WILL

Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History



Excerpts from Thursday, August 28, 1862, Public Ledger

Arrest of Charles Ingersoll, Esq. – Charles Ingersoll, Esq., appeared at the Provost Marshall's office at 12 o'clock yesterday, agreeably to the conditions of the bond which he gave on Monday. As no definite instructions had been received by the Provost Marshall in reference to the disposition of Mr. Ingersoll, arrangements were to be made for his detention at the Marshall's Head-quarters until to-day, so as to afford more time to the authorities at Washington to act in the matter. Mr. Ingersoll desired a private room, as it was first designed to put him with some of the military prisoners. Before these arrangements were completed the Provost Marshall received orders to take Mr. Ingersoll to the Head-quarters of General Montgomery. Several gentlemen accompanied Mr. Ingersoll to the General's private office, and, upon entering, were that the interview was to be a private one. They thereupon withdrew. A long conference took place between the General and Mr. Ingersoll. Finally, they went together to the office of Marshall Milward, where Mr. Ingersoll was delivered into the Marshall's custody on the grounds that he was the proper person to have control of the prisoner.. This Marshall stated to Mr. Ingersoll that he should detain him under the recent order of the War Department on the charge of having made remarks calculated to discourage enlistments and of uttering disloyal sentiments; and informed of his duty required to send him to Washington, which he should in the afternoon or the evening. In the course of the interview the Marshall read the affadavit upon which the arrest was made.

Additional proceedings – Writ of Habeas Corpus Sued Out – Hearing Postponed - Yesterday afternoon, in the United States District Court, the following petition for a writ of habeas corpus was presented to Judge [John] Cadwalader:

To the Hon John Cadwalader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The petition of Charles Ingersoll respectfully represents that he is a loyal citizen of the United States, resident in the said district. That he is illegally restrained of his liberty, and us unjustly held and detained in custody, without warrant or legal cause, by William Milward, Esq., Marhsal of the United States for the said district, under or by the order of a pretended authority of the United States, or of the Secretary of War of the United States.

Your petitioners therefore prays your honor to grant a writ of habeas corpus, to be directed to the said William Milward, and to his principal deputy, or officers having charge of him to wit Thomas B. Patterson and W. Schuyler, commanding him or them to bring your petitioner before your honr, to do, submit, and to receive what the laws may require. And he will ever pray, & c.

CHARLES INGERSOLL

Philadelphia, August 27, 1862

Upon the presentation of the petition and affadavit, Judge Cadwalader granted to the writ, making it returnable forthwith.

Mr. Ingersoll was represented by Messers. McCall, George W. Biddle and George M. Wharton. Marshall Milward was having gone out of the city, Mr. Paterson, the principal Deputy, made the same reply. The counsel for Mr. Ingersoll expressed a doubt that the

prisoner would be kept in the city until to-day and Mr. McCall insisted that the return should be made to the writ forthwith, saying that the officers were in contempt of Court not making it as directed. By the terms of the writ they were commanded to produce the body forthwith, which they had not done.

Judge Cadwalader said that the officers had requested time, and he thought, under the circumstances, it should be given. At the same time, he took occasion to say that the deputies would understand that Mr. Ingersoll was to be produced in Court at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning.

District Attorney Coffee, who was present, said that the arrest had been made, as he understood it, under an order of the War Department, which order suspended the writ of habeas corpus. In his opinion, therefore, the officers were not bound to obey the writ.

Judge Cadwalader replied that the officers wre bound to obey the mandate of the Court. They had asked for time and he had granted it. He should be at leisure at eleven o'clock to-day to receive the return of the writ, and he should expect the prisoner to be removed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court in the meantime.