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AT THE OFFICE OF
THE JEFFERSONIAN.

CELEBRATION OF FRANKLIN'S BIRTHDAY.



FIRST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE EASTON PRINTERS.

The 149th anniversary of the Birth-day of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was celebrated by the Easton printers and editors, at the "Franklin House," on Wednesday evening, the 17th ult. A number of editors from other towns were in attendance, and Pom's Cornet Band was present to heighten the enjoyment with their excellent music. The supper was prepared in admirable style, to which the company sat down at 8 o'clock in the evening. After the supper, an organization was effected by the appointment of the following officers: GEO. W. YATES, Esq., President. Josiah P. Hetrick, W. L. Davis, D. H. Neiman and W. H. Hutter, Vice Presidents, and S. L. Cooley, Esq., and S. P. Higgins, Secretaries.

Upon taking the chair, Mr. YATES addressed the company at some length, thanking them for the honor bestowed upon him in selecting him to preside at this banquet. He recited to his past connexion with the fraternity with feelings of pride and pleasure, and was happy at all times to meet with them as brethren of the same honorable profession. In the printing office he imbibed lessons of incalculable service to him as a lawyer, and he thought that the young men here present could not too highly value the advantages their vocation afforded them.—He dwelt upon the social virtues and public services of the illustrious personage whose name was associated with this banquet. He spoke of him as FRANKLIN, the Printer; FRANKLIN, the Statesman; and FRANKLIN, the Philosopher, and said he was happy to meet with his fellow craftsmen in commemoration of his great genius and many excellencies.—Mr. YATES was frequently interrupted by his enthusiastic applause. We regret that we could not obtain a fuller report for publication. At the conclusion of his speech the band performed a lively piece of music, after which the President proceeded to read the following

Regular Toasts:

I
The day we celebrate: The anniversary of the birth-day of a fellow-craftsman, whose renown as a statesman and philosopher will descend to the latest posterity. His glory is our heritage, his career our example, and his memory the object of our sacred regard. (Drank in silence.)

II
The President of the United States:—May Providence preside over all his councils, and the nation be blessed in his administration. (Three cheers.)

III
The Governor of Pennsylvania: May Wisdom and Patriotism guide him in the performance of his official duties, and the interests of our glorious old Commonwealth be advanced by his counsel.—(Three cheers.)

IV
The Press: The Archimedean lever operating upon and moving the moral and intellectual world.

This toast was given with three cheers, when the President called upon SAMUEL L. COOLEY, Esq., for a response.

Mr. COOLEY said he had not expected the call, nor did he feel able to do justice to the sentiment by any remarks which he could make. The Press is a mighty lever, it is true, "operating upon and moving the moral and intellectual world." It is most active under a republican government, where there is almost unlimited freedom, but its influence is everywhere. Springing into existence in the fifteenth century it has gradually advanced and strengthened until the present time, in its course civilizing and ennobling the human race. We have seen the remains of feudal degradation and oppression disappear before its advance, and have seen semi-republican and republican governments erected upon the ruins of that system. The Press teaches men their rights. It was efficient in curtailing the prerogative in England, and in producing the memorable Declaration in our own country.—It is the great support of republican government.

It is a fact conceded by all authors on political and moral science, that the great pillars of republicanism are virtue and intelligence. Without these no people can be free. They are necessary elements without which a free State cannot exist. The Press is a great medium through

which we inculcate the former and disseminate the latter. It is an "Archimedean lever operating upon and moving the moral and intellectual world."

He here alluded to the condition of the mass of the people before the discovery of printing when means of gaining knowledge were only attainable by the rich—in the feudal ages when the great mass of mankind were ignorant of their rights and miserable and degraded; and compared that period with the present when the press is doing its mighty work. When, in this country at least, the newspaper and the book reach every village and every house, even the most remote hut in the forest. It was true that in the former period there was individual development.—It was in the feudal hall that the poet sang his first song when Europe was emerging from darkness. It was true that that period generated chivalry, but it was a period in which the multitude were debased. With the advance of the Press the condition of man has been gradually ameliorated until the present.

He here alluded to the mission of the Press in the future, especially in our own country. It has a mighty work to perform. To you who represent it is entrusted a great and a powerful lever, which by bad management may pull down the pillars of our republic, remove the foundations of our free institutions, and make desolate our fair country; or, which by good management may support those pillars, prosper our free institutions, and make our land to smile with blessings for man. Fellow laborers at that mighty lever, we must be true to our duty. Let it not be said that the Press has not done its whole work for the country.

He here spoke of the prosperous condition of the United States; of their early history and the part that Franklin acted in it.

In conclusion, he thanked the president for his mark of respect in calling him to respond to the toast. He was pleased that they had met together.—There was enough in the turmoil and strife of this life, to say nothing of its sore afflictions, to dishearten and oppress us. The path was rough, and it was well at times to soften its asperities with social meetings, and social interchange of thoughts and feelings. Such meetings are bright occurrences in our existence, relieving us for a time from the world's strife. They are happy moments to which we may recur with pleasure when our time for their enjoyment has been determined in the natural course of things.

Again, it is well to thus commemorate the names of those whose virtues and noble deeds have distinguished them in their day and generation; such as have spent their lives in contributing to the happiness of their race, as did the statesman, the philosopher, and printer, whose name and deeds we would keep fresh in memory and to whom we now point the young as a bright example for their emulation. He hoped it might not be the last meeting of the kind in Easton, but that the printers of the Borough might continue to commemorate the day when the present participants have given up their places for another generation which has succeeded them in the world's change.

We do not offer this as a faithful report of Mr. COOLEY'S response to the sentiment. Although unexpectedly called upon to speak upon a given subject for which he had made no preparation, he was very entertaining throughout, and was very frequently applauded for the fervid eloquence which marked his speech.

At the conclusion of Mr. Cooley's remarks, the following letter from Col. JNO. W. FORNEY, was read. Mr. Yates introduced the letter by an appropriate reference to the career of Mr. Forney. He said, that once a poor printer boy, he removed to Philadelphia, where by his own unaided exertions he attained a position of eminence as an editor, co-equal with the most noted in our land. He at this time occupies the proud position of Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, and is the intimate friend of the President. The career of Mr. Forney should afford encouragement to those present.

WASHINGTON, January 5, 1855.

Gentlemen: It would give me sincere pleasure to meet you on the 17th of January, but I am compelled to remain at my post in Washington. This must be my excuse for declining your warm and pressing invitation.

There is much in the career of Benjamin Franklin (whose birth-day you propose to commemorate) which may be contemplated with interest. Who can faithfully describe his character, his progress, and the trophies of his experience! In his high individuality we have an example eloquent of encouragement to all ages and to all men. He educated himself. In early life he disclosed those elements which, ripening afterwards, gave to the world a statesman, a patriot, a sage! He began his struggle with fortune penniless and poor, and subsequently baffled the intrigues of the English Court, and aroused all France to that appreciation of himself and his cause which made him the embodiment of the great American idea that finally electrified mankind, and made us an independent nation.

Recollect that all this occurred before science had covered our Continent with blessings—before the application of steam as a propelling power—while our communities were few and feeble—while our borders hung like a midnight pall upon our horizon—while the savage roamed the master of our then limited frontiers, and even carried his barbaric warfare into our infant settlements—and long before Education had become a common advantage—before the Printing press had become a necessity—even in advance of

the liberty he toiled for, and the discoveries that have made his fame as immortal as those skies which his genius enabled him to read, and as those electric fires which he deprived of terror, and prepared for the future discoverer to apply to the uses of mankind. Am I not justified, therefore, when I speak of this rare individuality as an eloquent encouragement to the printers of the present day—and not to them alone, but to all that class of young men, who look to this country as the field where Energy, Integrity, Preservation and Patriotism, are the bright oracles that promise and ensure success! Well may the people of the old world turn to the antiquated and dusty records of European history, and toil through pages stained with blood and crime, to find one such example for their children; and well may they look forward, with beating hearts and kindling eyes, to that Country which Franklin aided to build up as the grand theatre where mingling races, and creeds, and ideas, are at last to harmonize in the vindication and establishment of the truth that man is capable of self-government!

The American Printing Press has not only been fruitful of advantages because of its relations to Commerce, to religion, and to good government—not alone in the general justice of its views, and in its fearless assertions of broad and powerful truths, but because it educates a class of men, who, in their time, may be called upon to educate and direct public opinion. In the printing office the mind instinctively grasps the great thoughts which the hand puts into solid shape. The hours passed swiftly and sweetly as "Benjamin Franklin, printer" gathered his store of Knowledge for his daily task, feeding his mind and his body at the same time. Thousands are now alive fired with the same emotions; and who, marching forward to the same dazzling destiny! But how widely different is the condition of the "printer boy" now, compared with the days when Franklin struggled along the rugged path of his early trials! The education of the masses is at once the duty and the glory of our Country. New fields of enterprise are discovered with marvellous rapidity, new sources of information opened for the common welfare, our territory advances upon the receding foot-steps of barbaric rule and decaying customs, our flag, like the Roman Eagle, flies in the uttermost quarters of the earth, and our name penetrates into those regions where even the sun himself refuses to shine for half the year. But the Press—the Press is everywhere! It travels with our armies, and unites itself simultaneously with our flag. While the forest falls before the axe of the pioneer progress, and even before population has found a spot whereon to lay its weary head, the Press proclaims the opinions of the day, and fights the battles of truth, even as man contends against the obstacles of nature. In the crowded City, in the quiet village, on the broad prairie—for which the speech of England has no name,—on the deck of the gallant ship, which cleaves strange seas and floats to undiscovered climes, in the cottage and the palace, you will find the American Press. It is not too cheap to be a luxury to the rich, nor too dear to be a burden to the poor. It speaks to distant friends at the same day and almost at the same moment. It fills the public mind with the elements of conscious independence and power. It revives the public spirit, and brightens the pathway to honor and to fame. But, gentlemen, while these things are so, let us not forget the starting responsibilities devolved upon the future conductors of the American press. To be equal to these is to be equal to a most trying and exacting vocation. Excuse me for an allusion to my own humble experience.—I know how deficient I am in many of the attributes of the editorial profession; for to me the printing office and the world's battle have been the only schools.—Yet I know also the trials and the tribulations that attend upon it. There is much, however, in Enthusiasm, Application, and Perseverance—and, above all, in the fearless faith which disaster cannot subdue, nor slander overcome—and he who makes these his guiding stars cannot readily be driven from his course. But I have already said more than enough.

When the death of Benjamin Franklin was announced in the French National Assembly in June, 1790, the President of that grave assemblage, spoke of the departed Printer in terms historical and memorable eloquence.—I borrow his language, in the following sentiment, which you will please read to your assembled company:

Benjamin Franklin:—"Great men are the fathers of universal humanity; their loss ought to be felt as a common misfortune by all the tribes of the great human family; and it belongs to a nation still affected by all the sentiments which accompany the achievement of their liberty, and which owes its enfranchisement essentially to the progress of the public reason, to be the first to give the example of the filial gratitude of the people to their true benefactors."

Your friend and fellow-craftsman,
J. W. FORNEY.

Col. W. Hutter, and others of the Committee of Invitation, for the Printers of Easton, Pa.

The President proposed three cheers for Col. JOHN F. FORNEY, which was heartily responded to by the company.—Music by the band; after which the reading of the regular toasts was resumed.

V
Our Republican Institutions. (Nine cheers.)

VI
Our Country: With a free Press, freedom of Speech, and freedom to worship God. May these ever abide with her.—(Three cheers.)

VII
The Constitution Inviolable. (Six cheers.)

VIII
Pennsylvania: Rich in iron, coal, and agricultural wealth; advanced in the mechanic arts and manufactures, she is now in prosperity. May that prosperity never abate! (Three cheers.)

IX
Faust, Gutenberg and Shaffer: The inventors of the "Art preservative of all arts." They need no panegyric at our hands; their names are an honor to the country of their birth and must ever be

associated with the greatest of the world. (Drank in silence.)
Col. D. H. NEIMAN having been called upon by the President, entertained the company, in a very amusing manner, by the recital of his experience as the "devil" of a printing office. He declared the period of his devilship to have been the happiest of his life.

X
The Printing Office: The Alma Mater of some of the finest intellects of the age. She has given to the world many sons whose names will occupy the brightest pages of its history. (Six cheers.)
Mr. Yates here introduced the letter of Hon. ELLIS LEWIS, in an appropriate reference to the life of the Judge.

WEST PENN SQUARE,
Philadelphia, Jan. 15, 1855.

Gentlemen: I have delayed answering your polite invitation for the 17th inst., until this moment, in the hope that I could arrange matters so as to participate in the festivities of the occasion.—But I find that I must deny myself that pleasure. I have long had a desire to visit Easton, and will endeavor to accomplish it in the course of the present year. In the mean time, my brethren of the typographical art, (for I am proud to claim kindred with them,) have my best wishes for their health and prosperity.—I send a sentiment.
Yours, truly,

ELLIS LEWIS.

To Messrs. Stillwell and others, committee.
The Arts:—Of all arts, there is none so useful as the art of printing. Without it the author would be unknown, and his effusions fall still-born. May it never be shackled by the contrivance of our international copyright.

The President proposed three cheers for Hon. ELLIS LEWIS, to which the company responded. Music by the band.

XI
The Borough of Easton: Nature has lavished beauty upon her, and a kind Providence has blessed her citizens with health. In the Revolution she was the home of the patriot and statesman George Taylor, and now she is the site of some of the most useful and prosperous institutions of learning in the Commonwealth. (Three cheers.)

Then followed the reading of the subjoined letters, in order of their publication. Three cheers were given for the writer at the end of each letter, followed with music by the band.

NEWARK, Ohio, Jan. 8, 1855.

Gentlemen: I have just received your note of invitation, and regret that it is not in my power to participate in your festive celebration. My engagements in the Western States will occupy my whole time for three or four months to come. Permit me to wish you success in your design of keeping green the memory of one of the noblest of our craft, and to hope that your festivities may be characterized by all of Franklin's good faith and good humor, without the exercise of his frugality. I remain, gentlemen, with much respect,

Very truly yours,
BAYARD TAYLOR.

To M. F. Stillwell, W. H. Hutter and others.

DOYLESTOWN, Jan. 12, 1855.

Gentlemen: Your kind and complimentary invitation to attend to the printers' celebration at the "Franklin House," Easton, Pa., on the evening of the 17th inst., reached me a few days since. I can not find language to express my regret that an arrangement previously made, requiring my presence in another direction at that time, will prevent me being with you in person, on the coming festival. I respectfully offer the following sentiment.
"The Union of the Printers, for the sake of the Union."

Yours, respectfully,
S. J. PANSON.

To M. F. Stillwell, Esq., Col. W. H. Hutter, and others, committee.

IDLEWILD, Jan. 6, 1855.

Gentlemen: Your kind invitation has been received. I regret very much that the state of my health is such as to prevent my leaving home at the present season of the year. Wishing the honored craft every happiness in their celebration, I remain yours, very truly,
N. P. WILLIS.

ALLENTOWN, Jan. 16, 1855.

To Messrs. Stillwell, Hutter, Wise and others.

Gentlemen: I thank you for your kind invitation to attend your celebration of Franklin's birthday. Since I received your note, I have looked forward with pleasure to the 17th of January, but to my sincere regret, I now find that my business arrangements, and other important duties, will not allow me to be absent from home to-morrow. I regret this for various reasons, but especially because I feel anxious that the printers, editors, and publishers of Easton and Allentown should meet once a year and be together as friends and neighbors. We both live in old Northampton—an important part of the Keystone State. I think it very desirable that we be on good terms and labor harmoniously for the common good.

With great respect, I remain yours,
S. K. BROBST,

Ed of Youths' Friend and Mission Leaves.

XII
Virtue and Intelligence, the pillars of Republican Government. The press will do much to inculcate the former, and disseminate the latter. (Three cheers.)

XIII
The Ladies: Heaven's best gift! They have beautified and refined society, adorned literature, and ever been willing mistresses at the altar of freedom.

In answer to the President's call upon him to respond to this toast, Col. HUTTER remarked, that it seemed out of place for him to respond to this sentiment with so many bachelor printers sitting around the table, who should be glad of such an opportunity to display their gallantry. He good humoredly took this latter class to task for their lack of courage and spoke for some time of the valuable aid the Ladies of our Country have at all times rendered to the American Press. To them are many of our leading journals indebted not only for "material aid" but for many of the contributions which give them tone and character.

Passing from this point, Col. H. said he was glad to be present at this first banquet of the Easton printers, surrounded by the old men and the young men of a profession or an art, which had done more to elevate the morals and improve the condition of the human family throughout the world, than all the arts and sciences that have ever interested the human mind. He said that during a residence of more than ten years in this lovely Borough, and a connexion for that long period of time with the Easton press, it had ever been his aim and constant desire to cultivate none but friendly relations with gentlemen engaged in the same calling.—And he could say in all sincerity that these relations had never been disturbed without causing him feelings of regret.—Feeling thus and entertaining no other wish—having "no enemies to punish" within the circle of the craft and no ambitious aspirations to gratify, if afforded him pleasure, he said, to see around him at the festive board, so many of his friends and co-laborers, who month after month, and year after year, were toiling on in the good work in which they were all engaged.

Our mission, gentlemen, he remarked, is a great, a good and glorious one—more important in many respects than that of the Physician, the Attorney, or even the Clergy. It is the editor who wields the power to form, in a measure, the youthful mind and instill into the heart of the young man as he is about entering upon his career of manhood, that love of principle and regard for honor, truth and virtue, which are so indispensable to fit him for the useful and active citizen. It is our destiny to enlighten the human mind in all quarters of the earth—a duty we certainly owe to ourselves and to society to discharge with all the care and caution at our command.

We have a great and noble work to perform and it should be our mutual aim and pleasure so to perform it, as not to detract from our own characters as gentlemen or lower the dignity and standing of the presses under our control. The fearless, independent and really honest editor can do much, very much to advance the interests, further the progress, and give tone to society in any community in which his lot may be cast—while the reckless and quarrelsome, on the other hand, exerts an influence only for evil.

In this great country of ours, the Press has become a mighty and a powerful engine, and the energy and enterprise of the American Editor knows no bounds.—It is to the civilization and development of the country what the engineer is to the railroad—the pioneer that goes ahead to prepare the way for the steam whistle and all its accompanying blessings. In other countries, the poorer classes are prevented, by tyrannical and oppressive governments, from enjoying the luxury of an independent journal. Here, the Press penetrates into every section, every nook and corner of this great Continent.—Here, a man cannot possibly become so exclusive a hermit as to place himself beyond the reach of the post boy and the printers' devil. We see this fact exemplified in the New Territories that are year after year springing up on our western frontiers. Not content to wait until civilization paves the way, the enterprising American Printer precedes it and plants in advance the seeds of liberty, of good government and good laws. It is but quite recently that the first number of a new paper was set up and published under a huge Elm tree, in the beautiful Territory of Kansas, before the enterprising pioneer had time to reach there and lay the foundation, even for a rude log cabin.

Such is the enterprise and energy of the American Editor. Such is his good ahead spirit that should this Government be fortunate enough to obtain Cuba or the Sandwich Islands, and add them to the bright array of American States, in less than three months after their admission into this Union, both these beautiful Islands would be over-run with American journals, printed in their own cities and towns, disseminating wide-spread the doctrines of genuine republican principles.

Col. HUTTER concluded with a sentiment in behalf of a man whom he said he was proud to recognize as a friend, and who in his humble estimation was an ornament to the corps editorial of the country. He alluded to
Col. JOHN W. FORNEY: Once an humble and friendless printer boy; through his own unaided industry and energy, he

now enjoys a proud position in the front rank of American editors. May abundant prosperity ever attend him.

S. L. COOLEY, Esq., followed up the remarks of Col. HUTTER, by relating an anecdote of FRANKLIN'S manner of "popping the question" to Madame Helvetia, during his residence in Paris, which from the amusing character of the story, combined with the pleasing manner of the speaker, completely "set the table on a roar."

The health of Mr. THEODORE SCHOCH, editor of the Stroudsburg Jeffersonian, was then offered and responded to.

Volunteer Toasts.

By Wm. Eichman: England: May the day speedily arrive when she disentangles herself from her infamous alliance with the despot of Austria; until then she looks in vain to American hearts for sympathy in her present struggle.

By Wm. P. Innes: Benjamin Franklin, the printer: May he never be forgotten by the "craft" of which he was so great an honor. If we take his deeds for the guide of our actions there will be but few errors committed by us through life.

By John F. Bachman: The American Typographer, whose duty it is "to hold and trim the torch of truth and wave it o'er the darkened earth."

By Peter Keleher: Horace Greeley: We admire the man for his superior talents, proudly boast of his connexion with the craft, and his undying advocacy in the great cause of universal reformation and philanthropy.

By S. P. Higgins: George Taylor, the signer of the Declaration of Independence: We hope that the "Monument Committee" will press forward until their object is accomplished, and an imposing stone shall mark the resting place of the illustrious dead.

By Henry A. Sage: Benjamin Franklin, the man who appeared in the streets of Philadelphia with but a loaf of bread under his arm, and through untiring industry afterwards appeared before kings. Let all young men follow his example.

By George Wise: The Legal Profession: Embracing a Lewis, a Black, our own Yates, and many more who made their first acquaintance with Black-stone in a printing office.

Mr. YATES responded to this toast.
By William Masnikowsky: Hon. Richard Brodhead: Long will a grateful people cherish in their hearts the gallant and laudable efforts of our worthy United States Senator in behalf of the brave old veterans of 1812.

By Josiah Cole: America: The hope of republicans throughout the world. The founders of her institutions have reared themselves monuments which shall never fall.

By J. W. Held: Franklin: May the fair fame of him whose memory is the occasion of this grand jubilee, grow brighter as time wears away.

By Elijah H. Eyer: Douglas Jerrold: A distinguished graduate of the printing office. We honor his great genius, and admire his earnest devotion to the principles of a world wide philanthropy.

By the Easton Printers: Our visiting Brethren from Bethlehem, Allentown, and Stroudsburg: May their future visits not be like those of angels, "few and far between," and may we frequently meet them at the festive board.

By Josiah P. Hetrick: G. W. Yates, Esq., the worthy chairman of this banquet—a brighter star could not have shed its light over our little band this evening.

By S. S. Weller: The Press: May its mighty power be a rod of terror to hold in wholesome subjection unrestrained and ill-tempered zeal—correct the evils of our nation, and disseminate principles in harmony with the peace and prosperity of this glorious union.

By Wm. L. Davis: May the friendship which fills every bosom at this banquet, have a saving influence, should strife and discord hereafter distract us in our social or business relations.

By W. D. Hope: The American Printer: A progressive spirit who sows the seeds of genuine republicanism throughout the world.

By the Company: The memory of George Taylor.

By John F. Bachman: S. L. Cooley, Esq.: A gentleman of fine social qualities. His efforts in ordering this celebration command the admiration of the fraternity.

By Josiah P. Hetrick: Col. W. H. Hutter: His ability and courtesy as a contemporary has secured our esteem.

By Peter Keleher: The Fair Eastonians: The cherished idols of our hearts, always willing to lend a helping hand in the hour of need, a consoling smile in the time of affliction, and a cheerful willingness to join us in the festivities of the ball room; as much as we regret their absence upon the present occasion, it is but doing them justice when we drink their health.

By R. Bright: We enjoy the light of the men of letters of other ages. They contributed to the fund of useful knowledge, and are held in grateful remembrance.

By Elijah H. Eyer: The Ladies: May they never get worse husbands than printers universally make them.

By W. H. Werkheiser: Our Host: May he be held in lasting remembrance for the bounteous manner in which he has attended to our every wish upon this occasion.

By William Eichman: The Day:—