GENERAL GRANT'S OVATION.

Enthusiastic Popular Demonstrations at Philadelphia.

Flattering Compliments to the Retiring Chief of the Army and Executive of the Nation.

GRANT'S MODEST GOODBY

Characteristic Speeches from General Sherman and the Late Cabinet Ministers.

PHILADELPHIA, May 17, 1877.

Ex-President U. S. Grant, with his wife and son Jesse, sailed for Europe to-day in the American line steamship Indiana. His departure was made the occasion of a great parting demonstration, in which all classes of the community seem to have taken a hearty and enthusiastic share. The steamer Magenta carried the ex-President, the late members of his Cabinet, with other distinguished persons, and the invited guests from this city, to the number altogether of about five hundred persons. The United States revenue cutter Hamilton bore Mrs. Grant, under the care of Mr. Childs and a few other leading citizens of Philadelphia. Both steamers accompanied the Indiana down the bay as far as Newcastle, Del., some thirty miles from the city, whhre with many "God speeds" and with much cheering and blowing of steam whistles the honored guest and his family were at half-past three this afternoon bid farewell and transferred to the steamer which is to carry them across the ocean. Before this occurred, however, a very interesting ceremony took place on board the Magenta.

THE LUNCH COLLATION.

In the ladies' cabin a private table was spread for the distinguished guests, and among those who sat down to the festive board were the following:—General U. S. Grant, at the head of the table; General W. T. Sherman on his right and Mayor William S. Stokley, of Philadelphia, on his left; ex-Secretary of State Hon. Hamilton Fish, Lieutenant Colonel Fred Grant, ex-Secretary of the Interior Hon. Zach Chandler, Governor John F. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania; ex-Senator Simon Cameron, Senator J. Don Cameron, Adjutant General James W. Latta, ex-Secretaries of the Navy George H. Robeson and A. E. Borie, Senator William A. Wallace, of Pennsylvania; Colonel Charles Thompson Jones, of Philadelphia, Chairman of the Committee of Councils; General Louis Wagner, General George H. Sharpe, of New York; General Horace Porter, J. W. Sengman, of New York; William Charles O'Neill, M. C., and several others. After the luncheon was concluded, Mayor Stokley arose and toasted "the honored guest of the day," saying that in a very short time he would leave them for a long journey and calling upon General Grant for a reply.

General Grant was received with tremendous applause as he rose to respond. He said:—

EX-PRESIDENT GRANT'S SPEECH.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN—I had not expected to make a speech to-day, and, therefore, can do nothing more than thank you, as I have had occasion to do so often within the past week. I have been only eight days in Philadelphia, and have been received with such unexpected kindness that it finds me with no words to thank you. What with driving in the Park, and dinners afterward, and keeping it up until after midnight, and now to find myself still receiving your kind hospitality, I am afraid you have not left me stomach enough to cross the Atlantic. (Laughter and applause, during which the General sat down.)

Just at this time the boat was passing Roach's ship yards at Chester, and the noise of the steam whistles saluting anchors of the day was so loud and shrill that very little of the General's speech could be heard, but the above is about the gist of it.

The Mayor then called upon General W. T. Sherman, whose health was drunk with considerable applause, His Honor being understood to introduce him as an old and honored friend of General Grant.

THE GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

General Sherman responded that he had known General Grant for forty odd years, and as an old associate he could not help thinking of the old times. He had been President of the United States eight years and citizen of the Republic all his life, but he (the speaker) would never cease to speak of him as Grant the soldier and the general. The steam whistles here interrupted the General and so drowned his voice that he was inaudible to the reporter, but he was understood to say that if Washington was associated with the birth of the country Grant must be remembered in history as its regenerator. (Applause.) His name is written in colors brighter than gold in the records of our country. He has such a place in the heart of our people that he requires no words to perpetuate it. All over the country to-day the people will know the moment when he sails upon this long journey, and from every city from Maine to California will go up prayers to-night that he may arrive safely, and after a pleasant tour abroad may return to us in good time. God bless you, General Grant, and your family, may you feel that such is our desire to honor you that your every wish will always be sacred to a grateful people. (Applause.)

Mayor Stokley then proposed as a toast the health of Mr. Hamilton Fish, as one who had gone into General Grant's Cabinet over eight years ago, and who had ever since stood by him as a faithful adviser.

EX-SECRETARY FISH.

Mr. Fish responded by saying that he would not add anything to what General Sherman had said. This occasion was a spontaneous exhibition of gratitude, and as one who had served General Grant he desired to return thanks for this opportunity of doing homage to him. Mr. Fish concluded with something about General Grant being one of the greatest men of the century, but the steam whistles struck up again, and, as the gentleman spoke in a very low voice, he was soon silenced.

"ZACH" CHANDLER, EX-SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Mayor Stokley then proposed the health of "Old Zach Chandler," as another of Grant's advisers. Mr. Chandler, amid a general laugh, replied that he did not recognize the title "Old." Another thing, he was for so brief a time a member of General Grant's Cabinet that he was the youngest man in it. (Laughter.) My friend, General Sherman, claims everything for General Grant from a military standpoint. I admit all he claims for General Grant's military reputation. He does not overstate it in the least. From the occupation of Vicksburg to the close of the rebellion the hopes of the nation were with him. But I deny that Grant is to live in history upon his military reputation. I know the man as a civilian, and as a civilian I believe in him. He goes down into history this day as the civilian representative of the United States government. I do not except even General Washington. (Applause.) Whatever criticism he may now receive, full justice will be done to him in two years, and he will hereafter be known as a soldier and a statesman.

EX-SECRETARY GEORGE M. ROBESON.

Another of Mr. Grant's Cabinet, the Hon. George M. Robeson, was then toasted. He made the longest speech of the day. He had the good fortune to be associated with him in the early part of his administration, three months after he had taken his seat, and from that day to this, in constant and familiar intercourse, I found him growing larger and greater from hour to hour and day to day. It has been said that no man is great to his *valet de chambre* and in the eyes of those who are daily and hourly associated with him; but I appeal to you who were with him, who stood officially close to him, whether every day did not reveal to us new elements of strength and beauty and developed new phases of intelligence. And why was that? Because he is of that quality which always responds to trial. Whenever he was tried he was not found wanting, and that is what has stamped this man upon the hearts of the American people, who rise up to-day to do him honor. It is only by such qualities of the heart and head that impressions were made upon the hearts of the people. They to-day rise up spontaneously to do him honor. I was born in Jersey, it is true; but I am an older Pennsylvanian than my old friend opposite (Simon Cameron). My ancestors came over with William Penn, and a forefather of mine sat in the Privy Council of the first Governor of Pennsylvania. The speaker then paid a compliment to Pennsylvania and Philadelphia, and said of the latter that she was not a city founded upon foreign importations nor built up by foreign labor, but by American labor, and paid a compliment to General Grant by saying that there never was a President who was a truer friend of American labor. This ought to be the proudest day in General Grant's life. When he came into the capital of the nation as the conquering general he was followed by the enthusiasm of a grateful country. He might then have expected to be followed and flattered. But when he leaves civil power, after eight years of severe trial, such as few men are exposed to, it is, indeed, a tribute to meet with this great popular ovation. We might well expect that he would be turned from and forgotten. But this day has shown a sight that will never be forgotten in the annals of America. The great people of this country turn out to show their gratitude to the retiring ruler, who can give them nothing but his benediction. It is a spectacle for gods and men. It is honorable to the people, but most honorable to General Grant.

EX-SENATOR CAMERON.

Ex-Senator Simon Cameron, the next gentleman called upon to respond to a toast, was received with great enthusiasm. In the course of a short speech he said that he was a Presbyterian, and in the dark days of the war he had had a favorite theory that God would raise up some man to save the country from destruction. He did do so, and that man was General Grant. (Applause.) The speaker compared General Grant to Cæsar and Cromwell, the latter especially, in that he was called from private life to occupy a great station. As a general he considered him the superior of Napoleon, because he had successfully handled large bodies of men. He was proud of the great ovation extended to-day to the departing chieftain, because it came from Pennsylvania. It was indeed a compliment to a retiring President to receive such a demonstration from men who had not received offices or favors at his hand. He always seemed against me somehow, the speaker said, playfully, "and the only office I ever received from him was a second lieutenancy on the last day of his term." Continuing more seriously, he concluded with a high compliment to Grant not only as a soldier, but also as a statesman and ruler, using the following remarkable words, "I believe that when he returns to us again he will be asked to take the helm again when the ship of State is seen to be going to destruction."

This sentiment was received with enthusiastic applause. Short speeches were also made by General Isaac H. Bailey, of New York; Governor Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, and a few concluding words of farewell by Mayor Stokely, of Philadelphia.

GRANT'S FAREWELL.

General Grant then in a quiet earnest manner plainly showing that he was not unmoved by the homage he had received, spoke as follows:—"My dear friends I was not aware that we would have so much speech-making here, or that it would be necessary for me to say any more to you; but I feel that the compliments you have showered upon me were not altogether deserved. They should not all be paid to me, either as a soldier or as a civil officer. As a general your praises do not all belong to me; as the executive of the nation they were not due to me. There is no man that can fill both or either of these positions without the help of good men. I selected my lieutenants when I was in both positions, and they were men, I believe, who could have filled my place often better than I did. I never flattered myself that I was entitled to the place you gave me. My lieutenants could have acted perhaps better than I, had the opportunity presented itself. Sherman could have taken my place as a soldier, or in a civil office; and so could Sheridan and others that I might name. I am sure that if the country ever comes to this need again there will be men for the work; there will be men born for every emergency. Again, I thank you, and again I bid you goodby; and once again, I say, that if I had failed, Sherman or Sheridan or some of my other lieutenants would have succeeded." (Long continued applause.)

OFF FOR AN OCEAN VOYAGE.

Shortly after this the General was transferred to the Indiana; last goodbys were said and the steamer proceeded on her way to England.

POSSIBILITIES IN THE FUTURE.

On the journey back to the city the significant words of old Simon Cameron, who is yet the greatest political power in this State, "I believe General Grant will be asked to take the helm again," were industriously discussed and taken in connection with what General Sherman had said, that "General Grant could always have whatever he wants at the hands of the American people," were by some interpreted to mean that some of the ex-President's friends may anticipate the possibility of putting him in nomination again.

HAYES TO GRANT.

The following despatches were exchanged between President Hayes and General Grant:—

NEW YORK, May 17, 1877.

General U. S. GRANT, Philadelphia:—

Mrs. Hayes joins me in heartiest wishes that you and Mrs. Grant may have a prosperous voyage, and after a happy visit abroad a safe return to your friends and country.

R. B. HAYES.

GENERAL GRANT'S REPLY.

General Grant returned the following answer:—

STEAMER TWILIGHT, DELAWARE RIVER, May 17—11 A. M.

President HAYES, Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C.:—

Mrs. Grant joins me in thanks to you and Mrs. Hayes for your kind wishes in your message received on board this boat after pushing out from the wharf. We unite in returning our cordial greetings and in expressing our best wishes for your health, happiness and success in your most responsible position. Hoping to return to my country to find it prosperous in business and with cordial feelings renewed between all sections, I am very truly yours

U. S. GRANT.

GOOD WISHES FROM THE CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, May 17, 1877.

The cordiality shown to the ex-President during his recent trip to Philadelphia is the theme of marked comment and kindly expression in this city, where, in addition to his official relations, ex-President Grant had a large personal acquaintance.

THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE.

TERMINATION OF A PLEASANT VISIT—THE RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

Shortly before nine o'clock yesterday morning the Presidential party left the Fifth Avenue Hotel and were driven to the Desbrosses Street Ferry. A considerable crowd had gathered on the sidewalks in front of the hotel, and when the President made his appearance he was greeted with three ringing cheers. Accompanying the President were Mrs. Hayes, Miss Foote, Miss Platt, nieces of the President, Colonel Elliott F. Sheppard, General Anson McCook, and Mr. Henry M. Taber.

At the ferry a large crowd was assembled, and here again the President received a warm reception, which he courteously acknowledged. One of the ferryboats was in waiting to convey the Presidential party to the Pennsylvania Railroad depot, where a special car was waiting to receive them. It soon became rumored about that the President had arrived and the depot was filled in a short time with people anxious to catch a glimpse of the Chief Magistrate. As some ten minutes elapsed before the departure of the limited express the crowd had ample opportunity to satisfy their curiosity, for the President and his friends stood chatting and laughing on the platform. Just before the departure of the train a number of people walked up and shook hands with the President, wishing him a pleasant and safe journey. As the train moved out of the station the crowd gave the President three cheers, which he gracefully acknowledged by bowing and waving his hat, while the ladies returned the hearty salutes with fans and handkerchiefs.

A DEAF MUTE ENTERTAINMENT.

VICTOR HUGO'S NOVEL OF "93" EPITOMIZED IN SIGN LANGUAGE.

An entertainment, unique in its character and exceedingly interesting on that account, is given on every second Thursday of each month in the lecture room of St. Ann's Church in Eighteenth street. It consists of a lecture to deaf mutes by deaf mutes, and is given under the auspices of the Manhattan Literary Society, a deaf mute association. The lecturer last night was Mr. W. A. Bond, and the subject of the lecture was "The French Revolution." Probably a hundred persons, most of them young men, gathered in the lecture room, not to hear but to see the lecturer, and out of those present the only person able to speak an audible language was the HERALD reporter. The lecture began soon after eight o'clock, and it proved to be an epitome of Victor Hugo's novel, "93." When the HERALD man entered the lecturer approached him and wrote on a slip of paper, "HERALD?" An affirmative response being given, he added, "I will soon begin my lecture, and I will have some one to sit with you and let you know what you want." The interpreter was also a deaf mute, and all communication with him was necessarily in writing. When the lecture began every eye was turned toward the platform and was kept constantly upon the lecturer, except when some point especially well made caused the audience to exchange glances of satisfaction. This was the only demonstration throughout the evening, and a more attentive audience never sat out a play at the theatre. "He looks like one who plays the tragedy," wrote the interpreter; and certainly every look and gesture were tragic. From the finding of Michelle Flechard and the three children in the wood by Sergeant Radoub to Hugo's vivid narrative of Robespierre, Danton and Marat, everything was tragedy. "What is this?" asked the reporter. "It is the assassination of Halmalo, the sailor," was the answer. "And these energetic gestures—what do they mean?" It was the description of the downfall of Robespierre. For an hour or more the lecture continued, and although every word was conveyed in the sign language, the lecturer proceeded as calmly and yet as earnestly as a stump speaker in an animated election campaign, and the attention of the audience never flagged. The facility with which the ideas were conveyed was something marvellous, and never for an instant was there any hesitation as to the lecturer's meaning among his audience. As regards the assemblage itself the casual observer would not have seen anything unusual in it. There were many intelligent and earnest faces, and like any ordinary collection of human beings, they were cut in different moulds and after different patterns.

FOR GAMBRINUS' SAKE.

A keg of lager beer was the subject matter of a trial in the Court of Special Sessions yesterday, which for an hour held the Court and audience almost spellbound. Two Jersey ferryboat deckhands, named respectively George Willett and John McGovern, stood at the bar charged with the larceny of a keg of lager, the property of the J. H. Starin Transportation line. The officers of the line were present in full force, evidently determined to see rigorous punishment inflicted on the prisoners, with a view to making examples of them and thus effectually stop the long continued system of beer stealing from kegs in transitu. The evidence against the prisoners was almost conclusive. They were seen drinking the beer in conjunction with the driver of the truck, and after imbibing between them the contents of the keg they threw the empty barrel overboard.

The prosecution was proceeding swimmingly, when ex-Judge Curtis, who appeared for the defence, undertook the cross-examination. Gradually he overthrew the strong points against his clients and then advanced the theory that the offence, if any, was in Jersey waters, and that, besides, the real culprit was the driver, who had invited the prisoners to drink. McGovern was acquitted and Willett got off with a $20 fine and one day's imprisonment.

BON VOYAGE.

DEPARTURE OF THE RUSSIAN FLYING SQUADRON UNDER SEALED ORDERS—PROBABLY FOR ASIATIC WATERS—THE SCENE IN THE BAY—SALUTES EXCHANGED WITH THE AMERICAN MEN-OF-WAR AND FORTS.

After a stay of nearly eight weeks in New York the Imperial Russian fleet yesterday morning left, sailing under sealed orders. From an early hour in the morning all was activity on board the three vessels of the fleet lying in the North River. Boats were being hauled up, provisions and packages of all kinds were arriving, and the final shore accounts were being settled up. Signals from the flagship Svetlana were continually being made to the two other vessels, and on board the contrast between the active seaging preparations and the quiet which had reigned for two months was marked. Steam was gotten up at about eight o'clock on the three vessels, and near nine o'clock the pilots came on board.

Shortly before this the captains of the corvettes Bogatyr and Ascold were on board the Svetlana to receive their final verbal instructions from the Admiral. At half-past nine o'clock M. Nicholas Shiskin, Russian Minister; Admiral Krown, of the Russian Navy; Consul General Bodisco and M. de Willamov, Secretary of the Russian Legation, arrived on board the flagship. The Russian officials were to accompany the fleet on the flagship as far as Sandy Hook and return to the city in a tug. The party was received at the gangway by Admiral Boutakoff, Captain His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis and Flag Commander Alexieff. The guard drawn up on the starboard side of the quarter deck presented arms as the party passed to the gangway which led to the Admiral's cabin on the gun-deck below. Orders were now given to hoist anchors on board the Svetlana, and the same order was signalled to the Bogatyr and Ascold.

THE START.

Both anchors were soon up, and at ten o'clock the order to sail was given by the Admiral and signalled to the other vessels. The engines were started and the flagship began her journey. The last shore boat left the gangway, and the only civilians on board were those who were to accompany the fleet over the bar.

On the principal bridge of the Svetlana, as she steamed down the North River, were the Admiral and the various flag officers, while on the bridge forward were Captain His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis, Executive Officer Novosilsky, Captain Hohlow navigating officer, and Callanan, the pilot. The officers not on duty and the diplomatic guests were congregated on the poop deck aft. The corvette Ascold, which lay further down the river than the flagship, steamed slowly until she was overhauled by the latter. The procession was then formed as follows:—The little tug Charles Allan, which was to bring the guests back to the city, steamed ahead of the flagship, which was followed by the Ascold. The Bogatyr had got her anchor chains crossed and had some difficulty in raising them, and therefore was unable to start for some time after.

THE RUSSIAN FLAG SALUTED.

At a quarter to eleven A. M. the Svetlana passed the Spanish frigate Gerona, and then the American flagship Minnesota and the Supply. A number of officers on the poop of the Gerona waved their hats to the Russian officers, but no salute was given. As the Svetlana neared the Minnesota the band was sent up on the poop of the Russian flagship, and during the passage played "Hail Columbia." On the Minnesota the boys were in the tops on all three masts, and as the first gun of a national salute was fired they ran out along by the life-lines and manned the yards. From side to side of the American flagship sprang the flash and puff, followed by the echoes of twenty-one guns, and on the poop were drawn up the guard of marines under command of Lieutenant Taylor, who presented arms as the Russian flagship passed. The officers of the Minnesota, headed by Captain Johnson, were drawn up in full dress, with swords, epaulettes and cocked hats, in front of the marines, and saluted together as the Svetlana passed, the Russian officers returning the salutes. The band on the Russian flag-ship was still playing the American air, and as the last gun was fired from the Minnesota, the Russian sailors manned the tops and the standing rigging. Then as the American ensign was broken at the main, Captain His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis gave the order, and the first gun of the return salute pealed from the saluting ordnance on the bridge. Then through the dying echoes of the cannon, and the white smoke which hung over the water came the sound of cheering from the Minnesota which was returned heartily from on board the Svetlana. At the last gun the American flag was run down and the band ceased playing.

SALUTING FROM GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

By this time the Svetlana was nearly opposite Fort Columbus, and as she passed from the ports of the fort from side to side flashed and thundered a salute of twenty-one guns. It was a beautiful sight from the Svetlana to watch the rush of smoke from the ports, the flash, and then the dense puffs rising skyward. The salute was returned gun for gun on board the Svetlana, and the American flag was again displayed at the main.

At a few minutes after eleven o'clock the saluting was finished, and all except the officers on duty went below for breakfast, which was very welcome. Minister Shiskin, Admiral Krown, M. de Willamov and Consul General Bodisco breakfasted with the Admiral and Captain His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis. There were also present His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine, Baron Schilling, Dr. Coudrine and Flag Commander Alexieff. As the vessels steamed down the bay the Bogatyr was not in sight.

GOOD BY AND BON VOYAGE.

The bar was passed at half-past twelve, and at a quarter to one the Svetlana was stopped and put those on the tug who were going back to New York. The Ascold drew off to the right, and the tug steamed up near the Russian flagship. The point of parting and where the pilot left the ship was at the entrance of the Gedney Channel, about five miles off Sandy Hook and one mile beyond the bar. Many were the handshakings and wishes for a good voyage as the Russian Minister and party left the Svetlana. Hands were shaken and reshaken, and last messages to the shore were sent. Never did the fine set of officers, headed by the veteran Admiral and the stalwart Captain Grand Duke Alexis appear to better advantage than when they said good by. Many and heartfelt were the good wishes given them on their voyage. As the Minister and others were taken off to the tug in the latter's boat the band of the flagship played a march. As soon as all were on board the tug the band of the flagship ceased playing.

SALUTING THE MINISTER.

Immediately the order was given on the flagship and the report of the first gun of a salute of seventeen echoed over the waters. As the salute was finished the engines were started and the Russian flagship stood out to sea, steering east southeast and thus began her first cruise since the commencement of the war.

From the tug and the flagship hats and caps were doffed, handkerchiefs were waved and our guests were with us no more. The tug steamed over to the Ascold and the pilot was brought off. The corvette then steamed on after the Svetlana and the tug was headed back toward the city. The corvette Bogatyr came in sight in about three-quarters of an hour, and when she passed was seven miles from the bar and some twelve miles behind the other ships. At four o'clock the tug reached the foot of East Eleventh street and landed the four Russian officials.

PROBABILITIES.

The fleet will probably steam until well off the land and then take to sails. As they disappeared over the horizon they were still heading east southeast and under steam. The impression seems general among those well posted that the vessels of the departing fleet are bound on a cruise of two months or more. None of the officers, except the Admiral and the Grand Duke, it is thought, knew the destination, though of course all had their surmises. It seems extremely probable that a junction will be effected with the fleet which has just left San Francisco, and ere long they may both be in Asiatic waters.

BOSTON'S WISH FATHER TO THE THOUGHT.

BOSTON, May 17, 1877.

There are many facts which enthusiastic Bostonians regard as going to show that the destination of the Russian fleet, which left New York to-day, is none other than Boston. Some weeks ago rooms were engaged at one of the leading hotels for the imperial party and the engagement has not yet been cancelled. General Sherman and Secretary of War McCrary are to be here on Saturday and the Collector of the Port has been ordered to have the revenue cutter in readiness for special service on Saturday morning.

CONEY ISLAND COACHING.

Mr. Thomas E. Cable, of Pine street, has lately purchased from Mr. Lorillard his handsome coach and horses, which he intends running from the Astor House, in this city, and from the Pierrepont House, on Brooklyn Heights, to his Ocean View Hotel, at Coney Island. At five o'clock next Wednesday afternoon the first trip will be made, at which time the coach will start from the Pierrepont House, Brooklyn. It will be driven by Mr. Benjamin C. Hottingsworth. The coach is similar to the one owned by Colonel Delancey Kane, of this city. It is capable of seating twelve persons on top and four inside. Among the passengers already booked for the first trip are Mr. C. D. Reiyerr and wife, Mr. T. E. Mapelsden and wife, and Mr. F. W. Dunton and lady. It is understood that the fare for the round trip will be placed at $2, and that the route will be through Prospect Park and by way of the Ocean Parkway. Mr. Cable was at the Pierrepont House yesterday and had a conversation with Mr. Charles N. Reed, the proprietor, in relation to the starting from that hotel. Mr. Cable feels assured that the enterprise will be successful.

NEW YORK YACHT CLUB.

The New York Yacht Club met last night. Twelve boats were represented and the Commodore presided. Eleven new members—five of whom are boat owners—were elected, and it was resolved to present a testimonial to Commodore John S. Dickinson during the cruise, which is fixed to begin on Tuesday, August 7. The annual regatta will be held on June 14.

DINING WITH THE CARDINAL.

HIS EMINENCE GIVES CONFIRMATION TO THE CHILDREN OF THE PROTECTORY AND ENTERTAINS THE GUESTS AT DINNER—THE TOASTS AND SPEECHES.

A large party of distinguished ladies and gentlemen assembled at the New York Catholic Protectory, Westchester county, yesterday to attend the ceremony of confirmation and join His Eminence Cardinal McCloskey at dinner. The weather was delightful, and the fondest hopes of the projectors of the feast were realized, the events on the programme, from beginning to end, occurring evenly and without mishap.

The ceremony of confirming 650 little boys and girls was held in the chapel, in the Sisters' Protectory, which was decorated for the occasion. The children received holy communion at early mass and the ceremony at which the Cardinal officiated was plain, and concluded with the episcopal benediction and the benediction of the blessed sacrament. Before proceeding to administer the rite the Cardinal addressed the little ones as follows:—

THE CARDINAL'S GREETING.

It is, my dear children, a gratifying spectacle to behold so many who are about to enjoy the great privilege of receiving the holy sacrament of confirmation. I am cheered by the thought that you are going to receive the sacrament with hearts and minds duly prepared by your teachers, spiritual directors and the good Sisters of Charity. You have been thoroughly instructed as to the nature and importance of the sacrament. It is the happiest day of your lives, and will long remain in memory. In all the coming years of life, whether you are in your own home or that of strangers, perhaps having to buffet with the world and withstand temptations, you will always have in mind the day of your confirmation and the good resolutions you formed. You will remember the solemn obligation that you are about to assume in the presence of God and His holy angels. By the imposition of the Bishop's hands you receive the Holy Ghost. He descends upon you, making of your hearts and souls His living temple. In after life how careful you should be not to pollute these temples or banish the Holy Ghost! You will find that you will not only have to practise your religion, but acknowledge it, to live and die Catholics. You will encounter those who will point the finger of scorn at you; you will encounter all kinds of danger to your faith. You will require more than your own strength to overcome all these. You must be willing to endure every evil, even to yield your life, rather than relinquish your faith. You are about to become soldiers of the Church as well as of Jesus Christ. But never fear whatever may happen; be true to your banner and the teachings you have received.

TOASTING HIS EMINENCE.

After the benediction of the blessed sacrament, which concluded the ceremonies in the chapel, the invited guests retired to the refectory and sat down to dinner with His Eminence. Mr. Hoguet, the President of the Board of Directors of the Protectory, after dinner was over, made a speech, saying that he would not tax the patience of his hearers by a long talk. He wished to propose the health of the Cardinal, who was present in the Protectory for the first time.

THE CARDINAL'S RESPONSE.

In responding to the toast His Eminence said:—The most worthy President of the Protectory in the beginning of his remarks was pleased to say that he would not set a pattern by making a formal or long speech, but before he ended he did give us a pattern. (Applause.) After the labor that I have performed, including a dinner of three courses, with dessert (which was called a collation), I hope I may be excused from adopting the pattern Mr. Hoguet has set. But I owe it to the Board of Directors, of whose successful work we have seen so much today, to say a few words. I wish to acknowledge Mr. Hoguet's toast and your courtesy, gentlemen all, in receiving it so warmly. He said that this is my first visit to the Protectory. The first visit of the Cardinal, but not of the Archbishop of New York. (Applause.) I had the honor of laying the corner stone of this institution, and I have had the privilege of giving confirmation to boys and girls here before. Please accept as a toast the prosperity and extended usefulness in the future of the Protectory. (Applause.)

COLONEL F. A. CONKLING'S SPEECH.

Mr. Hoguet responded briefly to the toast, and introduced Colonel Frederick A. Conkling, who said:—Born and bred in the Protestant faith, Mr. President, I wish to tender you my sincere thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me in inviting me to witness the solemn and beautiful rite which has just taken place in the chapel. I esteem it an especial honor to be present on an occasion graced by the ecclesiastical Prince. It has always seemed to me that Protestants and Roman Catholics ought to live together in perfect amity, especially in this country, built up by the blood and sweat of all races of men, belonging to no one and to all. (Applause.) It has always seemed to me that the great mission of our country was to teach the world that all men are brothers. The present seems a proper occasion for recalling the fact that in the organic law of our country that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship without distinction shall be forever allowed to all mankind. (Applause.) It is not religious toleration, but religious equality. And this leads me to say that the first law ever enacted in America to confer religious freedom was enacted in the Roman Catholic colony of Maryland. (Applause.) And now, sir, Protestant as I am, I must say that this law was enacted when the Puritans were hanging or banishing Quakers and Baptists, or selling them into slavery in the West India islands. (Applause.) It was enacted in 1634 that "no one in the province professing belief in Jesus Christ shall be in any way troubled, molested or discountenanced for his or her religion, or in the free exercise thereof." It seems to me, sir, that the time has arrived in this world's history when all men professing the name of Jesus Christ should unite in one great effort to put down infidelity. The danger is not from Protestantism or Romanism, but from infidelity. It has one class of philosophers teaching that God has no cognizance of us and, others that the highest state of spiritual and intellectual development interferes with the natural ties or that we are half brothers to the monkeys and gorillas. I thank the Roman Catholic Church for setting its seal of condemnation upon those shameful utterances. Confessing one law, one baptism and one faith, I stand here and will stand everywhere ready to extend the right hand of fellowship to every man of the Roman Catholic Church.

Several other toasts were responded to by the guests. Mgr. Chatard, rector of the American College, Rome, was among the company.

DREW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

COMMENCEMENT WEEK—THE EXERCISES YESTERDAY—A LARGE NUMBER OF GRADUATES.

At the Drew Theological Seminary, in Madison, N. J., this week has been devoted to anniversary exercises and yesterday was Commencement day. The programme was a very long one, embracing thirty-one addresses by the graduates, a class ode, several musical exercises and the awarding of diplomas and degrees. It was found necessary to curtail this programme on account of the great number of graduates and the length of time their speeches would take up. Only nine were therefore delivered. The day was fine and a large crowd had gathered from the metropolis and the vicinity.

THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

The exercises yesterday were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Madison. They began with an organ voluntary by Miss Tennyson, of Madison, after which prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Van Horne, Presiding Elder of the Newark Conference. The addresses by the graduates followed. Gross Alexander, of Louisville, Ky., delivered an address entitled "The Feelings;" A. H. Eberhardt on "The Struggle for the Birthright;" P. P. Harrower on "The Mysteries of Odinism." J. G. Johnston descanted on the virtues of the deceased Bishop Janes and his great kindness and love for the students of the Seminary. C. A. Jones spoke about "Preaching the Gospel." Albert Osborn's subject was "The Crusade of the Pick and Camera." L. W. Reeves spoke upon the "Unity of Truth," S. O. Royle on "Intolerance," and Stephen Thomoff, a student from Bulgaria, and a graduate of Robert College, Constantinople, delivered an address on "The Future of Bulgaria."

A class ode, composed by W. C. Oliver, one of the students, was then sung by the class. It was a representation of the future career of the young ministers' lives and the trials they would have to undergo. The music was to the tune of "Die Wacht am Rhein."

Several musical pieces were interspersed throughout the exercises, giving a pleasing variety to the entertainment.

THE GRADUATES.

After the addresses the awarding of the diplomas took place. The following is a list of the graduates:—Gross Alexander, A. B., Louisville, Ky.; W. E. Avery, A. B., Wilmington Conference; M. L. Banerjea, Calcutta, India; Henry Boggs, Baltimore Conference; J. R. Buckelew, A. B., New York East Conference; E. E. Burriss, Philadelphia Conference; H. W. Byrnes, New York; E. C. Dutcher, Chemung, N. Y.; E. H. Eberhardt, A. B., New Jersey Conference; B. E. Gastineau, B. S., Paris, France; E. B. Gearhart, Orangeville, Pa.; P. P. Harrower, A. B., New York; I. N. L. Hercy, B. S., Cannonsville, N. Y.; J. B. Heward, Newark Conference; O. W. Holmes, A. B., Cadiz, Ohio.; J. R. Hoover, Massillon, Ohio; J. G. Johnston, A. B., Newark Conference; E. R. Jones, A. B., Pittsburg Conference; C. A. Jones, A. B., Baltimore Conference; J. H. Logie, Baltimore Conference; G. W. Loomis, A. M., Newtown, N. Y; W. W. Martin, A. B., Brooklyn, N. Y.; J. F. McGregor, A. B., Mount Vernon, Ind.; H. B. Molyneaux, Morrisania, N. Y.; F. Morgan, New York; Albert Osborn, A. B., Faribault, Minn.; S. S. Pentz, Baltimore, Md.; L. W. Reeves, Bay Shore, N. Y.; L. A. Robbins, Becket, Mass.; S. O. Royal, A. B., Portland, Oregon; J. A. Sargent, A. M., Indiana Conference; M. L. Tait, A. M., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Stephen Thomoff, A. B., Kotel, Bulgaria; S. B. Torrey, East Ohio Conference; Truman Weed, A. B., South Kansas Conference; T. H. Woodring, A. M., Meadville, Pa.; J. R. Wright, A. B., South Kansas Conference.

The exercises closed with addresses to the graduates in regard to their duties, delivered by President Hurst, Dr. Tiffany, of New York, and Dr. Gilder of Brooklyn. Dr. Crawford, of New York, pronounced the benediction.

SIX YEARS' STEALINGS.

FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF GOODS STOLEN FROM H. B. CLAFLIN & CO.—ANOTHER RUINED CLERK.

The latest victim in the commercial world to a clerk's dishonesty is the large dry goods firm of H. B. Claflin & Co. Daily for the past six years, excepting Sundays and holidays, one of their trusted stock clerks has been carrying on a system of plunder, by which the firm has lost in the aggregate, it is estimated, fully $50,000.

The name of the dishonest clerk is Thomas Belton, aged thirty-two years, residing at No. 1,157 Summit avenue, Jersey City Heights. He was arrested yesterday by Captain Murray, of the Fourth precinct, and made a full confession. The Captain has also succeeded in recovering the prisoner's bank book representing nearly $10,000.

WHAT LED TO THE DISCOVERY.

Among the many suspicious establishments in the Fourth ward upon which Captain Murray has kept a close watch since his advent into the precinct is a small dry goods store situated at No. 417 Pearl street and kept by one Daniel J. Hall, a young man not over moral in his business relations according to the police. Recently the Captain began to notice that Hall was apparently doing a thriving business and growing opulent. The surroundings were not such as to indicate any great commercial relationship, but the store always seemed to be well stocked, more especially in needles, braids, threads and other notions. What made the matter more suspicious was the fact that invoices were rarely seen brought to the store. Goods, however, were taken away and disposed of in large quantities and still the stock remained plethoric. Satisfied that something was wrong the Captain redoubled his efforts to probe the mystery.

A few days ago he noticed a well dressed young man enter the store and remain a considerable time in consultation with the proprietor. When he emerged a detective followed his steps until he reached the store of H. B. Claflin & Co. The next day Captain Murray quietly called on the firm and asked if they suspected any person of robbing them. They replied that they felt satisfied that some person was stealing their goods, but they could not tell who the thief was. When the Captain mentioned his suspicions about the young man whom he had traced to their establishment they at once coincided with him.

A VALUABLE PAIR OF PANTALOONS.

Captain Murray, Detective Carr and Roundsman Meekam kept a vigilant eye on Claflin's establishment and the Pearl street dry goods store. Yesterday noon the Captain saw Belton emerging from his employer's store. His pantaloons appeared to be him very tightly, but otherwise there was nothing peculiar in his manner or attire. He quickly walked in the direction of Pearl street, and was soon in the direct path to the mysterious store of Hall. The police were quietly following behind. With a brisk step he entered the store and two minutes later the three officers were at his side. Closing the door carefully Captain Murray said: "Belton you have been stealing from your employers a long time now, but we have caught you at last." The young man turned pale and the proprietor became greatly agitated.

"What have you in your pantaloons?" continued the Captain.

Belton threw himself into a chair, muttering, "It's all up, I suppose."

Tied around the man's legs, inside his pantaloons, the police found 85,000 needles done up in packages, thirty-five small bundles of braid and a large number of spools of thread.

A FULL CONFESSION.

The search concluded the Captain motioned his officers to arrest Hall, and taking Belton himself the party proceeded to the Oak street station house. The sight of the cell increased Belton's agitation, and when questioned closely by the Captain he unloided his tale of theft. "I have been carrying it on for six years," he said, "scarcely missing a day except Sundays and holidays. My stealings were principally silk braids, thread and needles, and I always carried them away inside my pantaloons. I cannot tell how much the robberies will amount to."

"But where are the proceeds?" asked the Captain.

The prisoner hesitated, stammered and evaded.

Taking both men to the Tombs Police Court, the Captain asked Justice Smith to remand them for twenty-four hours, to enable him to get further evidence.

Returned to the station house Captain Murray renewed his siege on the prisoner, and soon the latter yielded, and offered to take him to where his bank books were hidden. The prisoner led him to H. B. Claflin & Co's. They ascended the elevator to the top story. The prisoner brought a ladder from a corner and climbed to the upper shelf, the Captain at his heels. Pulling away a number of large boxes he drew from a recess in the shelf a bundle and handed it to the Captain.

A PRECIOUS BUNDLE.

The bundle contained the following bank books:—Bleecker Street Savings Bank, $1,000; Union Dime, $850 40; Mechanics', $3,160 81; Bowery, $1,796 11; Seaman's, $863; Greenwich Savings, $1,310, and German Savings Bank, $1,117. Also a roll of bills amounting to $257. On the prisoner's person were found $45 and three receipts for $15 from a Masonic lodge.

Belton appeared anxious to make all restitution