

The birds and beasts were there; The old baboon, by the light of the moon,

Sat combing his auburn hair."

A tall, gray-haired man, in a yacht-ing cap, is singing with them and pounding on the table with a rolled newspaper, evidently having more fun than anybody else. When the song is over he laughs with such a squint that his eyes almost close.

The man is Sir Thomas Lipton and the occasion is his entertainment of the Columbia Park Boys' band, mostly of San Francisco, which has reached London on its trip around the world. We were all on our way back to London in the special train Sir Thomas had furnished.

For a whole long, glorious day the lads have been getting acquainted with Sir Thomas on his palatial yacht Erin and having the time of their glad young lives. And I believed the old yachtsman when he declared that he had never before had so much fun on the Erin, even when King Edward was aboard.

This was the first big entertainment the boys had on this side of the water in their triumphal progress round the world. It was more pretentious than the fine reception that Thomas Edison, the great American inventor, gave them before they sailed, in his big New Jersey laboratory. Anyhow, it cost more money. Sir Thomas blew in at least \$3,000 on the boys for his day's amusement.

The young guests, however, were the entertainers as well as the entertained. They sang choruses, quartets and solos, they did acrobatic stunts, dances and other vaudeville bits, and the whole band played American airs till they drowned the noise of the channel waves. And the famous host himself made a friendly, humorous speech that tickled everybody.

It was a great day for young America, and the forerunner of many joyful days these half-a-hundred lads are going to have in their tour of the

continent, their trip through the Suez canal, their visit to Africa, Japan, China, Australia, the Philippine Islands, and their return to San Francisco in time to take part in the big Panama Exposition.

One of the other guests was Harry Lauder. He made two speeches and both of them were serious. Sir Thomas interrupted him two or three times and tried to make him say something funny, but Lauder stuck to his text, which was this:

"You're away from home, and I want you to promise me that ye'll write letters home to your father and mither, 'cause they'll be thinkin' o' ye, even if you aren't thinkin' o' them."

He said it in broad Scotch, just like that—he CAN'T talk any other way—and the boys promised.

TELEGRAPH BRIEFS

Los Angeles.—Simon Helfenstine, who confessed to seven murders in Ohio between '96 and '00, has admitted confession was faked.

New York.—Ninety-four per cent of Eastern trainmen voted to strike if their demands be not granted. 76,683 men voted, only 4,210 against striking.

San Francisco.—Asiatic Exclusion League declares there will be no referendum on Webb anti-alien land law.

London.—Mansion House committee in charge of fund for Captain Scott's family says funds now has reached \$350,000.

Hackensack, N. J.—Rodman Law, after being shot out of cannon, dropped from balloons and airships and a few other little things of that sort, was badly hurt today in a three-foot fall from a wagon.

Houston, Tex.—Lieut. Loren H. Call, U. S. army aviation corps, instantly killed when aeroplane collapsed just after start of flight.

Christiana, Norway.—The Morgenblad et says today that it considers