

CITIZENS' BANQUET

To Thos. G. Lawler, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic and J. W. Burst, Q. M. General.

The dining hall of the Livingston hotel never contained as many brave men and fair women as it did upon Tuesday night, November 13, 1894. Dwight fairly outdid herself. The banquet was prepared and served by Mr. Louis Schaeffer, manager of the hotel. It was excellent in every respect. The guests sat down at the table at 12 o'clock, and the feast of reason and the flow of soul continued for more than two hours. Everybody enjoyed themselves, and our guests were particularly happy and expressed themselves as more than pleased, not only with the compliment extended to them, but with a life they had seen and heard of our famous village.

At the conclusion of the banquet, the toastmaster, Col. Richard P. Morgan, in a few well chosen remarks, introduced to the company, the honored guest of the evening, General Thos. G. Lawler, who spoke in substance as follows:

Mr. Toastmaster, Comrades, Ladies and Friends: I can hardly express my gratitude for this grand reception. I accept it, not in a personal sense, but as an honor to the grand society which I have the honor to represent. I am much pleased with what I have seen of your beautiful city, especially the excellent curative establishment which you have here, which has made your city known the world over. I know it has turned sorrow into joy, anguish into smiles, desolation into comfort, and thus accomplished much good. Indeed I have been favorably impressed with everything I have seen here, and wish to return my sincere thanks for the great honor you have conferred upon me for the society I represent, and at some future time, to have the pleasure of visiting you again.

Commander Charles Wesley Ayling, pastor of the M. E. church in Dwight, was next called upon by Col. Morgan. He responded to "COMRADESHIP."

Mr. Toastmaster, Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, Ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps and Friends: I am to speak to the Post Comradeship. In this presence I feel a more pleasing theme could not have been assigned me. On my right are our honored guests—Commander in Chief T. G. Lawler and Quartermaster General J. W. Burst, while all about me are the brave men of '61 and '62. The wonder of it all is this: By many it was supposed that when the war would be over and the boys in blue would return to their homes, that the influence of army life would have been such that the North would be flooded with a lot of dissipated, indolent men. How different the scene. Instead of all this, when muster-out day came almost as quiet as a summer evening, they entered the ships and offices or went on the farm so that three months had hardly passed until it was difficult to tell there had been a war. May I ask how could it have been otherwise with such leaders as Lincoln, Grant, Sherman and Logan?

Lincoln: See him away yonder living beyond his time. Our Leader, who with one stroke of his pen liberated four millions of men; whose life was taken without a moment's warning by the red handed assassin; whose grave is a part of our Capital's wealth; whose monument, standing this hour on that beautiful hilltop in that quiet retreat is a scathing rebuke to traitors and cowards who never strike to save the nation's life, and at the same time thrill the soul of the patriot with holy undying love for his country. Comrades you can't be as great as he. Thank God you can be as brave, as true, as pure. Friends, am I saying too much when I affirm that, building on such a foundation as this, we make the state holding his life greatest among the states, and the nation holding his dust greatest among the nations of earth.

Grant: Of whom Sherman often declared he and Sheridan were not his equals. "I could rapidly make many plans, and Sheridan was able to execute them, but when Grant was told about a plan he could not explain which was best and make the reason clear."

Sherman: Of whom Harrison said when he communicated the sad intelligence of his death to Congress in a special message, "The whole nation has become one home in which each citizen mourns a member of his household." Sherman who never failed to smile, the dear old flag by taking off his hat in its presence.

Logan: who said, "I have entered the field to die, if need be, for the government, and never expect to return to peaceful pursuits until the object of the war of preservation has become a fact established." Comrades you know full well how faithfully he kept that pledge all through the long black years of the war. He was the soldier's friend. In his last public speech at Youngstown, Ohio, at the G. A. R. Campfire, among other things he said, "I believe in pensioning every soldier now living that went into the service, either for a long or short term, who was wounded in the service, or contracted disease, or has since, through no fault of his own, become disabled. I believe in pensioning every soldier who has arrived at the age of sixty-two. Pass that kind of a law and justice would be done."

I repeat, he was the soldiers' friend, and many a worthy comrade and the helpless widows and orphans of many more, have pleasant homes with carpets on the floors, pictures on the walls, books on the center table, and flowers blooming in the windows, who would this hour be destitute, homeless and friendless but for the interest taken in them by this great hearted man. He was the soldiers' friend, so we each ought to be.

In this presence I wish to affirm that no comrade can go so low but, by the help of God, I will go after him and do all in my power to lift him up.

etement. From their homes our loved ones went forth to battle. It seems but yesterday we took them by the hand, and while the voice trembled and the eye was dimmed with a tear, they said the final farewell. There are others who remember them today; remember them as comrades in the army, remember them as they stood at Donelson, or on the heights of Lookout Mountain in the life and death struggle with the enemy.

Remember them as they stood there in line of battle, Remember them as they fell with their face to the foe— And let me tell you, dear friends, that memory is sacred between the comrade surviving and the comrade dying; there is a tie none but comrade can ever know. Around the campfire, on the long march, amidst the smoke and din of battle they have learned to love each other as men never loved before, and though gone, we remember them today as brothers. Many are resting in the "low green tents whose curtains never outward swing" on almost every acre of the South from Vicksburg to Richmond.

I have spoken as best I could of Lincoln, Grant, Sherman and Logan, and while I would not wish in the least to tarnish the lustre of their fame, yet I must say, had it in my power, away yonder a hawt the blue dome of heaven, higher than them all, I would write the name of the private soldier, without whom it would have been impossible for those great men to accomplish what they did.

Thanking you for the privilege of responding to this toast, Comradeship, I will retire my seat.

S. T. K. Prime, one of the most prominent, brilliant and entertaining gentlemen of Dwight, was next introduced. His response was to

"SOCIETY."

Very few persons have arrived at the pinnacle of supreme happiness in this world—where they can, day in and day out, commune with themselves and be happy. It is against the laws of God and the laws of man for man to be alone, shut himself up, and isolate himself from society. We live in a wonderful age of progress. So great that it brings with it unseen, untold, and unexpected conditions, and it takes time for the



S. T. K. PRIME.

Dwight, was greatly pleased with what he had seen. He spoke of the far reaching good that the great Keeley Cure was accomplishing. He made an excellent point in speaking of the relations of the government to the soldier. He said it was a mistaken idea that the good, liberal men in the Grand Army were not satisfied with the treatment the old soldier had received. He was satisfied the government had been very liberal with the old soldiers, and no reasonable general request had been refused. There were individual cases where fault could be found. Major Burst returned many thanks for the great consideration he had received as a representative of the Grand Army.

Major C. J. Judd was next introduced. His response was to

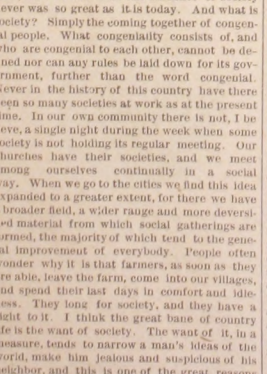
"THE LADIES."

I take much pleasure in welcoming the presence of ladies on this occasion. No social gathering can be otherwise complete without this opportunity, and no banquet table should be spread in their absence. From time immemorial, the greatest poets have rhymed their praise, and the most gifted orators extolled their virtues. In the darkest of battle's days, history awards well merited honor to their devotion, and in this, the brightest sunlight day of peace, the world pays just tribute to their worth, beauty and patriotism.

Dr. Leslie E. Keeley was down for a response to a toast, but was unable to be present. Col. Nate A. Reed, Jr., of Chicago, was present and was assigned to respond to

"THE PEOPLE WE CURE."

In response to the toast, Col. Nate A. Reed, of



MAJOR C. J. JUDD.

Chicago, Editor of the Banner of Gold, said: This toast was intended to be replied to by Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, but coming to the city today, I was requested to take his place, as Dr. Keeley was unable to be present.

Until fifteen years ago there was no cure for inebriety. The victim of alcoholic diseases had been treated with moral influences, with prayers and pledges, with punishments and restraints, but cures did not follow. A few institutions like the Washingtonian Homes at Boston and Chicago, had been opened. These were provided with padded cells and windows barred like the cells of a prison. The treatment consisted of bromides, chlorals and light regimen, moral and religious homilies, interspersed with lectures illustrated with high colored charts, showing the state of the stomach when diseased by alcohol. After two weeks the afflicted one was allowed to go forth, accompanied by a stalwart attendant, who was to prevent him from drinking by force, if necessary. In these institutions the unfortunate patient was confined from six weeks to nine months, with the result that, usually, upon discharge, he sought the nearest bar-room to stop the uncessant cravings for alcohol. But about fifteen years ago it began to be whispered that a real cure had been found and victims of alcohol and drug addictions were being cured at a little prairie village in Illinois. Men visited the place and returned home cured, to the great joy and happiness of their loved ones. Mothers, wives and sisters began to spread the news until it reached all parts of the country, and now the joyous tidings of reformation and salvation sure and certain, has gone out until the whole civilized world is cognizant thereof.

which these gentlemen represent is a powerful one, and likely to continue for a long time, and exercise great influence upon our country for many years yet to come. The Grand Army of the Republic has our best wishes for its success, and we are glad that we have representatives of it so high in rank with us, and in our feeble way, have been able to show them something of Dwight's Hospitality and Society.

Quartermaster General Burst was given a free lance, and his remark were general. He was very much pleased with the grand reception received in



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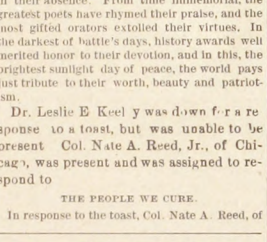
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You, comrade, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic of the United States, have seen these patients here in Dwight today. Here you have seen men from every part of this great land, which the boys in blue went forth to save from dissolution. Here you have seen men of every profession and every employment, visiting in the hotels, walking the streets without restraint, without attendants, unhampered by rules or restrictions, only required to act simply as gentlemen. It is especially grati-

fyng that this great discovery of a cure for inebriety, given to humanity, as we believe, in answer to the prayers of the women and children of America, should have been the result of the investment of a comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic, a surgeon of the United States Volunteer Army, Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, of Dwight, Illinois, and it is also a gratification that another of our comrades, Major C. J. Judd, has been associated in giving wide publicity and more extensive use to this great boon to humanity. While all ranks and all professions have been benefited in an especial manner by the old soldiers of the late rebellion thankful for the discovery of their comrade of a cure for inebriety. Thousands scattered over the land have been restored to their homes and their country, but at the Soldiers' Homes have been grouped the more notable results. At the Soldiers' Home at Leavenworth nearly twelve hundred wards of the nation, old veterans crippled by wounds, reduced by disease and the exposures of camp, field and hospital, men without ties or family, or hopes for the future, victims of rum and opium, have been cured and today are walking erect in their new found happiness, with years added to their existence. More than two hundred and fifty of these have gone forth from the home to take up family relations long severed, to earn their own livelihood, and once again make happy those whom they once loved to love and cherish. It is especially fitting, therefore, that this new era in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic should receive recognition here at Dwight, the place where was discovered the principle that inebriety is a disease, and here a certain cure can be found.

Capt. O. F. Ayer, of Pontiac, was introduced and was assigned to respond to "The Picket Line." The genial captain said in his customary in his service to his country, that the picket line come first instead of last, and it was rated his position by a story which caught the banqueters.

Mayor F. A. Haise was assigned to respond to "Our City Officials," and W. G. Dustin to "The Press," but were excused on account of the lateness of the hour.

Col. Morgan then announced the close of the banquet, after complimenting the managers of the affair, the responders, and the manner in which the banquet was served.

This closed what is acknowledged by all to be the greatest banquet ever given in these parts.

The writer was informed by the guests that the banquet was a grand affair and far exceeded anything in any place the size, or much larger places than Dwight.

KEELEY LEAGUE NEWS.

Half Bushel.

The guests of the Livingston hotel have recently greatly enjoyed the singing of Mr. Keeley, and one of his favorite airs, which usually brought the house down, was the "Farmer's Half Bushel." The following parody, written by one of our bright and shining lights who is with us at the present time temporarily, is full of wit and humor, and we think will be enjoyed by everybody:

Mr. Miller's half bushel Holds even one hundred Invariably cash when you enter the door, Then four weeks at Dwight, And you'll sit up well at night; A thing you did not do before.

There's the Doctor's half bushel Filled with red white solution That he constantly gives us in line; A hile in your snuff, With one little squirt, And we no longer want any wine.

There's the Livingston's half bushel, The Schuylker's half bushel, With the handsome Jim Nelson in charge, With everything neat, And plenty to eat, If your appetite is not too large.

There's the Boy's on half bushel, The Becker half bushel, The Cole, Keeley bushel there too, They are men now in line, By good conduct I find, They're promoted to line No. 2

There's the drunkard's half bushel, The miserable half bushel, Oh, God have mercy on him! He's helpless and weak, Go to him and speak, For his cup it is full to the brim.

A pleasant feature of the meeting Wednesday morning was the appearance of several of the gentlemen connected with "A Clean Sweep" Theatre Company, who entertained a large audience of patients for an hour with piano and violin solos songs and recitations. It served greatly to break the sameness of the meetings and everyone present will cherish in their memories pleasant recollections of Prof. Lucin Becker, Geo. W. Cunningham, Bert Gaeson and John A. Boone.

The following officers were elected Tuesday: President, S. A. Bates, Toledo, Ohio; 1st vice president, Geo. M. Frenzel, Indianapolis, Ind.; 2nd vice president, C. A. Whiteside, Chattanooga, Tenn. Mr. C. B. Beardsley, of Chicago, was appointed sergeant-at-arms and W. C. Buon assistant.

"Shanklin, of Missouri;" was a Dwight visitor Sunday. Mr. Shanklin is a member of the executive committee of the National Keeley League, and is prosecuting attorney at his home in Trenton, Mo. He was in line at Dwight during January and Feb 1892.

Farewell speeches have been made during the past week by D. E. Jeffreys, of New York, Chas. J. Brummer, Blue Island, Ill., A. L. Howard, Chicago, and James A. Severa, of Toronto, Ontario.

Clarence S. Barnes, of Marengo, Ill., class Nov. 13, '63, was married recently to Miss Lucy Bassett, of Marengo, who during a visit to Dwight was elected an honorary member of the club.

Fred L. Holmes, the editor of a well known Chicago dramatic paper, officiated as secretary during the absence of W. S. Brown, who was at Kirkwood, Ill., visiting his father and sister.

Another excellent club entertainment was given to a large audience Monday evening. The entertainment next week will be on the regular night, Tue-day.

Dr. Blaine answered queries Wednesday morning in his usual entertaining and instructive manner.

Col. Nate A. Reed, Jr., editor of The Banner of Gold, Chicago, addressed the club Tuesday.

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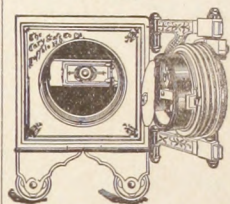
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