The Sentinel.

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JOHN SPELMAN, Associate & Local Editor.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1872.

DEATH OF GOVERNOR BRAGG.

The announcement of the death of the Hon. Thomas Bragg will send sorrow and distress throughout North Carolina. He died in this city on the morning of the 21st, inst., at his own home in the full possession of his vigorous intellect. Surrounded by a loving and distressed family, he took his calm departure, leaving behind him the memory of public services which are part and parcel of the history of his country, and the example of a life, public and private, which all mankind may study with profit.

For twelve months it was apparent that Governor Bragg was standing upon the extreme boundary of human life. It was equally apparent that it was only the outer frame work that was giving way. His mind worked on like an engine to the last. The mortal part of the great man was seen to give way in the Holden impeachment trial, but the immortal part worked on with its iron power until the blow was sent that crushed it. He is said to have died of the malady that carried off the great Napoleon—cancer of the stomach.

Governor Bragg was born in Warrenton, North Carolina, Nov. 9, 1810. His father was Thomas Bragg, a plain, strong minded Carolinian, whose sons seemed all born to greatness. Hon. John Bragg, an elder brother, graduated at the University of North Carolina in 1824 in a class of which Judge Manly, Governor Graham and Hon. David Outlaw were members. He removed to Alabama where he presided as judge of the Superior Court of that State. He was long a member of Congress from the Mobile district.

Gen. Braxton Bragg, a younger brother, distinguished himself in the Mexican war and saved, with his well aimed artillery, the battle of Buena Vista. His services in the late war won for him the unenviable destinction of "the hero of Chickamauga."

Northampton was the home of Gov Bragg after he obtained his license to practice law. From that county he came to the legislature, a member of the House in 1842. In August, 1854, he was chosen by the people governor of the State. To this office he was re-elected in 1856. In 1858 he was elected by the Legislature United States Senator, which position he resigned in 1861, upon the breaking out of hostilities between the North and the South. As Senator he took a steady and active part in all the debates of those eventful times.

As Governor and Legislator, no corrupt legislation ever emanated from him. Jobbers, speculators and dealers in false claims against the federal or State government found no friend in him. They shunned him as they would a detective or armed policeman. Honor, courage, fidelity to friend and country, were the prominent traits of his character. He had the qualities that would have fitted him for the battle field as well as the Senate chamber or the forum.

We will pass over his private relations of life. They were all fidelity and devotion to wife and to children, and like his public career, filled with every incident which can give dignity and lustre to human existence.

On Monday the 23d, when the legislature assembled, Mr. Sparrow in the House and Mr. Jones in the Senate, announced the calamitous visitation that had fallen upon the State in the death of Governor Bragg. When Mr. Phillips in the House and Mr. Jones in the Senate, portrayed the virtues and sketched the qualities which constituted the manly and lofty character of Thomas Bragg, the Legislature adjourned.

At three o'clock the bells tolled and the hearse was driven from the door and the body in charge of the pall bearers, G. V. Strong, P. A. Wiley, Pulaski Cowper, Judge, Merrimon, R. H. Page, Gen. W. H. Cox, Judge Battle and Hon. B. F. Moore, was deposited in Oakwood Cemetery, in the presence of a large concourse of admiring friends and heart crushed relatives.

Rev. R. S. Mason, of Christ Church, performed the sad and impressive service of "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

Some of the Press-men of America are entirely too "ruff" in all respects. And perhaps among all the Editors of the country the editor of the *Cadiz Republican* is the most wickedly inclined. Here is his latest, when speaking of the Fisk murder by Stokes he says. A "couple of twines. Fisk has gone where the wood bine twineth, and Stokes will soon go where the hemp vine twineth!"

A REMARKABLE WATCH.—We had the pleasure a few days ago, of inspecting an English Silver Watch, now owned and worn by W. R. A. Williams, Esq., of this county, which has been running since before the Revolutionary War. It was made to order in London by its first owner, Samuel Williams, and has been in the Williams family ever since. A very remarkable fact about it is, that it has been wound by a member of the Legislature, every session from the first meeting at Newbern down to within the last fifteen or sixteen years, both, and afterwards, Halifax and Martin, having been represented by some member of the family to within the time mentioned, and it was a rule with them, if the member elected was not the owner of the watch, to exchange during the session; so that this watch is decidedly the oldest member of the Legislature living.—*Warrenton Gazette.*

[A correspondent of the Raleigh *Era* suggests the name of T. S. Caldwell as the next Republican candidate for Governor. Good! We know of no man that we had sooner vote against, and none easier to beat.—*Warrenton Gazette.*

MAKE HIM ANSWER.

Major William A. Smith, late president of the North Carolina railroad, and now the inland agent for the North Carolina branch of the Richmond & Danville road, which is owned by the Pennsylvania Central, refuses to answer what he knows and no money being paid to obtain the facts. He puts himself upon his constitutional rights, that a man is not *bound to criminate himself.*

This will not do. No man should be allowed to dispose of the property of a corporation worth six or eight millions, and when interrogated about it to decline to answer any or all questions concerning it. Who will back down, the Major or the Legislature? If the Legislature does its duty, and of that no one doubts, they will compel him to answer.

The refusal to answer is self condemnation. That much is fixed. The State, by the lease, has lost $1,800,000. How much has Major Smith and others made? The Pennsylvania Central offered $240,000 a year for the road bed from Greensboro to Charlotte, a distance of ninety miles. For $200,000 a year Smith leases the whole road, cars, engines and all. This is valuing the road from Greensboro at only twenty thousand dollars, including all the cars and engines of the company.

Major Smith is said to have invested largely in a city paper which is to defend the lease.

What a precious president is Blow-your-Horn Billy!

NO SET OFF IN CRIME.

A gentleman who was present last Tuesday and witnessed the reception of Gov. Scott's special message by the legislature of South Carolina, describes it as producing a scene not often witnessed before or out of a legislative hall.

In the message Gov. Scott spoke of Bowen, the bigamist, by name, as a coolie. Bowen moved that the galleries be cleared of ladies for he had that to say which they should not hear. This was a declaration of ejectment, to which the ladies submitted, and took speedy leave of the galleries. As if to set off his own crimes, Bowen then detailed Gov Scott's intimacy with three courtizans in Columbia, Washington City and New York. One of the frail cyprians had received from the Governor a bracelet worth $700. The negro members all thought this a full answer to the charge that Bowen had married three wives. Every man in North Carolina should know what Bowen said.

Brick Pomeroy's is the only paper that has published it, for Brick says he does not publish a paper for ladies to read—his is not a lady paper but one for men. We hope Brick will publish the speech, and we now speak for one hundred copies of the paper containing it.

The men of North Carolina and the South should know what these carpet bag delectables say of each other. They should be taught, too, to regard their allies as no better than the carpet baggers.

HARD ON THE PREACHERS.

The Richmond *Whig* calls public attention to the fact that for a week the House of Representatives of Virginia has been opened without prayer. The *Whig* asks what is the matter, and wishes to know if the General Assembly "is past praying for, or do the ministers require the stimulus of a *per diem*" to enable them to pray? The radical legislature of 1868–9, had more preachers in it than had set in the legislature from 1775 to 1865, a period of ninety years. There was also more bribery and corruption in that legislature than had been known in all the legislatures that preceded it. Chaplain Ward says hard things of the preacher, such as Welker and Sinclair.

LEGISLATURE.

Yesterday the House adjourned over in respect to the memory of the late Hon Thomas Bragg, after passing a joint resolution that the General Assembly should attend the funeral as an organized body.

Messrs. Sparrow and Phillips delivered eloquent and feeling eulogiums upon the life and character of the deceased, which we publish in full in our report of the proceedings of the House.

In the Senate the proceedings had reference solely to the death of Gov. Bragg.

Hon. Okomon R. Dennis.—This gentleman, after a number of ballotings, has been elected U. S. Senator from Maryland for six years from and after the 4th of March, 1873. Mr. Dennis was originally a whig in politics, but opposed the "Know nothing" party, and when the old whig party was absorbed by this and the republican party, before the war, he united with the democrats in whose ranks he has been an able champion for the last fifteen years. He was a warm sympathizer with the south during our late civil war. His success the Hon. Mr. Vickers, now Senator from Maryland.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEBT.

PROPOSITION FOR ADJUSTMENT AT FIFTY CENTS ON THE DOLLAR.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 17.—A new plan has been devised for the adjustment of the debt of South Carolina. Mr. Wesley, acting for the Union Trust Company, of New York, and Mr. Childs, president of the National Bank of Columbia, submitted the following propositions to Gov. Scott: The Union Trust Company to assume the financial agency of the State; the entire State debt to be compounded, by retiring all existing bonds of whatever class, and issuing in exchange new bonds at the rate of fifty cents on the dollar; the Union Trust Company to guarantee the fulfilment of the contract, to guarantee the cash to redeem the bonds now hypothecated, charging only legal interest thereon; to settle the indebtedness of the State to Kempton, and to advance cash for payment of the January interest.

Governor Scott assented to the scheme and Mr. Wesley returns to day to New York, to draft the necessary legislation and perfect the details and arrangements.

Hon. Thomas Bragg is dead! The places which knew him here, will henceforth know him no more forever. Our eyes will never again rest upon his venerated form. These halls will never again echo to the tread of his footsteps nor to the sound of his once familiar voice. The silver cord is loosed, the golden bowl is broken, the pitcher has been broken at the fountain, The wheel been broken at the cistern, and the soul of our statesman has returned unto God who gave it. North Carolina hath many sons who are worthy of her pride, but he was the noblest Roman of them all. The public heart throughout our borders will respond freely to this sentiment: "None knew him but to love him." He was not one of those who appear greatest at a distance, but his greatness increased upon you the nearer you approached him. He was of the people and reflected lustre upon them, while they in return threw honors upon him. His ruling passion was love of liberty and hatred to tyrants. He was gifted and learned without parade or ostentation. The severe simplicity of his life and character was their greatest charm. In his profession of the law he had no superior, and in its practice he was the soul of high honor. As Legislator and as Governor of his native State, as Senator in the Congress of the United States, and as cabinet officer in the Confederate States, he was equally distinguished, honoring himself and reflecting high honor on his people.

But with all his rare virtues and his high honors he hath left us! "How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!" Henceforth he will occupy a niche in our temple of fame. His memory will be enshrined in the hearts of his countrymen, and his name be enrolled in that long catalogue of illustrious departed worthies, whose names and deeds we so delight to honor. His last resting place will be to North Carolinians in years to come a hallowed spot.

> And freedom shall awhile repair,
> To dwell a weeping hermit there.

Mr. Speaker, It is fitting that we, the representatives of the people, do honor to the memory of so distinguished a citizen. I, therefore, send to the clerk's desk a resolution which I trust may be unanimously adopted by the House and transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence.

The following is the resolution:

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact, That as an evidence of their respect for the memory of Thomas Bragg, late a Governor of this Commonwealth, now departed, they will adjourn for this day. *They do further resolve,* That as a body, with their presiding and other officers, they will attend the funeral obsequies of the deceased at 3 1-2 o'clock this afternoon and accompany the remains to the place of burial.

In seconding the resolution, Mr. Phillips said that he rose to second the resolutions, and in so doing, would indulge in the mournful satisfaction of giving expression to his sense of the great loss which the State had sustained in the death of Governor Bragg. In the presence of the dread messenger who had called this eminent citizen from our midst, to whose mandates we all stand equally amenable—he would not dare to recall those insignificant matters upon which the rivalries and differences of this life depend, but would call up only what is substantial and lasting in the estimation of men. He had made the acquaintance of Mr. Bragg whilst he was Chief Executive of the State, and had then formed a definite opinion of him, which in the years that had since passed he had had no reason to alter, except so far as closer observation and more mature judgment had occasioned a higher appreciation of his qualities. Since he had been a member of the Raleigh Bar, he had frequent opportunity of close professional intercourse with the deceased, and had always found him most honorable and candid, whether acting with him or in opposition. If he was not the first mind in the profession, he was in the very first place; eminent not only as a member of the bar of the Supreme Court, but also for his powerful addresses to juries. There was great completeness and propriety about his intellectual and moral faculties. We have no man left among us who, take him altogether, is the superior of our late friend. In recalling the names and virtues of those whom the State has lost recently—the names of Badger, Morehead, Saunders, Swain, Ruffin and Mordecai, we may well adopt the sad phrase of classical antiquity, and say of Thomas Bragg:—"*Transit ad majorem partem.*"

The resolutions were unanimously adopted and then ordered to be transmitted to the Senate for concurrence.

The Senate having concurred in the resolution the House adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, after being notified by the Speaker to assemble in the Hall at 2 1-2 o'clock to attend the funeral as an original body.

GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE.—Some of Beast Butler's failures during the war have proved a great success during peace. Here is one of them. The famous Dutch Gap canal has been completed and was opened, in the first of the year, for navigation. This cut off canal shortens the distance between City Point and Richmond about eight miles.

"The canal has now eighteen and a half feet of water, and the river steamers pass through it without difficulty. On Tuesday the steamer Wyanoke, of the Old Dominion Line came through unembarrassed. This steamer is about 260 feet in length, and is the largest now navigating the "Powatanocke" or James river."

We hope Butler will be in favor of the canal from Wilmington to Wrightsville Sound, N. C.

The condition of the Prince of Wales is reported in the noon bulletin of yesterday to be much improved.

I write you to certify that I have used Dr. Simmons' Liver Regulator in my family with entire success. J. W. D. SIMS.
jan 23-dtf Chattahoochie

SENATE.

MONDAY, Jan. 22.

The Senate met at the usual hour, Mr. President Worth in the chair.

Prayer by the Rev. J. M. Atkinson, of the Methodist church.

A message was received from the House transmitting the following joint resolutions, and asking the concurrence of the Senate:

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Mr. Jones eulogized the memory of the deceased in appropriate terms, and the resolutions were unanimously concurred in, and then the Senate adjourned till 7 1 2 o'clock, p. m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, Jan. 22, 1872.

House called to order at the usual hour.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Grayson, of the House.

Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

Mr. Sparrow arose and said:

MR. SPEAKER: I rise to announce to the Representatives of North Carolina a public calamity. Our people are in affliction. Death, the remorseless destroyer of our race, hath stricken down our best beloved. What shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue." Thomas Bragg is dead! The places which knew him here, will henceforth know him no more forever. Our eyes will never again rest upon his venerated form. These halls will never again echo to the tread of his footsteps nor to the sound of his once familiar voice. "The silver cord is loosed, the golden bowl is broken, the pitcher has been broken at the fountain, The wheel been broken at the cistern, and the soul of our statesman has returned unto God who gave it." North Carolina hath many sons who are worthy of her pride, but he was the noblest Roman of them all. The public heart throughout our borders will respond freely to this sentiment: "None knew him but to love him." He was not one of those who appear greatest at a distance, but his greatness increased upon you the nearer you approached him. He was of the people and reflected lustre upon them, while they in return threw honors upon him. His ruling passion was love of liberty and hatred to tyrants. He was gifted and learned without parade or ostentation. The severe simplicity of his life and character was their greatest charm. In his profession of the law he had no superior, and in its practice he was the soul of high honor. As Legislator and as Governor of his native State, as Senator in the Congress of the United States, and as cabinet officer in the Confederate States, he was equally distinguished, honoring himself and reflecting high honor on his people.

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REMARKS OF MR. CURRIE,

OF CUMBERLAND,

In the House of Representatives, on Friday, Jan. 19th, upon Mr. Welch's Substitute for the bill in regard to the debt of the State.

MR. SPEAKER:—It is with feelings of more than ordinary diffidence that I rise to express my views on this all-perplexing and all important question known as the public debt. And having occupied such a quiet position during the whole time of our deliberations I feel that I ought to ask pardon of the House for offering them my views at this late day—and especially about a subject of such vast magnitude as the one now before us.

I consider this question second to none that has been before this House; but I do consider it of more importance than any other matter that has engaged the attention of this body. Why do I say so Mr. Speaker? I say so because it embraces millions of money, and I say so because it embraces *the honor of our good old State.* And we who have had in our hands the important trust, as representatives, the interests and honor of our people ought to consider well this great question before we act.

It is a question that attracts the attention of every thinking man in the state. Sir, it is one of vital interest to every man, woman and child from the most distant point of land that divides the blue waves of the Atlantic on our own shores to the highest and most distant mountain peak that decorates the wild grandeur of the west. And this deep interest does not stop within our own borders, but it awakes a restless anxiety in the outside world. And why does it cause the outside world to look with such deep anxiety to the settlement of this great question? Simply because it is a matter of dollars and cents with them. And Mr. Speaker this is one of the reasons why our own people are so deeply interested. But there is another reason of far more importance to North Carolina than that of dollars and cents, for her fortune is good so far as dollars and cents is concerned, but she has a full treasury of another kind of property so to speak that she has clung to with *glorious tenacity* and from which I hope she may never part—love. I mean, *sir, her bright, her pure, her stainless, her shining, and her sacred honor.*

If we adopt the substitute offered by the gentleman from Haywood, in preference to the bill introduced by the gentleman from New Hanover, we strike North Carolina a blow from which she will never recover. The claim of repudiation will cloud her fair brow when we will be numbered with the dead and be remembered only for this cruel blow.

Mr. Welch. Will the gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. Currie. Certainly, sir.

Mr. Welch. I desire to ask the gentleman from Cumberland, if the tendency of the last Legislature was not decidedly in favor of repudiation?

Mr. Currie. Mr. Speaker, I do not consider that the last Legislature represented North Carolinians—God forbid that we should emulate their example or follow their precedents. (Applause.) Mr. Speaker, I don't accuse the gentleman from Haywood, of being other than a true North Carolinian; but he has allowed his judgment to become biased in his anxiety to relieve the people. And if his proposition could bring the desired relief it would be a different thing, but in my opinion it falls far short of that. It simply proposes to surrender all that the State has in her public works and improvements and repudiates the balance. It is well known, Mr. Speaker, that there are mortgages on nearly all the property that the State has any claims on whatsoever, unless it is this capitol and the Asylums in this city, and according to the wording of the substitute I think these are included—and what would be the result when this proposition would go out to the world? The parties holding mortgages on our railroads would foreclose them immediately and the small pittance left the creditors of the State would not be worth dividing. And, sir, they would hold on to the bonds and continue to harass the State till they would effect a compromise of some sort. Why not propose this compromise now, and save our people millions of money and ourselves an honorable remembrance?

According to the statement made by my friend from Wilson in his speech yesterday on this question, the interest on the recognized debt of the State will amount to as pass the bill introduced by my friend, Mr. Ashe, pay us out of debt in five years. Then why do we hesitate to come forward and propose this profitable, this honorable compromise that will save us millions of money, and leave the fair name of North Carolina as pure and spotless as the unbroken snow? Pass this compromise bill, and if it is accepted, the tide of immigration that is so much desired by some of our people will flow into our State by the thousands. Capitalists will come with light steps and buoyant hearts to help us on in our march of improvement and prosperity. But if we fail to take this step and do nothing, or pass the substitute proposed by the gentleman from Haywood, which is in my humble judgment equivalent to doing nothing, or probably worse, we close for years the flood gates of our prosperity, and the gates that are open to immigration and capital will be crowded by our own citizens. Thousands of our young men, the hope and pride of our State will be forced to leave the happy homes of their childhood and youth, to fight the battles of life in other lands. These results will be brought about by the adoption of the substitute or by inaction as proposed by my gallant friend from Martin.

Mr. Speaker, I don't agree with my friend from Martin, whose proposition is to let this great question sleep for the present. I know sir, he has the honor and welfare of North Carolina at heart, for I take it, sir, that no man who belonged to the glorious regiment to which the gentleman from Martin referred the other day—can be other than an honorable man—and I hope sir, that the first General Assembly of North Carolina, composed principally of young men will discharge their duty as nobly upon this great question, as did the first regiment at the battle of Bethel. I saw nothing of my gallant friend from Martin from the time the first regiment disbanded till I met him in this House; but I take it, sir, he bore himself as nobly to the bitter end as his actions bravely promised in the beginning, and I appeal to him in the name of the first regiment to vote down the substitute, and come forward like he did when he went to the front, proudly conscious that the honor and welfare of North Carolina is consigned in part to his keeping—and vote for the compromise bill, and when he and I will be summoned by the final reveille—we will have nothing to answer for as soldiers in defense of our country, nor as representatives in behalf of the honor and welfare of our people. Mr. Speaker, it is for this General Assembly to say how and where North Carolina is to stand in the future as to her honor—and in my opinion—Mr. Speaker, the final action on this bill will settle the question. If we adjourn without doing something honorable, so far as we are able, and final so far as we can, we fail in duty to ourselves, our country and our God.

However lightly some gentlemen may consider their sworn obligations to the Constitution, I consider it, sir, of more importance to us, than I do the public debt to the people whom we represent. When I went to the Clerk's desk and took a solemn oath to support the Constitution of North Carolina, I did it voluntarily, and that oath binds me to that clause in the Constitution—that binds every man on this floor so far as an oath can bind men to vote for a bill to levy a tax to meet the interest on the public debt. I say not it was much prized by the contributors, and be assured sir, I voted against its adoption, but my obligations to its provisions, requirements and demands, when I have sworn so to them, is as binding on me or on any one that I could desire, respect and defend.

And this is the reason, Mr. Speaker, that I voted for the amendment of the gentleman from Burke—Mr. Mills, to the revenue bill providing for the interest on the public debt, and this is a reason that I favor the compromise bill. The 10th section provides for the levying of a tax to meet the interest on the debt recognized by the bill. I can't see how any man who is a true North Carolinian can hesitate between the two propositions now pending before this House; the one bears on its face outright repudiation and carries with it the blush of shame to every man who is moved by a North Carolina heart and governed by a North Carolinian's honor. The other reaches forth a hand to our insolvent state and taxes oppressed people and extends the other hand to the bond-holder and asks with an earnest voice to be heard in the settlement of this all important question. And Mr. Speaker, are we to, stand in the way of this long wished for period, when North Carolina will be herself again, and although we may fail to display the wisdom of a Lycurgus in the settlement of the financial troubles of our country, we can surely emulate the integrity of a Regulus. The good name of our State is the only legacy that we can claim transmitted to us by our fathers, and it is to be hoped the demoralization of the times will not rob us of this sacred legacy and cause us to commit an act that will make the rising generation blush with shame when they behold it. Come and let us forget ourselves, and act as patriots and honest statesmen, and although we may have apprehensions that we will not meet the popular plaudits for the moment, *the time will come* when North Carolina will be proud of our course and greet us kindly if we are living, and mourn for us sadly when we are dead.

Mr. Speaker, a few more words and I have done. Is there a true North Carolinian on this floor but what would rather part with everything than to sacrifice his honor. I take it, sir, there is not.

And can it be that our glorious old State whose proud career dates back to the 20th of May in 1775, a period of nearly one hundred years, and in all that time she has maintained a bright and spotless name, will commit an act now in the evening of her first century that will cause her brilliant sun to go down dim and rayless, or will she maintain her honor still, and the setting sun of her first century go down surrounded with a halo of glory as dazzling as was indicated by its effulgent rising.

FRANKLIN STATUE.

The statue of Franklin presentation of Jean De Groot, was unveiled in Printing House square, New York. The exercises were opened by the following remarks from Dr. Prime, as we learn from the *World:*

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—The day too long delayed has at length arrived, the day that beholds in the City of New York a statue of the illustrious Franklin. Through the munificence of one of our own citizens this splendid and fitting monument is ours, and while it stands in this Printing house square it will perpetuate the genius of Franklin and the generosity of Captain De Groot. We are about to unveil this statue in the face of heaven, and prayer will now be offered by Rev. Dr. Deems.

UNVEILING THE STATUE.

At the conclusion of the prayer Mr. Douglas Taylor, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, introduced Professor Morse, who said:

MR. DE GROOT, AND FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE PRESS:—I esteem it as one of my highest honors that I should have been designated to perform the office of unveiling this day the fine statue of our illustrious and immortal Franklin. When requested to perform this duty I was confined to my bed, but I could not refuse, and I said "Yes, if I had to be lifted to the spot." Franklin needs no eulogy from me. No one has more reason to venerate his name than myself. May his illustrious example of devotion to the interests of universal humanity be the seed of further fruit for the good of the world. (Applause.)

THE STATUE

Is of bronze, about twelve feet high. It represents Franklin at the age of 70, when Minister to the Court of Versailles. In his left hand he holds a copy of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, of the date of April 14, 1783. His right hand is slightly extended, as if addressing an audience. The face is singularly true to the generally idea of Franklin's character. The work in detail is very finely executed, and every thing about the statue goes to make it a magnificent gift.

After the ceremony a grand banquet was spread at Decmonico's. Brooks, Beecher, Greeley and many other city and national celebrities partook of the banquet.

The Chairman, Dr. Prime said: "It is one hundred years to-day since a boy was born (we have his own words for it) in Boston, New England, whose birth and memory we are met to celebrate to night. I have not the least idea of giving you a biographical sketch of that child and of that man, and yet it, may be that it will be new to some of you that I should tell you that he was the youngest son of the youngest son for five successive generations, and that he was the fifteenth child out of seventeen. He began his illustrious career as a candle-maker. If he had stuck to it no doubt he would have made a great light in the world—(laughter)—but then he would have had less to do with lightning. (Renewed laughter.) We follow him from the candle-maker's shop to the printing office of his brother, and then we find him making street ballads in Boston, and his most sensible father checked him in his mad career as a poet by telling him that verse-makers were always miserable beggars—(laughter)—and so he was saved from that. Next we find him in Philadelphia eating, as he says himself, a puffy roll in the street, which he bought for a cent—bought three of them, by the way, for three cents, but having found one sufficient for his breakfast, he gave away the other two loaves to a woman and child who were poorer than he. He was seen eating these rolls by Miss Reed, who afterwards became Mrs. Benjamin Franklin; and when he fell in love with Reed he began to rise in the world. (Applause.) And so, gentlemen, if that Reed was ever shaken in the wind it was still enough to sustain him in the future struggles of life. Gentlemen, this young man—I speak now to many of the rising aspirants for distinction in the press—this young man, beginning his career of writing for the press, passed his communications under the door sill of his father's office. So modest was he that he was unwilling even have it known that he was the author of those productions. What modesty distinguished the boy of the press of that day! (Applause.) There is nothing like it among us. (Laughter.) Now when a young man sets out upon this career—I have been thirty years of the press and have seen many of them—he goes in boldly and opens the door, and says, "What will you give me for that." (Laughter.) Not so with our illustrious father and friend, the great prototype of the Franklins of the present day. Now, I have no idea of following him throughout that career, which afterwards became so illustrious. Far be it from me to undertake to say all the interesting and remarkable things that are to be said to-night. I have no intention of anything of that sort, but gentlemen, there is but one name in the early history of our country that we would name before that of Benjamin Franklin, and that is the name of George Washington. (Applause.) And I may add, as a most astonishing fact—that the City of New York, distinguished as it is in literature, in the enjoyment of a press—it didn't belong to it myself I would say a gross unrivalled by that of any other city in the world—it is to me a most astonishing fact that we have lived to this day without seeing in our city a statue of Benjamin Franklin, and that we are now permitted to be indebted for that statue not to the munificence and gratitude of the press itself, but to our illustrious guest this evening, Captain De Groot. (Applause and cheers.) It is, therefore, an occasion of the highest enjoyment which has called us together to-night, and I ask you without further words of introduction to receive the sentiments which have been prepared, which I will from time to time offer to you, and call upon various gentlemen present to respond, when I know you will be delighted to listen to. I regret to say that the President of the United States was not able to come to-night—(great laughter)—to be with us. (Laughter.) He regrets it amazingly, and will the more when he knows what a good time we had. I propose the first sentiment, and that we rise and drink standing to the toast, "The President of the United States." (Three cheers proposed and faintly given.)

MR. GREELEY'S ADDRESS.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: If I were required to say for which of Franklin's achievements he deserved most and best of mankind, I should award the palm to his autobiography—so frank, so sunny, so irradiated by a brave, blithe, hearty humanity. For if our fathers had not—largely by the aid of his counsel, his labors, his sacrifices—achieved their independence at the first effort, they would have tried it again and again until they did achieve it; if he had not made his immortal discovery of the identity of electricity with the lightning, that truth would nevertheless have at length been demonstrated: but if he had not so modestly and sweetly told us how to wrestle with poverty and compel opportunity, I do not know who beside would or could have done it so well. There is not to-day, there will not be in this nor in the next century, a friendless, humble orphan, working hard for naked daily bread, and glad to improve his leisure hours in the corner of a garret, whom that biography will not cheer and strengthen to fight the battle of life buoyantly and manfully. I wish some humane tract society would present a copy of it to every poor lad in the United States. But I must not detain you. Let me sum up the character of Franklin in the fewest words that will serve me. I love and revere him as a journeyman printer who was frugal and didn't drink a *pareau* who rose from want to competence, from obscurity to fame without losing his head; a statesman who did not crucify mankind with long-winded documents or speeches; a diplomatist who did not intrigue; a philosopher who never loved, and an office-holder who didn't steal. So regarding him, I respond to your sentiment with "Honor to the memory of Franklin."

SPEECH OF HENRY WARD BEECHER.

Mr. Beecher was received with great applause, long continued and hearty; and when silence was at length restored, Mr. Beecher said: I am a little at a loss to know which profession you refer to? (Mr. Prime—both sir.) I am a clergyman sometimes—(laughter)—and I am an editor also. I have been connected with newspapers, I may say, all my life. However, I accept the courtesy which you show me, whether it is in one profession or in the other. For lately they have become so conjoined that it is difficult to tell whether a man is preaching or printing. A great deal of printing goes to preaching and a great deal of preaching goes out in printing, and to that I attribute the reformation which has taken place in the world, and notably in this city. We are all of us so much of one mind on this subject that my discourse will have all the merit of an orthodox sermon. Everybody believes it before the ministers begin, everybody knows what he is going to say and everybody goes to sleep before he gets through. (Great laughter.) I have heard it frequently said that this maxim of Franklin's was not the correct one, and not equal to that of the Greek's, who held that no motive should be ascribed to men except that which reaches their higher faculties. It is said that honesty never should have been propounded as the best policy; that it was teaching men to act so from the meanest of considerations. I have no objection whatever that men should be honest and truthful from a consideration of the eternal fitness of things; but as there is only one in ten thousand that understands this eternal fitness of things what are we to do? (Laughter and applause.) Not excluding those men of higher refinement, I for one am heartily thankful that Franklin gave currency to this maxim, which, instead of reducing toil to a lower level, has a tendency to elevate it. (Applause.) For, however high you may soar, honesty is the place where you must start. The man that attain permanent success must also, in the nature of things, be honest. that is, they must observe faith between man and man, without which there can not be friendship or honor, and the affairs of life cannot run without running off the track. I believe that we can give to our common people this maxim, and when it was made the universal ground of action it has laid the foundation of that stability of character which has made our people what they are, not simply industrious or frugal, but made them a true speaking people and a fair dealing people. (Applause.)

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