

than he appreciates the blessing of peace, and I feel satisfied that there is no man in your country or in mine, who will do more than he to maintain it. (Great cheering.)

He thanked the gentlemen for the heartiness with which the toast had been honored, as well as for the kindness with which he had been received. He referred to the pleasant relations now existing between the nation which he represented and that to which he had just been accredited a representative, relations which he trusted would be continued through a long succession of years. He felt proud of being accredited to such a nation, and rejoiced exceedingly that the scene of his official labors was to be among the people of Hamilton, in whose praise he had heard so much. He assured those present that his coming to take the place of his respected predecessor, did not indicate a change of policy on the part of the United States towards this country. There was no idea of changing that policy. Whatever of fairness and amonity had been received at the hands of Mr. Blake, would be awarded by himself; and he trusted his career among this people would be such, that whatever kindness they had extended to the gentleman he succeeded, would be merited by and awarded to him also. He could assure this large and intelligent company gathered here to do honor to his predecessor by this magnificent banquet, that the people of the United States appreciated the kind manner in which the Canadians received and treated their representatives. He praised the Canadians, and spoke of the lasting amity that should exist between them and the Americans. The Colonel resumed his seat amid rapturous applause, having created a very favorable impression.

The chairman then gave in succession the toasts.

"The Prince of Wales and the Royal Family."

"The Governor-General and Lieut.-Governor of Ontario."

"The Army and Navy and Canadian Volunteers."

Col. Sprout, of Walkerton, responded in a very eloquent speech to the last toast.

The next was the toast of the evening.

The *Chairman*, in introducing the toast, said he now had to remind them of the occasion which had brought them together. The honorable *guest* on his right, after a four years residence in your city, and another four years in this vicinity, was about closing his official career and taking his departure from amongst us. On such an occasion, what more fitting than that his attached friends and the leading men of the city, whose business had brought them in contact with him in the past, should assemble as they had done to-night, and in that splendid banquet bear testimony to their attachment and to the faithful, courteous, attentive and capable manner in which he has discharged the important duties of his office. (cheers) During the period mentioned several important pages had been added to the history of our country. Our Dominion had had its birth and been cabled to England, the Reciprocity Treaty under which we had prospered, had been abrogated, but we prospered still. We would be glad to see it renewed, but not at the sacrifice of our national dignity or honor. The Fenians had been repulsed, and that invasion had placed the hon. gentleman in a most delicate position, but he thought they would bear him out in saying that he had so acquitted himself in that affair as at least to give neither his own government or ours any cause of complaint. But that page of our history to which he wished to draw more particular attention, was that which related to the opening up of a very important trade between our city and the new Province of Manitoba. Mr. Blake had been the medium for passing our goods through the United States to the red River country, and he questioned very much if that trade would have attained anything like its present very considerable proportions if an incapable or disobliging official had held the position of United States Consul at this port; uniformly attentive, both to our merchants and to the wants of the public and other strangers, he has still found time to furnish his government with ample statistics of our exports and imports, and much information valuable for reference. But he had endeared himself more particularly to our citizens by identifying himself in a quiet way with every local movement, whether of an educational, benevolent or commercial character, that would tend to the progress and well-being of the people; at the same time he has observed a becoming dignity that has reflected honor on the Government that selected him as its representative. (Cheers.)

Mr. Blake's summer sky in Canada had not, however, been without its clouds. We had been called upon to sympathize with him in his family bereavements, and he was leaving behind him in a neighboring cemetery touching mementos of his sojourn here.

He earnestly trusted that wherever he went he might soon find a rapidly widening circle of warm friends such as those who now bid him a hearty God speed. (Loud applause.)

He begged to present an address which expressed the feelings of the hon. gentleman's Hamilton friends far better than any remarks which he might make.

ADDRESS.

"To Hon. F. N. Blake, U. S. Consul:

"Sir:—The banquet to which you have been invited to-night expresses to some extent the esteem in which you are held by the citizens of Hamilton, but we feel it due to the sentiments which have caused this gathering to give them expression in an address which may serve as a memento of the occasion. Four years you have held the position of U. S. Consul at this port, and, while in you your country has had a faithful representative, you have also been to the business community of this city a courteous and attentive officer, doing everything in your power to ensure celerity and accuracy in the discharge of duties which required no ordinary tact and ability to give satisfaction to all. We commend very highly, on the one hand, the prudence with which you have kept aloof from all questions in which your actions would be likely to be misunderstood by our people, and on the other hand, the hearty sympathy which you have manifested in every movement for the general good; in all such movements you have been, not alone the representative of another country, but one of our own fellow citizens as well, co-operating as heartily and cordially with us as if this had been your permanent home. To promote friendly relations