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BANQUET - SPLENDOR.

The Centennial of Washington's Inauguration Grandly Celebrated.

TOASTS OF MUCH ELOQUENCE

The Citizens Turn Out En Masse and Pack the Opera House to its Greatest Capacity

Event of a Century.

It was a banquet of grandeur. All day long patriotic hearts beat impatiently for the evening, when the magnificence of the celebration of the centennial of the inauguration of George Washington, as the first president of the United States, should be comprehended.

Long before the sun rose with the splendor he is wont to display in Fair Nebraska and join the warm and cheerful sunlight with the cool, calm atmosphere and beautiful surroundings of nature to make the day a fitting memorial of the occasion which it celebrated, the beginning of the new century was announced by the sound of fire crackers and the reports of small canons in the hands of young America. The reports became more numerous, followed by shouts of pleasure, as the day advanced announcing the awakening of enthusiasm. Shortly after 9 o'clock the ringing of church, school and fire bells, with the booming of the canon, called to memory the glad time it represented—the same performance having been heartily carried out in New York City on April 30, 1789 previous to the inauguration of President Washington.

Not a cloud appeared in the sky during the whole day and the temperature was just high enough to make all comfortable and avoid the nervous jostle of a hot summer day. On the main streets there was a great number of people from morning till night and at the time of the procession there was a throng. The line of march was from Chicago avenue on Granite to Seventh, thence to Main, on Main to Second and countermarch to Fourth, on Fourth to Vine thence to Seventh, thence to Main and down Main to the opera house where ranks were broken. Among the notable divisions of the procession, headed by the B. & M. band, Mayor Richey and city officers, were the uniformed fire boys with beautifully decorated hose carts; a large number of Irish American citizens marching behind an American flag, and a smaller Irish flag and a large number of the G. A. R. Marshals of the day were, J. C. Eikenbary, R. W. Myers, David Miller, J. W. Johnson, H. C. Ritchie, Dan Coffee, Wm. Neville, Wm. Tartsch and Chas. Weckbach.

AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

The grand Inaugural Banquet held in the opera house in the evening was the most splendid affair ever held in Nebraska, and of all the banquets held in the Union, none doubtless excelled it.

The opera hall was most charmingly and patriotically decorated. Suspended gracefully from the main chamber in the centre of the hall, in all directions, were strips of red, white and blue bunting. While the gallery balcony was liberally decorated with flags and nation-

al colors. The box balconies were handsomely decked with flowers, with evergreen back ground. In the front of the stage was erected three large arches, one main and two subordinate, of choice flowers and evergreen. Hung on the back of the stage, arranged like a grand reception room—was the Ship of State, made with beautiful and graceful pattern of flowers. By 8 o'clock in the evening every seat in the hall was occupied, and the gallery was crowded to its utmost capacity. A perfect string of guests continued to arrive, however, and soon the banquet floor was a mass of moving humanity, around the tables, which were arranged in the center of the hall, one round table in the middle from which extended eight long arms (tables) and between the extremity of the arms were small round tables, all with a seating capacity of about two hundred and twenty five—making standing room in part of the house at a premium. The Taite orchestra dispensed beautiful strains of patriotic music during the entire evening.

COLONIAL CHARACTERS.

At 8:40 the curtain rose and in the presidential reception parlor were President George Washington and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Gouverneur Morris, Miss Sallie Fairfax and Miss Nellie Curtis, while Thomas Jefferson received and introduced the guests as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. John Knox, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Randolph, Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Allen, Mr. and Mrs. James Otis, Gen. Lafayette, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Henry, Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, Paul Revere; and Billy Bishop lead the music. The president and wife stood on a prominence, surrounded with the rest of the presidential reception party and recognized the guests with a bow. After the introduction of the colonial dignities the orchestra played a march to which the G. A. R. S. of V, Irish Americans and uniformed fire boys paraded through the hall before the president and party and received their recognition. When this procession had left the hall the waiter girls—forty in number—dressed to represent colonies of Dutch, Spanish, French, Quakers, Netherlands and two colonies of English girls marched before the colonial representatives. Then followed a song by the kindergarten, trained by Mrs. Merges, who were also *en costume* and did their part grandly. Their song was a selection from the greeting sang to Washington at Trenton and is as follows:

Welcome, mighty chief, once more;
Welcome to this grateful shore,
Now no mercenary foe
Aims at thee a fatal blow.
Virgins fair and matrons grave,
Who thy conquering arm did save
Build for thee triumphant bowers
Strew the hero's way with flowers.

At the grand march then played by the orchestra the presidential and colonial party, headed the march around the hall, followed by the kindergarten folks and waiter girls, and then the guests were seated to the banquet tables. It would be useless to attempt to describe the magnificence of the feast spread. One colonial specialty was the old-fashioned tallow candles on the tables. The dinner was opened with prayer by Rev. J. T. Baird.

AFTER DINNER PROGRAMME.

After the nobility had feasted, Toast Master Thomas Jefferson took charge of

the banquet, and made the following address:

Ladies and Gentlemen and Most Worthy Contemporaries:—These are times fraught with intense interest to every patriot of the Revolution and all lovers of American liberty.

The inauguration of Washington as the first president of the New Republic is only another link made visible in the golden chain which binds us, as we believe, to a grand and mighty future among the nations of the world.

I consider myself especially favored in being chosen to direct the programme on this interesting occasion. It is truly a pleasurable experience to be thus brought face to face with so much of the grace and beauty—the chivalry and manhood of this eventful period; and gratifying it is, to be one of the favored guests at a reception made deeply impressive by the presence of our illustrious commander and his queenly lady.

Washington, who was crown prince and heir-apparent to the throne of American liberties has taken his seat, not only in the presidential chair but in the hearts of the people where he will remain untorn till governments shall be no more; so let us be happy, and join together in the festivities of this occasion, mindful of his past services to our country, and cherishing in our hearts through him, a hope for a successful future as a people.

At the close of the revolutionary struggle, our revered host sought retirement in his home at Mt. Vernon, expressing a desire to thus end his days in well earned peace and in the enjoyment of the blessings of a free government.

But the world wants men, brave, fearless, honorable men, to lead in the onward march of progress, hence Washington was sought in his retirement and the scepter of power again laid at his feet.

In laying the foundation of this New Republic we needed his wise counsel and the might and influence of his name. Having conducted successfully a revolution that will form an important era in the world, it was the unanimous desire of all patriots that he should inaugurate the new and untried government. With reluctance, but in accord with the nobility of his character, this eminent soldier, statesman and citizen came again at the bidding of his countrymen.

When the world's history of great men is written, the fame of our Washington will stand apart from that of any other character, and it will go on increasing until the brightest constellation in yonder heavens is called by his name.

In responding to the toast "American Citizenship" George Washington pointed out the changed political status of a people who had progressed from a condition as subjects of a foreign nation to citizens of their own. Our citizenship was also shown to represent a higher degree of individual liberty and a greater guarantee of protection to rights as well as enlarged responsibility than that enjoyed by subjects of other nations. The arts of war were referred to as securing our independence while its preservation was now dependent upon the arts of peace. The response done great credit to the toast and was received with applause.

Hon. W. J. Broatch responded to the toast "In Union There Is Strength," and made an excellent address, commencing at the early days and trials of the colonies followed their history briefly down to the present day, drawing out a strong and plain picture of the truth of his toast from the living subject—the United States.

James Otis in response to the toast "The Problem of Self Government Solved and Settled" drew a plain and emphatic proof from the United States as shown since 1789, and showed how

the problem of self government had been solved by a "constitution which we here set in motion, has come from the mature deliberations of the soberest wisdom and is fitted as well to the steady strain of peace as to the feverish excitement and extremity of war." His brief but comprehensive remarks ended thus: "Our way is discovered, our points are made known, Our destiny is assured. We shall now rush on with resistless sweep to growth and prestige and first place among the nations even as the impeded torrent lashes on with accelerated momentum when the long gathered debris has been suddenly removed."

The toast "The Puritans" was responded to by Dr. J. W. Harsha, who opened a grand resume of the Puritans, by passing high compliments on the assembled guests. He mentioned as the wants of the people of those times, pure religion, pure schools and pure government. Speaking of the tearing down of the bastille in Paris, one hundred years ago next July 14, he drew the comparison, America celebrating the centennial of the building up of liberty while the French celebrate the tearing down of the bastille.

Rev. J. G. Taite heartily responded to the toast "Our Country of Today" and pictured the United States in all its magnificent completeness. Of the people he said "we have the best people and the best government." He pictured how this country had surpassed the grandest hopes of the forefathers, and suggested the great future which the Creator had in store for this republic of free people. "America is the youngest, richest, freest, best, most patriotic, best educated, better ministers, better preaching and better congregations than any other nation of the world."

A declamation "Paul Revere" was then spoken with great force and expression by Geo. R. Chaburn.

Benjamin Franklin responded to the toast "Westward the Star of Empire Takes its Course." Mr. Franklin drew heavily on his great knowledge of history, and with the great reasoning powers of his mind expounded plainly the law of "Westward the Star of Empire Takes its Course." He showed how the theocracy of the Jews was apparent in Grecian grandeur, and Grecian philosophy and greatness in turn laid the foundation deep and wide for the Empire of Rome which in turn wielded the scepter of the world in obedience to this natural law that divines the Star of Empire Westward. And the great nations of Europe were indebted to the treasures and dead arts of Rome for their grandeur of today. And again, the ideas and privileges we cherish as freemen, and laws of our own country, had been projected before in the mother country, and for centuries been questions of strife. This westward course "is the fiat of the Ruler of the universe." He closed his remarks with "in the next century, as in the past, it can be said by our countrymen, the mighty east shall please the west; and mountain unto mountain, call praise to God, for we are free."

Dr. A. R. Thaine responded to the toast "The Evolution of the Yankee." Pictured the success of the indomitable perseverance of the Yankee, by means of which was brought about his great evolution from the early Puritan days to the

present, which evolution is purely Yankee. And now is demonstrated in the possibility for a Yankee of humble birth to rise to the highest position America can give. Showing the Yankee's knack of utilizing everything to a purpose and making money etc, his speech was pointed out created much hearty laughter.

"Our National Credit," at least responded to by Alexander Hamilton, was well presented to the guests, and especially the necessity of it dwelt upon. Mr. Hamilton closed his toast with the words: "We are a nation new among the nations of the earth. We have a great country. We trust our greatness may be carefully nurtured and jealously guarded, and that we may enjoy an era of peace, prosperity and happiness unparalleled in the history of nations, by preserving, among other things, our national credit."

Our national credit.

The golden standard war?

Patrick Henry was very appropriately assigned to the toast "The Constitution," to reply to. Owing to the fact that he thought the adoption of the present constitution was premature, Mr. Henry opposed it, fearing that the people were not ready for a change from the articles of confederation to the constitution. But he saw the wisdom of it, and confessed the fact that he was not acquainted with the loyal temper of the people, and that was why he had not been willing to pledge himself and the citizens of Virginia to its support. His only reason for opposing it was that we had just come out of war, and was afraid that the attendant excitement would not allow harmony to exist in making the change. The remarks were very suitable for the person, and much oratorical strength was noticeable.

John A. Lam responded to the toast "The Revolutionary Women." He spoke from the standpoint of today. "This one hundred years with all its accomplishments was made possible through the homes of one hundred years ago, at the fireplaces under the teaching of the mothers. Among all the influences that impel men to endure and perform heroic deeds is love for mother and wife. Back of the army that was seen, was the army that was unseen; and back of the suffering on the battle field was the suffering at home. To the revolutionary women are due credit for the present great commonwealth of America," were among the points made in honor to the Revolutionary women.

"The American Schools," a toast responded to by Hon. J. B. Strode, is as follows:

It used to be thought that the common private citizen and the laboring man, needed little or no educational training. But it is realized now as never before, that "knowledge is power."

The future of nations depends largely upon the degree of instruction they shall attain. The highest, the most enlightened and consequently the most powerful nation of the future is to be that which shall put the most knowledge and intelligence into labor.

The multiplication of the kinds of institutions of instruction in this country has been and is at once an effect and cause of national and social progress. In response to the toast "American Schools," I shall have time to notice but one class of these schools—the free, public schools. Democracy and popular education had

a common origin and are inseparable to each other. In the development and advancement of public instruction the chief opposing forces have been religious bigotry, aristocratic influence, and ignorant suffrage.

The free school system of the United States, adopted now in all the states, and being enlarged and improved in all them, is the hope of the nation. Imperfect as the primitive common school of confessedly was, and imperfect as the system of public free schools is yet in some of our states, yet I challenge any man to point at a more precious boon, that modern civilization has given not only to the people of the American states, but to the poor and down trodden of some of the nations of Europe.

No philanthropy is better than that which carries the light of knowledge as a free gift to the poor, and no patriotism is higher than that which provides a good education for a whole nation. The dearest interest of any nation is the education of its children. Education of the masses is the hope of our Republic.

A monarchy or an aristocracy is possible anywhere, but a Republic like ours can not be long maintained among an ignorant and vicious people. A sovereign—a voter—must know how to rule—how to vote, or otherwise selfish demagogues will govern by their means and this is death to the Republic.

Our free schools are designed for the welfare of all our fellow beings, and it is the sublimest truth which the history of the race has yet brought to light, that God has so woven the fortunes of all men into one inseparable bond of unity and fellowship, that it can be well with no class, or oligarchy, or denunciation of men, who in their own self-seeking forget the welfare of their fellow beings.

The first public school in America was established in Boston, in 1635; the second at New Haven, in 1639; the third at Hartford, in 1642. The first school law was enacted by the legislature of Mass. in 1647, requiring every town of fifty or more families to maintain a school for teaching reading and writing. These are very early dates in our history. But from these first beginnings our magnificent free schools have been developed. They are now open to all alike. They have done much, and very much to destroy human ignorance and prejudices in this free land of ours.

There is no such danger of spontaneous combustion in a heap of old dirty greasy rags as there is in a mass of human ignorance and prejudice; nor can the former be more easily set on fire by a torch, than the latter by a demagogue. The recent proceedings of the anarchists of Chicago furnish a forcible illustration of these facts.

The school house is the strongest fortress in which we can place our nation's future destiny.

"Knowledge is power." But the race has suffered as much from the usurpers of knowledge, as from its Alexanders and its Napoleons at a prior period, remote now in the history of nations, all the libraries and the means of acquiring knowledge, were destroyed, and the greater part of the learning of the age was confined to a few individuals. A long continued reign of terror followed; the inquisition and the dark ages, mark some of the results.

If learning could be monopolized today by a few individuals amongst us, another priesthood, whether Egyptian or Druidical, or of more modern caste, it matters not, would speedily arise, bowing the souls of men beneath the burdens of their terrible superstitions.

But thanks to our colonial ancestors and to the founders of our governmental system, to the patriotic statesmen who have preserved it and to the loyal people who have maintained it, we have thoroughly established in this free, the most philanthropic, the grandest and the best nation on earth, a free school system where the whole people may acquire an

Continued on Last Page.

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