

DISCIPLES OF FRANKLIN.

The Typothetae of the City of New York at their annual dinner at Delmonico's last evening. The Typothetae are an association of the disciples of Benjamin Franklin, and Saturday was the 180th anniversary of Franklin's birth. Tradition has it that when the father of American printing first entered Philadelphia he had a loaf of bread under each arm and was wearing a third. The tasteful decorations of the big dining room were lit up by the soft glow of the electric lights, and flags were draped over the heads of the 200 printers.

Then followed humorous scraps from the inside history of a country weekly, which convulsed his hearers with laughter. At the call of Douglas Taylor, three cheers were given for the speaker when he moved on.

"Boston was the birthplace and boyhood-place of Franklin," said President Martin in continuing. "The man who knows nothing about Boston is ignorant indeed, and I do not know all about it, but I call on ex-Governor Rice, of Massachusetts, to reply to the toast to 'Boston.'" Governor Rice said: "Mr. President: Living, as I do, in that somewhat remote suburb of New York, and having only the distinction of a private citizen, I feel the honor of this reception deeply. However doubtful of your title I may have been, I started to come here, the warmth of your hospitality has removed my hesitations and uncertainty.

The printers form no insignificant portion of civilization. No stretch of imagination will enable me to comprehend what a world might have been without printers. I had a number of suggestions, before this exhibition of their epicurean tendencies, to be a tiresome list of men setting forth the news of the world as regularly and as tirelessly as the morning and evening stars hang over the horizon. Gentlemen, I feel sure that the meeting of the association of artists must prove a most enjoyable occasion. I call them artists, for they are not workers in mosaic—the mosaic which pictures thought—and is not the printed page of news worth the precious stone picture that ever came from the studios of Rome or Florence. All honor to your noble art, and to the memory of the illustrious typesetter who wielded two of the mightiest agencies known to mortal hands—that which chains the lightning of heaven and that which unchains the spirit of the sons of the earth.

Robert C. Winthrop wrote: I am highly honored in being included among the invited guests of the Typothetae for their annual celebration of Franklin's birthday. No name is so worthy of being commemorated by the patriotic press of our own country as that of Benjamin Franklin. I would gladly unite in such a celebration. But I am constrained to deny myself, and can only offer to the Typothetae of New York my best thanks for their kind remembrance of me.

W. D. Howells in his letter said: "As a printer of many years' experience in our art, I should have been glad and proud to unite with you in holding the memory of the great printer."

When the silent portion of the dinner had disappeared, the orchestra in the gallery began to play "Mikako" airs, and the time for making speeches had come, President Martin arose and said: "Gentlemen of the Typothetae and Esteemed Guests: It is now some 400 years since Gutenberg forged the key that opened every department of learning to succeeding generations. He commenced in a crude way, but in fifty years after the introduction of the art such names as those of Jensen and Caxton arose, and even now, with all the fine specimens that the press is turning off, which are looked upon as treasures of typographical art, will always be more popular. Titian, Rembrandt and Raphael will ever take precedence of the printers of the art of printing. Still there is a significance in the fact that there is only a difference of one letter between the words printed and named. As men we have come down to simpler fashions, but the fashions of the press have steadily advanced in delicacy and in the fitness of the finish of its work. Commencing with the Riverside Press, we have now Harpers, The Century and other works of the printer's art, of which the press has no reason to be ashamed. Printers are becoming artists as well as mechanics. Our association has had much encouragement during the last year. There is no jealousy or antagonism among our members. We have no other end in view than the promotion of the best interests of the trade.

We have had large accessions to our membership since our last dinner. It is only a wonder that any member of the profession should hold himself aloof from our membership. We have here to-night gentlemen who can address you in terms far beyond any at my command. We do not honor Franklin especially as a printer, but we honor him because, being a printer, he achieved so much in politics and philosophy. Having achieved greatness, he had further greatness thrust upon him, not only in his own country, but by foreign governments. Let me introduce Isaac H. Bailey, who can tell you more about Franklin than I.

Mr. Bailey sketched the early life of Franklin and added: "Franklin grew with astonishing rapidity, and his knowledge in a way beyond the comprehension of us who have had experience in printing offices. He died of Boston, it is difficult to understand how any one could tire of Boston; but he did. He went to Philadelphia and immortalized himself as Poor Richard. Then he went a step further and became a great statesman—the greatest citizen of his age. The printers of the world have cause to be infinitely proud of this graduate of the printing office. Franklin was the first Abolitionist. He was president of the first society ever formed looking toward that object. This was only one instance of how far he was in advance of his age. We honor this great printer, and let us under all circumstances pay fitting respect to our great philanthropist, philosopher and printer. [Applause]

The chairman next introduced "Mark Twain" as one who could tell the company something about "The Composer" that they had never known before. Mr. Clemens said among other things: "The chairman's historical reminiscences about Gutenberg and Caxton have cast me into the reminiscent mood, for I also, I was once employed with the printer of the olden time. I swept his office for him and carried his papers about for him in the disagreeable dawn. The carrier was then an object of interest to all the boys in town. If I had saved up all the bits I saw, I could keep Mr. Pateur busy for a year."

A Tribute from Conning.

UTICA, N. Y., Jan. 20.—General George H. Sheridan addressed a large meeting which was held in the Opera House this evening under the auspices of the local Grand Army post in aid of the Grant Monument fund. Ex-Senator Conning had been invited by the post and by a large number of his former neighbors to preside, but sent the following letter of regret:

New York, Jan. 8, 1886. GENTLEMEN: Having considered previously and fully on the subject with a committee several days ago, still I beg to acknowledge directly the honor of your letters inviting me to preside at a meeting to be held at Utica next Monday evening under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic in aid of the Grant Monument fund. You will not doubt that a summons from so many distinguished citizens, so many neighbors and valued friends, would always command my presence unless some serious obstacle stood in the way. Nor is it needful to speak of my profound and affectionate respect for the great memory, to which in common with our countrymen in general, you unite to do homage. Misunderstood by many when he lived, now that his grand and patient life and death are over, the name of Grant is one of the jewels of his country. It will not grow dim in time. Stone and brass are not needed to save it from oblivion, but lasting memorials will testify to those who come after us that we were not blind or indifferent to the glories of that martyrdom we saw. For our own sakes we should leave such memorials. The Grand Army of the Republic may lead in such a work. Soldiers may well go first to raise a monument to a soldier of the army, in which they fought and followed him to victory on so many crimson fields. Little as my presence could do, your invitation would be enough to insure it were I free from positive obligations forbidding it. Unfortunately, I am so tied fast by engagements previously made that to be in Utica on the 11th would be a violation of good faith.

Retrieving this, and renewing my thanks for the honor you have done me, I am your friend and neighbor, ROSCOE CONNING.

To Commander M. M. Jones and other Commanders of Posts, and to William H. Watson, M. D., and other citizens of Utica, New York.

How to Keep Farm Herd-Books. There are numerous systems of keeping farm herd-books. Every animal may have a number given consecutively, as purchased or dropped to the printer, and generally leaves the author 10. The only safe plan is for us to turn publisher, like Mark Twain. The successful authors nowadays are the first ladies of the land, the anonymous writer of "Hunting Balls," or the hollow jesters we are pleased to call American humorists. Let me call your attention to my left belonging to this latter class. No public, certainly, was ever more despicably treated than by the canvasser of "Roughing It" and "Innocents Abroad," who used to sell those wretchedly printed and bound all the had paper, and there we got our money's worth, as I found, and if any one is to be mentioned in 1886 in the first century of American literature, it will be Mark Twain.

Mr. Carlton was called on to respond to the "Journeyman Printer," and said that he felt like the gentleman to the journeyman printer. It is he who gives the orator his trumpet tongue, the author his million-printed pen. On the old farm in Michigan where the speaker lived in his boyhood, the newspaper was his only ray of light which came into that dreary life. And there was an old journeyman printer out there under the snow to whom he owed, next to God, mother and home, all that he held dear on earth.

"The Publisher" was responded to by H. O. Houghton about 1 o'clock, after several songs and choruses, the meeting broke up.

The Wonders of Cocaine. The beneficent properties of cocaine seem not yet exhausted; for now a New York physician has used it in a most successful manner. He performed two serious operations without the aid of ether or chloroform, under the anesthetic power of cocaine. It seems that if the blood circulation in a part is checked or stagnated by an Esmarch or other rubber bandage, the cocaine, which is used in the form of a spray, has usurped our Sunday. The press is over the pulp. You new teachers have swept us aside. This is the age of the newspaper and the periodical. The bookmaker forms opinions. The modern Old Man of the Mountains on the shoulders of men in the press. No man is to be wiser for reading the newspapers. No one would be more ignorant for never reading them; but you want news. Reading cannot make any man wise—if the gentleman wants to make my speech I will sit down.

Here Dr. Paxton did sit down with considerable emphasis while everybody stared in the direction of the speaker, which several half-hearted remarks had come. There was a prolonged clapping of hands, and Douglas Taylor got up and said he hoped all the members would extend the common courtesy of a hearing to their guest. There was more applause, and shouts of "Go on!" Dr. Paxton said that he had finished, but was finally prevailed upon to conclude. "The interruptions were very annoying," said he. "I'm a soldier, and the fact is, I lost my temper." Then, taking up his notes again, he continued: "You may fill the world full of books and without action there is no wisdom. I am never afraid of a man with a great library. The man with three books 'well digested is more to be feared. Idleness is the root of all newspapers. The rage for bigness is creating the rage. We are all fools, and we are all fools, and monopolies do all our work for us. The individual is but a pawn. We must go back to the importance of the individual if we want to preserve our liberties. The talking man can beat your press every time. [A voice—'No, sir!'] Well, let's differ then. The two men who dominated this world more than any other, Christ, of Galilee, and Socrates, of Athens, never wrote a word. The press never wrought a revolution. It was the Garrigues that brought on the Civil War. But, gentlemen of the press, you rule us now. Be careful of your power." [Prolonged applause.]

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