

FESTIVITY.

THE PRESS CLUB BANQUET.

A Feast of Victuals and a Flow of Soul.

Who Was There and Who Wasn't—What Was Said, and What Was Done.

That the Philadelphia Press Club has a knack for doing things superbly the press of the United States has, by this time, become thoroughly convinced. Whatever doubts were still lingering in the mind of any one after the banquet at the close of the Wisconsin Convention, was dispelled by the banquet of last evening. This time the affair transpired at the Continental Tavern, as Mr. Theodore Tilton has dubbed it, and everything was gotten up in the "style" which has rendered that establishment one of the Eden of the earth.

The invited guests of the Club assembled in parlors at 8 o'clock, pursuant to the terms of the neatly printed cards which they had received during the course of the day. After an hour spent in pleasant conversation, interrupted now and then by processions to a table in the corner of the room, the company filed into the dining hall and seated themselves at a labyrinthine table, arranged after the fashion of a gridiron with three prongs.

Decorations of the Hall and Table were profusely rich and exceedingly neat. The entire walls of the dining-room were festooned with the national colors.

The tables were fringed with pinnate delicacies, and were gorgeously arrayed in flowers.

Who Were There.

Among the persons of more or less distinction whom we noticed among the festive board, were the editors, correspondents and reporters of the Philadelphia press. With the exception of a few tired-out and unspirited individuals who had gone to bed in the afternoon, disgraced with the length of the great Convention, the Philadelphia press was out in force.

We also made a note of the presence of General Franz Sigel, of Baltimore, General Hiram Walbridge, of New York, General John Eaton, of Tennessee, General Joshua F. Owen, of Philadelphia, General Brishon, of Kentucky, and General Muzzy, late Private Secretary to His Excellency the President of these United States. These gentlemen were all understood to have had military tendencies at one time in their careers.

There were also the Hon. John Minor Botts, of Virginia, who was not understood ever to have had any military tendencies.

Emerson Bennett, Esq., who was likewise present, we have considerable difficulty in classifying, inasmuch as he is not supposed to have been a military man, and yet has fought an immunity of battles and captured a legion or two of bears.

Other fighting men were present—e. g., a Colonel Charles E. Moss, of the St. Louis Press, and Captain J. E. Bryant, of the Augusta Local Georgian.

There were other men than Mr. Botts present, likewise, who had never had a passion for slaughter. Among these might be named Mr. W. H. Huntcutt, of the Richmond New Nation, and Mr. Albert Griffin, of the Mobile National.

There were also present several merchants of good repute among whom we noticed A. R. McHenry, Stephen J. Souder, William Devine, Joseph A. Miller, and the like.

The others that were present were altogether too numerous to mention. They numbered, in fact, one hundred and fifty, all told. By a little engineering, this number was subsequently developed into three hundred. Precisely how it was done will be told at the proper time.

So much for those who were there. As for those who were not there.

We again stumble upon a long list of military and un-military names, which is also too numerous to mention. But among those whose presence was particularly missed we might name George Francis Tilton, Esq., of Omaha, Nebraska, and his Honor Morton McMichael, Mayor of Philadelphia. George Francis was especially missed by those gentlemen present who imagined that they carried about on their shoulders twenty-five-inch heads, which would find anything of the kind or size to be found in the British Parliament or the Nebraska Legislature. It would have been pleasant to have had George Francis in the neighborhood to assure them of the fact by mentioning it. As nobody else could vouch for it, nobody else would take the responsibility of doing so.

But while Tilton was missed by a few, his Honor was missed by all. For these reasons:—

Firstly, the idea is prevalent in the community that the Mayor has become funny in his old age, and a funny man was just what was wanted on such an occasion.

Secondly, the idea has also got abroad that there is no such public personage as a Mayor to be found in the city. It is positively certain that such was the case last week. It was, indeed, rumored that his Honor had since returned, but those who had not enjoyed the pleasure of meeting him face to face had hoped to encounter him then and there, so that they might be satisfied that he was and is a man of flesh and blood.

In conclusion, he proposed, as a toast—"A free press, the penumbral which regulates the clock of the country, and in time of peace is what the army is in time of war!" (Applause, and drinks all around.)

At this point up rose an excited individual, who proclaimed himself to have been

The gentleman who put Mr. Botts to bed with John Tyler.

The excited individual, who was identical with the one who had previously intimated to the company that, in his opinion, the wine was circulating altogether too freely, and that they had better take a turn at the peaches—the excited individual, we say, arose and declared that he desired to make "a few remarks."

As no one had the good sense to object to such an irregular proceeding, the excited individual proceeded with his "few remarks."

He knew all about the sleeping arrangement of Mr. Botts and John Tyler, and as the former seemed to be rather ashamed of it now, he would remove all cause for such a harassing feeling by assuming the company that it wasn't Mr. Botts' fault.

"When a man is put to bed," exclaimed the excited individual, "he can't help it." (Cries of "Oo no!" "Of course he can't.") "Well, then, gentlemen, I put Mr. Botts to bed with John Tyler, and I'll tell you just how I did it."

The individual then proceeded to relate a long and lugubrious tale, in the mysteries of which his son became so fearfully involved that Mr. Botts lost patience and interrupted him.

To enable the reader to see the force of the interruption, a few remarks to the side are necessary. There was present on the table, in fearful quantity, a liquid commodity which one gentleman who had a little thickness in his speech termed "cherry." Whether it was really "cherry" or not we are unable to say, as helps

Two Interruptions.

The first was the entrance of Mr. Theodore Tilton, bringing in his wako the Rev. J. P. Newman, of the New Orleans Advocate. Three cheers for Tilton, and knife, fork, and goblet, went at it again. Then, by-and-by, an excited individual arose, and after securing the attention of the company, declared it to be his solemn opinion that the wine was flowing too freely. He thought the peaches ought to flow too freely, and although the flow of wine stopped not, inside of two minutes peaches were a scarce commodity, except in the immediate vicinity of the plates and palates.

At the extreme end of the table, and opposite the Chairman, sat William V. McKean, Esq., of the Public Ledger. When the latter gentleman thought the victuals were not going far enough, he arose and said that a bottle-bone contest would now be in order, and that it would be conducted according to the following rules, which he had been instructed by the Committee to promulgate:—

Rule 1. Every person called upon for a speech is ordered to respond, except when the person so called upon proves to be stone dead or totally dumb. Under such painful circumstances he will be reluctantly excused.

Rule 2. Every one who speaks is expected to say something, provided always that he is able to do so.

Rule 3. All imaginable subjects are in order. An orator is not to limit himself over the entire earth, provided, always, that he does not carry the war into Africa. And finally, all persons may be allowed to drink, and their immediate and remote ancestors.

Rule 4. No one is at liberty to speak longer than two hours, until all have had a small chance to say something. In case any person cannot get through with his remarks within the allotted time, he is at perfect liberty to continue them in his own paper, or to have them published in any other paper, or to have them printed in the "Big Bear and Little Injun" stories of Emerson Bennett, Esq.

Mr. McKean then laid down some neat rules about the direct process of bottle-holding, but in the confusion of the moment we lost the drift of them. He was understood to say, however, that if a man had two hands he could hold at least two bottles at the same time.

"Pen Ridge" is glorified and General Sigel called out.

Mr. McKean then gave a vivid description of the battle of Pen Ridge, and several other battles, if we remember rightly. He also rendered in a happy manner a few strains from the campaign song of "The Boys who fight not Sigel," and proposed as a substitute for the fighting part of it, that the boys should see how well they could succeed at drinking "mit Sigel."

They made the effort, and succeeded admirably.

And thereupon Franz Sigel arose, amidst cheers, and discoursed awhile concerning the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and of free schools.

Independence is Exploited, and Theodore Tilton is applauded.

Mr. McKean then paid a direct tribute to the motto—Virtue, Liberty, and Independence, which reminded him, as a matter of course, of the Independent.

Mr. Tilton, in response, stated that his throat troubled him—likewise his appetite, which was enormous. (His own words.) He also told a story about a crazy man who shook his hat at Tom Marshall, and cried out "Louder!" Turning to General Sigel, he remarked:—"Sigel leads the column, and I lead the column." (The reader will please notice the joke.)

Mr. Tilton then declined to shake his fist at Mr. McKean, but offered him his open hand, a piece of magnanimity, considering the circumstances, that deserved and received applause. Mr. Tilton also informed the company that he was so unfortunate as to be a young man, and related several anecdotes to show the nature of his troubles on that score.

In conclusion, he stated that a man might be respectable, even though he were a minister of the Gospel. In that capacity he introduced the Rev. J. P. Newman, who Related His Troubles, and thereby gained the sympathy of his audience, until he inadvertently claimed, as one of them, the company rose en masse, and shook their forks at him.

A Dry Customer.

Colonel Charles E. Moss, of the St. Louis Press, was then called upon for a speech, but excused himself on the grounds of his being a dry customer. Before sitting down, however, he proposed the Press Gang of Philadelphia, "the best Press Gang that ever got together on the face of the earth."

Colonel Moss was rewarded with cheers for this brilliant shaft.

Mr. McKean then threw out a little battery towards General Hiram Walbridge, who appreciated it by responding in a little speech. In the course of this.

General Walbridge Gave a Hit at John Minor Botts.

When Mr. Botts took the floor, three cheers were given for "Botts and Liberty." Mr. Botts then said that, having spoken last evening to a million of men, or more, in the open air, he could not make a speech. He would say, however, that when he slept with John Tyler he had a blackguard thing for the last time in his life.

In conclusion, he proposed, as a toast—"A free press, the penumbral which regulates the clock of the country, and in time of peace is what the army is in time of war!" (Applause, and drinks all around.)

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charged with a full, true, and faithful report of the proceedings, we were not allowed to dabble in such things. Well, this "cherry," or what not, was partaken of by everybody, ourselves excepted. Some partook sparingly, some partook moderately, some partook liberally, and a few—a very few—partook enormously. To the latter class belonged the gentleman upon the floor. At least, so thought a great many. He evidently thought so himself, when he proposed to stop the flow of wine and start a flow of peach-juice.

Mr. Botts, however, was of a different opinion; and so he interrupted the narrator with the words:—"My friend, won't you take a glass of 'cherry' with me?"

This joke was so barefaced that it brought down the house. The knives clattered, the goblets rattled, and somebody at the end of the table pronounced an approving call-cul.

The excited individual became more excited than ever at this interruption. He declared that he didn't want any "cherry," but that he did want to finish his story. But the company had other objects in view, and so half-a-dozen mocking birds threw in their cat-calls, the table rang as if the spirits had gotten under it as well as on top, and things became decidedly mixed all around. When the uproar ceased, the gentleman who had acted in the capacity of valet to persons of note was nowhere to be seen!

"P. C. C." Congratulates the Universe.

After some other and indefinite proceedings, Mr. McKean announced that a telegram had been despatched to the ends of the earth, tendering the congratulations of three hundred American editors (this is where and how the number was suddenly duplicated) at dinner to all the other editors in the world, on the general prevalence of peace throughout the world, or good-will in Heaven—or something of that sort.

Theodore Tilton's Despatch to the Provincial Press.

The journalists of the United States, represented by the American editors, sitting at dinner to night at the Press Club of Philadelphia, send by telegraph a fraternal salutation to the leading journalists of the United States, asking as a response by each of them to the effect of:—"Peace on earth, and good-will to all men." (EDMOND TILTON, for American Journalist Press Club.)

After a few more speeches there was

A Little Mutual Politeness

Indulged in between General Walbridge and Mr. McKean, which terminated in a neat little speech by the latter. Mr. McKean was very happy with his story about kicking me out of the house, and so he, and finally came to the conclusion that "everything is lovely and the goose hangs high" (Applause.)

How the Banquet Ended.

Such a process could not last forever, and so, a few minutes before one o'clock this morning, the painful announcement was made that the Club House of the Union League was wrapped in flames.

The meeting adjourned without taking a vote, each one present making the best of his way to the scene of the conflagration.

FROM HAMPTON ROADS.

The "Hong-Kong Ambassador" with Jeff Davis—Naval Reception to Acting Rear-Admiral Stephen C. Rowan, etc.

CONGRESS MONITOR, September 5.—William B. Reed, of Philadelphia, one of Jeff Davis' counsel, arrived here early this morning, and was in consultation with his chief nearly all day. The object of his visit, beyond a mere professional one, is unknown.

The weather has been intensely hot for several days past, the thermometer being as high as 95 degrees in the shade.

In obedience to an order issued by Commodore Hitchcock, the officers attached to the Norfolk Navy Yard, the Naval Hospital, and the Receiving Ship, assembled at the navy yard yesterday morning, for the purpose of receiving Rear-Admiral Stephen C. Rowan, who was to relieve Commodore Hitchcock in the command of the yard. The Admiral arrived at the yard by the steam-tug Sands, about 11 o'clock, and was there introduced to the assembled officers, while the usual salute was fired. Commodore Hitchcock left for New York on last night's boat, taking with him the hearty esteem and good-will of all his subordinates.

Rear-Admiral Rowan is no stranger in Norfolk, having been stationed there many years ago. He entered the service in 1823, and has seen over forty years of service, more than half of which has been at sea. He received the thanks of Congress in 1864 for his gallantry, and was afterwards promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral.

The others being Goldsborough, Davis, Dehlgren, Bailey, Bell, Thatcher, Goslin, Palmer, and Radford. He is looking remarkably well.

Dr. W. J. Wolverton, United States Volunteer, quarantine officer on board the City of Albany, stationed at Cape Henry to board all vessels bound in, has been relieved on that duty, and ordered to Richmond upon special medical service. Dr. J. A. Prince, United States Volunteer, has been appointed the Examining Quarantine Surgeon.

A Formidable Weapon.

FRENCH EXPERIMENTS WITH THE CHASSE-PT MUSKET.

A curious experiment with the Chassepot musket, adopted by the French military commission appointed to examine the different inventions of breech-loaders, has just taken place at the camp of Châlons. A letter in *La France* gives the following account:—

General d'Aumestre, the President, ordered a company of eighty four Chasseurs, armed with the gun in question, to be placed at four hundred metres from a target representing the front of a squadron of cavalry. In the rear and to the right of the Chasseurs was placed a detachment of guides at four hundred metres from the target. The latter were to break up the more wave come voices of the savage shots fired by the President, the latter charged at a gallop, and at the same moment the others commenced firing by aim at the target. The object of the experiment was to ascertain by continuing the shots fired and the balls received by the target while the cavalry was going over the distance of four hundred metres, or, in other words, the effect produced by a fire of infantry on a squadron charging. The gun went over the distance in thirty-two seconds—an extraordinary rapidity for horsemen heavily accoutred and in a troop—the infantry fired during the same period three hundred and twenty shots, and the target was struck one hundred and sixty times, or by more than fifty per cent of the bullets discharged. The experiment was repeated the second time, and with exactly the same result. The effect of fifty per cent of the bullets fired, also, in half a minute, eighty Chasseurs sent three hundred and twenty bullets at the enemy, that is, exactly four to each man. It slightly horsemen heavily accoutred and in a troop—the infantry fired during the same period three hundred and twenty shots, and the target was struck one hundred and sixty times, or by more than fifty per cent of the bullets discharged. The experiment was repeated the second time, and with exactly the same result. 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