

CONCERNING KANSAS.

TOASTS AND ROASTS.

How the Young Statesmen Enjoyed Life at Their Kansas Day Banquet.

"*Ad astra per aspera*" was the retrospective and prophetic inscription borne by the banner that floated over the banquet board around which were seated the representative men of the "young crowd" that had gathered at Topeka on Kansas day, January 29. *Ad astra per aspera* might have meant up in the clouds without any difficulty, or knocked sky-high and laboring under great difficulty, or up a tree with the bull dog at the bottom, or there is no difficulty in getting to the top when the bottom is knocked out. Any one of these free translations would have been appropriate; it depended altogether on who read it, and in what kind of a light he looked at it. To the ambitious young crowd it meant up in the clouds without any difficulty; to the old crowd it might mean up a tree with a bull dog at the bottom.

The banquet was sumptuous, it was all that the highly pampered palate of an editor could demand. The banqueters were young men, ambitious young men, promising young men. Just the kind of men to draft a republican platform. That was not the object of the meeting, but not a youth present but felt that Providence had especially ordained him for that purpose. Not one among them but felt tingling in every tissue of his "corporosity" the ability to hew out the planks and frame a platform that would bear his party to victory. But no, that was not the object of their coming together. They had assembled for the purpose of toasting the young crowd and roasting the old crowd, offering up, as it were, the old crowd as a sacrifice that the party might be cleansed of its impurities. And as the chicken consommé, mushrooms, and green peas went down, hope and ambition rose, till some could almost feel the reins of government within their grasp. Men who, for three long weary years had not dared to hope for even a batch of county printing, now could almost see themselves cashing state vouchers, or even endorsing them. Others who, in the recent past, would hardly have risked to make the race for road overseer could now, in their imagination, almost hear the halls of congress echo to their tread. Looking up from a dish of planked white fish and "potatoes duchesse" to the banner, "*Ad astra per aspera*," and it now meant: Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high.

"Kansas" was the first toast responded to. The substance of the speech was that we rise by stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things. The youthful speaker admitted, like a good penitent little boy, that every licking we got makes us better. He said that the late upheaval, if properly looked at, might be regarded as a benefit, that is, if it could be made to appear that the blow or kick was intended for the old man and not for the boy at all. He wound up with a plea for clean men and a return to principles—whatever that might mean.

"The Survival of the Fittest" was the next toast. From the drift of the speaker's remarks the survival of the fittest seemed to mean that the eastern money loaner had gobbled up more Kansas farms in the last year than for ten years before. He cited several other minor facts, and closed by saying that if he might be allowed to frame the next platform, and clean republicans could be

found to fit the offices, the party would survive.

"Taking Bearings" was the next toast tackled by a Lawrence youth. "A third of a century ago," said the speaker, "the republican party, then in its prime, and full of promise, a quality which it still retains unimpaired, reached forth its arms into the west and rescued a beautiful maiden named Kansas, rescued her from the Missouri bushwhackers. All these years have they lived together in love and harmony, till now, when the old man is tottering with age and decrepitude, and there is nothing left from which to get alimony, the old gal is suing for a divorce." The closing remarks of the speaker were devoted to roasting the old crowd, outlining a platform and advertising for clean republicans to come and stand on it.

"Why a Young Man Should be a Republican" was the toast assigned to an ambitious young stripling from Salina. Starting back at the time of the flood the speaker began his research, and thrashing the jungles of history as he advanced, he left no nook or crevice unexamined. At times glimpses of his tall form might be seen towering among the Roman senators; then again faint echoes might be heard coming from the dark ages, as the voice of one crying out in the wilderness. Advancing to a more modern period, he accompanied Columbus on his first voyage of discovery. Then in succession he fought through the revolution and the late rebellion, till at last, with a flourish and a gesture that swept the hollandaise potatoes, broiled quail on toast and orange jelly from the table for a yard around him, he summed up the result of his research in one grand sentence, the only reason that he had been able to find, and that was that a young man should be a republican because his father was. With a platform such as he would recommend, and clean republicans to run for office, the speaker closed by insuring success and victory.

"The Young Crowd" was the title of the next toast, tackled by one of the youthful yearlings. The young man said that they were not candidates for office. All they asked was the naming of the candidates and the making of the platform. The task that they had set for themselves was the purifying of the party, and they proposed to do that by turning down every dad in the old crowd who had ever held an office or even run for one.

Several other toasts were responded to, but they were mostly seconds to the sentiments already expressed. The crying need of the hour was for clean men; and if the supply is only equal to the demand, and if the young crowd are only equal to the task and don't become contaminated by coming in contact with so much corruption, great results may be looked for.

Occasionally one of the old crowd would look in on the boys, but he would always pause at the door, where, after listening to their prattle for a while, he would turn and walk away, smiling to himself as if to say, "the boys are fooling with a gun, but I know it isn't loaded. The last time it went off it kicked me over, and blew the lock off, and it has never been repaired." Poor old fellow, he knew that the young crowd was impeaching him, but what odds; impeachment meant only disqualifying for holding office, and the Populists had already put him through that degree.

Every dog has his day, and Kansas day this year belonged to the young dog. The old dog had been suspected of killing sheep, the wool had been found in

his teeth and the evidence was strong against him. The flocks had been scattered and lost, and now the young dogs were straining at their chains and howling to be turned loose that they might round them up again. But the wool that was found in the teeth of the old dogs used to grow over the sheep's eyes. It isn't there now, and they will be hard to round up.

CON HEALY.

NOTES.

Topeka ministers have begun discussing the causes of poverty in earnest. Now the question will be solved.

There is a charity society being organized in Topeka which is on a fair way toward getting ready for practical work by May 1.

The license of the Home Insurance company has been revoked by Superintendent Snider, prohibiting that company from doing business in Kansas.

Jim Legate is starting a paper in Leavenworth to be called "The Independent." If Jim's memory don't fail him before February 11 the first issue is likely to contain some "disclosures."

Joe Rosenthal is treasurer of a society composed of the members of the Douglas house of representatives, whose motto is "stand up for Kansas" and whose emblem is a sledge-hammer. Some people have mistaken the sledge-hammer on the letter heads for a portrait of Joe.

Talk about disgracing Kansas! All the world is agog over the act of republicans at Hiawatha, who, a few days ago, pulled down a union flag which the women of the city had put up, simply because the women had pinned some suffrage badges on the flag, to make it appropriate for their meeting which was being held at that time.

Junction City Tribune: The court room was filled beyond its seating capacity to hear Frank R. Forrest's impassioned speech, Monday night. He was listened to with the closest attention and was frequently applauded as he made a particularly good point. He handled the old parties without gloves and showed up the devilishness of the proposed bond issue.

The state treasurer's report for January shows that the receipts of the treasurer's office during the month were \$626,217. The disbursements were \$195,673.13, leaving a balance of cash on hand February 1 of \$1,079,171.60. The amount on hand a month ago was \$648,627.78. The bonds purchased during the month amounted to \$81,565. Bonds paid off, \$81,575.61. Amount of bonds on hand, \$6,873,720.63.

The republican Kansas City Times is in a spasm caused by its discovery of a very defective bribery law in Kansas. This law imposes a penalty on the giver of a bribe to a legislator, but not on the legislator himself, and the Times deplores the fact that a man who is in the legislature for something besides his health may not only accept a bribe with impunity, but may actually hold up and bleed the giver of the bribe for an indefinite time afterward. It's very sad, and ought to be remedied for the benefit of the Times and its republican friends.

There's bad blood in Sedgwick county. "Prince" Hallowell, the victim of Jerry Simpson's first campaign in the Seventh district, and George Douglas each want the Sedgwick delegation for congressman-at-large. Hallowell proposes that they two meet in joint debate at nine different points in the county, and in that way give the people a chance to choose. Douglas does not respond, supposedly because he is afraid his

competitor will attack his sledgehammer record in the legislature. If they don't discuss that, what in the world will they talk about? Just think of these two Dromios meeting and making faces at each other, both afraid of political issues.

A Notable Book.

We would like to call attention to a very notable and worthy book, which is now being placed before the people of Topeka, namely, the Rev. John Henry Barrows' story of the "World's Parliament of Religions," which was held in Chicago during the month of September, 1893.

This work, as presented by Dr. Barrows, is complete in every detail, showing the correspondence relative thereto, which was conducted by Dr. Barrows personally on the one hand, and on the other by heads or representatives of the various faiths, religions and sects of the whole world, *pro and con*, giving, *verbatim*, all of the parliamentary papers which were read before this great assembly by the representatives of their respective faiths—Mahomedan, Confucian, Favian, Buddhist, Jain. In fact, all the known religions of the world.

All of these papers are copyrighted by Dr. Barrows in England and America, and cannot be published by any one else.

There are several so-called "Congress of Religions" on the market in one volume of something like 1,000 pages of coarse print, cheap paper and cheaper bindings, and sold for a corresponding cheap price, which have been compiled from newspaper reports made at the time, which were necessarily cut and abbreviated for lack of space. Yet, the publishers of these utterly worthless piracies unblushingly put them out as "authentic reports." One of these reliable histories, of which several have been sold in Topeka, contains thirty-six errors on one page, namely, page 36. Another one issues a circular to its agents calling attention to the coarse print in their book, making it easier to read. In this connection it might as well call attention to the paper, which is also coarse; to the fact that there are only nine words per line, thus having a good, wide margin, and only thirty-four lines per page, or 303 words per page and a little over 1,000 pages in one volume. This would seem to be an advantage as against the Barrows book, which is in two volumes, containing 1,600 pages in all, with 300 half-tone engravings. The letter press averages thirteen words per line and forty-four lines per page, or 572 words per page, which makes more than twice the amount of reading matter contained in the other works, and, being in two volumes, much easier to handle.

Before purchasing any work it would be well to see the Barrows, as there is none other that is worthy of consideration. Burke & Chamberlain, of Omaha, Neb., are general agents for Kansas and Nebraska. Mr. Eugene Whitney is their representative in Kansas, and several agents have been appointed in Topeka. Be sure and see the Barrows book before purchasing any.

Poor Man's Party.

SHELBYVILLE, ILL., February 3.—A new political organization, styled the Poor Man's party, was organized here last night, 115 voters signing as charter members.

William M. Stone and Allen Mathews are the promoters. It is the intention of the adherents of this new party to organize lodges through the state. Their motto is the poor against the rich. No man is eligible if worth more than \$2,500.