WELCOME, WHITELAW REID!

Continued from Second Page.

service, his most eminent usefulness has thus far been attained; and it is to that occupation of his to which we look most lovingly and most hopefully in the future. I may not dwell upon it in detail. Because he has just returned from France reminds me when I attempt to speak of France of that utterance of that great Frenchman, Guizot, who, speaking of the press, called it "that great invention about which so many commonplaces have been uttered, but to which no commonplace ever can do justice." I will trouble you with no commonplaces of mine. We have here this evening a representative of the press from whom no commonplace can ever come, and I make haste to call upon and to present to you the Hon. A. K. McClure, of Philadelphia. (Applause.)

Colonel McClure then said:

This is to me a most pleasant occasion. I have known the distinguished guest of the evening for thirty years as a journalist; remember him well as one of the most brilliant of the remarkable galaxy of war correspondents developed during the Rebellion, and have noted his rapid advancement to the very front rank of his profession, not only with the pride that I have always felt in those who dignify the newspaper calling, but also with the gratification that ever comes to us all when cherished friends attain exceptional success. There is eminent fitness in this gathering of distinguished sons of Ohio to do honor to Whitelaw Reid, who is now a leading figure in American progress as journalist and diplomat, but whose name will be cherished chiefly, not only in this but in other lands, as one who has shed the richest lustre upon American journalism. (Applause.)

What is journalism in this great Republic? In England it has been called the fourth estate; in the free institutions of America, where the people are sovereign, and where the newspapers are the chief educators of those who govern the land, the Press is the first estate. Like all great elements of power, it has its shadowed aspects. It has many teachers of its own creation who are discreditable to the great calling and a reproach to the most intelligent people of the earth; but discounted by all its imperfections, the Press of the United States is the best the world has ever known, and is the most potent of all the varied factors in our free government. I regard the editorial chair as the highest public trust of our free institutions. Presidents, Cabinets, Senates, representative bodies come and pay their brief parts and pass away, many of them into forgetfulness; and great parties rise and fall in the swift mutations of the political efforts of a free people. Journalism not only survives all the varied changes of our political system, but its duties and responsibilities multiply with each year as it becomes more and more the great teacher of the people in their homes. (Applause.)

When President Harrison came into power he honored himself by nominating to three of the four first-class missions of the Government, distinguished representatives of American journals—Whitelaw Reid to France, Charles Emory Smith to Russia and Murat Halstead to Germany. High as was the compliment paid to journalism by the President, the highest compliment of all was paid to Mr. Halstead when he was rejected by a Senate of his own political faith; and an exceptional compliment was paid to Mr. Reid, the honored guest of the evening, by his narrow escape from rejection by the same body. (Laughter.) There was not an objection urged against the confirmation of either of these eminent journalists that was not inspired by resentment for the best journalistic efforts of their lives. It was the manly, fearless criticism of public men and public measures; the exposure of the infirmities and perfidy of those who pose as representative statesmen of the Republic, that honored Mr. Halstead by refusing him the mission for which he had been nominated, and that paid a rare tribute to Mr. Reid by great Senate assenting to his appointment. The cowardly, submissive journalist is innocent of antagonisms; the aggressive, fearless, faithful journalist commands the highest distinction of malignant hostility from all who make politics a trade and prostitute statesmanship to mean ambition and jobbery. (Applause.) I recall also with great pleasure the fact that the two great editors who were confirmed to fill first-class missions, have both voluntarily resigned to resume their newspaper duties. We are here to-night to welcome Mr. Reid back to his high public trust of journalism, and in Philadelphia we shall soon be able to welcome Mr. Smith, who has resigned his mission and will resume the great calling of his life. These leaders of our profession have learned the littleness of official trust when compared with the highest of all public trusts—the direction of a great newspaper. (Applause.)

EDITORS IN PUBLIC OFFICE.

Need I remind this intelligent assembly of Horace Greeley, confessedly the ablest of all the many able journalists our country has produced? He was often more potent even than the President, and no man ever accomplished so much in the education of the people in all that was beneficent and just. He cared not for the honors or emoluments of public office, but he had fought the battles of the people; he had braved obloquy in his tireless efforts for the oppressed and lowly, and his great sympathetic heart that ever beat responsive to the cries of the oppressed crowned the grateful recognition of the people to whose cause he so sincerely dedicated his life. (Applause.) A brief term in Congress proved to all, as it must have proved to himself, that while the great editor was a master in criticising the imperfections of public men, the Congressman who had criticised his fellows through his own newspaper columns was a dismal failure. At last the great dream of his life gave promise of fulfilment as he was nominated for the Presidency; but the clouds came, his hopes perished; and, smitten in all that he loved or dreamed of, his death was welcomed by his friends as ending the fitful life that had settled in a starless midnight of mental darkness. And Raymond, whose name is spoken with reverence by every American journalist; the only man whose lance was never shivered in his many conflicts with his great master, is now hardly remembered as Legislator, Speaker, Lieutenant-Governor and Member of Congress. He was a leader of leaders in politics. He was at the baptismal font of Republicanism, and he penned the platform of Pittsburg in 1856, that crystallized the greatest party of American history and made the most heroic achievements of any civilization of the world. I have seen him calm a turbulent national convention; call it to order and method, and guide it to the great results of its mission; but who remembers him as Congressman, save as the target of the matchless invective of Stevens, or as having receded failure after failure in statesmanship?

Dana, the Nestor of American journalism, dated his great success and power as a newspaper man from the time when he indignantly declined a second place in the Customs of your city, tendered to him by a President whose election he had favored. (Applause.) Thenceforth he was free from the things of political expectation, and no one has more pointedly illustrated the difference in distinction and achievement between the editor who puts journalism before party and party honors and the editor who struggles for party success to share party spoils. (Applause.) The elder Bennett has grandly illustrated the true theory of journalism by the assumption that a great editor could never be an acceptable popular candidate for any party, and I have reason to know that he regarded it as the crowning distinction of his life that he had the opportunity to decline, as incompatible with his journalistic duties, the same mission from which our honored guest of to-night has just returned.

NONE MAY DECLINE THE CALL.

All respected newspapers teach that it is the duty of the citizen to accept public trust when called upon by the sovereign power of our free government, and none will dispute the correctness of the theory; but where in all the land is there a higher public trust than that accepted by the editor of a widely read newspaper? In our free government there is no official position that can reasonably be accepted as promotion from the editorial chair; and the fact that political place is only attainable by a greater or less amount of dependence upon the favor of political partisanship emphasizes the necessity of maintaining the absolute independence of journalism by the absolute refusal of the public place, for which the jostling of mean ambition is ever in struggle. The time was when journalism was confined to party organs and when newspapers were a luxury. Public office was then measurably compatible with the public trust of journalism; but that age has passed away never to return. To-day the newspaper is the educator of the home and is read in almost every family in the land. It is the daily lesson to our children; the daily monitor to those who exercise the sovereignty of our government. It is constant in its duties and its achievements. On great occasions it arouses public sentiment to aggressive action; in common times it is ceaselessly fulfilling its mission as gently as the dews which jewel the flowers of the early morning, and it is the one calling of our free land that cannot be dependent upon the whims of party leaders or the resentments of those who control official positions. It must be "unawed by influence, unbribed by gain." Such is the true mission of the journalist where journalism is so inseparably interwoven with the sovereignty of the Republic, and it is to this high trust and duty that we welcome back the honored guest of the evening. (Loud applause.)

FOR THE PRESS OF NEW-YORK.

At the close of Colonel McClure's speech General Swayne again arose and introduced St. Clair McKelway in the following words:

The bewitching language of the last speaker has conjured up the mighty dead. He has done more than that. In his own person and in reference to the co-laborers of his own age and generation, he has illustrated the mighty dead by the great survivors of the living. Think what a comedy this is! Colonel McClure, Mr. Dana, Mr. Childs, Mr. Halstead and Mr. Richard Smith. Think of the vast aggregate of popular education they illustrate, shining forth in the intelligent public sentiment and opinion that now control this country. They have done more than that. He has gone on, and in showing to us the mighty dead and their great survivors he has given to us an illustration of those influences which have educated Mr. Reid and his competitors, like Mr. McKelway. We welcome him home to New-York; but the welcome from New-York would be incomplete without a welcome extended to Mr. Reid from Brooklyn; and it gives me great pleasure to call upon the Hon. St. Clair McKelway to do that for us. (Applause.)

Mr. McKelway spoke as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Ohio Society: I am asked to speak for the press of New-York at this dinner to Whitelaw Reid. A lifelong relationship to that press enables me to know what it is and how it feels toward the guest of the evening. My active labors on the press of this state began about when Whitelaw Reid swung from the West to the East, and became entitled to membership in an Ohio Society in the city of New-York. I have watched with interest the effect of him on the press of the state and the effect of the press of the state upon him. (Laughter and applause.) He began by preferring news to everything else. He preferred the best news, as he regarded it, to any other kind. Of course the very best in his opinion was such as told of Republican victories. (Laughter.) In that sense he tried to make his news as he went along, like the lectures on history of whom Froude said that he made his facts as he went along. (Laughter.) Mr. Reid, however, could not always publish that kind of news. Happily that kind does not always occur, although it does occur with depressing frequency about every fourth year. (Laughter and applause.) He, therefore, carefully discriminated among the news which can always be depended on to occur, and of that he preferred the best to the worst. The best, in his opinion, was that which told of good things done or incited to the doing of things that were good. (Applause.) I do not mean good in a namby-pamby sense, but in the broad and liberal sense of the word. It would take too long to give you a disquisition on news or to tell the story of Whitelaw Reid's relation to it. Only large, luminous, typical and representative statements need be made on this head.

Whitelaw Reid early magnified the news of education and the educational power of news. He set the fashion of having colleges completely reported on the occasion of their great events. He caused the social science congresses of the United States, Great Britain and other countries to be carefully written up. The best thought which science, teaching or religion uttered found room in The Tribune. The paper was made desirable to those who know much and necessary to those who would know more. The work of agitation committed to the Freeman had ended in the achievement of union, freedom and manhood suffrage. (Applause.) As the agitator stepped down and as the reformer retired to a well-earned rest, the teacher, the instructor, the educator, the men of exact knowledge and careful investigation, the scientists, as we call them, came to the front. Permanent institutes of knowledge took the place of scattered lecture bureaus. The specialists of the country organized on the lines of their learning in the world. The Tribune became their organ by becoming their chronicle. Other metropolitan papers now share that honor and that responsibility. The Tribune, under Whitelaw Reid, was the pioneer in that work. (Applause.)

THE PAPER OF EDUCATORS.

It still does it, better than any of its contemporaries, for it has learned how to do it well, and the men and women who formulate the educational thought of the country, while admitting the claims and desiring the good offices of the entire press, regard The Tribune as the preferred medium between the public and themselves. No newspaper man would recognize in what I have to say that conformity to the facts which honor his calling if I left out of view the service which The Tribune, under Whitelaw Reid, has done to journalism, by raising the standard of news from Washington, London, Paris, Albany, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and other points of importance and interest in the affairs of the world. I do not accept his correspondents at those points of expressing wrong opinions, for they do not always express my own. (Laughter.) I do, however, claim for them that they have raised the standard of the expression of opinion to a high plane. They have written as gentlemen and as ladies for persons of like culture. They have had the confidence and the support of the home office in every instance. (Applause.) Otherwise they could never have done so well as they have done. Their views are always their own, whether they are the views of the leader or not, and in nothing by trusted cases, whether they are the views of The Tribune itself or not. If they dissent from their paper and if their paper dissents from them, two expressions of value on the subject are thereby certainly secured. The impersonality of The Tribune, under Whitelaw Reid, in the sense in which the paper is collectively regarded as the product of many minds controlled by one, has not been more observable and commendable than the consideration shown to the individualities of the important workers at important points in the various fields where they exercise their practical functions. This fact has received a complete illustration during Mr. Reid's absence. While he was abroad he took his hands off the paper, and he kept them off. The paper went on, and none but experts, or those behind the scenes, could very well have told that the chief editorship was in abeyance, or, if you please, in commission. I predict that when he puts his hands on again, only a little difference, inseparable from the new importance which his personality has taken on in the service of his country, will be observable at the first, and that pretty soon it will not be observable at all. The renewed force will revitalize the whole paper, or the paper as a whole, will absorb and dominate the renewed force and make it over again into its likeness.

There is another thing I want to say about this man. He brought to a stop, so far as he was concerned and his paper was concerned, the business of making personal attacks on other newspaper editors, or of replying to such attacks made upon himself. (Applause.) The wars between Greeley and Raymond and Raymond and Bennett, and James Watson Webb and all the rest of them, which were a feature of New-York journalism for years, were very exciting, very suggestive, of their kind, very able, but while "magnificent," they were not journalism. (Laughter.) Readers would not be interested and editors would not be helped or hurt by a renewal of such personal controversies now. The presumption is that readers were not interested by them so much as editors thought they were in the past, and the certainty is that editors were not helped or hurt by them so much as readers thought they were in the past. (Laughter and applause.) When those strong men died, that which they had contributed by their pens to what they believed was right was remembered and honored. Their anger and their spleen toward one another, if not forgotten, were regretted, and had long before been discounted. Whitelaw Reid's new policy for The Tribune raised journalism to the parliamentary plane of courtesy. It did not weaken controversy. It only civilized it. (Applause.) For quite a while he was the only scholar in his own school. The other fighters, trained on lines of old time war, turned their batteries on him, but got tired when they found that he was not wounded and that they had not drawn his fire. (Applause.)

The exchange of personalities between journalists has not ceased, but it is so infrequent now as to show that the example of The Tribune is receiving general adoption. Certainly all the younger journalists of the country are adopting that example. They do not treat a difference of opinion in a contemporary as a form of moral obliquity. They do not think that because somebody else is trying to draw wages in the same town to do the same sort of work which they are doing they should therefore regard him as an enemy, to be hunted down and killed, or written up inversely and made unhappy. (Laughter and applause.) Personal controversies are now left to the lower order of politicians and to the shrdier set of lawyers, the proverbial disagreements of doctors, of course, being excepted. (Laughter.) I cannot say that journalism has become gentle (laughter), for it is a calling in which there are blows to give and blows to take, but the fighting in it is fair, and when we want to say a peculiarly mean thing about somebody else in our calling, we charge it on his newspaper and not on himself. (Laughter and applause.) I may have to, out of a sense of duty, or because of an attack of indigestion, call The Tribune next week a conspicuous evader of veracity (laughter), but I shall never aspersе the truthfulness of Whitelaw Reid. (Laughter and applause.)

JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR NEW-YORK.

I have indicated the effect of Mr. Reid upon the State press. The effect of the State press upon him has also been notable. When a man outgrows Ohio he reaches just about the size of New-York. (Great laughter and applause.) When he outgrows New-York he attains the altitude of Brooklyn. (Renewed laughter.) Mr. Reid has not yet outgrown New-York. (Laughter.) He has, however, wonderfully broadened and brightened in the metropolis. (Laughter.) He knows that the press of the state, from Dunkirk to Sag Harbor, and from Flushing to Ogdensburg, thinks well of him. (Applause.) He knows that his contemporaries have felt proud of his ability to take a journal stamped with the personality of a remarkable man and strengthen it under impersonal administration into an institution more remarkable than any man ever concerned in the making of it. (Applause.) He knows that the best minds on the press of the State, no matter what the drawbacks are of the instrumentalities with which they work, are at one with him, not on protection, but for real ballot-reform; not on protection, but for high license; not on protection, but for an assimilated and intelligent suffrage; not on protection, but for pure politics, for equal laws, for an unbiased judiciary, for the strong and true Governorships, for honorable Presidencies of principle and genuine Americanism, and for the victory of the best and the beating down of the worst in the influences entering into all political parties. (Applause.) Mr. Reid in France has worthily honored an office in which Franklin, Washburne, Dayton, McLean and Bigelow and John A. Dix won for themselves a lustre as bright as the day and as long as time. He brings back the gratitude of all Americans abroad with whom he has been in contact and he meets here not only the greetings of his friends around these tables, and not only the congratulations of his fellow-laborers in all the newspaper offices of the English-speaking world, but the salutations of his countrymen and their best wishes for his happiness and prosperity, either on the lines of his resumed profession or on the paths of any higher duties that events in their unfolding may solicit or require him to tread. (Applause loud and long continued.)

WARNER MILLER'S REMARKS.

General Swayne next introduced Warner Miller in these words:

The distinguished gentleman took occasion to remark that his senses had been cheated this evening by the spirit of self-laudation. It is gratifying to know that at the close of a late dinner his senses were not cheated by any spirit less elusive. (Laughter.) I am happy to supplement his remarks by a fresh illustration of the power of the press. There was picked up this evening in the ante-room, before we took our seats at these tables, a carefully, thoroughly, accurately and brilliantly written account of all that has taken place here to this date, and of some things that are yet to come. At first I supposed, when it was handed to me, that it was the remarks of some gentleman who was to speak; but Mr. Depew's discerning eyes perceived the fact and brought it to my knowledge that it was a newspaper account intended for publication to-morrow morning. Out of a consideration, which I hope you will appreciate, I have not inquired as to the handwriting. (Laughter.) And now, gentlemen, Mr. Reid's great services to international commerce remind us that the facilities for international commerce are becoming so extensive and so far-reaching in their ramifications that they compel the uniting and the co-operation of governments by the necessities which they create, and which are common to the whole family of nations. We have with us this evening a very distinguished gentleman of New-York and a former member of the United States Senate from this state, who is now engaged in doing for the American people at the southern end of North America what unfortunately our French conferees have been unable to do for us—the perfecting of a great international canal. The evening would be incomplete if we did not hear from the Hon. Warner Miller. (Applause.)

Warner Miller said:

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Ohio Society: Until this evening I had supposed that this organization was a secret society, and that no one was permitted to come into these meetings unless he could furnish a certificate of his Ohio origin. We have been told here to-night that four members of the present Cabinet were born in Ohio. Just how much that is to the credit of the Administration I will not undertake to say. (Laughter.) Certainly it is true that only one of those four was ever able to arrive at that distinction by remaining in Ohio. They had to come out and get training in New-York and in other great and broad States to fit them for the places which they now hold. (Applause.) It was my good fortune, three years ago, to be present at the parting banquet given to our guest of to-night upon the eve of his departure to his great mission; and I took occasion that evening to give him some wholesome advice. Last September, when I was in Paris, I took occasion to find out whether he had followed that advice or not. I am happy to be able to report to-night that I learned there that he had followed strictly the advice that I had given him. That advice was simply this: That in his career in Paris he should not follow too closely in some of the footsteps of his most distinguished predecessor, Benjamin Franklin. (Applause and laughter.)

I am glad to be here to-night to welcome back Mr. Reid from the mission which he has filled with so much credit to himself and to his country. But I am not here to praise him for having thoroughly and honestly and with all his ability, discharged the duties which devolved upon him. Any American citizen, any citizen of our Republic, who in his public office would do less than his full duty, is unworthy of that place. While praise may not be due to any man in this republic for thus discharging his public duties, certainly condemnation would be heaped upon him if he had not properly fulfilled them.

Mr. Reid, I welcome you back to your old place, and I welcome you for many reasons. You have been missed by your former associates, and for the last two or three years your party associates would have been glad to have had you here for consultation and for guidance and direction. All matters connected with our party during the last few years, have not gone on quite as well as we could have wished, or as well as we believe they would have gone if your guiding hand had been with us. One of the distinguished journalists at the table remarked to me that Mr. Reid had come home to put The Tribune back into political journalism. I said that I hoped so, for we should need it badly during the next six months. And so I am happy that the great journal which has done so much not only for its party, but for every good cause in this country, will again have your guiding hand upon it; for I know that the results which will flow from that guidance will be for the interest not only of your party, but of your city, and of your country.

I am also glad that you have come home to us in order that you may exercise your powerful influence upon some of your old comrades and associates. I see that your former close friend, Mr. Depew, has already left the table. It would have been of very great service to him if you could have been here during the last three years; for he has not gotten on quite so well in some respects as he did when he had your daily association. You may have heard, sir, that the great misfortune has fallen upon him to be struck off the list of born millionaires, and to be cast outside of the immortalate 400. (Loud laughter.) I trust you will be able to offer him consolation; and that we may be able to welcome him back to his early associates (laughter), to the men with whom he was always jovial and cordial before he was trained to that high distinction.

If you had been here also you might have prevented the making of some of the mistakes which were made with regard to the last election. (Laughter.) But be that as it may, I simply want to say in conclusion—for I do not propose to touch at all upon the great subject which the chairman was kind enough to mention as having been set down for me—I do not propose at this late hour, and upon this festive occasion, to ride any such hobby as that. I will only say in conclusion that in your career during the last three years you have done more to broaden the channels of American commerce than anything I have yet accomplished, no matter how high my ambitions may be in the future. (Laughter and applause.) In conclusion, Mr. Reid, allow me to say, with all of your old associates—and I am speaking of those outside of the press—that we have heard here to-night of the great dignity and high character of the press. As a theory, not as a condition, we approve these sentiments. (Laughter.) We only hope that they may be fully carried into effect, and that my good friend on my left, Secretary Elkins, and some others, perhaps, would think that certain things which come to them every day in their lives would be spared to them; and that life would be happier than it now is.

Mr. Williams—If they kept up to their theories.

Mr. Miller—Yes. If they kept up to their theories. I was surprised to hear Mr. Depew bemoan the fact that he was not a journalist, and that he was only a lawyer, that therefore he could not hope for promotion in the future. I think in the country at large he is marked as a journalist and not as a lawyer. If any one takes up a newspaper nowadays and doesn't find from one to four columns of Mr. Depew's beautiful work in it he throws it down in disgust, and wants to know what has become of the editor of the paper. (Laughter.) Mr. Depew told us that journalists had been promoted by the present Administration, and that Mr. Reid had been sent to Paris because he was a journalist. It is the fact that journalism in the Republic of France has been one of the chief stepping stones to promotion in political life; and that those who are not only the controllers of public opinion through their journals, but who are the holders of the great offices and the directors of the Administration. I do not know whether Mr. Reid has brought out in Paris with the capability of the French journalists for securing the high offices and places, or not. I imagine that he was enough of a Yankee even if he was born in Ohio, to find out how the French journalists do it. And therefore I want to say to those gentlemen here to-night who are ambitious and who are not entirely outside of politics, that they had better beware of the journalists who are coming back to us—Mr. Reid, Mr. Smith and scores of others who have been away on important missions. I am afraid, Mr. Secretary (Mr. Elkins), that even your place will be in danger, and that other high offices will be sought and taken perhaps by them. Permit me simply to say, and most sincerely, on behalf of your old associates in politics among whom I may count myself, that we have been delighted with the record which you have made for your country and for your party; but we are a thousand times more delighted and rejoiced that you have returned to us to take up the old work, as we know that we shall not in you the counsellor and guide we knew you to be before you left us. (Applause.)

MR. LAWRENCE FOR THE LOTOS CLUB.

General Swayne then introduced Mr. Lawrence, saying:

A great naturalist and biographer once wrote that in his judgment the difference between man and animals lay chiefly in the broader exercise by man of what he called the faculty of selective attention. The consciousness of that power commends itself to the readers of Franklin's biography and finds with them a certain response. Perhaps if our distinguished friend will look closely at that book again he will find that the peculiarities of which Franklin treats with such entire frankness were not a feature of his life as United States Minister to France, but pertain to the days of wild oats, to the earlier days when he was a working man in London. Certain it is, however, that we have the outshining ray of our friend written in our hearts, and we are as confident of his future as we are proud of his past.

And now, gentlemen, comes that which the good housewife always saves for the last dish at a feast like this, that which is known as the dessert. There is an organization in the city of New-York whose ties of membership with Mr. Reid are closer than his ties with this society. (Applause.) Not only are they closer, but they are of longer existence, and of a higher grade of personal attribution. Busy man as he is, worthy man as he is, brave men as they are, and worthy men as they are, them have had the common lot that they have sought from time to time that sweet, refreshing recreation of mutual intercourse whose fittest emblem is the flower of forgetfulness, the Lotos Club. At some cost to myself, of self-denial, at some tax upon your patience, I have felt, nevertheless, that we should keep that which is best to the last; and now we are to have a final greeting to Mr. Whitelaw Reid, so long the president of the Lotos Club, from his successor, Mr. Frank R. Lawrence.

Mr. Lawrence then said:

It was but last evening that I received your gracious invitation, and I confess myself at a loss for adequate terms in which to address this distinguished assemblage; yet it needs neither preparation nor skill to utter the words of greeting which rise spontaneously upon so happy an occasion as this.

It is indeed a distinction to be permitted to take part in this festivity, and upon behalf of the Lotos Club, whose sentiment it is my privilege to speak to-night, I most heartily thank the Ohio society of New-York for the courtesy which prompted it to invite the members of the club to be represented in this evening's proceedings.

Perhaps no organization may claim closer affiliation with your illustrious guest than the Lotos Club. He was one of its earliest members, its name stands high upon the list in the charter of its incorporation. For many years he was its president. Upon his departure for Europe his fellow-members bade him the heartiest "God-speed." During his absence they have watched his career with constantly increasing pride, and you may judge with what supreme satisfaction those of them who are here present take part in this, the first public demonstration in honor of Mr. Whitelaw Reid upon his return to his native land.

Aside from all personal association or endearment, the career of Mr. Reid in the public service has been such as should arouse feelings of gratification and pride in the mind of every American citizen. The place of Minister to France is, perhaps, the most honorable foreign station within the gift of our Government, for the American Minister to France is accredited to no king or potentate. He goes as the representative of the one to the other of the two great nations who have thrown off every vestige of obedience to royalty, and who proudly vindicate the right of man to govern himself. (Applause.) The largest field for genius exists in connection with the peaceful solution of the vast and complicated questions which grow out of the commercial relations between these two great peoples, and what higher tribute could be paid to the genius of Mr. Reid than lies in the verdict of all his countrymen, that he has proved equal to every requirement, and has discharged every duty with consummate skill and distinguished success? European nations train men to diplomacy as to a separate profession. America does not, perhaps, upon the theory that every American is a born diplomatist. Whatever the theory, the wisdom of our practice is certainly proved by the success of Mr. Reid. (Applause.)

THE POWER OF A GENIAL NATURE.

Speaking only to voice the welcome of an association of friends, I shall not attempt to add to what has been said in the way of description or eulogy of the services of Mr. Reid to our country, but I may say that in my judgment his efforts in the direction of cultivating a closer relation and more cordial feeling between the people of the two nations have been almost equally valuable with his achievements in the negotiation of new treaties; and I may add that in my belief a principal cause of all his success, whether diplomatic or social, has been that kind and genial personality which so greatly endears him to his friends, and which his old associates of the Lotos Club know almost better than any. (Applause.)

We can scarcely think of the office held by your guest of to-night without associating with it the name of that great American who was the first to hold it; and when we view the division, the labors and the success of its latest incumbent, we feel that the office first held by Benjamin Franklin has gained new honor and usefulness through having been held by Whitelaw Reid. (Applause.) The friendship between the two nations which Franklin did so much to establish, his latest successor has striven by every means to cement and make closer, and his efforts have been attended with the most complete success that the people of this country could have desired. (Applause.)

It is a happy fortune that has linked inseparably with the administration of the Government of our country the names of so many of our great scholars, journalists and men of letters. Speaking for a club which makes some claim to literary association, I am proud to recall that whenever men of literary and scholarly attainments have entered public life, they have distinguished and ennobled it, and one of the most creditable facts in the history of our Government during 1861 and the last generation is that its diplomatic service has been enriched by such men as Joan Lothrop Motley, Bayard Taylor, James Russell Lowell and Whitelaw Reid. (Applause.)

You and he will pardon us at the Lotos Club if to-night we do not try to express all the satisfaction we feel in greeting Mr. Reid again, for we look forward in the near future to the same privilege which the Ohio Society to-night enjoys, and are hoping that when the public ovations shall have somewhat abated, your guest may glide back for a little into the old Bohemian land and receive a Lotos welcome under the roof-tree that for so many years has been his own. (Applause.)

President the Lotos Club, and also Ohio society of New-York, in greeting and honoring this gentleman, whose career reflects so much credit both upon the state of his birth and the city of his adoption. His friends of the Lotos Club share at the large part which he has had in linking together two great nations more closely, both in commerce and in kindliness; and in welcoming him home, we pledge for the future a continuance of the same warm ties of friendship which have already existed full a score of years. (Applause loud and long continued.)

At the close of the speech-making General Swayne said: "I am quite sure you will commend the housewifery which kept that viand for the last, and now, gentlemen, to our friend long life and happiness, from each and all of us as the best wish of our hearts." Here the company arose and drank Mr. Reid's health. From each to all, from all to everyone, good-night.

The banquet committee, to whom great credit is due, was composed of General Wager Swayne, chairman, Colonel William L. Strong, Senator Calvin S. Brice, Colonel W. L. Brown, General Henry L. Burnett, Leander H. Crall, Thomas Ewing, Andrew J. C. Tore, Henry A. Glassford, Curtis G. Harriman, Warren Higley, Homer Lee, S. S. Packard, Samuel Thomas and William Ford Upson.

FROM THOSE WHO COULD NOT COME.

The following letters of regret were received:

THE LETTER OF THE FRENCH MINISTER.

The Legation of the French Republic,
Washington, D. C., March, 1892.

General: You have done me the honor to invite me to take part in the banquet that your society has to decree to Mr. Whitelaw Reid after his arrival in New-York on the 9th of April.

I hasten to thank you for your courtesy, and regret that it will not be possible for me to accept, as I already have another engagement for that day.

I regret, as all the more because during my stay in Paris I had occasion to appreciate the extreme courtesy of the honorable representative from the United States, and because I should have been very happy to associate myself with this occasion of expression of esteem which is given to Mr. Reid by his compatriots.

Accept, General, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration. PATENOTRE.

To General Henry L. Burnett, No. 45 Cedar-st., New-York.

FROM VICE-PRESIDENT MORTON.

Vice-President's Chamber,
Washington, March 31, 1892.

My Dear General: I very much regret that previous engagements deprive me of the pleasure of accepting the invitation of the Ohio society to be present at the banquet to be given the Hon. Whitelaw Reid on the 9th of April.

Mr. Reid has discharged his duties as the representative of his country to our sister republic of the Old World with conspicuous ability, in a manner alike honorable to his country and himself, and it would be a source of great gratification if I could join the members of the Society of his native state, and present in person my cordial congratulations, a hearty greeting and a warm welcome to your distinguished guest on his return to his native land.

Thanking the Society for the courtesy extended, I am, with renewed regrets, very faithfully and truly yours, LEVI P. MORTON.

General Wager Swayne, New-York.

SENATOR HISCOCK'S REGRETS.

Washington, D. C., March 31, 1892.

General Henry L. Burnett, No. 45 Cedar-st., New-York.

Dear Sir: I acknowledge the honor of an invitation from the Ohio Society of New-York, to be present at a banquet to be given the Hon. Whitelaw Reid, at Delmonico's, on the 9th proximo.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to unite with you in this expression of friendship for and admiration of our distinguished fellow-citizen, Mr. Reid. As our Minister to France, he has conferred great honor upon our Government and added to his distinction as a great American journalist that of an able diplomat. Entertaining for him great personal friendship, I regret exceedingly that I cannot join you at the banquet; but I have an engagement here for the same evening, of an official character, that I could not disregard without great personal inconvenience to others, and therefore, I am compelled to decline the invitation. With great respect, FRANK HISCOCK.

A TRIBUTE FROM SENATOR HAWLEY.

Senate Chamber, Washington, April 6, 1892.

My Dear Sir: I intended and sincerely desire to attend the dinner in honor of Mr. Reid, but engagements and imperative duties are crowding upon me beyond my power or time, and I must deny myself some of the pleasures and luxuries, and stay in Washington next Saturday.

Mr. Reid was congratulated by all his brethren of the Press when he was appointed. He has been congratulated upon his eminent success in his honorable mission—his social, diplomatic, political success—and we congratulate ourselves upon his return. Please convey to him my warmest wishes for his health and happiness and my regret. Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH R. HAWLEY.

General Wager Swayne, New-York City.

FROM EX-MINISTER PHELPS.

New-Haven, Conn., April 6, 1892.

My Dear Sir: I have had the honor to receive the invitation of the Ohio Society to the dinner to be given to Mr. Reid on the 9th inst. I had hoped for the pleasure of attendance, but regret to find that in a great pressure of engagement and very probable absence at that time it will be impossible.

It would have given me special satisfaction to have joined the Society in the expression of the sense we all entertain, I think, of his distinguished and valuable services as Minister of the United States at Paris. His whole residence there has, in my judgment, been not only honorable to himself, but has reflected great credit upon the diplomacy of our country, and has materially strengthened American relations with the Nation to which he was accredited. The compliment you offer him is most appropriate, and the occasion will doubtless be in all respects gratifying.

Will you, in expressing to the Society my thanks for their invitation and my regret at being unable to accept it, make known to them the contents of this note, and ask for me the privilege of joining with them, though in this imperfect manner, in the congratulations they will extend to Mr. Reid?

I am, dear sir, very sincerely yours, E. J. PHELPS.

Wager Swayne, esq., President.

MR. PULITZER'S ILL HEALTH.

New-York, April 5.

Gentlemen: Mr. Joseph Pulitzer regrets extremely that he is compelled to decline the polite invitation of the Ohio society. He sympathizes with the proposition to do honor to Mr. Reid, whose distinction as a journalist and success as a Minister he is pleased to see recognized. But the state of his health makes it impossible for him to take part in the proposed banquet.

To General Wager Swayne and others of committee.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS'S LETTER.

West New-Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y., March 26, 1892.

Dear Sir: I am exceedingly sorry that an important engagement for the evening of April 9 deprives me of the pleasure of accepting your invitation and of paying my respects personally to your distinguished guest. But I join with you in the hearty welcome home with which you will receive him. The applause of France will be still ringing in his ears as he begins to hear that of his native land, and he returns crowned with the highest reward of a Minister, the consciousness that he was most honored in the country to which he went because of his fidelity to the country which sent him. Very faithfully yours,

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

General Wager Swayne, Chairman.

SECRETARY RUSK DETAINED AT WASHINGTON.

Department of Agriculture,
Office of the Secretary,
Washington, D. C., April 5, 1892.

General Henry L. Burnett, No. 45 Cedar-st., New-York.

Dear Sir: I beg to thank you and the officers and members of the Ohio society of New-York for their kind invitation to me to be present at the banquet to be given to the Hon. Whitelaw Reid Saturday evening, April 9.

It would, I assure you, afford me the greatest gratification to participate in an occasion designed to do honor to the distinguished gentleman who has so well represented his country and maintained its dignity and honor at the capital of France, but I am sorry to say that I find it will be impossible for me to leave Washington on the day mentioned to attend the banquet, and I must therefore ask you to accept my regrets. Very respectfully, J. M. RUSK.

PRAISE FROM COLONEL JOHN HAY.

No. 800 Sixteenth-st., Lafayette Square,
Washington, March 27, 1892.

General H. L. Burnett, New-York.

Dear Sir: I regret extremely that I shall not be able to join you on the 9th of April, as I have engagements for that day from which I cannot free myself. Mr. Reid has richly merited all the honors that can be conferred upon him. His services in Paris have been especially valuable and brilliant. Without lowering for a moment the standard of independence and aggressive Americanism, he has been for three years one of the most popular as well as one of the most distinguished personalities of Paris and has gained in the truest sense the citizenship of the world. He has deserved well of his country in his absence and is entitled to the heartiest welcome on his return. Yours respectfully, JOHN HAY.

FRANK HATTON UNABLE TO BE PRESENT.

"The Washington Post," April 6, 1892.

My Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to be present at a banquet to be given to the Hon. Whitelaw Reid at Delmonico's on the 9th inst.

I regret exceedingly that it will be impossible for me to be present and join you in honoring the distinguished gentleman who was our Minister to France and who has done such credit to himself and the country he so ably represented.

Please convey my thanks and regrets to the committee of which you are the secretary. Very truly yours, FRANK HATTON.

Mr. William Ford Upson, secretary, etc., New-York.

CONSPIRING TO POISON A WOMAN.

HER HUSBAND AND ANOTHER MAN BUY FIVE POUNDS OF ARSENIC.

Frank Damiano, a liquor seller, at No. 349 Market-st., Newark, and George Smith, a boarder in the place, were arrested last night on a charge of conspiring to kill the wife of Damiano by poison with arsenic. Last Tuesday Superintendent Brown, of the Newark Police Department, got a telephone call from a New-York drug house informing him that two Newark men had bought five pounds of arsenic. Their description was given. Detectives were detailed to watch the railroad stations, and Damiano and Smith recognized as they stepped from the train. The two men went to Damiano's place, and Smith was seen to leave the liquor shop with the package. He was followed to Waverly, where he deposited the package in a barn and left it. The detectives secured the pckage and took it to Police Headquarters, where it was examined and found to be arsenic. An equal amount of tartar emetic was substituted in the package and it was replaced in the barn, which was watched.

Yesterday Smith entered Damiano's liquor-shop. Mrs. Damiano was there alone. He produced a flask of whiskey which he said was choice, and offered to bet that she could not drink two glasses of it. She did so and became violently ill. The detectives were on the alert and secured the flask, which it is said contained tartar emetic. The clerk who sold the poison was at the police station when the men were brought in and identified them. Mrs. Damiano refused to make a charge, as she feared her husband's vengeance, but the police have evidence without the wife's. Damiano is an Italian, thirty-seven years old, and has a bad character.

DEATH OF GEORGE HENRY WARREN.

George Henry Warren, who had been in failing health all the winter, died at his home, No. 520 Fifth-ave., on Friday. He was a man prominent in New-York society and one of the most energetic founders of the Metropolitan Opera House, where, when in good health, he was a regular attendant during the opera season. Mr. Warren was a member of the well known family of that name of Troy, and he was born in that city in 1823. He inherited wealth which has of late years been largely increased. He was graduated at Union College, and though a member of the bar did not practice. Mr. Warren married Miss Phoenix, a sister of Lloyd Phoenix and a granddaughter of Stephen Whitney. His wife and a large family of children survive him. The children are John Hobart Warren, S. Whitney Warren, J. K