies were free. We celebrate this day that memorable epoch. Let us do so in a becoming manner, with feelings of gratitude & praise.

Ought we to leave our daily occupations, close our shops & our stores, & meet together to celebrate this day, is a question easily propounded but not so easily answered. There is a question which involves the whole matter, whether Holydays of any kind, religious or political are not more injurious than beneficial. Is there any good accruing from the Christmas Holydays? Is there any from St. George's, St. Andrew's, or St. Patrick's? And will our Country, noble as she is, lose any thing, if the celebration of the 4th was ceased. Many good people suppose the evils resulting from these celebrations out balance all the good, & these people are not too religious in their notions.

Assembled around our Liberty Poles, amid the ringing of Bells, & firing of Cannon, & the waving of the Star Spangled Banner, there will be so much drinking, & dancing

carousing, revelry, debauchery, fights, homicides, & fearful accidents; so much loss of health, useless expense of money, waste of time; that these good people pause, & their argument is logical & wise, that they are more hurtful than beneficial, weakening & undermining our Republican institutions & provoking upon us the wrath of Almighty God.

But these are abuses. Every one can see these abuses are not necessary. It does not follow as effect follows cause, as a legitimate result. Our National day can be so celebrated as to propitiate the Divine favor, to beseech the Father of our country to bless us with his gifts, to call forth the warmest emotions of gratitude for our Liberties, & to strengthen the bands of our Federal Union. God often is this day celebrated in order to give loose reins to the basest of passions. If they can procure a church, well; if a decent orator, better; if a Minister of Sanction all with his prayers, better. The oration made, & then they retire to dine, drink & get drunk, & spend the remainder of the day in carousing, revelry. Let our churches be silent, our ministers withhold their presence, their sanction; our youth be collected

together & have expounded unto them
the principles of our government, & in-
structed by those whose teaching is ef-
fectual because sustained by high
Character, let them know the principles
in defence of wh. our Fathers shed
their blood, Let them feel that the na-
tions wh. will honor God He will honor
them instead of a curse, such return of the
4th of July will be a national blessing.
We ask good men, who love our Country,
to consider it well, for the 4th can be
rescued from the hands of those who
abuse it, & used for the good of our Com-
mon Country, & perpetuity & purity of
our glorious institutions.

Now permit me to read a let-
ter written on the 5th day of July 1776.
one day after the declaration of Independence
was signed. It is the production of the
great & lamented John Adams, one of the
patriots of that day.

"The day is past. The 4th
July 1776 will be a memorable in
History of America. I am apt to
believe it will be celebrated by successive
generations as the Great Anniversary.
It ought to be commemorated as the
Day of deliverance by solemn acts of devo-
tion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemn-
ized with pomp, shows, games, sports, gun-
bells, bonfires, illuminations, from
one end of the Continent to the other, pro-
perly to be observed
this time forever.

You will think me transport-
ed with enthusiasm, but I am not.
I am well aware of the toil, blood & tears
it will cost to maintain this declara-
tion & support & defend these states; yet
all the gloom I can see a ray of light
& glory. I can see that the end is worth
more than all the means; & that free-
dom will triumph, tho' you & I may
die - wh. I hope we shall not."

There was another prediction made, by the crowned heads of Continental Europe, shortly after we had gained our Independence; wh. was, "that we wd not remain a republican government 50 years." A prophecy in conformity to their hopes, a prediction revealing the wishes of the heart. a result wh. these monarchs sincerely prayed wd. fully be realized.

78 years have passed over our country, & she stands on a firmer basis this day than on any day previous. The Royal blood of Europe has used its influence to cripple our energies, has shown thorns in our pathway, to impede our progress, & has cast cares & anxieties upon us to burden us in more senses than one; yet this day we celebrate the 4th of July, the Independence of these W.S. And we hope, we pray, & it must be the prayer of every good man, every lover of his country - Every Xth. every philanthropist - that every 4th of July. from this time, until Gabriel announces the end of time, may find this people rightly observing, faithfully keeping this great American Festival.

Let Spain boast the treasures that grow
her mine
Let Gallia rejoice in her olives & vines
In bright sparkling jewels let India
With her odours, Arabian perfume
'Tis Columbian alone that can boast
the so

Where the fair fruits of virtue & liberty
Let us take a bird's eye view ^{at the 322} of our
country, ~~looking at her past, present & future~~
^{oppression} ~~history~~ in 4 different ^{the} points of view.
Past, Present, & Future
aspect of our country in a natural
or physical point of
view.
Natural history

Because we
here to celebrate this day in a pleasant
grove, a happy land, a delightful
day, a land flowing with milk & honey
from Dan to Beersheba.

When that band of heroic
women, driven by persecution & tyranny
had left their altars & their fires, & so
in these western wilds an altar on
to worship their God; it required a sacrifice,
to keep inviolate the solemn vow
made to the Eternal, to bid farewell
friends & scenes of childhood, & to look
forth on an unpeopled sea, which

at the present day can realize. The broad all brilliant arch of Heaven was to them a more delightful temple than the Cathedral pomp of pillars & pilled vault. The soft gush of bird song was more grateful to their taste than the chartered vesper of an ignorant service. The hum of the dense forest, the dull monotony of the Cataract, & the fierce growl of the wild beast, was to them melancolic music, if only mingled with the voice of the suppliant & the song of the Yth under their own vine & fig tree. Like a lone bird the bark, freighted with the fathers & mothers of this great nation folded her sails upon a new & dreary coast. They came, they knelt & poured out their souls to Him for peace & prosperity. What pencil can do justice to the scene. Yere passed on. Yere called by. And now where the sea cut hovered in loneliness is whitened by a thousand sail - where the pine & tall oak stood in silent grandeur, now wave golden harvest fields - where the Indian war whoop was heard through the land, now is distantly heard the tones of the going bell - & where savage fires sent up their dismal smoke, now rise beautiful villages, & populous cities. Our far reaching rivers, once navigated by the wild man in his bark canoe; now bears upon their bosom floating palaces, wh. move like a thing of life - Our western prairies traversed by the Buffalo & Deer are converted into fruitful fields - Our vallies, once the rendezvous of beasts & reptiles, now pro-

sent the lovely appearance of an East Paradise. When once was only the war path of the Indian trail, now by R.Rs. Telegraphs, destroying time & space bring the most distant points into view & link the various parts of our glorious Union into one magnificent confederacy. Where once was heard the battle cry of age men, now the voice of melody & hymns of praise have succeeded. A little town become a town & a small one a strong city.

When we cast our eye down our dim vista of futurity, who can prophesize the condition of our country 50 years hence. Cuba, Guatamala, Mexico & the Canada's may never be ours, yet magnificent cities, will be planted on our sea boards & spring up in our interior. Our Rail Roads, Canals, Telegraphs will form such a network of work in our land, that it will be impossible, to divide the land & separate the states or dissolve the Union. 50 years hence & the clank of the iron horse will echo through many a forest. Cities & villages will be planted on the den of the wild beast, & the whole population will be 100 millions. Our land has been, is, & will emphatically become the land of Liberty, the home of the oppressed, & the garden spot of the world. Can you suppose me a Whiggish enthusiast. Well I love my Country is dear to my heart, the abolitionist I love, & of the imperious the next 50 years the last 25; it will outstrip the most

The
Past, Present & Future
Aspect of our Country in an edu-
cat
ional point of

history of her ^{views} ^{sciences} ^{Because we}
know not here to celebrate this day as
a sch. We mean by Education, the on-
ward progress of letters, the sciences, & the
arts. New discoveries has greatly enlarged
our conceptions. Our Fathers had not
the means of improvement we have,
neither have we those our children's
children will have. The first settlers of
this land felt this want & were deter-
mined to pursue a wise policy.
As soon as a sch. was built, the founda-
tion of schools & colleges were laid.
In these nurseries our children are
brought up. Then their minds have
expanded, wh. has lead them into the
hidden things of nature, to bring that wh
we'd be useful to man. Astronomy has
enlarged our conceptions, of the infinite
& boundless, Botany has given every
flower & shrub a meaning. Electricity
is defying all power save that held by
the fist of the Almighty. Steam is
navigating rivers against wind & tide
breaving the ocean & moving massive
machinery. 100 years ago & how limited
the means for learning & improvement,
now the common school system is the
glory of our country. Colleges, schools
& academies, are planted in every State
No Secretarian bigotry, No Credo, no
wealth, no aristocratic pride, con-

claim preeminence here. These
open suns & stars, leading on in
pursuit of true knowledge.
That wh. most strikes
a traveller entering continental Eu-
is its standing army, its immense
soldiery. We point to our Common
Schools & say, these are the standing
army of our nation, the Paladins
of our liberties, the safe guard of
freedom, the hope of the land.
This policy has been, is, & must be
enforce the popular understanding
lest a sudden burst of passion
shook down a throne, ours is to do
Education among the masses, that
they may appreciate civil liberty, con-
the Ballot Box intelligently, & unde-
stand the rights of man. They feel
all the light of the sun through a
pipe, for the sake of one bright spot
we diffuse her glittering rays, & illu-
minate every street & alley. They see
one tremendous bonfire, we kindle
a flame on every man's hearth & table.
The Nobles, Royal blood, & titled digni-
are the favored few, who stand at the
head of State & often that of the Church.
Our farmers, mechanics & mechanics
who are generally a goodly, thriving & intelligent
lay hold of the helm of State & feel
the work to victory & glory

When I look down futurity
contemplate the means of improv-
ment, the onward progress of the
sc. & letters, I have no fears for my
country. I fear not though the
population of the British Isles as they
in our midst, or the pauperism of

Continental Europe belched on our land,
Let them enjoy the privilege of the nation
& the improvements of the day, & in a
few years they will be with us. Let
them be brought in contact with the
Common School System, let the helm
of State be trusted in the hands of her
own noble sons, let the "Angel Gabriel"
stand preaching from the corner of our
streets, let the bold & fearless "Clipper"
be disseminated through the land, &
though the monarch himself from the
Seven hills city should plant his foot
on this soil he could not succeed
less by outpreaching us, & if he can
outpreach us he ought to succeed.

The
Past, Present & Future
aspect of our country in a
critical point of
Political history. Because we
today celebrate the 4th of July, the na-
tional jubilee. The Puritans of England
& the Huguenots of France sought a
refuge, a place of prayer in these
western wilds. They laid the founda-
tions of this mighty republic, ack-
nowledged God as the Sovereign Lord,
recognized the rights of man.
were directed through the fiery trial
of the revolution by the wisdom
of God, & the same Council devised
our national constitution.
choose our own Rules, we make
our own laws. On the principle
the majority rules we place our
leaders at the helm of State, we
a right to read our Bible, to utter
our opinion, to hand in our
tests & to worship God under
our vine. No man can have
persons property or character to
without the right of replying the
to a process of Law. No man can
be punished without a trial by
Jury. & there are many other
eyes & monuments, that evidence
us our glorious institutions.

Set this people down in the hands
of Russia & the Autocrat Czar would
sit on his throne. Set them down
Ireland, & the Emerald isle of Erin
again become the land of clear head.

of warm hearts. Set them down in Italy, & her sunny skies will soon become a canopy for freemen, her sons will raise the lofty spear of Liberty, & her Madai families shall read the life-giving, & life-giving word without the fear of the inquisitor. The Spirit of Liberty has already crossed the ocean & entered France, Italy, Hungary & Germany. It is beating in the bosoms of millions. The people, the peasantry, the governed, are being felled with ideas of Freedom & Liberty, & are long will leap from the dust, & shake off their shackles. Ten thousands hoped to be free before this day. What though the bolts of every chain has again been driven, the despots of Europe can no more hold the heavy mass, that the chains of Araxes shall hold the Hellespont, when vexed with storms. What though the iron heel of oppression, has crushed them to the earth, it can no more destroy the ideas of liberty, that the King of Babylon shall destroy the principles of the children of the furnace. The world is onward in the Cause of Liberty, it burns, it heaves, it murmurs, & soon it will explode with thundering. Our land is cheering the nations on to universal emancipation. The principles of our government are felt, acknowledged, & loved.

It is true France has disappointed the hopes of freemen, Italy has struggled in vain, contending against republican France, Rome, like a vulture, gorges herself on the child of Republicanism. Hungary has fallen a prey to the Northern Bear & the Eagles of Hapsburg, Germany awoke from a dream of unity, & finds herself in the perfidious hands of Prussia & Austria.

The Pale of death has settled down on continental Europe. Bloody War, & strife for power, is wasting her energies & consternation fill the bosom of the peasant. The voice of Freedom is hushed to silence. The Banner of Liberty lies low on the dust, but Liberty is not dead! She slumbers only to awake again with renewed energies. Ere long she will awake to march onward to victory & glory. In our land, our happy country she lives, reigns, & is felt, & here she casts her hallowed influences on other lands.

May the Star spangled Banner ever wave, over the Land of the free & the home of the brave.

Do you point me down to the political history of our country, & ask me what I see? See! See! Ah, what do I see! What can I learn! What can I know! See you say, will our government continue to add to its territory, until it becomes so immovably as to burst its proportions? My answer is I know nothing. Will the population of the British Isles, the pauperism of continental Europe, flooding our country by emigration, grow, that fearful & dangerous condition of our country so cripple our energies, as to weaken our efforts, & to undermine our institutions? For this we have the answer we know nothing. Will a foreign monarch ever place his despotic foot on this soil, erect a throne, & sway his scepter over the people? We answer again of this we positively know nothing. Will the protestant Bible be wrested from our churches closed, the press muzzled, & the right of opinion & inquiry at an end?

we can have but the one answer
of this we know nothing. But if
we know nothing, there is a faith
in every man's bosom & I believe!
I believe our government w^d be liable
to no greater danger, have no greater
tendencies to destruction, to fragmentary
dissolution, if she possessed the whole
western continent, from Berings Straits to
Cape Horn, than exist from the territory
she now possesses. I cannot possibly
believe, unless convinced by weighty ar-
guments that have yet been presented
to my mind, that foreign immigration
being brought in contact with the
American mind, & the helm of State
entrusted in the hands of Columbus's
own noble sons, can weaken our
energies & undermine her free insti-
tutions. I believe the time is not very
far distant when the Sceptre of our gov^t
will be wielded by her own noble sons.
I believe it is the mission of this coun-
try, to become Sennacherib's land, to
preach from an open Bible, to dis-
seminate a protestant faith, & to
urge on the world to universal, & im-
mortal, freedom of thought
& worship.

The
Past, Present & Future
aspect of our country in a
Bible point of
view.
Religious rights. Because we
date this day as Protestant Ch^h.
Our forefathers sought
refuge in this wilderness from eccle-
astical tyranny. There were no
& dens where they knelt at Plymouth
Rock. They worshipped God accord-
to the dictate of their conscience
& permitted all others to do the same.
In the formation of the Prot^{estant}
Ch^h in this country, there is no
of Ch^h & State, no ecclesiastical
to dictate what we must believe.
We are Protestants, & the Ch^h of the
country is decidedly Protestant.
As the Ch^h now stand, according
the last census of the Government
is as 12 is to 1. & the most of those
numbered as Ch^h members, are
& support the Protestant Ch^h. His
now & then a recreant from Prot^{estantism}
is taking the backward tread
towards the mitre & the crozier, &
may be some Jesuits preaching
Protestant pulpits, but we are
not becoming papists in this
Protestantism is the deep, firm fi-
form of the religious sentiment
the land. We have an open Bible
we worship God under our own
& figtree. We have religious liberty
we can enjoy our religious privilege
fearlessly. Each one can bow to
high Heaven, propitiate the divine
favor, & supplicate for such ble-
sing (promised of us all).

Let the principle of Protestantism work
like leaven among the masses; & our
popular rights & free institutions will
stand forever. If ever our country
pursues those holy principles, which
radiate from the Bible, given us by the
Protestant Ch. our word for it, the history
of man for it, & the word of God for it,
she will draw nearer & nearer an awful
whirlpool, & her sacred liberties, her
blood bought freedoms, & her glorious
institutions will go thundering down
her sinking Centre.

We cannot possibly take up
every principle of the Protestant faith
& show its influence, what it has done
& what it is doing, & what it will do.
& hence we shall confine ourselves to
but one topic, premising that with
what zeal & earnestness ~~that~~ should
characterize every principle of the
Protestant Church

This topic is
Temperance.

It is no new thought to
communicate to you to tell you this is
the 4th of July. It may be to some to tell
you it is U.S. great Holy day. It is our
Independence day. Ought we to celebrate
this day is a question not so easily answered.
Many good people suppose the evils re-
sulting from these Celebrations out balance
all the good, & these people are not too re-
ligious in their notions. There is no doubt
that cursing & swearing, & drunkenness will
be heard & seen around our Liberty Poles.
We will hear by telegraph & by the press of the
many accidents which will take place today.
Amid the ringing of the Bells, the Booming of the
Cannon, & the waving of the Star spangled
Banner, will be so much drinking, so
much swearing, so much carousing, rev-
elry & debauchery, so much loss of health,
such useless expense of Money, such
waste of time; that these good people
suppose, & their argument is good, that
it is more hurtful than beneficial, under-
mines & weakens our Republican institutions
& these abuses provoke upon us the wrath
of Almighty God.

But these are abuses, & the abuse is no argument against its use: else the Xth Rel. would fall. Every one can see that these abuses are not necessary. They do not follow as effect follows cause, as a legitimate result: for our natal day might be so observed, as to propitiate the Divine favor, to beseech the God of our Country to bless us with his richest gifts, to call forth the warmest emotion of gratitude for our Liberties, & to strengthen the bands of our Federal Union.

The 4th of July 77 years ago. was a memorable day in the history of our country. When that noble band of Patriots had signed the Declaration of Independence, that noble instrument read this day in your hearing, & publicly published it from the door of the State house in Phil^a. It was received with long & loud shouts of Commendation. The ringing of Bells - the firing of Cannon - the shouts of the populous - the excitement of the Children - & the thrilling emotion that pervaded our land, were tokens of rejoicing & proofs that the great Crisis was past, & the Colonies were free. Let us celebrate this day with feelings of Gratitude & praise.

Here permit me to read a letter on the 5th of July 1776. The day after declaration of Independence was signed. The production of John Adams & Patriots of the day.

"The day is past. The 4th July will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as a Great Anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp & games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, illuminations, from one end of the Continent to the other from this time forever.

You will think transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well as of the tail, & blood, & treasure, it will maintain this declaration, & support & defend these States; yet through all this I can see a ray of light & glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means; & that posterity will triumph, you & I may see - Ah. I hope we shall.

There was another prediction made by the Crowned heads of Europe, that we had gained our Independence, that we would not be a republican government in 50 years. Made no doubt in conformity with the desires of these monarchs.

77 years have passed over our Country, & she stands on a firmer basis this day, than on any day previous. And we hope, we pray, that every 4 of July will celebrate the independence of these U. S. After these remarks permit me to call your attention to the past & present in 4 points of view.

1. The past & present in a natural point of view

Because we celebrate this day in happy land, a pleasant country, Land of Milk & Honey. When that band of heroic men & women left their altars & their fires, driven by persecution from their homes, they sought in these western wilds an altar on wh. to worship their God.

The broad all brilliant arch of Heaven was to them a more delightful temple, than the Cathedral pomp of pillars & pilled vault.

The soft gush of bird song, was more grateful to their taste than the chanted vespers of an enormous service. Like a lone bird the bark freighted with the fathers & mothers of this great nation folded her sails upon a new & dreary coast. Then savage fires sent up their dismal smoke & the Indian war whoop was heard through the Land. Time passed on, years rolled by. Now When the sea gull hovered in loneliness is whitened by a 1000 sails. When the pine & tall oaks stood in silent grandeur, now wave golden harvest fields, rise beautiful villages, & populous cities. Our far reaching rivers, once navigated by the wild man in bark canoe, now bears upon their bosom

floating-palaces wh. move like a part of life. Our western prairies traverse the Buffalo & deer, are converted into fields, & the voice of melody & praise succeeded the startling battle cry of men. Where once was only the wild path of the Indian trail now canals.

Telegraphs bring the most distant points in contact, destroying time & space, & link the various parts of our Union into glorious confederacy. Our cities once being 100's now 100,000's. A little has become a 1000 & a small one a strong one.

"Ours is a land, of every land the pride of Heaven, o'er all the world beside."

2. The past & present in a political point of view

Because we celebrate the 4 of July, the Jubilee. The Puritans of England, & the Huguenots of France, sought a refuge in this western land. They laid the foundations of this mighty Empire, acknowledged God & recognized the rights of man. We were directed through the fiery trial of the Revolution by the wisdom of God, & the Council devised our national Constitution. We chose our own rulers & make our own laws. We have a right to read our Bibles, & worship God under our own vine. No man can have his person, property, or character touched, without the right of referring the issue to a process of law by Jury. And other privileges & immunities we have that endears us to our institutions. Set this people down in the hands of Russia & the Old Czar would tremble on his throne.

The spirit of Liberty has already crossed the ocean, & entered France, Italy, & Hungary. It is beating in the bosoms of Millions, & being filled with the ideas of Freedom, they are leaping from the dust & shaking off their chains. What though the bolts of every chain has again been driven the despots of Europe can no more hold the heaving mass, than the chains of Xerxes could hold the Hellespont when vexed with storms. The world is on ward in the cause of Liberty, it burns, sheaves, & murmurs & soon it will explode, with thunderings, & our land is cheering the nations on in their struggle for universal emancipation.

3. The past & present in an educational point of view

Because we celebrate this day as a S.S. we mean by Education the progress in letters the sciences & the arts. New discoveries in astronomy has enlarged our conceptions, Botany has given every flower & shrub a meaning, & Electricity is copying all power save the infinite & Boundless. By Steam we navigate rivers against wind & tide, Bridge the Ocean, move massive machinery. 100. years ago & how limited the means for learning & improvement, now the common school system is the glory of our country. Our fathers felt this want & determined to pursue a wise policy. Hence as soon as a church was built the foundation of schools & colleges were laid. Colleges are now planted in every State. No sect, no creed, no wealth, no aristocratic pride can claim prominence here. These are open doors & stores leading on on the pursuit after knowledge.

That which most strikes a traveler entering Continental Europe, is its standing army, its immense soldiery. We go to our common schools & say, these are of our nation, the palladium of our safety.

Their policy has been to enslave the people, without understanding, lest a sudden burst of passion might shake down a throne. Ours is to deprecate education among the masses that they may appreciate Civil Liberty, Universal the Ballot box intelligence & understand the rights of man.

They pour all the light of the sun through a gas pipe for the sake of one bright spark. We deprecate her glittering rays & illumine every street & alley. They raise one monstrous Bonfire, we kindle a flame on every man's hearth stone. Our mechanics & merchants are ^{generally} a reading thinking & intelligent population.

4. The past & present in a religious point of view

Because we celebrate this day as Protestants. There is here no union of church & state, no ecclesiastical tyrant to dictate what we must believe. We are Protestant & the Church of this country is decidedly Protestant. 'Tis true now & then a recreant from Protestantism is taking the backward track towards the mill the crasier & Brown; But we are not becoming papal in this country. Protestantism is the deep, firm, fixed form of the religious sentiment of the Land. We have our Bible, we worship God under our own fig tree, we have religious liberty, we enjoy our religious privileges, Each one can bow before his God & supplicate for such blessings as we wish.

Let the principles of Protestantism work like leaven among the masses, & our popular rights, & free institutions will stand forever. Our word for it, the history of man for it, the ~~Scripture~~^{word of God} for it; if our Country ever forsakes these holy principles wh. radiate from the Bible, given us by the Protestant Ch. She will draw nearer & nearer an awful whirlpool, & her sacred Liberties & her glorious institutions will go thundering down her sinking Centre.

It is true France has disappointed the hopes of freemen, Italy has struggled in vain, Rome, like a vulture, gorges herself on the shield of Republicism, Hungary has fallen a prey to the Northern Bear & the Eagles of Hapsburgh, Germany awakes from a dream of misty & finds herself in the perfidious hands of Med. 10th & Joseph, The Fall of death has settled down on Europe, the voice of Freedom hushed to silence, but Liberty is not dead! She slumbers to recruit her energies, & in our land, our happy country she lives reigns & is felt, & is casting her hallowed influences on other lands.

May the star spangled banner ever wave over the land of the free & the home of the brave, May Civil & political Liberty, liberty of speech, liberty of thought, liberty of the press, Religious liberty ever be ours

Love then a man with soul so dead,
Who neer within himself hath said,
This is my own my native land.

Goast.

But we must not forget our
Here we wish to be so plain & simple
these children may understand. She
is the child of the Protestant Ch. Altho
She is young in years, yet her influence
great, & she is as good & as pure & as in-
cent as her fair daughters gathered under
her bosom. What can be more lovely than
the children of the Church gathered in the
sanctuary, on the sabbath, receiving instruction
from Heaven. The principle of S.S. needs no
commendation. It is enough for you to
know, that it is a good institution, & that
it has been blessed of God & that it has
of redeeming Grace. We wish to urge upon
you greater attention to this cause. The
little children, the Lambs of Christ flock
to you for guidance & instruction, who
to feed them the bread of life if not you
as parents, church members, & as teachers
Would you wish them to grow up in vice
sin & not impress them with the ways
virtue & the doctrines of the Bible. God
entrusted these young immortals to your
& calls upon you to train them up
The impressions which you make upon
their young & tender souls, have an im-
portant weight in forming their character
either for good or woe. Is not the hope
of the Country in the young? Does not
mothers nurse in their bosoms the young
men of the future Church? & does not
the happiness & woe of posterity depend
on the manner we instruct the young
Does it not become you to be active
& zealous in the S.S.

Address the Parents.

See that your children are instructed
in the grand doctrines of the Bible.

See that they attend the S.S. of your
own choosing, & attend regularly.

Stand by the Superintendent &
encourage him in his labor of love.

Assist him in every possible way.
As a duty you owe to your Child. Ch. God.

Address the Superintendent.

Your work of love.

Your difficulties as minister.
Do your duty.

God will own your labors.

Address Teachers

What better employment for
the Sabbath day.

Be regular at school that your
scholars will be there.

Make no excuse to be absent
from your school. if so procure assistant

Impress upon the mind of
your class the truths of God's word.

God will own the weakest
effort for his cause.

Address others to become teachers.

No time - but 2 hours.

Not Capable - teach what you know
Try & see how you will improve.

Let the young. & say not so.

Address the Children.

Love the Lord thy God.

Obey thy Parents.

If not disobey law &
Love your teachers.

For they point you to

Be regular at school.

Read the Bible.

May God help us to improve
day & all other days & to Him
all the praise.

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Roanoke College Dec. 19th 1860

Rev. A. P. Smeltzer

Respected Sir,

In compliance with a resolution of the Semestrian Society of Roanoke College, it is my agreeable duty to inform you of your election to honorary membership in that body. Deeply appreciating the honor and dignity your intellectual ^{qualifications} and moral worth will confer upon us, it will afford me the highest pleasure to announce your acceptance.

Hoping that I may soon have such authority to subscribe myself with sentiments of the highest regard,

Your obedient servant,
Chas. L. Groseclose Sec. Sec.
of Semestrian Society.