

MANDERSON. Nebraska was highly honored four years ago when the American Bar Association made our distinguished citizen, James M. Woolworth, its president. That tribute to the ability, learning and worth of Mr. Woolworth was an inspiration to every younger member of the noble profession of law to seek fame by diligent devotion to his profession rather than in the arena of politics. And now in Gen. Charles F. Manderson the American Bar Association has recognized another eminent and worthy citizen of this commonwealth by having him deliver the annual address at its meeting in Buffalo, N. Y., on Monday last, the 28th instant.

Every good man and woman in Nebraska rejoices because these compliments are evolutions from a respect for the high intellectual character and genuine achievements of two of the finest types of our political and social life. No caucus, no convention, created these distinctions. But they came to their recipients with spontaneity as the recognition and reward of honest merit.

THE CONSERVATIVE would, did space permit, publish all of General Manderson's speech, but must content itself with only a few short extracts. Referring to eminent members of the bar who have recently deceased he said of Thomas F. Bayard:

"Born in the American purple, of an ancestry ever distinguished for patriotism and rare mental, moral and physical endowments, he was easily the first of his illustrious name. The leader of the bar of his state while yet a young man, he would have stepped to the front rank of his profession had not his capacity for political leadership, and his many graces of mind and body brought him naturally into public life. He succeeded his lawyer father in the senate of the United States, being the fourth of his family to reach that exalted station. For sixteen years in that body he led his side of the chamber with gracious courtesy and masterful ability, becoming president pro tempore of the senate. He resigned to be secretary of state, surrendering the portfolio to his successor after a most creditable career.

"During the last term of President Cleveland he served his country most acceptably as ambassador to Great Britain. In all stations of life he did well his part, and of him it can well be said as of the Chevalier Bayard of the olden time, he was 'sans peur et sans reproche.'"

Of Judge Stephen J. Field, of the supreme court, he spoke as follows:

"On March 10, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln appointed as associate justice of the supreme court of the United States Stephen J. Field of California.

"Of a family noted for vigorous ability and virile powers, he brought to his

high place a ripe experience, having been distinguished at the bar and on the bench. For nearly six years he had been a justice of the supreme court of California. Ascending the bench of the highest federal tribunal on March 20, 1863, in the 'midst of war's alarms,' during all the time of the fratricidal conflict, the great period of reconstruction, while the 'effort to reestablish the nation and adjust all things to the changed political, social and economical conditions' was on, and continuing through the years of enterprise, invention, investment and marvelous material development that followed the war for thirty-four years, six months and eleven days, or until December 1, 1897, this remarkable man remained upon the supreme court bench, meeting the grave questions that arose with such persevering industry, brave disregard of popular clamor, rugged honesty of purpose and such marked ability that even those who criticised and condemned some of his decisions were compelled to give their respect to the great power of the venerable jurist. He wrote during his service 620 opinions, and if to these are added those published in the circuit court and the supreme court of California it will be seen that he voiced the decision in 1,042 important and leading cases. In President McKinley's letter accepting his resignation are these words of appreciation. 'I congratulate you most heartily upon a service of such exceptional duration, fidelity and distinction. Upon your retirement both the bench and the country will sustain a great loss, but the high character and great ability of your work will live and long be remembered, not only by your colleagues, but by your grateful fellow countrymen.'

"On April 9, 1899, at the age of eighty-two years, full of honors as of years, he passed away. Meet and fitting is it that we should pay tribute to his memory."

But THE CONSERVATIVE cannot refrain from reproducing the eloquent and timely remarks of General Manderson, himself a gallant and well-tried soldier, in regard to the peace conference at The Hague:

"Nature in her evolutionary processes moves with a deliberation only equalled by her precision. Her motto seems to be 'make haste slowly.' The reaching of man's best estate, that millennium of peace that lies under the rainbow of promise, seems to our impatient souls to be much delayed. In the presence of the mighty armies of the great European powers; the upbuilding and maintenance of the gigantic navies; the annual increase of the budgets to keep the navies upon a war footing; the piling up of their stupendous indebtedness; the development of more destructive fighting machines; the increase

in force and power of the great guns; the forcing of more and more velocity and penetrative power into the enormous projectiles; the invention of new and fearful explosives; in short, as we behold all the power of civilization turned into preparation for war, more destructive than the world has ever known, it seems as though the dove, bearing the olive branch, will never return to the ark, but that mankind would continue the struggle for national supremacy in a sea of blood.

"We feel that DeMaistre spoke truly when he said, 'History unfortunately proves that war is, in a certain sense, the habitual state of mankind; that is, that human blood must be shed, here and there, without interruption upon the earth; and that a state of peace is, for each nation, but a respite.' Said the fiery Mirabeau to the Quaker: 'Thou wantest peace? Well, it is the weakness which invites war.'

"The student of history reads of the slow steps from the 'pure savagery of the individual man,' when he slew his fellow from mere appetite for blood, or hope of personal profit, down through the ages when the will of the family and then of the tribe was substituted for single caprice; or the long period that followed before the civic federation, called by whatever name, came to control bloodthirst and of the still longer time before the 'command of the decalogue,' 'Thou shalt not kill' could be set aside by a few, the very few that, as the representative heads of great nations, hold in their hands the power of life and death, and reaching near unto the end of the nineteenth century, looks upon the state of Europe, with every city a fortification and every hamlet a garrison, with boundary lines marked by guns and governments held in place by bayonets and despairs of the coming described long time ago 'how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace.'

"But suddenly in the East while men despaired, there shone a great light, like a new Star of Bethlehem. The greatest autocrat in the world, the supreme ruler of one hundred and thirty million subjects who do his bidding, the all powerful commander of over four million drilled and disciplined soldiers, sounded the recall to armed Europe. The great Czar of Russia, head of a military empire so mighty as to be unconquerable, invites the civilized world to meet in conference that armies may be reduced, navies be lessened, oppressive taxation for war budgets be relieved and peace, blessed, lasting peace, dawn upon the nations.

"It was but three years ago that our distinguished guest, Lord Russell of Killowen, in his superb argument for the settlement of international disputes by arbitration, while expressing his