

FEED FOR THE LAWYERS.

BAR ASSOCIATION BANQUET AT THE GRAND PACIFIC.

Some of the Well-Known Judges and Lawyers Who Were There—Short Speeches by James L. High, Judge Magruder, the Rev. Clinton Locke, W. H. King, Wirt Dexter, James S. Norton, Judge Gury, and Others—Letters of Regret—A Very Pleasant Affair.

To the strains of music 200 members of the Chicago Bar Association held an informal reception in the parlors and halls of the Grand Pacific last night while waiting for the signal to inaugurate their annual banquet. Lawyers famous all over the world mingled with the younger members of the profession whose records are yet to be made. Among those who participated in last night's festivities were:

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| Judge Gresham, | Gen. Thompson, |
| C. L. Pope, | Judge Barnum, |
| E. B. Sherman, | Judge Otis, |
| Judge Altgeld, | Judge Gary, |
| Judge Magruder, | Judge Drummond, |
| Judge Hodggett, | Judge Grinnell, |
| Judge Goodrich, | Judge Morau, |
| Judge Charles E. Dyer of | Leonard Swatt, |
| Milwaukee, | L. H. Bisbee, |
| Judge J. B. Bradwell, | Ex-Judge Barnum, |
| George F. Harding, | D. Harry Hammer, |
| Julius Rosenthal, | C. C. Honney, |
| Edwin Walker, | Gen. C. W. Smith, |
| F. S. Wetgley, | J. L. Coburn, |
| J. L. Bennett, | H. L. Walt, |
| J. L. High, | Wirt Dexter, |
| H. S. Towle, | A. Ryerson, |
| Col. H. W. Jackson, | |

Every table was filled when the Rev. Clinton E. Locke offered a short prayer, in which he expressed the hope that those present would exercise temperance in their use of the good things set before them. Mr. Frederick Ullmann occupied the seat of honor as Chairman of the banquet. On his right in the order named were Judge Thomas Drummond, Judge W. Q. Gresham, Judge B. J. Magruder, and Judge Joseph Gary, while at his left were the Rev. Clinton E. Locke, Judge H. W. Hodggett, Judge Charles E. Dyer, and Judge Julius Grinnell.

It was after 9 o'clock when the lancer man was declared to be satisfied. Everybody moved his chair, took an easy position, lighted a fragrant cigar, and prepared to listen. President James L. High rapped for order and spoke briefly, as follows:

GENTLEMEN OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION: The revolving year again marks the occasion of our assembling to break bread together. The objects of this association, as declared in the certificate of incorporation, are: "To establish and maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of the law; to cultivate social intercourse among its members; and to increase its usefulness in promoting the due administration of justice."



In furtherance of one at least of these objects it was in the early history of the association for many years our custom to thus assemble in the closing week of the year. Afterwards, and for a considerable period, this practice fell into disuse, but it was renewed one year ago, and with such happy results as to render that occasion a delightful memory to all of us who had the good fortune to be present. It was then determined by the Board of Managers to continue the custom in the future, and as the result of this determination we are met here to night.

Let our mirth be tempered also with the recollection of those of our members who have fallen by the way. Death has been busy in our ranks in recent years. The old bar of Chicago is fast passing away. Those of us who recall the earlier runnings of the association a dozen years ago miss tonight many familiar faces of those who were with us then. I could call the roll of those earlier gatherings and there would be many a name, loved and revered by all, to which there would be no response. Hitchcock and Kalos, Clarkson, Goodwin, Arnold, and Larned, Lawrence and Campbell, Bonfield, Williams, Small, Hoyns, Storrs, Moore, Rogers, Gardner, Grant—all these have passed into the silent land. They have tried their last cause. Dead but a few brief months or years, they are already half forgotten by the public they served so well. May their names always be spoken with affectionate remembrance here. And may their tender memory rest in our faithful keeping until we in turn shall be summoned to join the great majority. I ask you, gentlemen, to fill your glasses and to drink with me the first toast of the evening: "To the Memory of Our Dead."

The toasting was drunk standing, and Secretary George W. Cass, at the suggestion of the President, read letters of regret from prominent invited guests. Judge Harlan wrote:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24, 1887.—Gentlemen: I regret my inability to be present at the annual dinner of the Chicago Bar Association the 27th inst.

It is always a pleasure to meet the members of the bar of Chicago. I recall with gratification the very cordial welcomes they gave me—a stranger to the most of them—when I first held court in that city, and I am glad to say that nothing of an unpleasant character has ever occurred in my intercourse with them. After a judicial experience of ten years, during which I have had opportunity to meet lawyers from every part of the country, I hazard nothing in saying that the lawyers of Chicago stand in the front rank of the noble profession.



JUDGE HARLAN.
I wish for them, one and all, a Happy New Year. Truly yours,
JOHN M. HARLAN.

Judge John Dean Caton's was received with great applause. It follows:

CHICAGO, Dec. 27, 1887.—Gentlemen: I deeply regret that I find myself unable to accept your kind invitation to join my professional brethren at their banquet to be given this evening. The very thought of it awakens memories of the distant past and enables me to live over again a tolerably long life of professional labor, in which I have endeavored to discharge the duties which have devolved upon me with earnestness and fidelity. The kindness and respect ever shown me by the bar of Chicago and of the whole State fill me with grateful sensations in my declining years. When you look about you and contemplate the numbers, the learning, and the talent



of the Chicago bar at the present time, it may be thought surprising that he who opened the first law office in Chicago and who commenced the first action in the Circuit Court of Cook County, nearly fifty-four years ago, is still enabled to address you in acknowledgment of your courtesy. Truly yours,
JOHN DEAN CATON.

In introducing the Hon. B. D. Magruder, who responded to the toast "The Supreme Court of Illinois," the President spoke feelingly of the part played by him in the Anarchists' case, which he pronounced the most important of ancient or modern times. Justice Magruder was received with great applause. After returning thanks for his welcome and apologizing for the somewhat dry nature of his subject, the speaker explained the peculiar workings of the machinery of the Supreme Court, which were funny enough to provoke considerable laughter. Having told of the immense amount of travel undergone by Judges and documents he asked:



Is it right that the Supreme Court of Illinois should thus be held on wheels? Will the administration of justice not be more efficient if the court is held in one fixed place? [Applause.] There have been many complaints of late. Whether they are just or not is a perpetual argument to be bludgeoned properly discussed here. Under the present system the work of eight weeks is crowded into three weeks, and a Judge always on the move cannot be in the best

condition for grave and careful deliberation. All the circumstances should be conducive to calm deliberation. The Supreme Court is a court of review, and the theory is that seven Judges are more apt to be right than the trial Judge. Can such a court of review do its best work when always on the jump? Conflict of decision will be far less apt to occur when we travel less. It has been charged that the court is opposed to oral argument. There was some foundation for the charge before the establishment of the Appellate Court, when the Supreme Court was 100 cases behind with no chance of catching up. But as now constituted the court is not opposed to oral argument. It has also been charged that there is undue delay. The migratory system is to blame for this, as the delay in the announcement of the decision rather than in arriving at the decision.

THE REV. CLINTON B. LOCKE.

The Rev. Clinton B. Locke of Grace Episcopal Church responded to the toast: "The Clergy." The appearance of his beaming countenance was received with great applause. He said:



MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE BAR: It is very pleasant for a minister to be toasted in this kindly style, for I can't but remember that less fortunate mortals are often toasted by you in a style that suggests grilling. [Laughter.] So I am happy to respond and thankful for the happy accident that brings me here— I say accident, because a Presbyterian was surely intended, as you may see by the first thing in the menu, "bism points." [Laughter.] Pray remember that I am alone in your midst, gentlemen—the only one of my cloth present—and I ask it because I remember that the good book is not always entirely complimentary concerning the members of your profession. [Laughter.] But let me try to be serious—as a clergyman should before a bar. Our two professions, it seems to me, should go hand in hand and stand together for purity and the right. We should remember that vox populi is too often vox diaboli rather than vox dei. If Christianity teaches anything it teaches that the law is supreme, and that it is supreme because it is founded upon the truth. My remarks should be like these documents which even the youngest among you is supposed to possess—the brief. I wish you a Happy New-Year! May you have unlimited cases and win them all. May you arrive at last where you shall be obliged to make innumerable briefs each year and hold court on the jump! [Applause.]

THE REV. MR. LOCKE. I am happy to respond and thankful for the happy accident that brings me here— I say accident, because a Presbyterian was surely intended, as you may see by the first thing in the menu, "bism points." [Laughter.] Pray remember that I am alone in your midst, gentlemen—the only one of my cloth present—and I ask it because I remember that the good book is not always entirely complimentary concerning the members of your profession. [Laughter.] But let me try to be serious—as a clergyman should before a bar. Our two professions, it seems to me, should go hand in hand and stand together for purity and the right. We should remember that vox populi is too often vox diaboli rather than vox dei. If Christianity teaches anything it teaches that the law is supreme, and that it is supreme because it is founded upon the truth. My remarks should be like these documents which even the youngest among you is supposed to possess—the brief. I wish you a Happy New-Year! May you have unlimited cases and win them all. May you arrive at last where you shall be obliged to make innumerable briefs each year and hold court on the jump! [Applause.]

WILLIAM H. KING.



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In introducing William H. King to respond to the toast "Our Clients" the President remarked that all well-regulated "scientific" and "evolutionists" now recognized but two classes of mankind—the lawyer and the client. Mr. King said, among other things:

The best men in the world are, after all, our clients. With them we live; without them where would we be? If there were no clients there would be no lawyers, and if no lawyers there would be no Judges, and then the Judges would earn an honest living the same as the clients and the lawyers. If Brother Magruder succeeds in centralizing the Supreme Court, will the court make better decisions? It is not so much the quantity as the quality we complain of. I understand that you Supreme Court Judges are obliged to spend a good deal of time traveling, and I myself think it is better for you to spend your time in that way than in making such decisions as you do. [Laughter.]

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WIRT DEXTER.

Wirt Dexter responded to the toast, "Why Are You a Lawyer?" He said:

We are lawyers because we prefer to be lawyers rather than anything else. The scope of the legal profession reaches to all the relations of life—from the sacred fireside to the business enterprise. Let me call your attention to our relation to the State. We offer the bulwark of a conservative element, in that we believe that the State exists by contract. How needful is this bulwark at the present time I need not say, with the deep unrest that exists about us. When men armed with destructive theories seek their enforcement, which would speedily make for us an earthly hell, other professions will expostulate, but the law—and I say it with Judge Gary sitting in our midst—will hang. [Great applause.] I mention his name in obedience to an impulse of the heart too strong to resist, for I don't believe he will ever know how we feel towards him and how we love him. [Applause.] Our estate is simple, but let us in return remember our obligations that justice shall suffer no injury at our hands, but must be handed down to those who come after untarnished and unstained. It is its glory or its shame that the most minute transaction at our hands may brighten or tarnish the existence of a thousand years.

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JAMES S. NOTTON.

James S. Notton, in responding to the toast "The King's English," was very funny at the expense of the cumbersome and outlandish procedure and phrases in use today, the relics of the common law stolen from the courts of ancient England. He said among other things:



Allow me first to express my sympathy for our peripatetic and very patriotic Supreme Court. I regret to hear from Brother King that the consolidation cannot be made. It must be made, however, and I propose that some one shall go at once to New York and ask him to do it. [Laughter and applause.] If the words wasted by lawyers during the last year were put in print they would make a library—the driest ever seen. If the waste of breath could be collected it would make a wind that would polish the earth's surface as smooth as an apple. It must be said in justice that the bench does not rival the bar in this. They will still persist in telling us some length that they desire nothing but to do right and justice. This is perhaps well in that it gives us some idea of what they are really doing. [Laughter.] But a change is coming. We are probably the last generation of lawyers who will, even in this conservative State of Illinois, practice under the procedure of the common law. Usage does not prove that the old forms are best. When we shall come to simplicity, directness, and clearness we shall put a premium upon the intellectual superiority which long training alone can give.

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JUDGE GARY.

Judge Gary was called to his feet by persistent cries for a speech, and welcomed by prolonged applause. He said:

It would certainly be a strange nature that did not feel gratified at the words I have heard and this welcome. It is to me the more gratifying because I have sometimes had an idea that you felt like the boy that wrote to his mother that he wished his father would get another house-keeper, as he was tired of seeing her around so long. [Laughter.] I had some premonition that I would be called upon, and I have prepared a few extemporaneous remarks (drawing a roll of manuscript from his pocket). [Laughter.] Being a lawyer once I ought to speak offhand, but I'm out of practice. [Laughter.] Of course this body of men is in favor of the supremacy of law, the maintenance of order, and the freedom of the individual. These have seemed so secure that we have had no thought as to its preservation. Before our great struggle and very soon after it and we felt secure from the anxieties of other nations. In the infancy of our separate existence, not as a nation but as a loose confederation of States, the patriot and the statesman saw the danger that all the labor and the sacrifices of the Revolution would be lost by liberty degenerating into license. A hundred years before a man now present (Magruder) drew up its death blow. Philadelphia celebrated the adoption of the Nation's Constitution, and on a banner borne by a herald was inscribed:

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"The crimes and fraud of anarchy shall fall; In curbing justice lifts aloft her beak."

In that anarchy from which they celebrated their deliverance lies the only apparent peril to this Nation. Not in its open advocacy, but in the loss of confidence in the equality of the protection of the laws—the tendency of the masses to use physical force, and the mob to redress wrongs, and the arrogant assumption of the labor organizations of the authority to control the conduct of every man who lives by manual labor. We are not now, though many of us have been, laborers with the hand, but we have an ardent sympathy with the honest toiler and we ought to secure him the means to get a decent living by his toil free from the dictation and exactions of his assumed friends who make merchandise of his privations and by brute force prescribe the time, place, and terms under which he shall labor. The monopolies of capital are a mischief which calls for a remedy, but the burden which falls from them upon the individual is so light as to scarcely be felt. Corruption in office adds temporary burden to taxes, and frauds at elections put the wrong men in office. But none of these evils, unless in very rare instances, deprives anybody of the necessities of life. The tyranny under which labor groans stops industry and takes bread from the mouths of hungry women and children. What can we do to break it down? [Applause.]

Judges Grinnell of the Circuit Court and Moran of the Appellate Court were called to their feet, but owing to the lateness of the hour expressed their thanks, bowed their acknowledgments, and sat down.