

SPEECHES AND TOASTS



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Speeches and Toasts]

[*Frontispiece*

SPEECHES AND TOASTS

How to Make and Propose Them

INCLUDING

HINTS TO SPEAKERS

AND

MODEL EXAMPLES FOR ALL OCCASIONS



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CHAPTER I.

HINTS TO SPEAKERS.

PUBLIC SPEAKING IN GENERAL.

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ALTHOUGH this handbook is limited in its scope more particularly to social functions, a few remarks upon public speaking in general are appropriate to it. For oratory is nothing more nor less than the art of public speaking, and while some natural aptitude must be presupposed in those who practise the art, success can only be achieved by its sedulous cultivation.

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The ordinary man cannot, it is true, aspire to be a great orator; for that there is needed a spark of inspiration, of genius that is given to few; but there is no reason why with study and practice he should not become an acceptable and even a powerful speaker.

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Most important is it that the speaker should have clearly outlined in his mind what he is going to say. This seems almost superfluous advice, yet it cannot be too definitely laid down that clear thinking is, above all things, essential to clear speaking; ideas cannot be distinctly conveyed to an audience unless the speaker has them ordered and

prepared in his mind. Having achieved this he must next strive for clear expression.

From this it is easy to deduce the qualifications which a speaker must possess to be successful: he must have a command of language with an exact appreciation of the value of words: that he can get by reading; he must have a faculty of presenting his thoughts in logical sequence, so that his arguments are cumulative and in the sum convincing: that he can acquire by writing; he must have clearness of utterance, coupled with deliberation of manner and entire self-possession: that he can acquire by conversation and reading aloud. All these things may be achieved by patient study and intelligent application. The crowning quality which differentiates the supremely great orator from the merely competent one, is another matter; it is not to be acquired in the schools; it is the little touch of genius which inspires life into the marble of the sculptor, into the painted canvas of the artist, into the written words of the author, and into the spoken words of the orator; but, although it cannot be taught in the schools, it is bestowed upon the really earnest man much more commonly than is supposed, for something of it is implied in the sincerity of the conviction that compels the individual to give utterance to the thoughts that are in him: inspiration is the word that best describes it.

Earnestness is infectious, and the orator, who at the beginning of his speech convinces his audience that he is himself in earnest, has gone a long way towards gaining their attention and convincing them. The arts which he can acquire by study and by practice will do as much as is humanly possible of the rest. The mysterious power which great orators undoubtedly exercise over their hearers, and which so many people endeavour to explain by such phrases as nerve-force, personal magnetism, and the like, is, if reduced to its simplest terms, little more than the natural result of mere earnestness.

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MAKING SPEECHES.

(a) PREPARATION.

MASTERY of the subject is the first consideration in making speeches. Whatever object the speaker has in view—whether it be to instruct, to sway a meeting, to obtain a conviction, to praise an individual, to expound a text, or to propose a toast—the first essential is that he should know his facts. "Clear thought is the foundation of persuasive speech," and clear thought can only be obtained by exact knowledge.

Having chosen, or been given, his subject, the speaker's first duty, therefore, is to crystallise it into a single proposition, and group round that proposition all the facts and arguments he can possibly collect. This part of his work cannot be too elaborate, nor can too much care be expended on it. An excellent plan is to make notes of all relevant facts and arguments and write these down on slips of paper cut to a uniform size, adopting the method of having a separate card for every note—one idea, one card; these notes may be allowed to accumulate indefinitely, and can periodically be arranged in such an order that all the notes relating to the several passages in the projected speech will come together and form a skeleton of the finished address.

Having collected his materials, the student will next set to work to analyse his notes and fit them all together in logical sequence, so that the original skeleton becomes a perfectly balanced framework to which he will attach in their several proper places all his facts, and figures, and illustrations, discarding such notes as he may now regard as immaterial. When the speech is argumentative, and intended to be delivered to a critical audience, he will be well advised not to eliminate too much. Having

himself mastered the subject, he may easily make the mistake of thinking that his hearers have also mastered it and fail in his object by assuming that they possess greater knowledge than in fact they do. An argument may be so condensed as to become almost unintelligible on a single hearing, and consequently the speaker, while avoiding prolixity and repetition, should avoid the opposite danger of inadequate elaboration, remembering always that the burden of proofs rests upon himself and that his task is only done when he has satisfied the last objector.

A speech consists of four parts: exordium, discussion, conclusion, and peroration. The first prepares the way for the second; the second must be followed, naturally and inevitably, by the third; the third is emphasised and rounded off by the last. It is to the second and third that the student must address himself particularly in the process of preparation here suggested, for they are the body of the speech; the extremities may be treated rather differently. The exordium, for instance, generally contains a statement of the proposition which the speaker proposes to establish; it may be personal in tone, intended to conciliate an audience which the speaker has reason to believe is hostile to his views; it may be several other things; but it should always bear directly upon the matter in hand, and be short and to the point; it is the speaker's introduction of himself to his audience, and ought to be "happy." In the same way, the peroration may contain a direct reference to the original proposition, may be apologetic or denunciatory, rhetorical or emotional. Only practice can enable a man to decide how he shall conclude any speech; there is an art in "leaving off," and sometimes only a natural artistic instinct can tell a man when and how to stop. No direct advice can be given upon these heads; but in preparing a speech the exordium and peroration may be left to the last, and in delivering the speech something of the exordium may be left to depend upon the conditions found

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to exist at the actual moment, though the final words should be carefully prepared, for a good speech may be spoiled by a tame and halting conclusion.

Having mastered his subject and "built" his speech, the student should next reduce it to actual words, and his safest and wisest plan will be to write it out at length. Few great speeches have been made *ex tempore*. In this connection, Lord Brougham, no mean authority, has said: "This leads me to remark that, though speaking without writing beforehand is very well till the habit of easy speaking is acquired, yet after that he can never write too much; this is quite clear. It is laborious, no doubt, and it is more difficult beyond comparison than speaking off-hand; but it is necessary to perfect oratory, and, at any rate, it is necessary to acquire the habit of correct diction. But I go further, and say even to the end of a man's life he must prepare word for word most of his finer passages."

The written speech thus perfected serves a double purpose; it is available for the speaker to read from if the subject is of first-class importance and he fears that from nervousness, or any other cause, he may lose the thread of his argument and mar his prospects by omitting any essential points; it is also available for him to study: he can commit it word for word to memory and repeat it textually, so that his address—however it may be delivered—is, at any rate, a finished dissertation upon the subject at issue. On both these counts a word of warning is necessary. An address read from copy can never have the same convincing effect as a speech delivered with an air of spontaneity; the delivery of an oration must be supplemented with animation of manner and appropriate gesture, and a man who reads his address is hampered by the necessity of holding his manuscript and directing his attention to that instead of to the audience; and, on the other hand, the man who finds it necessary to learn his

speech by heart and deliver it textually from memory runs some risk of seeming to be repeating a lesson and of delivering it too mechanically.

There can be no doubt, however, that the exercise of writing out the speech in full does impress its phraseology with singular distinctness on the mind, and it should always be done until the habit of easy speaking has been acquired and the speaker can rely upon the inspiration of the moment to clothe in appropriate words the arguments he has previously considered and noted down. From the complete copy, moreover, a summary can be prepared, covering perhaps only a few sheets of note-paper, which even the most practised orator can advantageously employ to refresh his memory while actually addressing his audience.

Young speakers should never omit to write out and memorise their speeches, and they should further rehearse them privately beforehand to some friendly critic, who can advise them on the manner of delivery, and give many valuable hints as to which points should be emphasised and which may be less forcibly driven home.

This, then, is a brief indication of the course to be pursued in the preparation of a speech. Study the subject, frame the argument, select the materials, write the speech, memorise it textually: this done, no man need fear to rise to his feet before the largest audience. At least, he will have paid them the compliment of taking the utmost possible pains to have something intelligent and lucid to offer for their consideration.

(b) DELIVERY.

With regard to the actual delivery of a speech, only a few general hints can be given in the limited space available here. There are many books upon elocution to which reference may be profitably made, and it may be remarked,

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incidentally, that not enough attention is paid nowadays to elocution as part of the education of cultured people.

Proper management of the breath is the fundamental necessity in the effective use of the voice. The nostrils are the proper organs of breathing, and abdominal breathing is the proper method ; for public speaking the important thing is to take in as much breath as possible, inflate the lungs to their fullest extent with air, and never exhaust them, taking fresh breaths whenever and wherever opportunity offers.

Some control of the breath having been acquired, the next point to consider is its application to the vocal organs in producing speech. "Pronunciation" is simply giving utterance to words, and when clearly and effectively done the vocal act is defined as correct articulation : when many words are spoken successively, with due regard to their emphasis and inflection, the speaker is said to have flexibility of utterance. Words are formed by the action of the tongue, lips, and nose, and consequently the sounds should be articulated by the organs of the mouth, not by those of the throat. To acquire just articulation every word should be delivered perfectly finished ; they should not be hurried over nor run one into another, nor should they be prolonged or drawled. When all the vocal apparatus is subordinated to the will so completely that each organ responds to the production of any tone or variation of sound, "flexibility" has been acquired.

An admirable exercise in articulation has been suggested by one writer on the subject. After describing various exercises, he says : "It would be advantageous to take any piece and read it backwards. I do not know of any practice more calculated to produce clear articulation than this. In performing it, great care should be taken to let each word stand out, above and apart from its neighbours. It will, also, be necessary that each letter in the syllable and each syllable in the word should be distinctly heard.

And here we may lay down a very good rule—let every letter and every syllable be distinctly heard, unless there be some good reason against it. Take care to enunciate each word as loud as conveniently possible. Breathe between each word. It would be a good practice, and would vary the above, to elongate the syllables as much as possible, and also to read in several keys, or, in other words, with the different kinds of pitch of which the voice is capable."

We quote this because a single experiment will convince any ordinary person that his usual articulation is much more faulty than he would previously have believed, and whatever else a sympathetic audience may condone in the way of harshness of voice, or stiffness of gesture, they will not condone failure in articulation. If a speaker will not take the trouble to make every word he says clear, he will forfeit the sympathy, and very speedily the patience, of his hearers.

Further, it should not be forgotten that clear articulation goes a long way to compensate for weakness of voice, and that sense can be conveyed with a minimum of sound. If the audience are interested at the outset, they bring their eyes as well as their ears into use, and catch every word that is perfectly articulated; no pains, therefore, should be spared to make the articulation precise and accurate.

For the rest, the would-be orator must develop the natural tone of his voice in which he is accustomed to speak, and which he can vary and make rotund, guttural, hollow, or even falsetto, according to the nature of the passage to be spoken. No theoretical remarks can be of much service here; only observation of living models, coupled with patient practice, can avail. He must further consider the question of "time," the rapidity with which he will give utterance to his words; in this case again he must be guided by the paramount necessity of clear articulation, with which neither speed nor anything else must be allowed to interfere; something of the "time" will be indicated

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by the nature of the passage to be spoken, an impassioned appeal or a fiery denunciation demanding greater rapidity than a solemn exhortation or a critical analysis of the arguments of the other side. Finally, he must pay due regard to proper phrasing and grouping of his words: this has been well defined as "vocal punctuation," and consists in arranging the words of discourse into groups so as to convey their actual meaning, and in separating them by the use of pauses in utterance.

To sum up, anyone with a very little preliminary instruction can learn to control and economise his breath, can acquire nice articulation, and practise effective gesticulation; the rest he can learn best by listening and attending to such good speakers as he may have the opportunity of hearing. By taking pains he may soon hope to become a competent speaker himself. That the trouble to which he may have been put will be well compensated by the event is a self-evident proposition.

COMMON ERRORS IN SPEECH.

PRONUNCIATION is an important matter, the difference between correct and incorrect pronunciation marking the difference between an educated and an uneducated man. In ordinary conversation the most common errors are due to carelessness, to a slipshod speech, which is tolerated for no apparent reason, and which many parents only check in their children when it degenerates into such glaring faults as omission of the aspirate or its insertion in places where it should not be. In public speaking, however, correct pronunciation is essential, because failure in this particular exposes the orator to public ridicule.

The rule is that, unless there is some explicit reason to the contrary, every letter and every syllable in a word should be heard, and upon this rule too much insistence

cannot be laid, for it is to its breach that all the common errors in speech may be traced. It is unnecessary to refer here to variations in pronunciations so localised as to be known as dialect; outside these altogether there are a few words in the case of which custom justifies alternative pronunciations.

Thus experts disagree as to whether the aspirate should or should not be sounded in *herb*, *hostler*, *hotel*, *humour*, and *humble*, but all agree in omitting it from *heir*, *heiress*, *honest*, *honour*, and *hour*. It should not be omitted when it follows the letter *w*, but should be given its due value. *What*, *when*, *where*, and *whither* are not the same either in sound or sense as *wot*, *wen*, *were*, and *wither*; yet many people make no difference in their pronunciation, although they would never think of pronouncing *who* as if it were the exact equivalent of *woo*. But while in the few cases given above, the letter *h* is not sounded, there are no exceptions to the rule that it must never be sounded where it does not exist.

R is another letter which is frequently abused. It should never be sounded where it has no place. Yet this is often done, especially when a word ending with a vowel is followed by one beginning with a vowel: "the *idear* of such a thing" and "I saw *ra* man" are common errors in speech which must be avoided. In what is known as lipping, *w* is sometimes substituted for *r*, so that "around the rugged rocks" becomes "awound the wugged wocks"; this has come to be looked upon as an affectation, but, while it is more strictly speaking an affection, it is a curable one, only requiring a little care and attention.

A few other cases may be profitably given.

Water is boiled in a kettle, not in a kittle; one gets things from shops, does not git them; and people catch fish, do not ketch them. *G* is often ill-treated, sometimes being clipped, so that going becomes goin, dancing dancin; and the like; sometimes being converted into *h*, so that

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anything becomes anythink, nothing nothink, and so on. Another fault, more common, perhaps, in singing than in speaking, is the sounding of the letter *u* before giving utterance to vowel sounds ; this is due to failure in " attack " and can be overcome by a little watchfulness. Pillar and pillow, principle and principal, necks and next differ in sound as they do in sense ; and, finally, many such words as visible, hypocrisy, gospel, goodness, worship, spirit, certain, patience, and others, are marred by having the *u* sound introduced in place of the vowel sounds proper to them respectively, so that visible becomes visubble, worship worshup, spirit spirut, and so on.

If the one rule for pronunciation be observed, and the very few exceptions to it be learned separately, the orator will be safe from the taunts of those who, having no fault to find with his matter, are perforce obliged to direct their criticism to his manner ; and for purposes of ordinary conversation as well, precise and accurate pronunciation should be sedulously cultivated.

AFTER-DINNER SPEAKING.

THE after-dinner speech is on a somewhat different footing from other speeches, and must be briefly dealt with apart from the others. Very broadly, this class of speaking may be divided into two classes ; there is the speech delivered in proposing a toast and the speech delivered in response ; it will be seen at once that this rough classification opens up somewhat different possibilities ; the former may be entertaining and light in tone, or eulogistic and deliberately considered ; among these which are formally eulogistic are the loyal toasts, such as the toasts of " The King " and " Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family " ; it is difficult to imagine that anything new or original can be devised in the matter of these

formal speeches, but much may be done by a happy knack of expression to give them freshness and spontaneity. When the banquet is given in aid of some charity more scope is allowed to the speaker, inasmuch as, without encroaching upon the subject matter of the toast of the evening, he may easily and appropriately make reference to the direct interest of their Majesties in all charitable matters, an interest, it may be remarked, which has always been particular instead of general; unless some member of the Royal Family is present, no response is made to these toasts.

The other complimentary toasts which may be in order on any given occasion, such as the Services, His Majesty's Judges or Ministers, or the Bishops and Clergy of all denominations, while still being formally eulogistic, offer greater opportunities to the speaker, and care should be taken to direct the speech into such a channel as will give it some personal application to the gentlemen who may severally be called upon to reply.

At annual banquets the toast of the evening is the institution, the regiment, or the firm concerned, and the speech delivered in proposing the toast should always be planned upon a scale commensurate with the importance of the subject; it may refer to the history of the institution, to the place it occupies in the social system, to its method of administration, or to several other aspects of the subject. At banquets given in honour of some particular individual, the toast of the evening is "Our Guest," and the speech will, of course, be essentially eulogistic, referring primarily to the events which have directly led to the payment of such a compliment as a banquet in his honour, and, secondarily, to the general career of the individual thus distinguished. In all these cases the speech must be carefully considered and deliberately delivered, for while there is no reason why it should not be happily phrased, and every reason why it should not

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be heavy, it is intended, primarily, to pay a tribute to the individual honoured, and not primarily to entertain or amuse the general company; but always be careful that praise does not degenerate into fulsome flattery, which will be both absurd and displeasing to the subject of it. Purely social toasts, such as those proposed at sporting dinners, at weddings, and similar occasions, lend themselves to different treatment, and should aim at being light and entertaining.

What has been said of speeches delivered in proposing these toasts applies, with the necessary modifications, to speeches delivered in response. The art of after-dinner speaking lies principally in adapting one's remarks to the audience, remembering always that there is less of formality at a banquet than on other occasions and that the best after-dinner speakers avoid being too serious.

It was suggested above, in the section dealing with the preparation of speeches, that inexperienced orators might make the mistake of assuming too much knowledge of the subject on the part of the audience, and consequently of cutting their speeches too short. This suggestion must not be taken as applying to after-dinner speeches. Dr. Lee, of John Hopkins University, in his work, "Principles of Public Speaking," deals with the after-dinner speech, and enumerates the few definite characteristics it should possess.

"First," he says, "it should be brief. Whatever points it makes must glitter like steel and sparkle like the diamond. Wit is also essential, and pathos and fancy should have a place in the scheme. In short, the after-dinner speech, requiring ten minutes for delivery, needs as careful preparation as the expository address that is designed to occupy an hour in utterance. Nothing should be left to the inspiration of the moment, for the chances are that the banquet room will not have a peg upon which to hang an idea. Not only should the theme be discreetly chosen,

but it should be thought out and elaborated until every sentence is clear, and the turn of every word provided for. Let nothing be neglected. Even the anecdotes to be related should be put into the choicest language, and when the speaker begins he should have about him the self-consciousness of ready utterance."

Probably this is as good a description of what such a speech should be as can be given in the space of a paragraph. With regard to the question of preparation, the general opinion will probably be in favour of Dr. Lee's assertion that little should be left to the inspiration of the moment, for the number of speakers who can rely upon finding the happy thought and the apt phrase at the critical moment is not large. But, however careful the preparation may be, there are occasions when it may prove to have been wasted. It not infrequently happens that two, or even three, speakers may be called upon to respond to a given toast, and many people must have had the distressing experience of finding their choicest ideas and even their happiest phrases, anticipated. In such a case they must trust to their native wit and readiness to save the situation.

Frank confession of the fact that the speaker has been anticipated, made in a humorous manner, has before now met with the best sort of reception, and a good memory for anecdotes is an invaluable possession. Good humour, tact, and a delicacy of feeling that makes one aware instinctively of the general susceptibilities of one's audience, are perhaps the other attributes that go to make a good after-dinner speaker.

In the following pages will be found speeches and toasts suitable for all sorts of occasions ; it must be remembered that they are put forward only as outline drawings, from which the beginner may see how to frame the speech which he may be called upon to make in similar situations ; it is not intended that they should be learned by heart

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and delivered textually ; but, properly studied, they may be profitably used as the basis for original orations ; at any rate, no one who has so studied them need be quite at a loss for something to say, however suddenly and unexpectedly he may be called upon to propose a toast or make a speech in reply. Finally, it is strongly recommended that the speaker should form his own collection of anecdotes, humorous or otherwise, avoiding, of course, the obvious "chestnut." Nothing contributes more to the success of an after-dinner speech than an apposite anecdote well told and well introduced, though of course great care should be exercised in selecting one suitable to the occasion.

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CHAPTER II.

THE CHAIRMAN AND HIS DUTIES.

A CHAIRMAN is invariably appointed at public meetings, and in all social gatherings of a more or less formal character where speaking is expected. His duties, in the first instance, at public meetings will be briefly considered.

THE CHOICE OF A CHAIRMAN.

There may be some difficulty in the appointment of a chairman, and much will depend upon the choice. The individual chosen must have intelligence and readiness, and be capable of enforcing order and making the chair respected by all. He should be a strong man, for a weak man in the chair is worse than nobody, because his authority and the authority of his office, can be set aside by a strong mind in the audience, and the object of the meeting may be defeated.

When the meeting has assembled, the first business is the appointment of a chairman. One gentleman present may propose a friend, so may several others, and then the only way to decide the question is by a show of hands or voting. Often the conveners of the meeting propose a chairman whom they have decided beforehand to be

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specially fitted for the post. Some of the candidates may not be seconded, and then their chance is disposed of. Of course these remarks only apply to cases wherein no chairman is present *ex officio*.

DUTIES OF A CHAIRMAN.

The first duty of the chairman when seated is to state clearly and distinctly the objects for which the meeting has been called, or, if there has been a previous meeting, to have the minutes of the proceedings of the previous meeting read. He then puts the formal motion, "That the minutes be approved," and when it is carried, signs them.

He will probably read the notice convening the meeting, and proceed to state briefly his views upon the subject in his opening speech. The company present will then be in possession of the whole matter, and be able to speak upon the various questions. If the meeting be a political one, he will introduce the chief speaker, remembering that in most cases, brevity is an admirable quality in a chairman. A motion will then be made and seconded, or, if it be not seconded, it is the duty of the chairman to inquire whether anyone will do so, and then the question can be put and discussed.

During the discussion the chairman must keep his attention directed to the point at issue, and if any speaker wander from the point or introduce personal or irrelevant matter, he must call him to order and to the subject before the meeting, which must not be lost sight of in a cloud of verbiage. The chairman will have to keep order, and, if there be much party feeling present, to repress any tendency to uproar or "unparliamentary" proceedings.

At the end of the discussion, the votes or a show of hands will be taken in the usual manner. The chairman, unless a division is demanded, will decide whether

the motion is lost or carried, and announce his decision to the meeting. He may give his casting vote if he please ; but unless the question be very important he will do well to abstain from voting, for one vote, unless the parties be equal, can do no good.

If an amendment has been moved to the original motion, it must be voted on first, for, if carried, it will replace the original motion and must itself be put to the vote a second time as a substantive motion : it will now be competent to move an amendment to it.

When the business has terminated, and all discussion has ceased, the chairman formally declares the meeting at an end, but, before he leaves the chair, it is usual for some one present to propose a vote of thanks to him for his conduct of the business, and this is seconded and carried as a rule without question.

The meeting may then be made " special," and various resolutions can be passed according to the terms upon which the Company or Society has been embodied. Another chairman may be elected, or the same gentleman can officiate if requested to do so.

AT SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

The chairman of a social gathering has a different office to perform. He takes his place before dinner and holds it to the end of the evening ; though it happens occasionally that as President of a Company he may preside at the dinner and move another gentleman into the chair when the toasts come to be proposed, after grace has been sung or said. A vice-chairman is also appointed, and keeps the other or more distant end of the board under his sway.

IT IS THE CHAIRMAN'S DUTY to propose the usual loyal toasts of the King and Royal Family, the Services, &c., and to name the responders ; and generally also the " Toast

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of the evening," whatever it may be. If the company be convivially inclined, he calls upon those present for a song, or for instrumental music, as may have been arranged; and, generally, it is his business to keep order amongst the company by tact, temper, and good management, to preserve the harmony of the evening, and to see that no one exceeds the bounds of good taste, and all this he should do in a cheerful spirit. He generally takes wine with the guests, his intention to do so being intimated by the toast-master—if one be present—or by a waiter in ordinary circumstances. There are many little courtesies to be observed by a chairman which will readily suggest themselves to any one who occupies the position.

The disposal of the guests with reference to the chairman or president is made according to precedence, the Royal Family having the lead, unless a certain personage be bidden specially to be honoured, when he occupies the place on the right hand of the chairman, and the eldest representative of Royalty present the place on the left hand. The guest of the evening is always seated at the right hand of the chair, the next in honour on the left, and so on according to rank and standing, honoured guests being seated also near the high table, with notable members of the society or corporation in whose hall the dinner is given.

The chairman at a public dinner remains standing until all the guests are seated, and when he assumes the chair, after grace is said, dinner is served. He will be waited upon last, or at any rate he must see that the guests have all they require; and to him all the guests must defer. When it comes to speaking after dinner, the chairman has the loyal toasts and the toast of the evening to propose. But in cases where there is no established form of speech he should say something appropriate, and if he can season his remarks with anecdotes so much the better. Of all things the most necessary for all chairmen is—Tact.

CHAPTER III.

ROYAL PERSONAGES AND PATRIOTIC TOASTS.

THE KING—QUEEN MARY, THE PRINCE OF WALES, AND
THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY—THE SERVICES, ETC.

I.—**THE KING.** [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.
Gentlemen, the King!—

II.—**THE KING.** [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Your Royal Highnesses, my Lords, and Gentlemen,*—
I rise to give you the toast of the King—a toast which, wherever Britons are gathered together composes all differences and unites all hearts. To every man this simple toast conveys some message. To the worker set within the limits of his narrow life a glimpse of something larger, wider, of which he is a part. To the man of influence and power, a vision of high purpose to which his talents may be directed. To the pioneer struggling with fortune in a distant land a message of hope, a spur to great deeds worthy of the land of which he has such tender thoughts. But to us all—whatever our caste or creed—a thrill of

*This address, of course, varies with the company addressed.

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pride, a sense of that freemasonry of race which has made the British Empire what it is. Enthroned in our hearts—even though we may not know him—our King represents to us all the liberties we have fought for, the ideals we have struggled for, the dreams we are yearning for. In honour to a sentiment of which as Englishmen we have no need to be ashamed, I give you, Gentlemen, the toast of "The King," God Bless Him.

S. III.—**THE KING.** [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

ND The first toast which it is my duty and privilege to put before you this evening is one which, I am sure, all present will cordially unite with me in drinking—I mean the health of His Majesty the King. Time would fail me were I to attempt to enumerate the many claims His Majesty has upon our hearts as individuals and upon our loyal attachment as subjects. No matter in what part of the Empire this toast is proposed, it ever meets with a sincere and warm response, and nowhere, I am sure, will its reception be more hearty and more sincere than here. Gentlemen, I beg to give you the health of His Majesty the King; long may he reign over us!

h, IV.—**THE KING.** [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A
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f CHARITY DINNER.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Before we proceed to the business of the evening I must request you to drink to the health of His Majesty the King [who has been graciously pleased to permit us to inscribe his name at the head of our list of Patrons. We are highly sensible of the honour thus conferred upon us,

and I am sure you will all concur with me in respectfully thanking His Majesty for his condescension]. When, in the future, historians are engaged in studying the working of the Monarchical system in the United Kingdom since the accession of the late Queen Victoria, the characteristics that will most forcibly arrest their attention will surely be the thoroughness with which it has associated itself with all charitable and philanthropic enterprises. This interest has been shared by all members of the Royal House, and was remarkably exemplified in the foundation of King Edward's Hospital Fund, established to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It is unnecessary to dwell at length on what is well known; but I may be pardoned for saying that King George has followed in the footsteps of his illustrious father. And in him our hospitals and charitable bodies have ever found an invaluable friend. In all matters appertaining to the comfort and well-being of his poorer subjects, their proper housing in health and their proper treatment in sickness, King George sets an example to the world, and in their sufferings in time of distress and calamity none is readier with sympathy and material aid than His Majesty. Gentlemen, I request you to drink the health of His Majesty the King.

V.—**THE KING.** [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A PUBLIC DINNER.]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The first toast which I have to propose to you this evening is the health of His Majesty the King. The diffidence that one habitually feels in proposing any toast at all is diminished when one is called upon to refer to His Majesty, because he presents so familiar and welcome a topic, with so many varied aspects from which to approach it. He has, indeed, identified himself with the life of the

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nation with singular completeness. An enthusiastic sailor, a keen soldier, a staunch upholder of all outdoor sports and pastimes, he appeals to the instincts of a people that has always been to the front in the manly exercises which contribute so largely to success in the international struggle for supremacy. Nor can we view his devotion to public affairs without finding in that single-minded zeal which His Majesty has constantly exhibited, an incentive and encouragement to follow, if we may not emulate, his noble example. The fierce light that beats upon the throne can only serve to illuminate the many excellent qualities that endear the King to his subjects in all quarters of the globe. By his tastes and personal qualifications, as well as by his birth, he is a fit occupant for the exalted position of sovereign head of the Empire. This much, and much more may be said without any suggestion of adulation or sycophancy, and I call upon you with confidence to drink loyally and enthusiastically the health of His Majesty the King.

VI.—**THE KING.** [SPEECH AT A BANQUET.]

Your Royal Highnesses, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—
My first duty is to call upon you to drink to the health of His Majesty the King. It is perhaps the highest honour that could fall to the lot of man to be the Sovereign of an Empire on which the sun never sets. And the responsibility resting upon the occupant of such a throne cannot but remind us of the words which Shakespeare has put into the mouth of one of His Majesty's predecessors—"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." But one may respectfully say that the King has risen to the height of his unique opportunities, and has gained the affection of his people and the regard of the monarchs, rulers, and people of the world. His constant concern for the common good has won

cordial approbation, and he may be proud to know that he is deemed a worthy successor of those whose reigns have made the Victorian era and the dawn of the twentieth century memorable epochs in the history of the British Empire. Moreover, the King's claim to our allegiance is not limited to the title by which he rules, but is based on sympathy as well as on prescriptive rights. Of that sympathy every individual in this gathering, representative as it is of many sections of the community, is fully conscious, and nowhere could this toast be more certain of a loyal and sincere reception. I ask you to drink the health of His Majesty the King.

VII.—**QUEEN MARY, THE PRINCE OF WALES, AND
THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.**

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The next toast which I have to ask you to drink is that of Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family. My task in doing so is a most grateful but, at the same time, a most delicate one; for while I am impelled to endeavour to give expression to those feelings of affectionate respect which it is the native privilege of their Royal Highnesses to inspire in our hearts, delicacy precludes me [in the hearing of the high personages who honour us with their presence to-night], from dwelling with embarrassing emphasis on the qualities to which those feelings are due. But the unvarying warmth with which this toast is received on all occasions, and by all classes, must remind our Royal Family how steadfast and unwavering is devotion to them by which we are animated. While never allowing their private inclinations to interfere with the due discharges of the public duties imposed upon them

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by their station, they have preserved with singular completeness the unity of their family life, a life, be it remembered, upon which our national system is erected. It is largely owing to the example they set to the people in their private relations that they have obtained so firm a hold upon popular sentiment. The picture of the domestic felicity of our Royal Family appeals to the nation's imagination as being typically national, while their dignity and gracious bearing in performing the manifold duties imposed on them by their high position is felt to be worthy of the splendid historical traditions of our monarchy. I need not dilate upon the topic, inviting and interesting as it is. I give you, my lords and gentlemen, the health of Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

VIII.—**QUEEN MARY, THE PRINCE OF WALES, AND
THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.**

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A BANQUET.]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The next toast I have to propose is that of Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family. It is impossible to condense into the limits of a sentence even a single one of the many claims Her Majesty has upon our affectionate allegiance, but it is safe to say that nothing has more endeared her to her people than her quick and womanly sympathy with all suffering and her keen interest in all that tends to lighten and alleviate it. So it is that Queen Mary is the object of the personal affection of the poorest and meanest subjects in these realms, as they in turn are the object of her personal solicitude and regard. In her encouragement of home industries, her constant solicitude for the welfare of the workers, Her Majesty

has set a splendid example to her fellow-women and to all her subjects. For her sake alone the toast of her health and that of her children is always certain to be received with acclamation, in which something of personal emotion finds utterance, and I need not advance any other of the many other claims it has to your applause. I call upon you to fill your glasses and drink to the health of Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

**IX.—QUEEN MARY, THE PRINCE OF WALES, AND
THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.**

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A PUBLIC DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

It now devolves upon me to ask you to drink the health of Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family. It has often occurred to me as a matter of great regret that so few of the world's crowned rulers come amongst us, save on the occasion of high State ceremonials. Were it otherwise, could they but see us in what I may call our everyday garb, they could not fail to have many opportunities of beholding the extraordinary affection which the Queen has secured in the hearts of her humblest as well as her greatest subjects. Her Majesty has been known to us from childhood; we have followed with increasing interest every stage of her career, and we cannot but feel that she is the worthy Consort of her illustrious husband, our most gracious King. If this appreciation be just—and, Gentlemen, it is not more than just—what praise can be more signal? Her Majesty has been called to fill one of the most splendid positions on earth, and has discharged the functions of her office with admirable efficiency and zeal. For it may be truly said of

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her that she never wearies of well-doing. Keenly alive to the responsibilities devolving upon her, Queen Mary, we know, is the first to embrace the occasions that arise for rendering useful and valued service to the commonweal. Her Majesty's devotion to the people has been unceasingly manifested, and those plunged in grief and sorrow have frequently experienced the depth and sincerity of her sympathy. It has been fortunate that the Sovereigns of these realms have ever found willing helpers in their own families, that the Palace has always been a home also, and we hope and believe that, in the future as in the past, every member of the Royal Family will cordially co-operate to promote the best interests of the throne and country, regarding the twain as one. It is, therefore, with particular pleasure that I exercise my privilege as chairman, and ask you to drink the health of Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

**X.—QUEEN MARY, THE PRINCE OF WALES, AND
THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.**

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN ON ANY PUBLIC
OCCASION.]

Gentlemen,—

I have now to ask you to honour the toast of Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family, and I have no fear as to the manner in which you will comply with my request. We in this country are proud to think of Her Majesty as one of the constant friends of the people. We do not regard her from afar—as seems to be the case in other lands—as being of some other world than ours, but we love her in our hearts as a woman whose chief happiness lies in sparing no pains to make others happy. We are fortunate in a Royal Family which believes in and practises the simple home life that

has ever distinguished our people. Whether our Princes follow the Navy or the Army, or whether they find their truest gratification in the pursuit of Science, or Art, or Literature, or Music, they have always been less concerned with the pomp and magnificence of the Court than with the rendering of useful work to the nation at large, or to this or that section of the community. Few persons, indeed, lead such full lives as do the members of the Royal Family. Wherever a social function has to be performed, wherever sympathy with suffering has to be stimulated and practical assistance secured, wherever public works have to be inaugurated, the call to duty has never failed to meet a ready response from our Royal Family. The tax upon their kindness and generosity brings its own reward in the increased attachment of the people to the Crown, for surely the truest sovereignty is that which has its foundations firm and deep in the hearts of a nation. I ask you to recognise the worth and work of the Royal Family by raising your glasses in their honour. Gentlemen, I give you the healths of Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

XI.—THE IMPERIAL FORCES. [PROPOSED BY THE
CHAIRMAN AT A BANQUET.]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

Immediately after the toasts in which we express our allegiance to the Sovereign and the Royal Family, we are accustomed to drink to those services which exist for the protection of the King and the maintenance and safeguarding of our Empire,—the Army, the Navy, and the Reserve Forces. In calling on you to honour the toast of The Imperial Forces, I am using a title pregnant with meaning for the future. For no longer are our forces English, no longer British even: on land or sea our enemies,

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if any there be, will have to meet not only the people of these islands but also the far-flung Empire which once before in time of need sent unsparingly of its bravest to fight side by side with the forces of the Motherland. Then we realised how strong and enduring were the seemingly frail bonds of kinship that bound together, then as now, the Empire Nations; then we saw how each responded to the call of duty, willing to share the burdens as well as the privileges of Empire; then, too, the world realised that we are a brotherhood, banded together in prosperity and adversity, and learnt what our Imperial Forces mean. There could be no object lesson more potent for peace. Of the traditions and glories of the British Forces I need hardly speak. To the furthest shores our Army has borne the Empire Flag, wherever the sea stretches our Navy has sailed, policing the oceans, ready now as in the days of Drake and Nelson. Far be it from me to particularise the individual claims of the two Services to your recognition; let me say only this: Each has been tested and tempered with the furnace of war; how each bore the test the pages of our history tell. For the Army I call upon — to respond; for the Navy I am permitted to name —; for the Reserve Forces, —. I give you the toast of the Imperial Forces, coupled with the names of the distinguished officers whom I have mentioned.

[REPLIES TO THE FOREGOING.

XII.—REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE ARMY.

Mr. Chairman,* my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

When I see so many distinguished officers around me, I feel much flattered at having been called upon to return thanks for the Service to which I have the honour to belong. It is always a pleasant thing on these occasions to find that the Army is remembered, and this good feeling on

* Or his name, if he be titled.

the part of the public towards the Service is at once gratifying and encouraging ; we should, I hope, do our duty without it, but its existence makes the task easier. It is an easy matter for the arm-chair critic to comment disparagingly upon the smallness of our army, and to institute comparisons between it and the armies of foreign powers where conscription obtains, and army expenditure is proportionately lower than it is with us. I do not intend to touch upon so contentious a subject as conscription, except to point out the obvious fact that it makes for a cheap army, whereas the voluntary system entails great expenditure. Still we can comfort ourselves with the reflection that the cheapest things are not always the best, and the British Army, if somewhat expensive, is, I venture to say, a first-class fighting machine. Undeniably our army is small, and it is inevitable that our soldiers should be called upon to perform manifold and arduous duties in widely differing climates, and frequently under very trying conditions. It is a far cry from Chitral to Coomassie, as it is from Pretoria to Peking, but the names serve to remind us, if reminder be necessary, that the army has never failed us yet, and I am glad to believe that the pluck and cheerful endurance of the British soldier are as great as ever. At any rate, you may rely upon our always trying to do our duty. Gentlemen, I am much obliged to you for the manner in which you have received my name in connection with this toast, and on behalf of the British Army, I thank you for the compliment you have paid us.

XIII.—REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE NAVY.

Mr. Chairman,* my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

I have to return thanks to you for the very cordial manner in which the toast of the Navy has been received,

*Or his name, if he be titled.

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and for the kind way in which my name has been associated with it. Iron and steel may have been substituted for the traditional heart of oak of our ships, and science may be an increasingly important part of the training of our officers, but if it ever comes to fighting, it is the men who will matter most, and I am convinced that in *personnel* our Navy still sets an example to the world, and that in the sailors who are now aboard of our fleet and mercantile marine there are worthy descendants and successors of the men who helped Nelson to make history. The complexity of modern fighting machines makes a constant demand for greater technical skill and training in our crews; but, though the sailor is perhaps becoming a skilled mechanic, he is not losing in the process, I make bold to say, his traditional pluck, dash and fighting power. It does not come within my province to inquire where the theatre of the next great international conflict will be, but, whether it be far from our shores or nearer home in European waters, it is certain that if Great Britain is involved in it, her existence will depend upon her retaining her command of the sea. In such an event I am confident that she need have no fear but that her first line of defence will prove as stout as ever it was. I am proud of the Service to which I belong, and thank you in its name for the welcome you have given to this toast.

XIV.—REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESERVE FORCES.

Mr. Chairman,* my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

I rise with some diffidence to return my sincere thanks for the honour you have done the Reserve Forces by receiving this toast with such enthusiasm. If the old saying that one volunteer is worth three pressed men may be quoted in extenuation of the smallness of the British Army, it may surely be quoted also in favour of our absolutely

* Or his name, if he be titled.

volunteer forces or Territorials. Our Reserve Forces do not exist on paper or in imagination alone, for we cannot but remember the prolonged baptism of fire through which they passed with credit to themselves, and to the confusion of their detractors. The discipline, marksmanship, and powers of endurance they acquired at home stood them in good stead on active service, and the medals that adorn the breasts of so many of our volunteers are the outward sign that the confidence placed in their capacity by experts is not misplaced. Happily, it is not often that there is occasion to call up the Reserves, but the assurance that they can always be relied on to do their duty in any clime and in any circumstances is a substantial guarantee of peace. Whenever they are needed they will be ready, and your honour is safe in their hands.

XV.—THE ARMY. [BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A PUBLIC DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

It again falls to my lot to address you, and I am sure the toast which I am about to bring to your notice will meet with a hearty response from all in this room. This toast, gentlemen, is the Army—the British Army—which has carried our victorious colours all over the world. If we possess the smallest army of any of the Great Powers, we possess a very efficient one. Notwithstanding all the criticism that has been expended upon our young soldiers, we must remember that these young men have proved on more than one occasion that they can endure without complaint, and can fight when called upon. But it is the old soldiers to whom we look chiefly, and we are glad to retain them in the ranks. The public has it in their power to make the profession of a soldier very popular, and

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when the Army finds the civilian appreciative, a reciprocal good feeling is engendered, and the Army will go forth to fight with the enemies of our country with renewed zeal, and, as in past times, with honour, and with eventual if not immediate and instant success. Gentlemen, I am sure you will join heartily in the toast of our gallant British Army, at home and abroad, coupling it with the name of —.

XVI.—**THE ARMY.** [REPLY TO THE ABOVE.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

I assure you that until I heard my name pronounced just now by our worthy chairman when proposing the health of the profession to which I had [or have] the honour to belong, I was quite unaware that I should be called upon to address you. But, fortunately, the able manner in which the toast of the Army had been proposed, and the cordiality with which it has been received, take a great weight from my mind. You, as loyal citizens, are proud of the British Army, and speaking as a soldier, I can assure you that we highly appreciate your good feeling and comradeship. In this town we have had frequently to acknowledge the kindness of the inhabitants, displayed by all classes, towards the regiment to which I have the honour to belong [or to command]. We appreciate that feeling, and we shall all regret the inevitable severance of the friendly ties when the occasion, unfortunately for us, comes, as come it must. And we in the Army, gentlemen, are very proud of the Army and its high traditions. We strive not to fall short of them in peace, and when war comes, we trust that we shall do our duty as unselfishly, as unsparingly and as bravely as those who have gone before us. I thank you, gentlemen, on behalf of my comrades and myself for the kind way in which you have received the toast of the Army this evening.

XVII.—**THE NAVY.** [PROPOSED AT A SEMI-OFFICIAL DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

It is my very agreeable duty to request you to drink the toast of the Navy, and to the audience I see before me I need not enter into any details concerning the splendid services rendered to the nation by the British Navy. From the days of Elizabeth, when Drake and his companions went out to harass and finally to conquer the "Invincible Armada," we can point to a roll of victory at sea extending far beyond that of any other nation. Britain was and is Mistress of the Seas, and though happily we have not been engaged of late years in any serious naval conflicts, who can doubt that, when called upon, our ironclads will repeat the successes of the old wooden walls of which we are so justly proud? Every day the duties of our sailors become more complex, more dangerous; their profession takes them beneath the water in submarines and far above it in aeroplanes; they are fast becoming skilled engineers and mechanics, craftsmen rather than mere seamen, yet we are sure, the dogged pluck and the scornful disregard of odds that marked our old sea-dogs will not be found wanting in the sailors of to-day. Gentlemen, the Navy, if you please, coupled with the name of —.

XVIII.—**THE NAVY.** [RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I was quite unprepared for the honour done me in connecting my name with the toast of the Navy, and I regret, for your sakes, as my hearers, that either my friend — or — was not called upon to respond, both these

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distinguished officers being more fitted than I to undertake such an important duty, pleasant though it be. Gentlemen, our worthy chairman has alluded to the services rendered by the British Navy in old days. Those were glorious days for our country. But, if war should unhappily break out, there are still glorious days in store for her. Whatever the difficulties be, encounters, however great the odds, I will answer for it, the British sailor, whose light-heartedness is proverbial, will come to the front as cheerfully and as manfully as ever. I have little to add. The Navy is at present quite efficient and well manned, and ready, and, I venture to think, should the occasion arise, the nation will not have cause to regret the confidence it has placed and expressed in its first line of defence. We have great traditions to guide us; great examples to teach us that the British Navy must not strike—unless it is to strike hard, strike often and strike home. Gentlemen, most cordially do I thank you on behalf of my colleagues and myself for the warmth with which you have received the toast of the Navy.

XIX.—THE TERRITORIALS. [BY A VICE-CHAIRMAN AT A SOCIAL MEETING.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Although this is not an official occasion I rise to propose a toast to which I am sure you will extend a cordial reception—the Territorials. To recall the days when the Volunteer was the recognised butt of all the humorous papers is like taking a peep into pre-historic times, but it is instructive to do so, as it affords a fresh illustration of the truth that chaff and ridicule can never kill any movement in which there are the germs of vigorous life. I need not dwell upon the importance of the movement as affording healthy exercise and opportunity of physical development to scores of young fellows just entering upon manhood,

nor upon its value in fostering the patriotic spirit in a country whose whole military system is voluntary. It is to the purely military value of the Territorial force that I would direct your thoughts this evening, and ask you to honour it for the good work it has accomplished. The question whether the training and the marksmanship acquired by our Volunteers on their ranges, and demonstrated annually at Bisley and other places, would be of practical utility on active service, has been answered finally and conclusively in the affirmative. Invasion of this country—to repel which was the original idea that led to the formation of the old Volunteers, and their successors, the Territorials—has never been a really likely contingency, but it is more improbable than ever now that the Volunteers have shown their worth in war; they made it patent to the world that they are able to give the best possible account of themselves, and their old motto, “Defence not defiance,” has a new significance for any possible foes. We know that defence would be sufficient. We should be the more grateful to them when we remember that the time which they expend in making themselves efficient by drill and in camp is time which others, less patriotic, devote to amusements and recreation, and that it is only by considerable self-sacrifice that they have attained their present degree of efficiency. Gentlemen, I give you the toast of the Territorials.

XX.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE TERRITORIALS.

Mr. Chairman (or President) and Gentlemen,—

In the presence of so many senior officers, and many of the Regular Army, I may perhaps be excused for feeling somewhat diffident in returning thanks for the Territorials. But there is one point upon which I have no hesitation in speaking, and that is the firm and universal feeling of

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patriotism existing among the Territorials. They are second to none in their wish to defend their country, and to fight their country's battles if necessary, and it is their constant endeavour to fit themselves for these duties. When judging the Territorials you must remember that nine-tenths of them are engaged in mercantile or professional pursuits, and that they have arrived at the degree of proficiency which they have attained by strict self-denial and by intelligent attention. There are hundreds of first-class marksmen among them, and their general conduct in camp has been found very satisfactory. True it is that, from the nature of things, they cannot expect to attain quite the same degree of efficiency as the Regular Army, but nevertheless they have performed their duties in a manner deemed worthy of praise by the highest officers of the Service, and if they fail at all, it is certainly not through lack of keenness. Public opinion, we know, influences us all, and as a Territorial and as one who has seen military service in former years, I can speak with confidence of our Citizen Army, and I am convinced it will merit and appreciate the attention and encouragement given to it. Gentlemen, in conclusion, I thank you all heartily for the very kind manner in which the toast of the Territorials has been proposed and received, and I trust they will continue to deserve your good opinion in the future.

XXI.—TOAST OF A REGIMENT. [PROPOSED AT A COUNTY DINNER BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

It is my duty, and, may I add, my pleasure, to propose to you a toast which is closely connected with the county in which we reside. You will doubtless have anticipated me in my announcement of the County Corps, and I hope

you will all fill your glasses and presently unite with me in drinking the health of Colonel — and the Officers and Men of the Royal —. The Regiment is, as you are aware, a very old-established one, and although the regulations of the Service do not permit of us seeing much of it, we would gladly see the Corps more frequently quartered here, for it is composed of as fine a body of men as any regiment in the Service; and we hope it will always continue in as good a state of discipline as it is at present. Before I sit down I must say a few words concerning the behaviour of the men now embodied. I am glad (in my official capacity as magistrate) to bear witness to the excellent manner in which the rank and file have conducted themselves while amongst us. In such a large body of men there must be some less well-conducted than others; but owing to the County feeling, and the excellent discipline maintained by the Colonel and Officers, we always welcome our County Regiment when it visits us, and always regret its departure when the exigencies of the Service call it elsewhere. Gentlemen, I give you the toast of the Royal —, coupled with the name of [Lieut.-] Colonel —.

XXII.—REPLY ON BEHALF OF A REGIMENT.

[BY THE COLONEL (OR LIEUT.-COLONEL) OF THE CORPS.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

In response to the call made upon me by my friend Mr. —, who has so kindly proposed the toast of the —, I rise to thank him and you for the flattering manner in which it has been brought before us and received. Gentlemen, I feel deeply grateful for the high opinion which has been expressed, concerning the efficiency of the Corps which I have the honour to command. I can truly say

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that the Regiment is ready and willing to go anywhere and do anything it may be called upon to do. Were we called upon, I am sure we would carry the name of the County unstained, in battle if need be. My poor services have been referred to, but I need hardly tell you that without energetic assistance and *esprit de corps* no regiment can be kept together by any commanding officer. It is in very great measure to the excellent company officers and non-commissioned officers under my command, and, I will add, to the good conduct and zeal of the men, that the real efficiency of the Regiment is due. I am very glad to hear such independent testimony to the character of the Corps, and I trust it will always deserve the title and prove worthy of the County with which it is associated. Gentlemen, on behalf of the Royal —, I thank you.

XXIII.—THE NAVY AND THE NAVAL RESERVE.

[PROPOSED AT A PUBLIC DINNER BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

[Sir W. — and] Gentlemen,—

The next toast on my list is one which [at a great Naval Station like this] is sure to command your attention, not because of the manner of its proposition, but because of the importance of the toast itself. The toast is the Royal Navy and the Naval Reserve. Gentlemen, in every sea, in every country in the world, you will find British ships and British sailors. In commerce, in exploring expeditions, in pleasant days and, it may be, sometimes in warlike attitude, you will always find our sailors doing their duty. Occasionally we have to lament accidents and the loss, even in peace, of valuable lives, or the crippling of our seamen through the increased delicacy and complexity of our vessels. It is a new phase of the Service in time

of peace that accidents such as explosions should endanger our comrades' lives. But some of these accidents are, doubtless, due to the altered conditions of things, and to the new dangers, both high above and far below the water which our sailors are daily called on to meet. Naval warfare is more scientific than of old. Bull-dog courage may be overcome by science, and electricity usurp the place of many brave hands; but we know that in the Navy and in the Reserve of officers and men, now employed in peaceful commerce, the same tenacity is to be found, and the Heart of Oak is only covered with armour. The Navy and its Reserve, we know, will do their duty side by side when called upon. So, gentlemen, will you fill your glasses and drink to the Royal Navy and the Naval Reserve?

[REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.]

XXIV.—THE NAVY AND THE NAVAL RESERVE.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Although an unworthy member of the noble profession which has been so generously toasted by you, I yield to none in my attachment to the Navy, and in the estimation in which I hold it, and the splendid Reserve which so manfully assists the parent profession. It is not for me on this occasion to go into the question of the organisation and efficiency of the Navy. As a member of the Service such criticism would be quite irregular, but I can speak for the officers and men who compose the crews of the ships. Fortunately, our squadrons have been of late years confined to police duties, and we have had no engagement or loss of life. But it is not impossible that a day will come when all our energy and maritime strength will be needed, when we shall have to fight again our old

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battle for the mastery of the seas. Then I trust and believe that we shall find our sailors as ready for action as ever they were, and I believe that the Administration will see that our ships are in as good condition and as well equipped as the honour of our country demands. Ships and guns have all undergone changes. But, whatever the latest development in guns and construction may be, we shall always want cool heads and strong arms to man the guns, and those we possess in the Navy and the Naval Reserve. Come what may, you will, I think, find the sailors ready for action, and prepared to defend their homes, their wives and sweethearts, wherever they may be called upon. Gentlemen, in the name of the Service and the Naval Reserve, I tender you our thanks for your reception of the toast.

XXV.—THE NAVAL VOLUNTEERS. [PROPOSED AT A COUNTY GATHERING.]

Gentlemen,—

As Chairman of this meeting it has fallen to my lot to propose several toasts to you this evening, but the toast I have now to ask you to honour requires little explanation. It is that of the Naval Volunteers. I do not suppose that many people can now be found who decry the Volunteers; it is no light responsibility that they have undertaken, but they have satisfied their country of their ability to discharge it efficiently. The Naval Volunteers in particular have to undergo a considerable amount of hardship in their training, and are obliged to apply themselves with untiring devotion to their voluntary duties, which increase and become more complex year by year, and afford them little respite if they would qualify themselves

for the service they may be called upon to perform. In asking you to drink this toast in their honour I am only asking you to make a very inadequate recognition of the debt we owe to them. I couple with the toast the name of ——. Gentlemen, the Naval Volunteers.

XXVI.—**THE NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.** [REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I believe brevity is generally regarded as the soul of wit, and I may promise that I am about to make, in that sense, a witty speech, for it shall be short. The Naval Volunteers, with whom I have the pleasure to be connected, will be very pleased to-morrow when they read of the kind way in which [our Chairman] has proposed the last toast. I can answer for them fearlessly from my experience of them, and I may add, of some other Volunteers, that they are fully sensible of the prominent position they occupy, and are anxious to perform their duties in a manner second to none in smartness, while their devotion to the country cannot be questioned. Some people affect to sneer at Volunteers, but what is the whole Army and the whole Navy but an enrolment of Volunteers? There is no press-gang, no conscription; every soldier and sailor enlists voluntarily. The only difference is that the one is paid for his services as in a profession—and not too well-paid; while the other gives his time to learn drill and habits of discipline when his daily work is done. We look up to the sister Services to set us an example we will endeavour to follow; and when duty and the country call us, I trust—indeed, I have no doubt—that we shall be found worthy to stand shoulder to shoulder with our soldiers and sailors as Englishmen should do.

XXVII.—**THE TERRITORIALS.** [PROPOSED AT AN
OFFICIAL DINNER BY THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE-
CHAIRMAN.]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

It is my pleasing duty now to propose to you a patriotic toast, which will be warmly received by all present, and find an echo outside of these walls—the toast of the Territorials, the successors of the old Volunteers and Militia. It has been my privilege to command many battalions of the Volunteers in past years, and, speaking as a soldier, I am glad to admit that many of them are quite able to take their place alongside of the Regulars. Their history is a long and honourable one; from small beginnings they have worked their way through ridicule and criticism and many obstacles to a high position in the forces of the Empire. The days when “volunteering” was a common expression for playing at soldiers are long past, and many Territorial Regiments nowadays can march and shoot almost as well as crack regiments of the line. At Shoeburyness the Volunteer Batteries have always proved themselves artillerists of high calibre, and the Commandant of the School of Gunnery there can testify to the uniform good behaviour and soldier-like bearing of the Territorials. All this work, we must remember, is done from patriotic motives, at a considerable sacrifice of holiday time, and at great expense. No one who has watched the evolution of the force can entertain a doubt that in the Territorials we have a most valuable reserve; those of them who have seen active service may be taken as fairly representative of the whole force, and how well they acquitted themselves is a matter of history; there are many thousands more all as competent, efficient, and zealous, ready if the Empire should have need of them. I do not propose to enlarge upon the subject; the officers should learn to handle their men and to make the best use of them,

remembering that they are dealing with intelligent material ; the rank and file must be obedient and strict in discipline ; thus a mutual confidence will be engendered, to the vast benefit of the force ; troops that are led by capable officers, whom they trust and obey, can do anything. With the welfare of the Force at heart, fully recognising its efficiency and its great possibilities, I ask you to drink to the Territorials, the Volunteer Force of Great Britain, coupled with the name of a very distinguished officer, — .

XXVIII.—**THE TERRITORIALS.** [REPLY TO FOREGOING
BY SENIOR VOLUNTEER OFFICER.]

Sir W.— B— (Chairman), my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

The kind, considerate, and very handsome way in which Col.— has just proposed the health of the Territorial Force, and the hearty manner in which all present have responded to his invitation to the toast, have touched me deeply. I have been associated with the Volunteer movement from its infancy, and I am glad to hear such kindly sentiments respecting the organisation from so qualified a judge and such an experienced commander as Col.— The words he has used will be eagerly read and carefully treasured by thousands of our Citizen Army. The kind recognition of their merit, and the no less kindly advice bestowed, will be fully appreciated. Gentlemen, the Territorials are a fine body of men, numbering many tens of thousands. We can put well over 200,000 men in the field for service if necessary, and such a number of drilled troops, with arms which they are accustomed to use, would tell for much in a campaign. We are glad that the Territorials are being appreciated. Such appreciation will increase

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their patriotism and devotion, and stimulate them to further exertion. Of course we are criticised also; but I think many of our critics would change or at least modify their opinions if they would only come into camp with us for a fortnight and see for themselves exactly what we can do. I thank you heartily in the name of the Territorials for the compliment that has been paid them this evening.

[The following speeches delivered by the late Sir Frederick (afterwards Lord) Leighton, P.R.A., and by the late Duke of Cambridge, at that time Commander-in-Chief of the Army; at the Annual Banquet of the Royal Academy, are retained as examples of formal speeches adapted to the requirements of a special audience. In the particular application of the subject to the audience lies half the art of after-dinner speaking.]

XXIX.—THE SERVICES. [SPEECH, IN PROPOSING THE SERVICES, DELIVERED BY SIR F. LEIGHTON AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.]

Your Royal Highness, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

Next in order to the toasts in which we express our loving loyalty to the Queen and our loyal affection to Her Majesty's family, is that in which we drink to those Services which exist for the safeguarding of the Queen's dominions—"The Army, the Navy, and the Reserve Forces." A little realm controlling a vast Empire, along the wide skirts of which war, ever smouldering, leaps fitfully and too often into flame, a people which tolerates none but voluntary service, and places, not without effort, into the battle front a force which only the highest quality can make adequate to its needs, must ever look with a deep and unflinching

interest on the small but famous army on which a burden of such responsibility is thrown. And Englishmen, turning back to the not unchequered record of the year which divides this gathering from our last, will recall with proud satisfaction a feat of arms not readily to be surpassed, I believe, in our military annals, whether for the prudent audacity of its conception or the brilliant thoroughness of its achievement—I mean the now famous march from Cabul to Candahar ; but they will also recall with gratification incidents of devoted bravery shining out in and redeeming a less bright page in that record—gallant resistance unto the death, where death only could be reaped, and more than one heroic struggle round a threatened flag, as if to prove to us once more what incentive to high deeds lives ever in the folds of that hallowed symbol of a nation's honour. Unlike the Army, the Navy records an uneventful year ; but the country preserves an unshaken faith that in this period of its rest our fleet is gathering up accumulated strength, and that the day of action, when it comes, will find it, as ever, equal to its task and worthy of its fame. With these Services our toast couples as usual the Reserve Forces, the Militia, and the Volunteers, in the ranks of which force Art is, I venture to hope, not discreditably represented. For the land forces I have once again the honour to turn to his Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, and for the Navy I am permitted to call on the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Northbrook. I give you "The Army, the Navy, and the Reserve Forces."

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**XXX.—SPEECH BY THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE
IN REPLY.**

Sir Frederick Leighton, your Royal Highness, my
Lords, and Gentlemen,—

I have so often been called upon to respond to this toast that I feel rather embarrassed by the position I annually occupy, fearing I should say very much what I said before. It is always a great satisfaction to those connected with the Army to feel that they are remembered on these occasions by so distinguished an assembly, composed of men of various shades of opinion and occupying a high position in the different walks of life which they adorn. It shows the sentiment which for so many years has pervaded the general public of this country, and which I trust will ever continue, for it has much to do with the good feeling and efficiency of the Service with which I have the honour to be connected. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has alluded to the gaps occasioned by the removal of some whom we were wont to meet at this anniversary. No one more deeply deplores than I do the death of that great statesman who has recently been taken from among us, but it is very satisfactory to find that such an admirable portrait of him has been secured by Mr. Millais, which will, I have no doubt, be a source of great and permanent interest. With respect to the Army, I may be allowed to say that in a country such as this—which is in no respect a military nation, but following commerce and trade, and seeking prosperity and the various advantages of life which our free constitution gives us—we have no conscription. We have, therefore, a very small army, and it has great and onerous duties to perform in various parts of the world. The expenditure upon such an army is infinitely greater than is necessary for an army of conscription. In time of peace, therefore, the expenditure is kept at the lowest figure, and when any difficulty or emergency arises it

becomes necessary to bring up the efficiency of the Service to the highest point. Therein lies a great difficulty of the Service, and I, therefore, think it wrong when severe criticism is indulged not quite in accord with the general views and principles which pervade this great nation. The Volunteer forces exhibit in a remarkable manner the spirit of the country. These forces are entirely civil, and are brought together by the determination of Englishmen to meet any emergency that may arise. Of these the Artists' Corps is one of the smartest and most efficient. I am glad of the opportunity of paying this tribute to them. In conclusion, I will only beg again to thank you for the kind reception you have given to the toast.

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CHAPTER IV.

THE EMPIRE DOMINIONS.

XXXI.—THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Gentlemen,—

It is with no little emotion that I ask you to raise your glasses to the toast of "The Commonwealth of Australia." Those who have spent any time in any of the States that compose one of the youngest federations in the world, will share my feelings when I say that the sentiment of patriotism has already struck deep roots in the heart of every man and woman who was born in the island-continent. We are proud of the advance that Australia has accomplished since those not too remote days when every discovery of gold drew adventurous spirits from all parts of the globe. The men who made Australia were men who knew something of the hardships of life, but they were animated with the stern resolve to subdue the wilderness. They feared no danger and shirked no labour. If they had to suffer, they bore their lot without complaint. Their trials and difficulties were, so to speak, "all in the day's work." One might say of them, in the words of Julius Cæsar, without any degree of vaunting, "They came, they saw, they conquered." And those of us who have entered into their heritage ask for no better conditions than they had—a fair field and no favour. They won because they

were workers, and the wide realm they established can only be maintained and developed by the means they used and the courageous spirit they showed. If the lot of their children and their children's children be easier, this is due to the toil—successful but unremitting—of the pioneer settlers; and in these present times of peace, prosperity and plenty it is well to remember and recognise the Men Who Went Before. They, we may be sure, rejoice in what has been achieved by enterprise, daring, endurance and sagacity similar to their own. To these attributes we owe the great towns with their palatial buildings, the vast runs with their millions of sheep, the farms and factories that feed the people of other lands, the mining of the gold and silver that minister to the commerce and luxury of the world. Like all new countries, Australia welcomes workers, for these are her bones and sinews, her marrow and life-blood. I have struck a grave note, gentlemen, for such a toast does not lend itself to the jokes and banter of post-prandial oratory. But for all that I would not have you think the Australians take their pleasures sadly. Their communities know there is a time for play as well as for work, and into their recreation they throw as much earnestness, skill and capacity as they throw into the more important concerns of life. The Commonwealth, so-called, was the first child of the Twentieth Century. As states go she is but a baby, but, as the course of her history has shown, she may rather be likened to the classical goddess Minerva, who sprang from Jupiter's brain, a perfect woman, the embodiment of wisdom and power. I leave her origin at that, and give you the toast of "The Commonwealth of Australia."

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XXXII.—THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

Gentlemen,—

In submitting to you the toast of "The Dominion of Canada," I feel that we are on common ground in such a gathering as the present, for some of us are proud to own ourselves its children—citizens of no mean country, while others are doubtless related to it by bonds of business, if not of blood. I can easily resist the temptations to dilate upon the marvellous beauties of the land, because their praises have been sung by every visitor, and even poets have laid them under contribution when wooing the Muse. Yet, I would not be held to undervalue Canada's indebtedness to Mother Nature. She has bestowed on the country higher gifts than pine-clad mountains and smiling rivers, in the boundless fields and prairies on which are reared the cereals and kine that support the Old World as well as the New. Canada's wealth in minerals no man has yet had the audacity to estimate, though if to be rich beyond the dreams of avarice be a legitimate object of ambition, this can be readily gratified in the Dominion. Her fruit and her dairy produce are literally familiar in our mouths as household words. Statesmen, who are of course wiser than other people, and whose views must be mentioned with "bated breath and whispering humbleness," have sometimes condescended to discuss what they call Canada's manifest destiny. Perhaps when they have ceased to beat the air and are willing to come to close quarters, it may occur to them to inquire whether the inhabitants have any opinion to offer on a question of some interest to them. They will then discover that the Canadian folk can manage and mind their own business, and that an honest day's work is the best passport to their favour, while "Hands Off!" is the maxim that expresses most tersely their attitude to the Predestinarian who patronises them and professes undue solicitude about their future state. The Canadians believe

in the man and the woman that can work for the common good, and these are the guests that are always welcome, and of whom it may be truthfully said, "The more, the merrier." I may, indeed, be allowed to adapt to Canada the lines which a poet wrote about another part of the British Empire, because they are equally true of the Dominion :—

It's a world of wonders, Molly,
 A world without a peer !
 And what it has, and what it wants,
 We've nothing like it here ;
 But of all its wondrous things, Molly,
 The strangest thing to me
 Is that there the working man's the man
 Gets first to the top of the tree.

I would not weaken the force of these verses by further comment, but ask you to raise your glasses to "The Dominion of Canada" and the Maple Leaf for Ever !

XXXIII.—THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

My Lords and Gentlemen, —

It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to give you a toast which I am sure you will welcome most enthusiastically—that of the Dominion of New Zealand. If there is anything in which we in this country may justly take pride, it is, I conceive, in the establishment all over the world of new nations of Britons, free in new countries to carry on the glorious traditions of our race, whose only bondage to the old country that gave them birth is the bondage of mutual love and esteem. It is not long, as men count time, since New Zealand was admitted into the

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brotherhood of Empire Nations but already the Dominion has proved its fitness and readiness to share in the duties of Empire. To such an audience as this I need hardly dilate upon the material wealth of the Dominion, upon the part it plays in our daily life ; the bread and meat we eat, the fleeces that clothe our bodies and keep busy our factories and mills, these and many other things constantly remind us of its importance to us. One thing that astonishes us is that, few as are the inhabitants of New Zealand, the works of their hands are so manifold and immense : and if we are to estimate the energy and worth of a nation by its products, we are not wrong in placing the high value we do upon the Dominion. We in this country know what it is to be overcrowded, and we have each year to endure the loss by emigration of many of our best and most virile, who go to seek in a new country greater opportunities and a fuller life : to all such the Empire Dominions afford a ready welcome and none a readier than New Zealand. Where Englishmen will find what has always contented them in the past—a fair field and no favour—the “ slacker ” will find life hard there, perhaps, but to the energetic and willing worker the Dominion offers greater possibilities perhaps than any other land. I shall not detain you longer. Gentlemen, I give you the Dominion of New Zealand—long may it prosper.

XXXIV.—THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. Chairman [or Lord—], My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The toast I have the honour of proposing this evening is that of the newest of the great self-governing Dominions of the British Empire—the Union of South Africa. It is a toast that any Englishman should feel proud to propose,

for in the mere existence of that union we may see, perhaps, the supremest testimony to the genius for government of the British race which, in this instance, has brought out of discord, harmony, out of war, enduring peace. New born as it is out of strife, gentlemen, I am convinced that the Union yields to none of the other Dominions in loyalty to the Empire, and, young as it is, with many responsibilities and difficulties of its own to cope with, it has already shown, by word, and still more eloquently by deed, its readiness to share in all the vast obligations and burdens of that Empire. The difficulties of government, when you have living side by side a conquering white race and a subject race of blacks, are immense, but we may feel assured that the practical wisdom and sagacity that has marked the early years of the Dominion will not fail to find a satisfactory solution to this race problem, and that the Union will pass from greatness to greatness. The Dominions are far away, even in these days of swift ships and wireless telegraphy, and we in this country are often too apathetic, too incurious as to their doings and, even now, too ignorant of them. Thus it is that people here are inclined to look upon South Africa as a gold mine alone, to gauge its importance by the fluctuations of its gold yield, and to close their eyes to the other vast natural resources which are perhaps greater guarantees of lasting prosperity. The energy of the Dominions themselves is now dispelling this ignorance, and when we see our markets stocked with its food, wool, wine, tobacco, and other products, we cannot any longer be blind to the importance, to us as to them, of South Africa's natural richness. When you add to all this a breed of men hardy and enduring, typical pioneers, playing the game of life with all the sportsman's zest and fairness, you have every ingredient that makes for national success and prosperity. With the utmost confidence in its high future, I ask you to join me in drinking to the Union of South Africa.

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XXXV.—THE GOVERNOR [GENERAL].

[PROPOSED AT A PUBLIC DINNER BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

The toast which I have now to propose is one that rightly comes immediately after the loyal toasts—it is that of His Majesty's representative here, His Excellency the Governor [General], to whom I have great pleasure in extending on behalf of [the town or society, etc.], the heartiest possible welcome both in his official capacity and personally. The duties of a Governor, even in a self-governing State, are very real and onerous, and his position is not made any the easier by the fact that it is when political excitement runs highest and when parties are most closely matched that he is called in as an ultimate court of appeal. Whatever his decision, it is sure to displease one party, to be criticised by some, while his high position prevents him from defending himself from the criticisms levelled at him and justifying his action : but generally time brings his justification and in calmer moods all parties admit that his action was wise, for we have always been happy in our Governors. But a Governor's duties, happily—and he is always on duty, except when he is asleep—are not all political : there are times and places where he can say, to a certain extent what he thinks, and it is his Excellency's utterances on such occasions as these that have led us, from the intimate knowledge he has displayed of all our concerns and his unfeigned care for the prosperity of the State to regard him almost as one of us [Canadian, Australian, etc.].

We are a new country, comparatively speaking, and much in our politics and our life must seem strange to one who has spent most of his days in Great Britain, but his Excellency's quick sympathy with our national aspirations, his invariable readiness to lend his name and support

to any good cause, and his deep interest in our fortunes, have done much to increase the esteem in which we hold him.

[Especially marked, if I may say so, has been his interest in the great agricultural industries upon which so greatly depends our prosperity, and we, in particular, owe him a debt of gratitude for coming, at considerable personal inconvenience, to open our Agricultural Show to-day].
Gentlemen, I give you the health of the King's Representative in —, His Excellency Lord —.

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CHAPTER V.

TOASTS—ECCLESIASTICAL AND POLITICAL.

THE CHURCH AND HER DIGNITARIES.

A CONSECRATION.

XXXVI.—THE CHURCH AND OUR BISHOP.

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A CONSECRATION
BANQUET.]

Gentlemen,—

The toast I have first to propose to you is one which, as Christians and as Englishmen, you will have anticipated. We have to-day been taking part at a ceremony which is at once solemn and interesting. We have been engaged in the work of Consecration—an act which our most worthy Bishop has performed, with the appreciation and with the prayers of you all. We have consecrated another edifice to the glory of God and His Church—a Church against which all the waves of discontent will never prevail—the Church of England. It is with the building we have been concerned, and it is to the building I will more directly confine my remarks. Our earliest recollections and experiences have been associated with the Church. We have been admitted as children of Christ at the font. We have played beneath the shadow of the tower or spire. We have frequented the Church, let us hope, with profit.

We have knelt at the altar in our youth and on at least one very important occasion in our maturer years. The associations of the Church, even those of the churchyard, are pleasing to us, if tinged with a natural regret for those who have only gone before us, received into the true and blissful Church Triumphant. And in connection with the Church our worthy and beloved Bishop occupies a foremost position, not only for his attainments, but for the usefulness of his revered office, and the eloquent example he provides for us all. It needs no words of mine to echo his praise. We must all cherish an instinctive reverence for our Church; we must all revere her bishops. Gentlemen, will you please unite with me in the toast of the Church of England and the Bishop of this Diocese.

XXXVII.—THE CLERGY. [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN
AT A COUNTY DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

There is, I am sure, no toast more welcome to those I see before me this evening than that I am about to propose, viz., the health of our respected Bishop and of the Clergy of this Diocese. Of the latter I see a goodly sprinkling and it is with satisfaction that we note the presence of so many of our clergy at social gatherings and meetings in our county, convinced as we are that both we and the Church have much to gain from the intimacy so engendered between them and those under their spiritual charge. As a body of gentlemen they commend themselves highly to our friendship, as ministers of religion they have proved themselves able exponents of its truth. I am sure therefore that, acknowledging them as we do, you will honour the toast of the Bishop and the Clergy of the Diocese with enthusiasm and heartfelt regard. Gentlemen, the Bishop and his Clergy.

XXXVIII.—THE VICAR OF THE PARISH. [AT AN AGRICULTURAL DINNER.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Before I propose any of the other toasts of the evening, I call upon you all to fill your glasses and drink the health of our worthy Vicar and his coadjutors in the good work of this large parish. We have all, at one time or the other, I hope, felt the consolations of religion in our places in church; but our acquaintance with the Vicar and his assistants does not end here. In our homes we are glad to welcome our Clergy quite apart, but not disconnected, from their holy office. They sympathise with us in our misfortunes and console us in our bereavements. They rejoice with us in our mirth as well as weep with us in our sadness, and they find ever the heartiest welcome both as ministers of God and as men. We are glad to see them here to-night. The Vicar, as you all know, is a man who has the prosperity of the county at heart, who interests himself greatly in the progress of agriculture within our borders, and continually finds fresh fields for his energy. Gentlemen, I give you the toast of the Vicar and the Curates—men who have faithfully put their hands to the plough, and who are not looking back, but forward, to the great prize they hope to win.

XXXIX.—THE CLERGY AND MINISTERS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS. [PROPOSED AT A PUBLIC DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

To all Christians, whatever be their creed, the toast which I have to propose must be acceptable—it is the Clergy and Ministers of all Religious Denominations. It is a happy thing, a happy augury for the profitable event of their labours that the time has gone by when the

different creeds could not dwell together in peace and amity ; and that nowadays, despite differences of doctrine and practice, the great rivalry of the creeds is one that all must praise and honour, rivalry in doing Christian work. It is for this reason that this collective toast is a most proper one, for whatever the difference in methods, all creeds are working together for one common end, the bettering of humanity ; the fight is the same fight, though the weapons be different. It is a work that demands knowledge of men, ability, and self-sacrifice, and of these, we are happy to think, no single denomination has a monopoly. One cannot help thinking, too, that occasions like this when ministers of different creeds meet together unprofessionally, so to speak, have done much to foster the spirit of toleration and mutual esteem which is so marked in the Christianity of to-day, and that therefore we have reason for pleasure in welcoming them here. It is as fellow labourers in the Lord's vineyard that I call upon you to toast them—the Clergy and Ministers of all Denominations, coupled with the names of the Rev. Mr. —, and the Rev. Mr. —.

XL.—THE CLERGY OF THE DISTRICT. [AT A HOSPITAL DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

I must ask your indulgence for a few moments while I propose to you a toast to the health of no one individual, but of several hard-working gentlemen who risk their lives daily and hourly in the service of the suffering and the poor. I refer to the Clergy of this district, without distinction of creed, who in our town, and in our Hospital particularly, minister to the spiritual wants of those who need consolation. All present are supporters of the charity, and

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as such I see I am addressing individuals of many shades of opinion. We are all, I hope, Christians, and it is as Christians, not as sectarians, that I call upon you to unite with me in the toast. We call ours a Samaritan Hospital; we accommodate the wayfarer, and him that has no friend. Let us emulate the charity of the Good Samaritan, and join heartily in thanking the Clergy and Ministers and Priests of all denominations for their attention during the year. Gentlemen, in the true spirit of tolerance and charity, I propose to you the Clergy of the District.

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CHAPTER VI.

THE LEGISLATURE.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT—LORDS AND COMMONS—LOCAL MEMBERS.

XLI.—THE HOUSE OF LORDS. [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A PUBLIC DINNER.]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The toast I have now the honour to propose to you is the House of Lords; and though there are around me some who may object to a hereditary chamber on principle, there is substantial agreement that useful work has been done and remains to be done by the Second Chamber. In the past it has comprised many men who served their country faithfully in war, in politics or in the practice of more peaceful arts and, whatever changes in its constitution or functions the future may bring, we can rest assured that its members will continue to do good service. Its work is done more quietly, with less of advertisement and of strife than the work of the House of Commons, it is less in the public eye, and perhaps that is a good thing for an assembly the functions of which are in the main to revise, to moderate, and keep a brake on legislation. With this toast of the House of Lords, I ask you to drink the health of the Right Hon. Lord H. —, than whom there could be no worthier representative of that ancient House.

XLII.—THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

In asking you to honour the toast of the House of Commons I ask you to honour an institution of which we are as a nation, proud. There is no other similar institution in the world where perfect freedom of debate is so seldom marred by lack of dignity or want of good taste, and as it is composed of representatives of the people so it is itself representative of the best traditions of our national character and demeanour. It would, no doubt, be a comparatively easy task for any theorist to prepare a strong indictment of our existing Parliamentary system; it is very easy to say that the Commons talk too much and do too little, and that the Lords are an anachronism that should be swept away. But, apart from theory and Utopian schemes, I venture to think that the Mother of Parliaments is still in enjoyment of a vigorous and useful vitality, and is, as a whole, still capable of transacting effectually the business of the country. There are periods of congestion, no doubt, and occasionally recurring periods of obstruction, but the work is done and well done—and after all that is the best thing one can say of any working assembly. It is a pleasure to us to welcome here to-night a distinguished Member of Parliament, whose name I am permitted to couple with this toast. The Hon. Member for ——— enjoys a high reputation far beyond the bounds of his own constituency, and requires no words of introduction from me to you. I will not detain you longer, but give you the toast of the House of Commons, coupled with the name of the Hon. Member for ———, ———.

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XLIII.—HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTERS. [PROPOSED BY
THE CHAIRMAN.]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

From men who pursue their peaceful way aloof from the storm and turmoil of political strife, a deep debt is due to those who, casting their lot on that troubled sea, guide, in the Sovereign's name, the vessel of the State. A warm sense of that debt is expressed in the toast I now offer to you—"The Health of His Majesty's Ministers." One of the facts in our national history that fill me most constantly with admiration and gratitude is that the supply of men of high integrity and fine calibre, competent to guide and represent so old and great a Power, should be inexhaustible. However large one individual statesman may loom upon the stage, however rich and manifold his gifts may be, however strong and fascinating his personality, however compelling his will, steadfast his purpose, rich his resources,—when his part has been played, his final exit made, and his voice and figure are heard and seen no more, the nation has never yet been forced to confess that he is irreplaceable, or to bury part of its hopes within his grave. When Lord Beaconsfield died, when Mr. Gladstone died, it seemed impossible that the world could go on unmoved, or that anyone could be found to discharge their great functions with the same dignity and skill. So it has been before, and so it will be again. We look at the vacant chair wondering who can be found to fill it, and still our race continues to produce worthy successors to those who have passed into history. The position of a minister is one of great dignity and high honour, but his life is by no means an easy one; so great are his responsibilities, so incessant are the demands on his mental and physical energy that one cannot help feeling that the sacrifice he makes of private ease and leisure is a very great

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one. We are honoured with the presence here to-night of one of the Nation's Councillors, so with the Health of His Majesty's Ministers, I would couple the name of the Right Honourable —.

XLIV.—THE MEMBERS FOR THE BOROUGH. [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

I must ask your attention once again, and all the less diffidently as I know you are all ready to respond to the toast of the Borough Members. These gentlemen have now represented us in Parliament for — years, and during that time I think we may fairly say that they have attended with diligence and ability to our interests, whether as Conservatives or Liberals. We need not make any party observations upon this occasion. Let us agree to differ in politics. Although I am a Conservative [Liberal] in my views I can sympathise and respect other people's opinions, to which they are as much entitled as I am entitled to mine. So, gentlemen, I think we can all meet upon the neutral ground of our Borough Members, whose work both for their constituencies and for the nation we appreciate so highly. Let us unite as members of the same body in doing honour to our representatives, Messrs. — and —. Gentlemen, the Borough Members, who have always taken the keenest interest in local affairs and charities as well as in our sports and pastimes.

XLV.—THE COUNTY MEMBERS. [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A DINNER TO THEM.]

Gentlemen,—

I have now come to the toast of the evening, and I must ask you all to fill your glasses so as to do full honour

to the toast—"Our County Members." We have had a stormy session, and after the turmoil and worry of Parliament our Members have come among us to give us an account of their stewardship. I think we are all agreed that the stewardship they hold should not be exchanged for that of the "Chiltern Hundreds." We have noticed and we shall always, I may add, continue to notice, all that goes on in Parliament; but when we entrusted our interests to Messrs. — and —, we did so in full and entire confidence—a confidence which has never been betrayed. Not only that, but we believe that our representatives have the welfare of the community at heart. That they have the welfare of us, their fellow-townsmen and fellow-countrymen at heart, we are satisfied. They have watched over us; they have come amongst us on several occasions lately, and shown the interest they take in our schools and in our sports, in our various manufactures and in our holidays. They have gained our votes, and we trust they will long live to represent the old County in Parliament. I might say a great deal more respecting our representatives, socially and politically, but their acts are patent to us all, and you will, I am sure, endorse the proposal I have to make and drink their health, with all the honours. Gentlemen, the Members for the County of —.

XLVI.—PROPOSING A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION.

[BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING.]

Gentlemen,—

I have the pleasure to introduce to you this evening our respected friend and townsman, Mr. —, a Candidate to represent the Liberal [or Conservative] interests of this town in Parliament. You have all probably taken an opportunity to study the address which he put forth,

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and therefore I need not read it now. I may say, however, that it seems to me straightforward and fair. He knows what we want, and, gentlemen, I think from what we know of Mr. —'s opinions, of his integrity and determination, that he is the man we want. We wish to see — abolished, and a Bill for — introduced. Mr. — has pledged himself to look after our interests in both these matters. Mr. — is a true Conservative [or Liberal], and has the welfare of the party at heart. Gentlemen, as Chairman, I call upon you for a patient hearing for Mr. —, whom I will now introduce to you, that you may have an opportunity to hear from his own mouth his sentiments and views upon the great topics of the day. Any questions you may put, I am quite sure Mr. — will answer fully to your satisfaction after the conclusion of his address. Gentlemen, I have the honour to introduce to your notice Mr. —, as a fitting and proper person to represent you in Parliament.

XLVII.—ANOTHER ON A SIMILAR OCCASION.

Gentlemen,—

Having been moved to the chair, although somewhat unexpectedly, I will now proceed to the business of the evening, and will not detain you long in stating my case. I have great pleasure in introducing to you Mr. —, as one of our Candidates for the Borough of —, and I feel assured that those amongst you who have perused his address will feel very little doubt that he is the person we require to look after our interests. The Borough is increasing in prosperity and in extent. We require some representative who will move with the times, and secure to us the advantages and privileges of which, in an ever-increasing community, we may stand in need. Mr. — is pledged to support the — interest, which is largely

represented by us, and the questions of — and — now occupying public attention, will be more particularly looked after by him. He is moreover a true Liberal [or Conservative] in his views, a party-man, 'tis true, and a strict adherent to his principles ; but he will not permit any bigoted adherence to party politics to blind him to the general interests of the trade of the town, or to the welfare of the inhabitants. He approves of the policy of the Ministry, and will give you his views upon domestic and foreign questions. They appear to me to be strongly leavened with good practical common-sense, and display an acquaintance with both subjects which is necessary, but somewhat unusual, to the young politician. It would be impertinent in me to detain you longer. Mr. — will now explain his views to you and I commend him cordially to your attention.

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CHAPTER VII.

LEGAL.

HIS MAJESTY'S JUDGES—THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY—THE MAGISTRATES.

XLVIII.—HIS MAJESTY'S JUDGES.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The task that has been assigned to me this evening is a very important one, and I am the more troubled in my mind that the objects of it, His Majesty's Judges, are, from their profession, critics of speaking and from their experience, sated perhaps of speeches. This diffidence on my part does not in any way arise from a want of material for eulogy. If talents could be conveyed by the subjects of a toast to the person proposing it, I should display an astonishingly brilliant eloquence. But this cannot be. Gentlemen,— I have to propose to you in all seriousness and with all respect and admiration, the health of His Majesty's Judges. We regret that — has been prevented from attending this evening on account of — ; but when we see such illustrious men before us as —, and —, we feel that Justice is indeed well represented in this company, and what is more important, upon the Judicial Bench. Perhaps some of you here present envy the distinguished and thrice honourable position attained by His Majesty's Judges. But even the Woolsack may be stuffed with thorns and

the head that wears a wig may lie as uneasy as the head that wears a crown. Need I recall to your minds, or appeal to your imagination to picture, the tremendous responsibility which devolves upon a Judge? He is the arbiter of life and death. He must be clear, cool, and decided. The weaknesses of other men are not for him. He must sit out the most wearying trial, yet never grow weary, balance evidence, rule and determine knotty points of Gordian complexity. He must be attentive to all, courteous and ready to reply to any doubtful questions, and this from day to day. To note, sum up, and lead a jury to a decision in a long case is no light work for the best of men, such as we cannot doubt are represented upon the Bench of the United Kingdoms; how well this work is done we may estimate from the universal confidence reposed in the Judges by their fellow-citizens, and the universal praise abroad of British justice. My Lords and Gentlemen, I am so conscious of the want of ability in me to do justice to the Judges, that I must pray your indulgence for my temerity in accepting such an honour when suggested to me, and which I have so weakly borne. But I am sure you will credit me with all sincerity when I call upon you to honour most heartily the toast which needed no words from me to commend it to you—The Health of His Majesty's Judges.

XLIX.—THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY.

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

Next to the Loyal toasts which you have honoured, I have to propose the health of the Lord Lieutenant of this County, — —. It scarcely needs my voice to assure him of the estimation in which he is held. We who live in the neighbourhood hear much of his kindness

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and benevolence, and of the manner in which he performs the duties of landlord and neighbour, duties not merely social nor easy of accomplishment, so as to please, as he does, all with whom he comes in contact. Suffice it to say that all our experience of him leads us to wish him many more years in the exalted position he now holds. Gentlemen, let us drink Long Life and Happiness to the Lord Lieutenant, who by his influence and energy has done so much for the County and those living in it. We will not intrude any politics on such an occasion as this, but we know that — has always been staunch to his party, and even if we differ from him we must admire his consistency. The Health of the Lord Lieutenant of the County of —.

L.—THE MAGISTRATES.

Gentlemen,—

It is my privilege to-day to propose the health of the Magistrates of the County and Borough of —; and while I gladly comply with the request made of me, I cannot help expressing a wish that the task had fallen to other hands, and a more practised tongue. Fortunately, however, what I have to say has been no doubt anticipated by you all. We are all here aware of the estimation in which the Magistrates are held, the general satisfaction with which their decisions are acknowledged, and the manner in which they devote themselves to a thankless office. Their position lays them peculiarly open to criticism, but I am sure that all, with the possible exception of those whom they have been called on to punish, must applaud their fairness and impartiality, and if sometimes higher courts hold that they have erred, these errors are due to the complexity of the law, not to any failure to do justice on their part. Those gentlemen who have undertaken the administration of our laws are well known

to you all ; they have served the State before, they have done much good in their generation ; and their present work is one that is of the highest importance to the State and all its citizens. Socially and officially we regard them with goodwill and respect. Let us drink their healths in a bumper. " The Magistrates of the County of — and the Borough of —."

LI.—THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND MAGISTRATES
OF THE COUNTY OF —.

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

Once more I must claim your indulgent hearing, but I will not detain you longer than is necessary to bring to your notice a very important toast, which I am sure you will all unite with me in drinking with very great pleasure. I mean the healths of the Lord Lieutenant and the Magistrates of the County. We are most of us aware of the varied duties these gentlemen who hold responsible positions have to perform. Their positions are no hidden positions. They stand out against the sky-line of public duty, as it were, and all their actions, by observation and report in the papers, are brought clearly before us at the bar of public opinion.

In such circumstances as these it would indeed be astonishing if they contrived to please everybody, and I would be claiming for these gentlemen an attribute they would be the last to claim were I to say that they always pleased everybody. Such a course is manifestly impossible ; Human opinions differ—many men, many minds ; but if you will consider a moment I think you will agree with me that the actions of our Magistrates have always met with the approval of the large majority of those who have observed the way in which their duties are

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performed, and that justice and mercy are well balanced in their judicial minds. The eminently successful manner in which the Lord Lieutenant has always carried out his duties, and the way in which his social qualities have made themselves felt, must be a cause of as great satisfaction to him as it is to us. His kindness and charity, the interest he takes in the welfare of our County and in its amusements, are very gratifying to all his neighbours, and those who know him only by name. Publicly and privately he is an ornament to the County, and I will ask you to drink the healths of —, the Lord Lieutenant, and the Magistrates present this evening, coupling the latter with the name of Mr. —.

LII.—THE COUNTY MAGISTRATES. [REPLY FOR THE
MAGISTRATES.]

Gentlemen,—

Your chairman has proposed the healths of myself and my brother Magistrates in such very flattering terms, and the toast has been received in so warm a manner that I feel somewhat at a loss for words in which fitly to respond. Your chairman has mentioned the satisfaction which my colleagues and myself have given you in our interpretation of the law ; but when you come to look a little into the matter, I think you will see that it is not so much due to us as to the plain directions which we have received, and the assistance that has been rendered to us on so many occasions by those who have put the facts so clearly before us. There are certain punishments to be awarded, and we have to consider whether in our opinion the facts stated or elicited are to be interpreted in such and such a way. It tends materially to our assistance when we have a clear statement put before us, for then we have but to administer the law upon the principles of justice and

mercy. It has been our privilege to act thus, and we are all, I am sure, pleased to think that in so acting we have had the concurrence of such men as our friends here, whose sound common sense and integrity render them very valuable critics. We have, at any rate, endeavoured to do our duty, regardless of public opinion; but when that opinion, valuable as it unquestionably is, supports us, we feel very happy in having succeeded in gaining your applause. Gentlemen, in the names of my colleagues and myself I thank you heartily for the reception you have given to the toast of the Magistrates of this County.

LIII.—REPLY BY ONE OF THE MAGISTRATES.

Gentlemen,—

As the hour is waxing late I will not long detain you. I have to thank you, sir, and this distinguished company for the very kind way in which the toast of the Magistrates has been proposed and received. We have always endeavoured to bear in mind that justice is kind and the quality of mercy must not be strained. You may depend upon it that, although hard cases may occasionally crop up, the general tendency through the length and breadth of the land is not on the side of severity but of leniency. We do not forget that mercy is the true interpreter of justice, but there are cases when mercy would be misinterpreted as fear and would consequently be misplaced. A suitable severity frequently prevents crime. The law is only a terror for evil-doers; no honest citizen need fear it and therefore, when it is necessary to put the law in force with severity and rigour it is presupposed that the offender is not an honest citizen, but an old hand upon whom leniency would be wasted. On the other side, there are many cases when leniency is true mercy, when a caution will suffice to prevent a repetition

of the offence. This can be seen by observation of temperament and condition, education and environment of the accused. So when you hear of "Justices' justice," put yourself in their place, hear the evidence in the mass and then decide for yourselves whether, knowing all they know, you would not have done likewise. Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer. Once more I thank you very heartily for the manner in which you have received this toast.

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CHAPTER VIII.

TOASTS—SOCIAL.

WEDDINGS—CHRISTENINGS—BIRTHDAYS—FRIENDLY

LIV.—THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM [PROPOSED BY AN OLD FRIEND OF THE BRIDE.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Fashion, I am informed, has decreed that speeches shall cease to be made at wedding breakfasts ; but, admirable as the rule is, and willing as I should be to observe it, we must honour it in the breach instead of in the observance, so far as this Bride and Bridegroom are concerned. It is a pretty custom, this drinking of healths, conjuring up visions of days when there was a brighter glamour of romance round the events of everyday life than there seems to be now. So I think it is especially appropriate that the old custom should be observed on occasions such as this, for however dull and commonplace life may seem nowadays, compared with the more picturesque life of our ancestors, weddings, at any rate, remind us that romance is not dead, and that love is as young and as beautiful as ever. Let us drain our glasses to the Bride and Bridegroom, wishing them health and happiness ; may prosperity attend them and success in all that goes

to make up material well-being ; more than all, may the love which animates them to-day burn bright and stedfast as each succeeding anniversary comes round, so that all of us who have had the privilege of being here to-day may be glad hereafter to remember that we assisted at the opening of a happy story of married life. Ladies and gentlemen—" the Bride and Bridegroom " ; may God bless them both.

LV.—THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I must beg your kind attention for a few moments while I propose to you a toast which I know you will all honour with great pleasure—with as much pleasure as it gives me to propose it, and I assure you that is saying a good deal. I mean, as you have already guessed—Health and Happiness to the Bride and Bridegroom. We have this day assisted at a ceremony, perhaps the most interesting, as it certainly is one of the most solemn, ceremonies of our social life. Two young people have just now in our presence united themselves for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, till death do part them, and we all hope that no evil thing nor poverty may come near them, and that the eventual parting may be many years deferred. But, ladies and gentlemen, if this is a solemn occasion, it is also a joyful one. We have around us many smiling and merry faces—some happy in the recollection of their experience, others, I may perhaps say, happy in anticipation. Gentlemen, when I see so many fair faces around me, I can but wonder that any of you remain bachelors. Perhaps it is because the ladies are coy ;

if so let me remind them of the very old but very good
 "Counsel to girls," by a celebrated poet.*

Then be not coy but use your time
 And while ye may, go marry;
 For having lost but once your prime
 Ye may for ever tarry.

Now I ask you all to fill your glasses, and, standing up, to drink to the health, long life, and happiness of Mr. and Mrs. —. May their years be happy and their closing days far distant. May all matrimonial joys be theirs, and may we reckon them among our friends for many years to come. The health and happiness of the Bride and Bridegroom, if you please.

LVI.—ANOTHER ON A SIMILAR OCCASION.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

It is my privilege to ask you to honour the toast of the day—the Bride and Bridegroom. If a long acquaintance with the young people who have this morning cast in their lot together can constitute a right to propose their health and prosperity, I certainly have a claim. I have known them pretty well all their young lives, and no one rejoices more truly than I do to see their happiness thus assured. They love each other wisely and well. They have every prospect of true happiness—the love and esteem of a very large circle of friends, and enough of worldly goods to bestow. The Bridegroom has the satisfaction of feeling that he is envied by all the young men in the parish; and the Bride is perhaps conscious that many young ladies regard her with as envious eyes as such an unselfish nature as hers could allow to exist, and as much jealousy as the regard all have for her will

* Herrick.

permit any lady to feel. But this indeed is a very small matter; we may envy, but do not grudge her and her husband the happiness we are certain they will find together. We wish them a long and happy life, with silver and golden wedding-days in store for them, surrounded by those they love. Ladies and gentlemen, I need not insist upon your responding heartily to the toast, since you all feel as I do. May every blessing and happiness attend the Bride and Bridegroom, and long life to them!

LVII.—RESPONSE OF THE BRIDEGROOM.

Mr. —, and Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My wife and I are extremely obliged to you for the very kind and friendly manner in which our health has been just proposed and received. I am sure I do not deserve all the good things that have been said of me, but I will try to deserve them, and to be worthy of the great treasure which Mr. and Mrs. — have committed to my care. I trust you will pardon the imperfection of my speech—the novelty of my position as a Bridegroom will perhaps plead for my embarrassment; but I am deeply sensible of your kindness, and my wife—you see I am getting used to her new title—wishes me to thank you most heartily and affectionately for your kind expressions and good wishes towards her. I can say no more than that I sincerely thank you all for your kindness in drinking our health.

LVIII.—REPLY BY THE BRIDEGROOM, INCLUDING THE TOAST OF THE BRIDESMAIDS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I rise with great diffidence after the very high terms in which the health of my wife and myself has been

proposed, for I am sure I cannot properly thank my friend Mr. —, nor you, ladies and gentlemen, for the very kind way in which you have responded to the toast, and for your generous good wishes for our happiness. I am sure *I* shall be happy, and I hope that she will be, too; that she may look back upon this day with less regret at having left her home and so many loving relatives and kind friends. We both thank you greatly, and highly appreciate all the tokens of regard you have showered upon us. But before I sit down I have to propose to you a toast. There are some young ladies here to whom my wife is greatly indebted, and to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for preparing her for the altar this morning. I mean, of course, the Bridesmaids. These young ladies have added a grace to the ceremony and a beauty to this assembly which is acknowledged by all, and in my wife's name and my own I thank them for their invaluable attention, trusting that ere long they may each and all be in the happy position to choose their own bridesmaids, and be as well supported as Mrs. — has been this morning. Gentlemen, I am sure you will join me in drinking health and "speedy promotion" to the Bridesmaids of to-day.

LIX.—RESPONSE TO THE TOAST OF THE BRIDESMAIDS. [BY THE BEST MAN.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

You see before you a fortunate and an unfortunate man. Fortunate in being the mouthpiece of so many charming young ladies; unfortunate in being so unfitted to give their views and opinions due expression. I am sure they are all delighted to have been of use to-day. I can only guess at their feelings, never having served in a similar capacity; but I am certain they are all pleased to see

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their old friend so happily married, and determined—though they have not authorised me to tell you this—to follow such a good example when partners turn up—after their own hearts! Where the eyes of mankind have been I cannot tell; but I confess it is not saying much for bachelor tastes if they permit my fair friends to be bridesmaids again. For my own part—well—I won't confess too much. You shall see—and now with this mysterious hint I will sit down again, thanking you for the very cordial manner in which the health of the Bridesmaids has been received, and expressing the hope that the bachelors will not permit such sweet blossoms to “waste their sweetness on the desert air.”

LX.—THE GROOMSMEN. [PROPOSED BY AN INTIMATE FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I will not detain you more than a moment or two; but I wish to sum up the toasts we have heard to-day by testifying to the energy and usefulness of the gentlemen who have conducted not a little to the festivity of the breakfast. I mean the Groomsmen; and perhaps the ladies will honour the toast also—if they have been pleased with their partners, as judging by their merry faces I think they have. I trust ere the year is out we may hear of these young gentlemen playing a principal part in a ceremony similar to that we have seen performed to-day; and I am sure we wish the bachelors all success in their wooing. Gentlemen and ladies, the Groomsmen, if you please.

LXI.—RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Ladies and Gentlemen—particularly Ladies,—

Speaking for myself and my fortunate companions, I thank you all very heartily for proposing and for honouring our healths. We have had such a pleasant easy task, for all arrangements have been so excellently planned, and the ladies who have honoured us with their society have been so uniformly kind—being all dressed alike their conduct *would* be uniform no doubt—that we have had a good time, and really deserve no thanks, though quite willing to accept them. But we are delighted to see our old friend — so happy, and wedded under such good auspices, indeed, his happiness makes us rather doubt whether bachelor joys are best and inclines us the more to follow the advice of the gentleman who proposed this toast, only that it is so difficult to choose—in fact a case of “How happy could I be with any, Were t’other dear charmers away.” We are all very glad that we have been permitted to make our appearance on this joyful occasion, and we thank you sincerely for your toast—for the kind way it was proposed, and the flattering manner in which you have honoured it, which has been a greater recompense than we deserve.

 CHRISTENING PARTY.

LXII.—THE LITTLE STRANGER. [PROPOSED BY THE GODFATHER.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I must call upon you to fill your glasses, and join with me in wishing health, long life, and prosperity to the Little Stranger, whom we have this day introduced into the Christian brotherhood. There can be no doubt that the boy [or girl]—who will be formally introduced to

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us presently—is the finest and handsomest child that ever lived on earth. Of that we may all rest assured, in fact his parents have already told me that. It is with no little satisfaction that I find myself here to-day in this capacity of sponsor. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. — for many years, and if his charming wife and I are not actually such old friends, she has made my visits to this house so pleasant that I feel quite like an old friend of hers also. Many of you here have had the happiness of knowing Mr. and Mrs. — more intimately, perhaps, than I have; but I yield to none in the sincerity of my wishes for their happiness, and in my good wishes for the long life and happiness of (here insert names of child), who will, if [he] follow in the footsteps of [his] parents, be an ornament to society and a comfort to the family. Ladies and gentlemen, I call upon you to drink the health of — —, and long life to him [or her]!

LXIII.—THE HEALTH OF THE BABY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

It is with diffidence that I rise in the capacity of God-father to express in the “vulgar tongue,” according to my sponsorship, my feelings on behalf of the fine little fellow we have this day ushered into the Church with all reverence. Although my acquaintance with the young [gentleman] is of the slightest, I am sure he will permit me to speak of him by his Christian name, and to wish all prosperity and happiness to — —. With such an auspicious commencement as this has been, under the care of parents of whose friendship we are, as any one might well be, proud—enjoying such advantages as these—his prospects will not be marred by any imperfection in my utterance of our good wishes for him. May the rosy promises of

his young life be more than realised. May he long live to be a source of comfort and happiness to his parents, the companion and friend of their middle age, and the prop and stay of their declining years. It may be that successors will come to these honours of the first-born and I am sure we all most cordially wish everything for our kind host and hostess that may tend to complete their happiness. Fill your glasses, bumpers please, ladies and gentlemen, and drink with all the honours to the health and long life of — (here mention names). God bless him!

LXIV.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST. [SPOKEN BY THE FATHER.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

The touching and hearty manner in which my old friend has so kindly proposed the health of my little child, demands my warmest acknowledgments, and your kindness in coming here to-day to welcome the little stranger and to cheer him upon the first stage of his existence, my wife and I accept as a great compliment and highly appreciate. I scarcely know how to thank you for all your good wishes. Many very handsome and flattering things have been said of my wife and myself which we do not deserve. But there is at any rate one point upon which I can speak, and that is the pleasure it has given us to be able to welcome you here to-day. It is always a pleasure to us to see our friends, but when acquaintance and friendship have been matured by regard and esteem it is doubly a pleasure to see one's friends, as on the present occasion; and we hope that we shall see you—if not in similar circumstances, at any rate often enough to cheer us up and enliven our quiet home. We are greatly obliged

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to the friends who have kindly consented to stand Sponsors for the little one, and we tender our sincere thanks to them and to you all, for your presence and presents, your company and your good wishes. Before I sit down I would ask you to drink to the Sponsors, the Godmother and the Godfathers, here to-day. Their healths and their families—may they all live long and prosper!

LXV.—RESPONSE OF THE GODFATHER TO THE TOAST OF HIS HEALTH.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Speaking for myself and the ladies [or lady and gentleman] who have shared with me the duties of Sponsors, I may say briefly how much pleasure it has given us to officiate upon such a delightful occasion. With such example and precept before him [her] in the persons of his dear parents, we shall find no excuse for interference in training him [her], and though we hope never to lose sight of the lad [young lady], and though, if opportunity arise, we hope to forward his views in life, we shall only look back upon our self-imposed duty with pleasure and a lively recollection of enjoyment. It has afforded us a very pleasant opportunity to testify to our regard for Mr. and Mrs. —, and we thank Mr. — for so kindly proposing our health, and you for so warmly drinking the toast. Thank you all most heartily.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

LXVI.—THE HEALTH OF THE HERO OF THE DAY.

[PROPOSED BY AN OLD FRIEND.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

A very pleasant duty has devolved upon me to-day, and I only regret that I cannot do the subject more justice.

I have to propose to you the health of Mr. —, and to request you to drink the toast, wishing him many happy returns of the day. As one of his oldest friends I may be permitted to say a few words concerning him, and to express to those around me the great gratification that association with him has given me and all with whom he came in contact. Many of us have had examples of his goodness, and all have experienced his kind hospitality and generous entertainment. We recognise many present here who have grown up with our friendship, and it is a great and sure test of truth in friends when we see year after year the same smiling faces round the board. As a father, husband and friend, Mr. — has won the esteem of all who have come into contact with him, and both in his public and private life he has set a high example in doing good. Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure you want no words of mine to convince you of our friend's fine and amiable qualities, nor will I longer detain you from the graceful homage we are all desirous to pay in wishing Mr. — many happy returns of his Birthday.

LXVII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My old friend, my very esteemed friend, Mr. —, has almost taken away my breath by the eulogy he has pronounced upon my unworthy self, for I am but too painfully conscious how far short I fall of the imaginary me he has conjured up for your inspection. But in one sense he is right. I am thankful to have so many kind friends, and very glad to welcome you all. I am not so young as I was, and as we begin to descend the ladder of life we are brought face to face with many rough steps and many "hard lines," which we had not noticed before. But

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even in these circumstances the support of our friends is enough to cheer us up ; and the friendship I can fortunately lay claim to, and which I have enjoyed for so many years, is a cheering light upon the road. My friend, Mr. — was kind, too kind, to give me credit for the power of retaining friends. But we must remember that it takes two to make a quarrel, so it takes two to make a friendship. It is not a one-sided arrangement. To you, my friends, much of my happiness must be ascribed, and by your coming here to-day you have given me much pleasure. Thank you very much for your kind wishes, and I trust we may all be spared to meet here for many a year to come.

LXVIII.—ON COMING OF AGE—"THE HEIR." [PROPOSED BY AN OLD FRIEND.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

The toast of the day has been allotted to me, and highly as I appreciate the honour of having been selected to propose the health of the young Squire, who comes of age to-day, I could wish for your sakes that the task, agreeable though it is, had been entrusted to someone more competent to discharge it. And yet it is possible that my very shortcomings may, in a measure, be a tribute to my subject, for surely it is for what one feels very deeply that it is most difficult to find words. Festivities like the present are perhaps more moving to the old friends of the hero of the occasion than they are to himself ; for to us they emphasise the fact that one-and-twenty years have passed since we gathered here to celebrate the arrival into the world of the infant who is to-day a man, while to him they mark the determination of his state of tutelage and his assumption of the privileges and responsibilities

of manhood. In this case the privileges and the responsibilities are great ; it is a goodly heritage to which Mr. — will succeed some day, and a fine old English gentleman whose successor he will be ; but “ like father, like son ” is a good proverb, and we who live here recognise in the son much that we love and admire in the father. And, seeing this, we have good ground for our belief that he will all his life continue to bear without reproach the grand old name of gentleman, as his father and forefathers have done, and will recognise as they have done, that his position is one that with great privileges, carries also great responsibilities. Between us and him there is something more than personal affection ; there is that traditional regard and esteem which has come down from our several ancestors, and which is so peculiarly characteristic of our national life. The compliment we are paying this young man to-day has been paid on this same spot to his progenitors by ours, and we are contributing yet another pleasant association to a place that already is a garner full of them. Ladies and gentlemen, bumpers if you please : Long Life and Happiness to the Heir, whom may God Almighty bless.

LXIX.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

You have all heard the very touching speech with which my kind old friend has so generously proposed my health, and I am sure I cannot thank him enough for his words and the manner of them, nor can I thank you sufficiently for the way in which you have received the toast. Mr.— has been so kind as to say much good of me. I only hope I shall deserve it all ; but what good I possess I owe, under Providence, to my parents primarily and, thereafter, in no small degree, to old friends like him. I am fully aware

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of the great responsibility I have now entered upon, and I hope all here—all the tenantry—will look upon me as their friend, and not merely as their landlord, and will remember that I am fully conscious that my position imposes serious duties upon me. That is my view of my position. My fathers and your fathers have lived in harmony and peace, in giving and taking for each other's good, for centuries. Let us continue in the same lines, appreciating the responsibilities of owner and occupier, of landlord and tenant, endeavouring to bear each other's burdens, and, above all, let us make every endeavour to preserve that spirit of mutual goodwill and trust that has made our relations so pleasant in the past. My friends, I need say no more. I heartily thank you all for your good wishes, and trust that you will give me your kind assistance as I proceed on my way. Once again I thank you all most sincerely for the manner in which you have received the toast.

LXX.—THE TENANTS. [PROPOSED BY THE LANDLORD
OR AGENT.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Before we separate I must ask your indulgence for a few minutes while I give you a toast, which I am sure you will heartily join me in drinking. Many of you when driving here this morning were, I have no doubt, struck with the appearance of the land, and pleased with the decorations and the hearty welcome accorded you. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the pretty scenes and the kind reception we have met with, the decorations and the welcome, are the work of the tenantry on these estates, and I would call upon you to drink the health of the Tenants and long life to them. I have been here for many years, living, I am glad to say, in peace and harmony with and receiving much kindness and assistance from my friends here. We

have had many improvements since I came here, and I think I may, without vanity, be proud of our land and our parish. We have our troubles occasionally—we should not be mortal were it not so—but no one could wish for a better set of tenants, and it has always been a pleasure to work with them for the good of the estate. I am thankful to remember that amid all the trying times we have got on so well together, and I trust our connection may last for many years. Ladies and gentlemen who have come here to-day, I trust you will unite with me in drinking to the health of my very good friends the Tenantry, and wish them every happiness and prosperity, a state of things which I on my part will leave nothing undone to secure. I give you "The Tenantry."

LXXI.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE TENANTS.

[BY THE SENIOR TENANT PRESENT.]

Mr. —, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

As the oldest tenant present—and as the oldest person here, I believe—I understand I am best suited to return our very heartfelt thanks to Mr. — and you for proposing and drinking our health so warmly. Mr. — has been so kind as to say something about us Tenants, and I should like to say something about him as landlord and Squire. I won't say much—not that I couldn't say a great deal of him, and all of it good, too; but perhaps I ought not to detain you by speaking. Still I can say for myself and my friends here, for all the tenants on the estate, that he's a "jolly good fellow"—and nobody can deny it. If we are prosperous—and we needn't go into the question—he has our interest at heart, and has always assisted us and taken pleasure in our prosperity, while in bad times he has always showed us great consideration, knowing that we always try to do our best. I am speaking for all of

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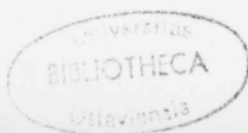
us when I say that we are a happy and contented parish, respecting our landlord and each other, and glad to have such a Squire about us. Let us drink his health, and wish long life and happiness to him and Mrs. — and the children, with all the honours. Hip, hip, hurrah!

“For he’s a jolly good fellow,
And so say all of us.”

LXXII.—SPEECH OF THANKS FOR THE TOAST OF
HIS HEALTH, SPOKEN BY THE SQUIRE.

My Friends,—

For I look upon all present as such—I thank you all most heartily for the enthusiastic manner in which the toast of our health has been received, and Mrs. — and myself also wish to express our appreciation of the good feeling that prompted my old friend and good tenant, Mr. —, to propose it. We are very much obliged to him and to you all. It is very seldom that a man hears so much good of himself as I have heard to-day. I am quite sure that it was all well meant, but I am afraid my good friend yonder was carried away by his feelings to paint me in brighter colours than I deserve. At any rate I will not complain of his generosity, but if I have fallen short of all I wish to do—and I feel I have—I must now endeavour to live up to the standard you have set up, and try to make the remainder of my life—which has been passed amongst you, and will continue to be passed here till I am carried into God’s Acre yonder—as profitable and as pleasant to all my neighbours as I can. I can with gratitude and thankfulness look back and recall much kindness which I and my family have received at your hands, my friends; and I hope in the future our mutual relations will remain as pleasant as they have been



in the past. For richer, for poorer, for better—not for worse, I hope—I am here, and at your disposal, till death do us part, and I believe and feel we shall continue our pleasant relations. Thank you again very sincerely, for your warm welcome to myself and my family, in their names and my own.

LXXIII.—SPEECH FOR A SILVER WEDDING.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

On such an occasion as the present it is not necessary for me to inflict a long speech upon you, for I am sure you are all in accord with my sentiments, and will agree with me in what I am going to say. We are here to-day as guests of our highly esteemed friends, Mr. and Mrs. —, the twenty-fifth anniversary of whose wedding-day we are delighted so to celebrate. Congratulations—and I am sure none will be more hearty than yours—it would be a pleasure to us all to offer in any circumstances, and any where; but we feel the enjoyment more particularly under our friend's own roof-tree, seated, or rather upstanding, to drink their health, at their own hospitable table, amongst their children, and other relatives, and friends.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have had the honour of the friendship of our host, Mr. —, for more years than I would care to hint at if that long friendship had not been a source of congratulation to myself. You are all of you as well aware as I, how excellent a man our host is, and I venture to say to his face what all of us think, that no kinder husband and father, no more steadfast friend, no cheerier companion exists amongst us, although we have many kind friends and worthy neighbours in our midst.

I remarked just now on my, I think, proper pride in possessing the confidence and friendship of Mr. —; but have we not more to congratulate ourselves upon in the

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charming intimacy and friendship of our hostess, whose many acts of kindness and courtesy are in all our minds? Let us, then, while heartily offering them our congratulations, hope that they may be spared for many years to fill the position which they at present adorn.

Twenty-five years, ladies and gentlemen, is a long spell. It exceeds one-third of the generally allotted span of our mundane existence. For that space of time, however, our dear friends have been united by the most sacred ties by which we mortals can be bound. All those years they have stood as an example of domestic felicity and of Christian virtues—patterns for us all. We elders have seen the “olive branches” growing up round their table; we have watched with interest and affection the sons springing up like the young plants, and the girls, the graceful “polished corners” of the Psalmist—the prop and stay of the domestic temple, the ornaments of this truly domestic hearth. We have seen sorrow and trouble shadow the house, but we have rejoiced and wondered at the fortitude and the pluck with which such trials have been endured. Let us make this our example; let us profit by it, too. I will not detain you longer; it only remains for me, on this most auspicious anniversary, to call upon you to fill your glasses, full bumpers, and with all your hearts drink the toast I propose, viz. :—

Health, Happiness, and Prosperity to Mr. and Mrs. —, with many Happy Returns of their Wedding-Day. May every blessing attend them in future and for evermore. Now then, three times three! Hip, hip, hurrah!

LXXIV.—ANOTHER PROPOSAL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My friends, I have been requested this evening to undertake a duty, which I generally take great pains to avoid—

that of proposing a toast. But on this occasion I am not going to shirk, I am not even going to try, because I am in the happy position when duty marches with inclination. To be asked to propose the toast of the evening is in itself an honour, but in the case of the toast I am going to give you it is more than an honour, it is a privilege which nothing but a close and life-long friendship could entitle me to claim. To-day our host and hostess are celebrating the anniversary of a singularly happy marriage and it is but fitting that, on their Silver Wedding-Day, we their friends should unite to drink most heartily their health and to wish them continued happiness. On such a day no melancholy retrospects, no unpleasantness, must be permitted to intrude from any source. Troubles come in time to us all. But instead of thinking of the crosses and worries, the cares and difficulties which may, during twenty-five years have come upon us, let us rather thank Heaven that we have had the strength to surmount them, and to enjoy the blessings we possess!

Five and twenty years appears a lifetime to the young, but Time has dealt leniently with Mr. and Mrs. —, whose health I am about to propose. Old Time has not dared to lay an unkind finger on such kindly heads. On the contrary, he spares them; he respects them, and though he delights in plaguing less deserving mortals, he passes our host and hostess smilingly year after year.

Youthfulness, merriment, good-humour, cheerfulness, sit at their board and defy Time. Age cannot wither, and it never will wither, those kindly hearts, those generous spirits, which preside over this household. They ward off his attacks and reach the Silver Wedding-Day with hearts young, and faces as bright as polished silver itself, reflecting happiness all around them!

So, ladies and gentlemen, "uprouse ye" merrily. It is not our "opening day"—it is the twenty-fifth anniversary of a happy day, often to be overtaken, let us hope, in

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future years. The silver will change gloriously into the Golden Wedding-Day ; each year bringing with it a continuance of prosperity and happiness. The spring is gone, it may be ; the summer is passing, perhaps ; but there is yet the golden-lined autumn of their lives to come, when the harvest of good seeds shall be reaped in troops of friends and loving memories.

It needs not my imperfect words and halting speech to indicate to you the way in which the toast should be honoured. I will, therefore, merely give it you, and beg you in heartfelt manner—as I am sure you all will—to drink to Mr. and Mrs. — with hearty congratulations on this anniversary—Health and Happiness in future, and Many Happy Returns of the Day. God bless them !

LXXV.—REPLY TO TOAST OF “SILVER WEDDING.”

[BY THE HUSBAND.]

Mr. —, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

You will, I am sure, pity me in the position in which I find myself. I am not, of course, referring to the matrimonial state, but to the position in which I have been placed by the—as far as I am personally concerned—undeserved eulogies of my old friend who has so eloquently proposed my wife’s health and my own, and who has spoken so highly of all our surroundings.

Ladies and gentlemen, what can I say to thank you save that my dear wife and myself do thank you from the bottom of our hearts ? In her name and my own I must tell you that I do not deserve the praise you have lavished on us ; but I may also tell you she does. No words of mine could express what for more than twenty-five years she has been to me, what help and support in the battle of life she has given me by her love, her sympathy, her tact and power of understanding ; and if I have been at

all successful, it is to her that the greatest part of the credit is due.

I said for "more than twenty-five years" this influence has been over me. Yes: twenty-seven years ago I first met my wife that was to be, and is! Those were happy days—foreshadowing the happier ones yet to come for us, and now it is with pardonable pride that I can look around me to-day, here in my own house, after so many years of hard work, of struggle at times, of sorrow and sickness at times, but always cheered by my better half; truly my *better half*—and in later times by the companionship of my children also.

Ladies and gentlemen, one and all, I thank you in the name of all my family. We are delighted to see you here, and if we are spared we hope that this will not be the last time by any means that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you all here. We owe you another vote of thanks for your charming gifts. A kindly remembrance of our wedding-day. For these, much thanks! I am sure you will excuse my saying more now. Your kindness has touched us very deeply, and I am unable to proceed further; but you will quite understand how highly, how sincerely, my wife, my children, and myself appreciate and feel your kind expressions, and reciprocate your good wishes. Ladies and gentlemen, once again we thank you from the very bottom of our hearts!

LXXVI.—ANOTHER REPLY. [BY THE HUSBAND.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

May I say first of all that it gives my wife and myself the greatest pleasure to see you all here to-night. My old friend, Mr. — has proposed the toast of our health in such terms that, though I can hardly call myself a modest

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man I am inclined, despite my years, to blush. Time has dealt leniently with us, he said, and in a measure that is true, but if it is the fact that Time has not severely scored my face with furrows nor unduly whitened my hair, it is not only to him that my obligation is due. It is not time that ages us so much as care and worry, and it is to the brave courage and sweet influence of my wife that I owe my freedom from many things that break men down so often. Troubles we have known, indeed, and sorrows to which man is born as the sparks fly upward. But troubles lose half their force when shared, and joys and happiness are doubled. Twenty-five years ago to-day I faced the world full of high hope and with my cup of happiness brimming over, and to-day I can truly say that all I hoped for and dreamed of on my wedding-day, I have realised in my wife. Can I or any man say more? And as for yourselves, let me speak to you from my heart in my wife's name and in my own. You have very, very kindly—most generously—responded to the toast which our valued friend, Mr.—, has proposed. Not only for this kindness, but for your presence here to-day, we most heartily thank you. You have honoured us in deed and in word; have accepted in far too generous a sense my own small merits: but though I say it, you *cannot* overestimate my dear wife. In this sense of goodness she has her "separate estate," unalienable, on which she can draw heavy drafts, always fully honoured at the hands of her friends. Gentlemen and ladies, I endorse your praises in this respect entirely.

So let me tell you again, we thank you, Heaven knows how truly and sincerely, for your kindness and good wishes. May they be fulfilled. Ladies and gentlemen, I echo your sentiments. May you all be happy, as I am—as we are; and I say to you, as you to me, with all my heart, in the name of all near and dear to me, God bless you every one!

CHAPTER IX.

SPORTING TOASTS.

FOR CLUB AND HOUSE DINNERS, AND CONVIVIAL
OCCASIONS.

LXXVII.—AT A CRICKET* DINNER—"OUR OPPO-
NENTS." [PROPOSED BY THE CAPTAIN OF THE
VICTORIOUS ELEVEN.]

Gentlemen,—

As chairman of this very pleasant meeting, I have a toast to propose to you which, after what has already passed to-day, and judging by the good feeling which animates us all, I am sure the team of which I have the honour to be captain will drink with much pleasure. The toast is the health of the — Eleven, our courteous and able opponents in the field. We have had a capital game, and if by the glorious uncertainties of Cricket it has so happened that our team has won the match, we are quite ready to acknowledge what trouble we had to make the runs, and to avoid the ready hands in the field, and keep up our stumps, before bowling such as our friends can command. I am glad for the honour of our club that we won, though I am sure—if my friend the captain of your team will permit me to say so—that if close fielding and steady work deserves success (as they do) we shall not

*With the necessary alteration of technical terms, these cricket toasts will do equally well for football dinners.

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Winners and losers alike, we have had a good game and enjoyed it, and I trust we may have many others. For games such as these bring out all the manliest qualities; pluck, endurance, patience, steadiness, and obedience are all required when we enter an eleven. If obedience is the first duty of the soldier, it is not less a very important duty of the members of a cricket eleven. Selfishness must be entirely put aside in cricket. The captain is responsible, and until he be declared unfitted he should be obeyed by all playing members in the field or pavilion, as far as the conduct of the game is concerned. This harmonious working is the secret of success, and by a steady continuance in such a course, with plenty of practice and goodwill, no eleven, however crude at first, need despair of winning its way. Gentlemen, I give you the — Eleven, coupled with the name of Mr. —, that most able captain and cricketer, and my very good friend.

LXXVIII.—RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[SPOKEN BY THE CAPTAIN OF THE OPPOSING TEAM.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

Your Captain has proposed our health in such very complimentary terms, and expressed himself so kindly towards his beaten but not humiliated adversaries, that I cannot quite decide in my own mind which to admire most—his prowess with the bat and in the field, or his courtesy and eloquence off it. At any rate I need not try to decide now. I have to thank him for the manner in which the toast was proposed, and you, gentlemen, for the way in which it has been honoured. You won a well-contested match, and we have no excuses to make for our defeat; we can only say that the best team won. But we are not going to sit

down and accept this issue as final. We do not intend—and I think my friends will agree with me that we are right—we do not mean to give in. We hope you will meet us again, and on our own ground, where if we cannot entertain you as hospitably and as generously as we have been entertained here—though we will try that too—we will certainly meet you in friendly rivalry and do our very best to beat you handsomely. From our games I think we get not only pleasure but considerable profit—for it is always a good thing to keep fit—and when the time comes when the pavilion and not the playing field is our place, we shall remember with pleasure many a hard fought game and, no doubt, tell a younger generation how play has gone off since “our time.” Gentlemen of the — Cricket Club, I will only add my thanks and those of my colleagues for the very kind reception you have given us.

A CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL DINNER.

LXXIX.—**SUCCESS TO THE — CLUB.** [PROPOSED
BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

You are doubtless anticipating the usual speech from the chair, and I will not keep you in suspense very long nor tire your patience. The report of the club, showing its financial position and the result of the last season's working, has already been placed before you. You will have noticed that the matches in which the club [and ground] engaged were more numerous last season than in the previous years. The receipts from members, and subscriptions, have increased, and there are two very satisfactory points connected with the past season, viz., the funds are in good condition, we having a very respectable balance in hand,

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and the club has won [nine], lost [four], and drawn [three] of the contests it has engaged in with other elevens.

I am glad to welcome so many new members to our ranks ; but the number must necessarily be limited. We have not accommodation for more than a certain number, and on one or two occasions already some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the want of accommodation. Well, gentlemen, the committee have done all they can, and have succeeded in keeping the club solvent. But if more accommodation for match days is to be provided, and the committee were glad to see that ladies mustered in larger numbers to encourage them, they would suggest a slightly increased entrance fee upon big match days, or the issue of season tickets to friends of the members duly introduced. This would give them a fund to draw upon and entitle the holders to seats.

There have been no accidents of any consequence, and some excellent cricket has been shown. We have now a very excellent eleven, and I am happy to be able to announce that there are some promising "colts" in the district, who will have an opportunity of trying their mettle on an early day in the ensuing season.

I am glad to see that our manly national game still keeps its hold upon the country. I do not think cricket was ever more popular. We have seen teams from both hemispheres giving a good account of themselves, showing great patience when an up-hill game had to be played, and by brilliant dash and rapid scoring eventually pulling a game "out of the fire." What man has done man may do, and I hope the day is far distant when matches between England and her children will cease to be played. Especially must we learn to take defeat in as sportsmanlike a spirit as victory, for both are equal tests of character, and to rejoice that our kindred beyond sea have such a relish for the old English sport, and prove so readily that they are real chips of the old block, possessing all the good qualities

of the race of Englishmen. There is a good deal to be said about the game, but as so many of you here are much more familiar with the practice than I am, I will spare you my theories as to the mode of playing it; and my moral reflections I am sure you will be content to take, like the report, as read. Gentlemen, I have now only to give you the toast I rose so long ago to propose, and for which you have so kindly waited. I will try your patience no longer. Success to the — Cricket Club, and I will couple the toast with the name of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. —, to whose exertions the club owes so much of its success and high position.

LXXX.—RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[BY THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE CLUB.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

It is very gratifying to me to hear my name coupled with the success of the — Cricket Club, and the feeling ought to be—but, alas! for poor human nature, is not—diminished by the reflection that the honour is in great part undeserved. The Committee, of which I am only a member and the mouthpiece, has really done all the work, but what I have done I can assure you I have done very willingly. I am very fond of the game, and at one time took some little part in it. Should circumstances and occupations permit, I may again be able to put aside the pen for the ball, and sing, "Oh, willow, willow," when I grasp my old bat once more, and go in to score yet another "duck." I am very glad that the club is in such a flourishing condition, in the ledgers as well as in the scoring books. The matches have been won by sheer hard work and drilling, and to this increasing success the club is mainly indebted to Mr. —, our energetic captain. The success is his, and his men have "backed

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him up" well. He has been bold as a bowler, and his manner of "driving" shows how well he is fitted to handle a "team." We all have recognised his "powers of defence," and have never known him "stumped" in argument or repartee. With such qualities he appears *cut* out for the position of captain, and I hope that the time is *long off* when he will retire. That he will make a *point of long stopping* with us, and leading the eleven to victory, for many more seasons, is, I am sure, our heartfelt wish. Gentlemen, in thanking you for the honour you have done me, I would crave permission to propose the health of Mr. —, the Captain of the Eleven.

LXXXI.—RESPONSE OF THE CAPTAIN TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

My friend the Honorary and honourable Secretary has made a speech so bristling with cricket terms as to be almost *wicked!* and I feel in danger of following his example in that sense—but I forbear. I am quite unable to meet him on that ground; he may claim to score off me there. But I am none the less grateful to him, gentlemen, for the very clever and pleasant manner in which the last toast was proposed and to you for the way in which it was received. "The labour we delight in physics pain," and so I cannot lay claim to all the goodness my friend has attributed to me, for I am so fond of cricket, and I may add of the club, that any inconvenience or trouble falls from me when the necessities or the demands of the game or the club make themselves known, or are made known, as they generally are, to me by my friend your unwearied secretary. The eleven last season was a very good one, and I must in mere fairness remark that if our men had not displayed pluck and determination, if they had not

worked so well together, my labours as captain would have been immensely increased. It is always a grateful theme with me, and when we have such men in the eleven as —, and —, there need be no question of a captain for the team; and no fear of bad seasons, with ordinary luck, while we possess such bowlers as —, and such sure fieldsmen as —, and —. It is an honour to captain such a team, and I feel it so, I assure you. Gentlemen, I thank you heartily for your good wishes, and for the kindness with which you have listened to my imperfect speech and attempt at oratory.

AT A LOCAL CRICKET DINNER.

LXXXII.—**THE HEALTH OF THE HOST.** [PROPOSED BY THE ELDEST VISITOR.]

Gentlemen,—

I must ask you to fill me a bumper and drink to the toast I am about to propose. I feel I need not call upon you to drink it heartily, for that I know you will do when I tell you that it is the health of our kind and worthy Host which is to be honoured. We all know how considerate he has always been to us, how he permits us to use his park and to pitch our wickets in his grounds, and how he has always entertained us. We do not need reminding of these things and we look forward with the greatest pleasure to our match in the park. There is no necessity for me to dwell upon the virtues of our Host. He is so well known and so universally respected that nothing that I might say could by any possibility add to his popularity, or to the high position he occupies in the minds of all in the county and beyond it. Gentlemen, I will only ask you to give three hearty cheers for Mr. —, our kind Host.

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LXXXIII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[SPOKEN BY THE HOST.]

Gentlemen,—

My friend, Mr. — has been very kind in proposing my health, and I am greatly flattered and gratified by the manner in which he acquitted himself and the way in which you responded. I can only say I am very glad that you think it worth while to come here for your game. I am always glad to encourage, so far as is in my power, healthy exercise and honest enjoyment. My park is open so long as you wish to use it, and I am glad to learn from my men and from my own observation that you and other young gentlemen and neighbours come here and enjoy yourselves without doing harm to the trees and grass, for it is very disheartening for an owner of property to find his trees injured and his sward cut about by thoughtless persons, and it often induces him to close his grounds. I am glad to think that you and your friends have now for so long enjoyed any little hospitality I am so happy to extend to you. It is as great a pleasure to me to see you here enjoying yourselves as it is for you to come here. I shall always be glad to welcome you and your wives and children and your sweethearts, and when you come over next time bring them with you to watch your game and to enjoy themselves as much as they can. I now have only to thank you in my family's name and my own for drinking our healths, and to wish you all "Many happy returns of the day"—if it has been, as I believe it has, a pleasant one to you all as well as to myself.

AT A REGATTA DINNER.

LXXXIV.—SUCCESS TO THE REGATTA. [PROPOSED
BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

We have come to the toast of the day, and, as you will readily admit, it is an interesting one to all present. The occasion of the — Regatta cannot possibly be dismissed with a few words. It is now an annual institution, and its success or failure means a good deal, not only to those immediately interested, but to all who are connected with the — Club. I am glad to be able to chronicle a marked success to-day. We have seen some good and close racing; and if our crew did not carry off many laurels, they were, if defeated, certainly not disgraced, and we would rather see them win upon other water than their own. We prefer our visitors to carry off the prizes if they can. We are as pleased to see them win as to win ourselves, and the best men must win—of that we feel assured. We have done fairly well, but might have done better, and while condoling with the unsuccessful we can warmly congratulate the victors upon their success.

Let me now say a few words respecting the club and the business side of the question. The finances are in a pretty good condition, and even if I did not tell you you could see from the beaming face of the treasurer that we have a balance in hand, after providing for all expenses; it amounts to £—. [*Insert here any remarks as to future plans finances, etc.*]

The general arrangements of the club have been much improved, and the success of the arrangements is in a great measure, if not altogether, due to the untiring efforts of Mr. —, our most efficient honorary secretary. To him we all owe a deep debt of gratitude, and with his name I will conclude my remarks. I will call upon you all to drink

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to the health of Mr. —, to whose tact and patience the prosperity and popularity of the club are in a great measure due. Gentlemen, a bumper if you please for the Honorary Secretary.

LXXXV.—A REGATTA DINNER. [REPLY OF THE HON. SECRETARY.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I trust you will excuse me if, in my endeavours to thank you for your kind expressions of goodwill, I fail to make myself as intelligible as I wish. The honour you have done me is unexpected, and all the more embarrassing to me on that account. It is very generous of our chairman to speak of me in such terms. Though I have endeavoured to do my duty I have never done more; and therefore, conscientiously speaking, I have no claim to your thanks. But it is very gratifying, nevertheless, to feel and to hear that in the estimation of one's friends, and in the opinion of the chairman, one has succeeded in one's endeavours, which have, at any rate, the merit of disinterestedness. The Club House has been a very pleasant rendezvous, but not all the efforts of the committee and secretary would have accomplished everything without the hearty and pleasant co-operation of the members. The committee have been indefatigable and untiring in their efforts to make the club and its arrangements successful; and we think we have in a measure succeeded. Personally I feel much gratified at the very kind manner in which the toast of my health has been received, and I thank you all heartily and sincerely for the way you have honoured me by proposing it.

LXXXVI.—THE HEALTH OF THE COMPETING CREWS.

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

I have it in my mind to propose to you a double toast, and one which you will all accept with pleasure. I mean the health of two competing crews in the chief race here present. We were much interested to-day in the races for the Grand Challenge Cup, the final issue of which, as you are aware, was limited to the two boats whose crews are here present. We were beaten, and—well, not badly beaten. We accept with resignation our defeat, but we intend as soon as possible to reverse the verdict and claim the cup. There will be opportunities for us to retrieve our laurels soon, and we intend to try and regain some of them at any rate. Meanwhile I call upon you to drink first to our guests, the —— Crew, who have so well and honourably defeated us; and secondly, I will ask you to keep a little cheer for our own Eight, who struggled so gamely to pick up the race. Gentlemen, though they be opponents in these contests, I couple with all amicable feelings and good wishes the toasts of the —— Crew and the Eight of the —— Club.

LXXXVII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[BY THE STROKE OF THE SUCCESSFUL BOAT.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

It is with much diffidence that I rise to reply to the toast which you, sir, have so handsomely proposed, and to which all your members here present have so kindly responded. I can assure you we think we are very lucky in having carried off the prize; and if anything can add to our satisfaction in having wrested it from such a fine crew, it is the generous manner in which that perhaps temporary defeat has been received and our success

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welcomed. Such hearty kindness as we have met at your hands increases the value of the prize four-fold. We appreciate it all, I assure you, and although I cannot—and you will not expect me to—say I hope you will regain it, I am certain of one thing: that never was a losing race more pluckily rowed, and never was a defeat more admirably taken nor more courteously acknowledged.

We have had many pleasant meetings during the period in which I have been stroking the Eight of the —Club, and it has fallen to my lot, I am glad to say, to have been partly the means of winning some prizes; but we value our prize to-day most highly. We trust your crew will pay us a visit at our regatta, and in the name of our club, the —, I bid you all welcome. Gentlemen, once more in the name of the Eight of— I thank you for the honour you have done us in drinking our healths.

A GOLF CLUB DINNER.

LXXXVIII.—CONTINUED PROSPERITY OF OUR CLUB.

[PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Gentlemen,—

It is always easy to propose the welfare and success of ourselves, for, practically, that is what such a toast as this comes to. But in this case it is a pleasure also, for everyone who plays the Royal and Ancient game of Golf knows that to it he—and I am happy to think I must also say she—owes perfect relaxation from the cares of life and the worries of the household, as well as the enjoyment of health and strength, and this, whether he has a *plus* handicap or still remains amongst the unhandicapped. For golf is not only a game of skill but a life-giving pastime. The exercise it affords is in no sense violent, but it is complete. The

revival of the game is one of the extraordinary facts in the history of Sport. Golf links in England in the mid-Victorian period might almost have been counted on the fingers; to-day they are found everywhere. Our club has shared in the general prosperity of the game, and we will do our best to maintain and even increase its well-being. In expressing that opinion I am sure I voice the sentiments of every member, and I call upon you, therefore, to drink to the continuance of our good fortune. I will couple the toast with the name of our amiable and assiduous Secretary.

LXXXIX.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[BY THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE CLUB.]

Mr. Chairman,—

You have spoken of our game in terms that all golfers will accept without question, but the scoffer, perhaps, would remind you that you said nothing about the language with which it is supposed to be decorated, or, rather, with which players are occasionally tempted to adorn their strokes. Even the cloth cannot always resist this temptation, as witness the story of the reverend gentleman who, whenever he fozzled a stroke, was wont to exclaim angrily "Assouan," explaining to any who inquired why he did so, that it was "the biggest dam on earth." Yet despite this, and after making every deduction, even the scoffer cannot deny that golf is one of the grandest out-door games ever invented. And, moreover, it does teach some moral discipline. Look at its familiar maxims—"far and sure," "keep your eye on the ball," "don't press," and the like; have they no bearing on everyday life? Do they not teach us to "keep a straight line" in life as on the course? Consider, too, the lessons to be learned in a bunker: is there anything more calculated to teach

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patience and perseverance than a series of well-acted bunkers.

I was glad to note, sir, that you alluded to the fact that ladies have taken up the game enthusiastically, and their enthusiasm has been well rewarded, as many a mere man who has lightly embarked on a match with one of them has found to his cost.

As to the immediate subject of the toast, I think my fellow-members need have no anxiety. Our club is going along very comfortably, we have a competent and obliging professional, who keeps the course in good order, and we have the real club spirit among our members; these should be sufficient to ensure its continued prosperity. In the name of the club, I thank you all for the very hearty way in which you have received this toast.

AN ANGLING CLUB.

XC.—PROSPERITY TO THE — ANGLING CLUB.

[PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE ANNUAL DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

There is only one more toast which I will inflict upon you this evening, but I am sure you will heartily respond to it. The toast is—Prosperity to the Anglers' Club. We have all been fishing to-day, but I am sure you do not fish for compliments from me respecting your successes. We have had a good haul provided for our meeting, and though it is not much in my line to make jokes, I will say that every man Jack of you seemed to be enjoying himself on his own hook—which I venture to doubt if the fish did!

Now this remark leads me to say something about the sport itself. Old Izaak Walton declared that, "God never

did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling." But there are many worthy people who declare that fishing is very cruel; they say we torture the fish; I maintain we do not; no true fisherman will do so. If, as we can judge from our own experience, the terror of pain and death lies in the anticipation, then the fish having no anticipation of death, do not suffer mentally at all. Bodily suffering, I think, is not great in fish. That they give us play enough at times we know; but the tough, leathery mouth is not sensitive to the hook as we estimate feeling, and if we kill our fish at once there is little or no pain. With the bait it is a different thing, and I am afraid we must plead guilty; but fly-fishing and artificial baits will serve as well on most occasions.

Gentlemen, I have not much to say. Our club has been long existent, and this is not the first time I have had the pleasure of addressing you from the chair. We have had a satisfactory increase of members of late, and I am glad to inform you that the funds are in good condition. I will now conclude by calling upon you to drink "Prosperity to the — Angling Club."

A CYCLING CLUB.

XCI.—PROSPERITY TO THE — CYCLING CLUB.

[PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE ANNUAL DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

The toast of prosperity to the — Cycling Club which I now rise to propose is certain to receive cordial acknowledgment from you, however inadequate my words in proposing it may be. Cycling has long ceased to be purely an athletic sport, and although I suppose everyone here can remember the days when the cycling man was regarded

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as being necessarily an athlete, and the cycling woman was eyed askance as being fast if nothing worse, yet the memory only arouses feelings of amused incredulity now. A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then. The cycling trade has developed into a great industry, giving employment to thousands of hands throughout the world. The man or woman who cannot cycle is now the exception, not the rule, and the cyclist triumphant has crossed the Alps and surveyed the Pyrenees, traversed Europe and penetrated to Pekin; and from all this he has developed a literature of his own to which novelists, poets and painters, historians, statesmen and devotees of science have all alike been delighted to contribute. Clubs such as ours require no words of apology or commendation. They afford opportunities of pleasant social intercourse, and the periodical club rides serve to give healthy exercise and to present a wholesome change of ideas to all who are wise enough to take part in them. I venture to say that there are many places of interest within a radius of thirty miles from this room which many of us would never have visited but for the club pilgrimages. It is a theme upon which I should like to dilate, but even if I were more competent to do so than I am, it would be unnecessary to an audience who, I am sure, regard it with as much enthusiasm as I do. Gentlemen, I give you the toast, "Prosperity to the ——— Cycling Club."

AN ANNUAL "HOUSE-DINNER."

XCII.—THE FIRM. [PROPOSED BY THE SENIOR EMPLOYÉ.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

By an honour of which I am fully conscious, it devolves upon me to propose to you a very important toast, and one which it requires some courage and firmness to

undertake. I mean the health of the firm with which we all—or nearly all—have the pleasure of being associated. For more years than I care to number I have been in the employment of Messrs. — and —, in a very responsible position, and have had many opportunities of observing them in their personal as well as in their business relations. In their presence, gentlemen, I will not dilate upon the many acts of considerate kindness and liberality of which we are all conscious, and of which they may well be proud—and they would themselves object to my doing so. But I am sure we each can recall some kindness, some act of encouragement, which has lightened our way in business. The Firm, any large firm, has a great responsibility committed to it, and the happiness and contentment of the employés are two very prominent factors in the sum of their enjoyment, as well as in the sum of their success. We are all human and every man likes to receive some personal recognition of his work outside the merely commercial one of receiving payment for work done. We all know how pleased a young man is if, when he has done his work well, he is praised, and how wretched he feels when he is blamed. The consciousness that his good service is not lost sight of or ignored gives him a more directly personal interest in making himself efficient and useful to his employers. We can imagine the pleasure the partners of a firm feel—and now I am not speaking personally of any firm, be they lawyers, publishers, merchants, or brewers—the partners of any firm feel pleased—when their business succeeds. When the lawyer gains his case, and the publisher makes a hit, when the merchant makes a *coup*, and the manufacturer successfully launches a novelty on the sea of trade, a firm rejoices in such an event; that is natural, but it means much more when all the servants of the firm rejoice as well. Some firms, we know, take all the credit to themselves, and ignore or affect to be unaware of the share which the employés have

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had, perhaps, in the initiation of the business, certainly in its conduct to success. This is not our case. We feel that our efforts are appreciated. We like a little praise now and then to encourage us ; and let me say—speaking as a man of experience, and as one who has had many men under him—that a few words of praise may make all the difference between willing and perfunctory service.

I am certain that mutual esteem and consideration are the corner-stones of the building, of the firm building up, of a business. No master will be so well served as he who is loved and respected, whose censure is just, whose criticism is strict, and is non-sparing, on occasion, of praise. Neither master nor man should demand the always unvarying letter of the bond, nor exact always the pound of flesh. There are ways of winning voluntary service, which is worth far more than paid service, and the firm that can attach such to itself, not only by justice, strict and impartial, but by kindness and well-timed liberality, will have assistance which money cannot purchase and which years will not wear out. Gentlemen, to such a firm I believe we belong, and in that belief I call upon you all respectfully, gratefully, and dutifully, to drink health and prosperity to the Firm of Messrs. — & Co., and thank them for giving us such a pleasant “outing” to-day.

XCIII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST. [BY
THE SENIOR PARTNER PRESENT.]

Mr. Vice and Gentlemen,—

Being the chairman on this occasion I cannot address myself ; but I have a pleasant Vice ready to listen to me, and perhaps to prompt me. I am—and I speak also for my partners—we all are very sensible of the kind manner in which our health has been proposed and received. It is true, as Mr. — said just now, that mutual consideration and esteem are the corner-stones of every business

house, and we are delighted to accept his assurances that in our case they exist.

There is one point in the speech just delivered which I must touch upon, and that is the responsibility of the Firm in the matter of the employés. They are not children, and they would resent, and rightly resent, our interference in their private concerns. They might say to us, Mind your own business; we are yours from nine till five or six o'clock, but after we leave your house we are our own masters. So far as the outside life of our men is concerned, so far as their pursuits and amusements are concerned, we do not accept any responsibility. Of course, if we found that those pursuits or amusements were encroaching on, or in direct opposition to, our business, it would be our duty to warn the individual that he must conform to our practice and wishes, and give up one or the other of the opposing pursuits. But within all reasonable limitations we recognise their right to absolute independence in their private relations as clearly as we recognise it in the case of any other of our friends.

We entirely accept the responsibility for our employés during office hours. We wish you to understand that we have your interests at heart as well as our own. We welcome any development of energy gladly; and though we do not in every instance think it our duty to pat the employé openly on the back for doing *his* duty, yet I do not think that we are blind, intentionally or unintentionally, to what goes on and you may be sure that we try properly to appreciate and reward all your efforts for the good of the firm.

We are pleased that we can annually enjoy our holiday together as we have to-day; and now I will not detain you longer. There are many other toasts to come, I perceive, so I will at once resume my duties, thanking you for the toast which has been proposed and received in a manner highly gratifying to the Firm.

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XCIV.—**THE EMPLOYÉS.** [PROPOSED BY THE HEAD
OF DEPARTMENT, OR JUNIOR PARTNER.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

The toast I have now to propose is a very important one, second only in importance to that of the Firm, which preceded it. In all large houses there must be a head and hands—just as in the human body we have a directing brain, and limbs to perform what the brain directs. But unless the hands work with the head, unless the limbs answer quickly and willingly to the direction of the intellect and do as they are directed, they are of no use. The man then is like a machine out of gear: he must retire from business—he is no good in business.

On the other hand if the brain directs wrongfully, the man is said to be vicious and criminal; and in that case he is a nuisance to society and must be shut up. So to have a, humanly speaking, perfect man, or a perfect machine, the head must be clear, and the limbs or hands must be in good working order. This is the secret of success—honesty and ability in direction, obedience in action; and this in a great measure has been the secret of our Firm's success; the manner in which those employed have carried out the instructions issued by the head.

We are glad to take this occasion to thank our staff not for their efficiency and loyalty alone, for those things one may perhaps expect from one's employés, but for their keenness, their constant concern for the firm's good, for that extra bit of "snap" if I may use the word, that makes all the difference in business and distinguishes the willing and intelligent worker from the machine. You, gentlemen, have shown that you have your hearts in your work and the firm is grateful to you. In proposing the health of the Employés of the Firm, I wish to couple with the toast the name of our valued servant and friend, Mr. — and to thank them all again.

XCV.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE EMPLOYÉS.
 [BY THE SENIOR CLERK.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—
 I am sure all those employed by the Firm of Messrs. — and — have reason to thank Mr. — for the very kind way in which he has spoken of them. We are all grateful for much kindness, and our annual dinners are always looked forward to with much pleasure, and always looked back upon with a feeling of contentment. As regards the efforts of the gentlemen in the house, I can answer for it that they have all endeavoured to do their duties, to the best of their abilities, willingly and conscientiously for the benefit of the house. A great deal has been done, and we are glad to think that the balance-sheet shows that our efforts have not been unfruitful, and that the old house for which many of us have worked so long and so pleasantly, continues to prosper. We trust that our efforts in the future, if we are permitted to meet another year to hear the result, will be at least as satisfactory to all parties, and that the mutual esteem and regard which influences all in the house will remain even more firmly cemented. Gentlemen, in the name of the Employés I thank you for your good wishes and kind expressions concerning us.

XCVI.—THE VISITORS. [PROPOSED BY THE VICE-CHAIRMAN.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—
 Before we separate I would ask you to join with me in drinking the health of our Visitors. It has been a great pleasure to me to be able to offer them our hospitality, and we owe them this meed of thanks for the compliment they have paid us by their presence, and for the geniality

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and good feeling which they have contributed to make this occasion such a success. Many of the Visitors are already old friends, and all the others, we hope, will yet become so. [Some graceful allusion should be made to, at any rate, the more prominent individuals invited.] To all of them we are much indebted for preferring our invitation to the many others which they doubtless received simultaneously with our own, and I know you will join with me in an expression of thanks and cordially drink the toast of their good health.

XCVII.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE VISITORS.

[BY ONE OF THEM.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

You have entertained us royally, you have lavished kindness and hospitality on us all day, and just when we are wondering how to thank you, you take the breath out of our mouths by thanking us. Why you should do so, we cannot guess, but of course we could not be so rude as to contradict our hosts, so that we must believe that we have conferred a favour on you by coming here and enjoying ourselves. If the favour is so great as Mr. — suggests, I for my part can only say that I shall be happy to confer it again and as often as you like. In all sincerity we are very much obliged to you for honouring this toast so warmly and for the generous hospitality of which it marks the close. If the criterion by which to tell a good host is that his guests enjoy themselves, you may claim to have graduated with honours in the school of hospitality, for enjoy ourselves we one and all have done. In the name of the Visitors I thank you very much, and heartily congratulate you upon the success of the function at which you have honoured us by inviting us to assist.

XCVIII.—THE LADIES. [GENERALLY PROPOSED BY THE
YOUNGEST BACHELOR PRESENT.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I rise to ask you to charge your glasses that you may do honour to the most important toast that it is possible to propose at any feast of reason and flow of soul, namely, the toast of—The Ladies. I don't know why this toast should be put so near to the bottom of the list, unless it be that the gentleman responsible for preparing the list is under the sad delusion that woman is inferior to man. But he could not possibly think that—it would be a gross libel upon our mothers and sweethearts, and wives, and sisters, and cousins, and aunts. Gentlemen, I believe in the equality of the sexes. If the women are inferior to men in certain respects, they are superior to them in others, and to avoid any animated discussion on a point which, after all, is largely a matter of opinion, I may safely say that the honours are pretty equally divided. A profound remark was uttered once by Mr. Gilead P. Beck which may be appropriately recalled. When the "Golden Butterfly" had brought him wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, he was besieged by people who had suggestions to offer as to how he might most advantageously dispose of at least some portion of his pile. Among the visitors was a lady who believed in the equality of the sexes and desired financial assistance for the propagation of her views. She entertained him at some length with a disquisition on the subject, and wound up by asking how it was that women had never yet produced a Shakespeare. "I don't know, I am sure," Mr. Beck replied, "I was under the impression that they had produced all our greatest men." There is a wealth of wisdom in that answer. I really think, gentlemen, that if we had a few young women in the House of Commons, instead of the many old women who at present make such a mess of things there, it would

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be all the better for the government of the country. But I am dropping into politics, so, before the chairman pulls me up, I will just say that whatever opinion gentlemen present may hold on the subject of Home Rule for Ireland, we must all be of one mind in thinking that all women should be home rulers all the world over; and whether we think it or not, they are the world's home rulers. I must confess that I have not yet mustered up courage to subject myself to home rule, in the matrimonial sense, but I strongly recommend my bachelor friends to try the experiment. It is true that a Greek poet has told us that :

"Two happy days a married man may prize:
The day he weds his wife, the day she dies!"

but then I don't believe that poets are the best judges of domestic matters. Gentlemen—"The Ladies!" God bless them.

XCIX.—THE LADIES. [PROPOSED BY A GUEST.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Will you permit me to rise and say a few words upon a subject upon which I am confessedly ignorant, but in which,—or shall I say whom—I take a great interest. The Ladies! I am youthful, I confess, and unskilled in the ways of womankind, but, as one profound thinker—I forget his name—said "Where would the world be without women?" Equally profound was the answer, "Where, indeed?"

Gentlemen, one thing has always struck me as strange—that it is to a bachelor that this toast is generally entrusted. Surely that is wrong, surely some married man who knows more of the delightful sex, whose words would carry more conviction, should propose it and not one who has not yet met

That not impossible she
That shall command my heart and me.

But no married man ever does ; I wonder why ? Perhaps it is that none can find words eloquent enough. On the other hand perhaps—again I wonder.

But seriously, gentlemen, we mere men owe a tremendous debt to our womenkind on whom, more than on all else, depends the welfare of any nation, for it is on them that depends the fate of the young generations. Any man who has achieved any degree of greatness or success will tell you that he owes much, if not all of it, to the mother who watched with tender care over his youth, and to the wife in whom he ever found consolation and repose after the stress of the fight and encouragement to fight anew. Gentlemen, there is nothing that I can say in praise of the ladies which each of you has not already anticipated. I am sure you all equally with myself respect them, and love them, too, perhaps, or rather, one of them. So I call upon you all to drink heartily to the Ladies. Bless them ! Knowing what blessings we possess in our sweet-hearts and wives, I call upon the youngest bachelor present to return thanks for the sex.

C.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE LADIES. [BY THE YOUNGEST BACHELOR.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

The position in which Mr. — has placed me is rather an awkward one. He confessed just now that (though I believe he is some years my senior) he knew nothing about the sex to entitle him to propose their health ! Now what can I, at my time of life, have to say, except to thank you in the names of the whole of the fair sex throughout the world, for the very nice way, the very charming manner, in which the toast has been proposed and received.

If only the Ladies—not all the ladies in the world,—could have been present, they must have been struck

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with the graceful terms in which their health was proposed, and I am afraid they would be equally disgusted at the tame manner in which I am returning thanks. I assure you, I may assure them, that this diffidence is only observable in their absence. Were any ladies present I could from the inspiration breathe forth new songs of praise of them; in their absence the founts of oratory are frozen—I am chilled. But if the party were lighted by their presence, the rills of rhetoric and the flow of fancy would supervene, and I could, thus warmed by their presence, return suitable thanks for them.

As it is, however, gentlemen, my tongue refuses to say all I think. I thank you sincerely on behalf of the charming Ladies, collectively and individually, whom we have the happiness to call wives or sweethearts; and for the vast array of female beauty outside of our lives I thank you, too, for they are the true consolers of mankind, and "little, if at all, lower than the angels!"

A SMOKING CONCERT.

CI.—OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN.

Gentlemen,—

Happily the functions of a Chairman at such a social entertainment as the present are more or less of a formal nature—so I need not make a long speech. Song, instrumental music, recitation and, it may be, some examples of sleight of hand—these are the main features of our programme. You will observe that I say "main," for though this may be one of the occasions in which silence is golden I think that I should not be doing my duty if I did not express in a word or two the pleasure of the Committee, and especially the promoters and managers of this concert,

at your presence here to-night. In their name I bid you welcome, and hope that you may all enjoy the bill of fare set before you. Personally I shall be greatly disappointed if you do not leave this room to-night feeling that it has done you good to be here. Some rhymist has declared that—

A little nonsense, now and then,
Is relished by the wisest men.

And I am sure that it is right to relieve the strain and stress of the bustle and worry of our times by relaxation and an occasional "night off." Without further preface, therefore, I call upon — to open our concert with a pianoforte solo, "A Souvenir of the Mikado," [or whatever the programme may indicate].

CII.—AT THE END OF THE PROGRAMME. [THE
CHAIRMAN AGAIN.]

Gentlemen,—

The best of friends must part and so must we. But before we sing, heartily together, a verse or two of "Auld Lang Syne," it is my pleasure and privilege to offer from the Chair, on your behalf as well as my own, our warmest thanks to those who have contributed so generously to our delight and amusement. You have, indeed, at various stages of our programme shown your appreciation of their services, but you would, I am sure, wish me to emphasise your applause, expressing to the different artists your sincere gratitude. I daresay that they, on their part, are sensible of the support you have given them by your presence as well as your approval, for there is no doubt but that what is known as a "full house" greatly assists in the rendering of a song or other accomplishment. I have

never been able to forget *Punch's* picture of the comic man struggling with an unsympathetic audience, and I do really believe, therefore, that our artist friends to-night probably thank you almost as cordially as you thank them. [Add here if necessary: Gentlemen, I have the greatest pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the artists.]

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CHAPTER X.

MISCELLANEOUS TOASTS AND SPEECHES.

THE PRESS—LAYING A FOUNDATION STONE—FOR CHARITY
—A SCHOOL FEAST—A NEW RAILWAY LINE—
PRESENTATIONS.

CIII.—**THE PRESS.** [PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN AT A
DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

In asking you to honour the toast of The Press, I am discharging a duty which is particularly agreeable, but to that quite honest statement I must hasten to add the confession that to make a speech upon the subject at all commensurate with its importance is a task beyond my powers. The subject is so vast and appeals to us all from so many varied points of view that I suppose it would be impossible for anyone to deal adequately with even a single aspect of it in the brief limits of an after-dinner speech. The man who invented printing did much more than devise a scheme for the readier multiplication of copies of the Gospels; he found the lever to set free a force fraught with the most tremendous consequences for the whole world, of the ultimate effects of which he could not have had any adequate conception.

But it is the Newspaper Press of this country that we have more particularly in mind in proposing this toast, and we may confidently assert that it compares favourably

with the Press of any other country. Nothing astonishes me so much in modern journalism as the mass of information that is daily and nightly poured forth from our newspaper offices for our amusement and edification, and in spite of the speed at which it is produced, presented with literary charm and a singularly accurate perception of the relative importance of things. With the necessity for rapid composition has come a facility of expression that is truly remarkable, and, even in the case of leading articles, which from the stress of circumstances have been written so shortly before the paper has gone to press that their authors have had no time to see a single proof, it is seldom that the most critical eye can detect evidence of the difficult conditions under which they were evolved. Where the conditions have been less onerous the results are scarcely less surprising to me. I can remember to have heard leaders read from the pulpit by scholarly divines, who rejoiced to find such thoughts so expressed in daily papers, and in spite of the mass of books that are daily offered to glut the appetite of a cultured population, one cannot but feel a pang of regret when one thinks of the quantity of literary gems buried in the files of almost every newspaper.

Then, again, our Newspaper Press is something more than merely literary. Upon the whole it is singularly incorrupt. It is true that from time to time aspersions are made upon what is known as financial journalism, but these aspersions are rarely levelled against the daily papers, where it might be supposed that venality would be most difficult of prevention. We can find plenty to congratulate ourselves upon in the fact that it is impossible to bribe our journalists. And if this is true in financial, it is even more true in political matters. There are plenty of occasions when enemies of England would be only too glad to influence even one newspaper of standing to give expression to their views, and there are not wanting occasions

when unlimited funds could be forthcoming to produce the desired result. But I can remember no occasion when in that sense an English newspaper was found to have its price, and for that alone we cannot honour it too much.

And, lastly, there is the use our papers make of the great power they have acquired by their freedom. Surely it is a good use. Whenever the deserving poor require compassionate assistance, whenever subject races are groaning under the oppression of tyrants, whenever there is a grievance to be remedied or a wrong to be put right, our Newspaper Press may be relied upon to step into the breach and divert into the necessary channel enough of the irresistible force of public opinion to sweep away the offending matter. Individual mistakes it may be an easy matter to cite, but that collectively our Press is characterised by purity of motive, disinterestedness of purpose, and general incorruptibility I do most confidently affirm. And with equal confidence I call upon you to endorse this very imperfect eulogy of our free and national institution by drinking heartily the toast of The Press and the health of its representatives, coupled on this occasion with the name of Mr. ———.

CIV.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Although I am one of the humblest devotees of journalism I should be quite unworthy of the cult I profess if I did not, at any rate, express my warm thanks for the toast you have just honoured. Believe me, however inadequately those thanks may be expressed, they are absolutely sincere. That I regard journalism as an honourable profession goes without saying, since I am devoting my own life to it, and I wish that I were better able to do justice

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to a subject which I have so much at heart. Regarded only as a network of commercial enterprise, our Newspaper Press is an amazing thing. I suppose it would be impossible to compile statistics that would at all approximate to the truth, but the sums of money invested in the newspapers of the United Kingdom and all that goes to make them up, must exceed the sums invested in any other business. When one thinks of the purely commercial side of it the imagination is bewildered; the paper and the machinery that makes it, the type and the machinery that sets it, the ink and the machinery that prints from it; then there is the enormous advertising and distributing trade, and even when one has not begun to consider the contents of the newspapers themselves; the telegrams from all quarters of the globe, the special correspondence, the literary matter, with all its various departments of politics and literature and finance. Truly, it is a marvellous and intricate institution, of which no single man can do more than comprehend his own little department thoroughly.

It is the fashion to regret the decay of what is called Bohemia, but if the old Grub Street, whose name conjures up so vivid an idea, was really one of the leading thoroughfares in its capital, that imaginary land need not be very deeply mourned. The men who aspire to lead in journalism now require qualities which would fit them for leadership in almost any profession: intelligence, courage, both moral and physical, daring, tact, promptitude of decision, readiness of resource, and nicely-balanced judgment, make up a tolerable list of attributes for any one man to possess: yet they are all demanded by the Press from its professed exponents, and, besides all these, there must be the seeing eye and the pen of the ready writer if success is to be achieved in Fleet Street nowadays. The tendency of journalism is towards literature, and it is an old saying that literature is a hard mistress, demanding much from

her votaries, but there is little to grieve at in that ; what's lightly won is seldom well worth having ; the pre-eminence to which our Newspaper Press has attained, has been attained only by infinite pains, and that, I suppose, is why we value it so much. You have shown that you value it by your cordiality in drinking this toast, and in the names of my fellow scribes, I thank you.

CV.—LAYING THE FOUNDATION - STONE OF A MUSEUM. [SPEECH BY THE LATE LORD COLERIDGE.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

The toast I have to propose is—"Prosperity to the — Museum." Prosperity to the Museum means, I suppose, prosperity to those things with which the Museum is connected. Science, which is the knowledge of the universe ; Art, which is, I suppose, the imaginative representation of the whole of the creation which can be seen and is capable of being represented ; and Literature, which, in its very narrowest significance, contains all that the best and ablest men of all times and all ages have ever thought and said. Now that is a light and easy short subject to be dealt with in an after-luncheon speech, especially by one who is wholly unfit to deal with any part of it. But I advocate most heartily such an institution as I understand this Museum to be, because it would be narrow pedantry and absurd to suppose that all the multitudinous forms of art, although they have been nobly handled by the great masters who have gone before, have been exhibited by them. The slightest reflection reminds us that the literature of Carlyle, Browning, Tennyson, Matthew Arnold, Meredith and Swinburne, shows that the riches of the English language are not exhausted, and that its resources are still unfathomed. Therefore, gentlemen, it is with very great pleasure that

I propose this toast to you. I believe that in the institution of a Museum of this kind is to be found the greatest possible advantage to the whole country with which it is connected. I suppose that no one can doubt that the surest way towards the cultivation of charitable judgment and moderate views is the real cultivation of true knowledge. I suppose that nobody can doubt that the "inevitable stream of tendency," as it is called, whether we like it or not, whether we desire it or not, is throwing day by day more and more power into the hands of the people. I suppose, therefore, it cannot be doubted that the wiser, the more charitable, the larger, and more moderate, popular opinion can be made, the better for all of us. Now, I am sure that in an institution such as this there is, at all events, a means, perhaps not the complete means, but a means to such an end. Every piece of really scientific information which has been added to the treasure-house of mankind is, or may be, an inestimable blessing. It is not, of course, by the institution of the Museum alone, by its lecture-rooms, by its teaching, by its library, by its classes, and so forth, that the end I am pointing out can be achieved. Possibly it is not by any combination of ends in the power of man alone to bring about such a result; but I am certain that institutions such as we have joined in increasing to-day ought, and I believe will have, an important function in this respect. It will teach men, or it should teach them, from a scientific point of view how little we all are, how little the earth we stand upon and tread upon is compared with the universe, of which it forms an insignificant portion. That surely is a lesson which should humble every man. History should teach us what great men there have been before us, and what pigmies many of the persons who think themselves great men in the present day are, compared with those who have gone before. There is another lesson that the history of humanity, if it is rightly read, will

teach us, viz., not only the wickedness, but the folly of harsh and severe judgments, and of extravagant language. If there is anything which can be gathered from the perusal of the history of literature, it is to teach a man to think humbly of himself, so as to become more and more capable of self-control, and therefore more and more fit to govern others.

FOR THE SAKE OF CHARITY.

CVI.—IN FAVOUR OF AN EXTENSION OF A HOSPITAL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am sure that everybody recognises, willingly and cheerfully, the high and sacred duty of providing means for the adequate treatment of the ailments and even accidents to which we are all liable. The poorer members of society especially have a strong claim upon our sympathy and support in this respect. Nothing can be more distressing than to see a dear one on a bed of pain and sickness, in circumstances in which it is practically impossible to administer relief or render the best available assistance. Even in the homes of the well-to-do we know, some of us from bitter experience, what a difference to the management of a comfortable and well-conducted household a single case of illness makes, and we may readily imagine that the difficulty is increased a hundredfold in the small houses and cottages of the working classes. It is really imperative, then, that our public authorities should provide ample accommodation for the careful and considerate nursing and handling of our sick poor. Nor, ladies and gentlemen, can we evade our own responsibility in the matter. The care of our brethren and sisters in physical distress is your business and mine, no less than it is that of the governing bodies of our town. And I am certain that

no person in this room desires to shirk his or her share in carrying out this necessary work. When one hears, as one occasionally does, of hospitals being compelled to close wards through lack of funds, the question naturally arises whether the management of these institutions receives the support from other organisations in the town and country that they are entitled to expect. I sometimes wonder whether the resources of our churches and chapels, our trade societies, our social and athletic clubs have been exhausted in maintaining the efficiency of our hospitals. It is not as if we can ever hope to eradicate illness, or render liability to accident impossible. Great things have been done during the past and present generations to improve public health by paying scientific heed to sanitation and inspecting more thoroughly the buildings that are being erected for dwelling-houses; and these efforts must not and will not be suspended. But no matter what steps may be taken to minimise the risks of disease and danger, we know that, in a sense, they will be ever present. On the double ground, therefore, of assisting those who, through no fault of their own, are unable to assist themselves, and of establishing safeguards against the spreading of infectious, contagious and other diseases, it is incumbent upon us to take care that our hospitals shall never lack the means of carrying on its splendid work. If another wing be needed, it must be added; if other beds are essential, they must be provided; if ever a hospital is required in a town or parish hitherto without one, it must be built on the latest and best lines, and equipped with the most approved appliances, and a staff of skilled doctors and capable nurses. We are met to-day to consider the immediate wants which have been shown to exist in our own community. They are urgent, and the necessity for them has been demonstrated by men and women for whom we entertain the highest esteem. I appeal, therefore, with every confidence for the funds required to remedy those wants. I invite

all classes to co-operate. Nor do I expect our sole effort to be made here and now. I wish the endeavours to go on, in season and out of season if I may so express it, until we have wiped out both the debt that we owe to humanity and the reproach that shall be justly levelled at ourselves if we continue to neglect the bounden Christian duty that has been brought home to every one of us. I consider it a privilege no less than a pleasure to propose the following resolution:—[Here follow the terms of the resolution previously drafted by the promoters of the meeting.]

CVII.—IN SUPPORT OF A LIFEBOAT FUND. [SPOKEN
IN SUPPORT OF A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED TO A
PUBLIC MEETING.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

There is a popular song which says that "we all love Jack," partly, I suppose, for Desdemona's reason, because of the dangers he passes through. We who know the sea only in connection with our holidays, when we usually choose the months of settled fine weather, may find it somewhat difficult to realise the perils of the deep; but that they are very terrible has been proved only too frequently by the records of disaster. And Jack must go through them all, whether he will or no. There are compensations, no doubt. In the beautiful words of the Psalmist, "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep." But there is the other side to Jack's calling, which we can never forget—the raging tempest, the waves mountain high, the ironbound coast, the moonless night—and duty to be done at all costs, though breakers may lie ahead and the vessel be driving to her doom. Small marvel that the Baroness Nairn's famous song of "Caller Herrin," always

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thrills an audience with its agonising wail that, though some folk may despise the bonnie fish as "vulgar farin," yet—

Wives an' mitthers, maist despairin',
Ca' them lives o' men.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, we have met to-day to plead for support of a cause as practically valuable as it is noble. People who dwell many miles from the nearest shore have considered it a privilege to subscribe towards the purchase of a lifeboat, or the maintenance of the institution which provides these boats, sustains their crews, and rewards deeds of bravery no matter by whom performed. But those who live by the "much-sounding sea," to use Homer's phrase, surely require no incentive, for most of them have witnessed the lifeboat on duty and know what that involves. Thousands of vessels are endangered every year, many of them carrying large numbers of passengers besides their crews, and it is the business of the lifeboatmen to save both lives and property. I suppose it is a conservative estimate to place the number of lives rescued round the British Isles every year, by the efforts of the lifeboat alone, at 500. That means 5,000 people saved every ten years, and you will agree with me that a fact like that speaks for itself, and needs not the advocacy of the most polished orator to commend it to our most cordial approval. I cannot hesitate to ask you to give generously to such a cause, and I am certain also that you would resent the suggestion that you need to be stimulated in the discharge of your duties to the sailor-men. Charles Dibdin voiced the notions on the subject that used to be prevalent in his day and earlier, when he wrote his song of "Poor Jack":—

For they say there's a Providence sits up aloft
To keep watch for the life of poor Jack.

That was a comfortable doctrine, ladies and gentlemen, but in these times when ships have increased enormously in size and are to be counted by the thousand on every sea,

and risks have grown in proportion, it is incumbent upon us to view the matter from the standpoint of duty. We are required to bear one another's burdens, and the saving of life at sea will be regarded by everybody as a privilege rather than a burden. The lifeboatmen willingly risk their lives and they only ask us to give them the opportunity of doing so and not to condemn them to stand by idle, for want of *funds*, of *money*, when human lives might be saved. Need I say more in support of the proposal that is now before this meeting?

CVIII.—OPENING A BAZAAR.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

The organisers of this Bazaar have done me the great honour of asking me to declare it open, and I shall do so as shortly as possible so that I may not keep you long from making yourselves the owners of the many pretty and useful things that surround us. All of us must sympathise with the object of this bazaar (*naming it*), and all of us must appreciate the efforts of the indefatigable workers, the results of whose labours you see in these fully laden stalls; you can show your appreciation of their work in no better way than by emptying at once the stalls and your pockets, and if you go home penniless—well, so much the better.

Here you may buy almost anything you want from a picture or an ornament to a pound of butter, and if you are persuaded by the fair stallholders and their assistants, as I am sure you easily will be persuaded, to buy something you don't want, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your money is going where it will do good—and you can always give away your purchases.

Now I shall not detain you longer. It is with the very greatest pleasure that I declare this bazaar open. Ladies and gentlemen, go and do your duty.

CIX.—A SCHOOL FESTIVAL. [SPOKEN BY THE LEADER
OF THE EXCURSION.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Before we leave this place where we have all spent such a delightful day, I want you to give three cheers for Mr. —, by whose courtesy and kindness we have been enabled to enjoy ourselves so much. He is not present with us now, but I hope he will understand how fully we appreciate his kindness in permitting us to come here and picnic and enjoy ourselves, as we have all done to-day. We are glad to think there has been no damage done, and that you have all, boys and girls, behaved well and had plenty of rational enjoyment. Such good conduct will, no doubt, influence Mr. —, if we again are desirous to have an afternoon in his beautiful park. His kindness deserves more acknowledgment than my poor words can give it, but I hope you, by a hearty cheer, will tell him how much you all value his goodness. I won't ask you to wish him many returns of *this* day; still we may wish him heartily long life and every happiness. Now, boys and girls, three cheers for Mr. —, and long life to him!

Now, there is another thing—and I hope you are not all hoarse after those cheers, because I may want some more before I have done. There are some ladies and gentlemen present who have, at some inconvenience, but very willingly, come down with us to-day to assist us in our sports, and to make things go smoothly. They have also subscribed very liberally for the prizes you have won, and helped us all very materially to enjoy ourselves. We owe them a vote of thanks, and I am sure you will all unite with me in thanking our visitors very heartily for what they have done, and for the kind way they have assisted us all day in making this little treat pass off so well. Now then, all together—three cheers for the Visitors!

CX.—A SCHOOL FEAST. [DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES FOR
ATHLETIC SPORTS.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have been requested to give away the Prizes this afternoon, and I have very great pleasure in doing so, particularly as I have watched the sports with much interest, and feel that the winners deserve them.

The time has long since gone by when people, and especially parents, thought that no other lessons were to be learnt in school than the lessons of the class-room, and nowadays we recognise that, besides improving a boy's physical development and health, the playing fields teach him many things that he cannot get from books alone. Games teach you how to "keep a stiff upper lip" when you are beaten, not to be too much puffed up with success, and above all to keep on trying, whether in work or in play. For our whole life is a race—a struggle in which the weakest will fall behind. There is such competition nowadays in everything, that intense application is needed to ensure success. So I trust all you young people who hear me will remember how you have gained your prizes, viz., by doing your best. Now, if you carry this idea out in your lives generally, and do your best—not *the* very best, of course, for others may beat you, but your best according to your abilities and opportunities, you will be astonished how quickly you will come to the front. And you who are beaten to-day, remember that there are other races to win and that in the long run there is always a reward for the man who perseveres and is a "trier." But no man can be strong in combat or running unless his heart be right, and in the right order for work. So in moral, as well as in physical exercises, the *heart* must be right.

I will not longer detain you. Remember, if you can, my advice. Do your best, and leave the result and the verdict to the Judge. If you fail, you will not be disgraced

at any rate, and you have all a chance of winning, for the Prizes are many in the world to come. Now, if you please, I will hand the prizes to the successful competitors.*

CXI.— OPENING AN AGRICULTURAL SHOW. [SPEECH BY OPENER.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am convinced that no annual event is more popular in this district than this Agricultural Show, which you have done me the honour of asking me to open to-day. And it is rightly popular for, to an agricultural and farming district such as ours, it is a function of the greatest importance. Farming has ceased to be a conservative pursuit; farmers to-day, to be successful, must adopt up-to-date methods and modern machinery and it is shows like this, where the products of the one and examples of the other are to be seen, that are the farmer's schools; and by their help mainly he is enabled to keep abreast with the times.

There are some, I know, who think that the money spent on Agricultural Shows and in particular, the prize money, could be devoted to more useful objects, but I am one of those who believes that much of the prosperity of our district has been and is due directly to these shows and to the keen competition in good farming they excite. The farmer, to carry off the prize for the best sample of wheat, for instance, has to learn how best to grow wheat, and to win the trophy for the best fat beast, he must make a science of preparing animals for the market. And unless men could come here and see the results achieved by others by better and later methods, perhaps, they would not be driven by the spirit of competition and emulation to

* In giving the prizes, a few words of congratulation should be addressed to each winner.

adopt those methods and incidentally to benefit themselves and agriculture in general.

Think, too, what shows and competitions have done for our stock. They have induced us to try experiments in breeding to produce the best stock for milking, for killing, for growing wool, and the best beasts of burden, and the best riding horses and hunters. They have enabled men to see together samples, if I may call them that, of various breeds of stock and to judge more or less accurately what breed or mixture of breeds will best suit their own pasturage and local conditions.

In the face of these facts, how can it be maintained that money spent on these shows is misspent?

They have another side, too. I have compared these shows to schools and we know that almost every school has a playground. So have these shows, and when you have seen the exhibits and the machinery and other interesting things, you may get pleasure and amusement from watching the competitions in the ring, profit, if you are lucky, in judging the weight of the fat pig or bullock, whichever it is, and plenty of fun and jollity at the side-shows.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I will detain you no longer. I have said, perhaps, more than enough to explain to you why it is a great pleasure to me to declare this show open as I now do.

A NEW RAILWAY LINE.

CXII.—TURNING THE FIRST SOD. [BY THE CHAIRMAN.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

We have to-day been assisting in a very great work, one that will make its mark in the future. We have to-day inaugurated the railway line which is to bring us within measurable distance of prosperity, a feeder to

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our population and a carrier of their produce. The benefits conferred by a railroad can scarcely be estimated. The line once so dreaded is now sought by landholders. When the railways were first brought before the public it was deemed impossible that they could pay or serve the country. Now we know to the contrary. Landowners who drove the surveyors off their property lived to regret their action, and the people use them till millions of money are earned annually.

We hope the short line which we have this day commenced will prove of great benefit. Let us see what it will do. In the first place it will convey you all at cheap fares to the sea-side daily in summer ; so within an hour you will be on the sands, and sporting with the waves of which your children and, may be, many of your poorer neighbours, have never had a glimpse. That is one benefit. Then to commerce and trade it will be an immense boon. You will have your letters more rapidly delivered, and your supplies from town more quickly forwarded. Speed, convenience, and a thriving population will all be the result of the railroad. Before concluding I will propose to you a toast which I imagine all present will join with me in drinking. That toast is prosperity to the — and — Line. We have had some little opposition to deal with, but I think I may say that all that is overcome. The Bill has passed, to-day the first sod has been turned. A great work has been initiated, and we may hope within a very short time to see the locomotive rushing between this place and the great county centres, carrying in its train hundreds who will gladly date their prosperity and increased comfort from the opening of the line. Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will unite with me in drinking the toast of Prosperity to the — and — Railway, coupled with the name of Mr. — who has all along taken such a useful and leading part in the promotion of the line.

CXIII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST. [BY THE
PROMOTER, OR ENGINEER.]

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen—

Until my name was mentioned I was following out a train of thought very different from the railway. I was thinking of the old coaching days, and the difficulties we had, when I was a young man, in getting up to A—— in the winter; and as to B——, we never visited it at all except in summer. The railroad will change all that now, and we shall have the satisfaction of finding a demand for our produce. Not only that, but the shareholders will, we believe, have a very satisfactory dividend, after a while. The —— Railway has promised to send all its —— traffic over it, and we shall have to ask the shareholders whether they will come to a suggested agreement with the company and accept a certain percentage of the traffic, or let the old company work the line.

But these are all details of a business nature, and need not be discussed here. We are here to drink the toast of Prosperity to the —— Railway, and the manner in which the proposal has been responded to convinces me that all take a great interest in the completion of the line. I have personally taken a part in the promotion of the long-desired connecting link between us and the outer world. Every year I have seen that other places are developing traffic, and that my native town, which I can remember such a very small place, is now likely to become more important.

I can only express my conviction that the new line will do all I hope, and more. Now, gentlemen, I will merely add my sincere thanks for your kind "toasting," and assure you that I feel your kindness and appreciate the feelings that led to its proposal and warm reception, for which I thank you all heartily.

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CXIV.—TOAST OF THE TOWN AND TRADE OF —

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

It is my pleasant duty to propose to you the toast of prosperity to the town and trade of —. Every one present at this “feast of reason and flow of soul” must, I am sure, be impressed with the importance, not only of maintaining but, as far as possible, increasing the prosperity of this famous (or ancient) and enlightened borough (town or city). Some of those who have honoured us with their presence on this interesting occasion may not have had the good fortune to be natives of this borough, or to be otherwise connected with it; but they too, I doubt not, will heartily join us in our good wishes for its welfare. But those of us who were born here, or who have lived here for any length of time, have every reason to drink this toast with enthusiasm. We are proud of our town—proud of its history and of the men who have made it. Like other places we have our seasons of trade depression as well as our seasons of trade revival; but I venture to say that in no other community will you find men more willing to take the rough with the smooth, or more determined to face adversity with courage or prosperity with moderation. We hear much of foreign competition, and no doubt the difficulties of holding our own industry and commerce are more serious nowadays than they used to be. Still, we manage to get on, and I believe that in the future, whatever disappointments or reverses may be in store for us, we shall be able to break the record of the past. Gentlemen, you may possibly think me too much prejudiced in favour of my native town, but I can assure you that local sentiment is the bed-rock foundation of the wider patriotism, and there is something to be said in favour of the man who declared that, taking all things into consideration, he would rather be hanged in his native Little Pedlington than die a natural death anywhere else. Gentlemen, I ask you to drink to the Prosperity of the Town and Trade of —.

CXV.—THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I rise to give you a toast that is of interest to all of us—the Mayor and Corporation of our town. I have often wondered why these important gentlemen do not receive more attention and notice than they do. I am perfectly aware that four times a year they are the object of the collective curse of the community when the rate collector pays his duty call, but that is not the kind of attention I mean.

How much each one of us owes to them and their work, the slightest reflection will show. Suppose some great catastrophe to happen which brought an end to their beneficent labours, what would be your position? You would get up in the morning and go to your bath—no water; after washing in that from your water bottle you would go down to breakfast—no gas, no bacon and eggs, or tea; you would leave your house and slip into a morass where once ran a road, you would find no tram to take you to work, and arriving finally, after many unpleasant adventures on the way, would be dismissed for being late. In every part of our daily life, then, we feel the influences of these gentlemen and the enterprises they conduct. They watch over our comfort, our health, our very lives, and for all their work, their sacrifice of time and trouble, they get no reward.

It is, indeed, a happy thing for us that we have found men like the Mayor and his colleagues to carry on this work, men of ability and honour who take a pride in making the district an example to all others of good government. They worthily carry on the British traditions of honesty and probity in public and civic life; they are untiring in their efforts for our good; the least that we can give them is our gratitude and our thanks. Gentlemen, I give you the toast of the Mayor and Corporation.

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CXVI.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Before I heard Mr. — propose the toast to which you have just given so warm and kindly a reception, my colleagues and I were ignorant of our real importance; I see now that we will have to get into the way of regarding ourselves as public benefactors.

Seriously, I may say this: that we do our best for the people who have shown their confidence in us by putting us in our present positions, and we do really try to give them as little reason as possible for cursing us when our rate collector reminds them of our existence.

We have many enterprises to conduct, many departments to control, and if, as I think is the fact, things go fairly smoothly as a rule, your thanks are due to the capable and efficient staff which more directly manages our various departments than to us. For our own parts, the work is a labour of love, it interests us and we take much pride in our municipality. One promise I may venture to make: so long as we are in control, I guarantee that, though some of the catastrophes so eloquently described to you may happen—water mains have a habit of bursting—all of them will not happen together. For my colleagues and myself, I thank you very much for the kind way in which this toast has been proposed and received.

CXVII.—OFFICE DINNER AND PRESENTATION TO
RETIRING OFFICER. [TOAST OF THE GUEST.]

Gentlemen,—

We are met together to-night to say good-bye to our friend and colleague, Mr. —, who, after long and honourable service in the office of [—] has decided that the time has come when he should seek rest, after a busy career, in

retirement, and it has fallen upon me to express the regret we all feel at losing him ; that regret, however, is tempered by the reflection that, though officially we shall know him no more, there need be no break in the old friendship that we value so highly.

Of his work in this office I need say little. There could be no better testimony to his energy and ability than the fact that he has been [forty] years with us and has worked his way up the ladder of promotion almost from the bottom to the high and responsible position he now relinquishes. Of the manner of his advancement I may say this : everyone regarded his promotion as well merited, his superiors have always found him energetic, able and conscientious in the performance of his duties, and his subordinates have had to thank him for manifold acts of kindness and consideration in little and big things.

His position will be filled, another officer will replace him, and in time we shall cease to miss him as an officer, but it will be long, gentlemen, before we cease to miss the kindly and considerate colleague and friend we have all found in our guest. Throughout his connection with the office no one has more closely identified himself with that social side of it that has done much to render pleasant the business side. In all our sports and amusements he has taken a prominent part ; he was foremost to hold out a helping hand when help was needed ; and he has contributed largely, by precept and example, to the feeling of good-fellowship and comradeship that has distinguished our office.

It is in recognition of these personal qualities, as a testimony to the worth of the man that we ask him to accept this [—] as a parting gift from his fellow-workers and friends here, and we ask him also to accept with it our warmest wishes for his welfare ; may all that he can himself desire be his. Gentlemen, raise your glasses and pledge him with me.

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CXVIII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Gentlemen,

Pardon me if my words of thanks to you be few and halting. They are sincere.

It is no light thing for any man to retire from his life's work, to sever all the ties of daily habit and use that have come to be almost part of himself, it is harder still when his business life has been cast in such pleasant places and when retirement means a slackening, at any rate, of the bonds that have bound him to so many good colleagues and good friends. But if anything can lessen this sorrow of parting, it is expressions of goodwill such as you have been pleased to make to-night; to feel that one will be missed is a consolation, if a selfish one.

All the kind things you have said of me I do not deserve—all I can say of myself is that I have tried to do my duty by the office and my best for my colleagues. I take no credit for it, for the unvarying sympathy and support of those above me, the unswerving loyalty and goodwill of subordinates have made the path of duty an easy and a pleasant one—too pleasant perhaps, for otherwise I might have felt less regret at this parting.

And how can I thank you for your magnificent gift? There is no need to tell you I shall prize it as long as my life lasts, but more than it do I value the feeling that prompted you to make it.

Excuse me if I say no more. If we meet no more as colleagues I hope we may often meet as friends. Good-bye, and thank you again and again.

CXIX.—FAREWELL AND PRESENTATION TO A
FRIEND. [AT A DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

The occasion of our meeting here to-night is both a sad and a happy one—sad because we are met to say farewell to an old friend, happy because he is going away to better himself in life. It is, therefore, with very mixed feelings that I rise to give you the toast of “Our Guest” and to wish him on your behalf as on my own, every success in his new life ; we rejoice, indeed, that he is going to a position where his energy and abilities will have fuller scope even while we regret to lose him from amongst us.

Gentlemen, I am not going to sing his praises—that would be at once impertinent and unnecessary—I shall only say that during his stay here our friend has endeared himself to us all by his never failing kindness, hospitality, and consideration, as well as by his constant cheerfulness, good fellowship and sympathy, qualities which will make him friends wherever he goes.

Though he will be no longer with us, I am sure that neither he nor we will soon forget our friendship, the pleasant comradeship and intimacy of many years. These things will be treasured memories to us all, and it is not in any fear that he will forget that we ask him to accept as a parting gift from us this [—] in token of our great regard and esteem. If gifts are valuable according to the feelings of the givers, then this one, in itself trifling, will perhaps commend itself more to him than other more precious objects solely because it is the gift of friends.

Now, gentlemen, I shall add no more than this—wherever he goes he takes with him our goodwill and our friendship, whenever he returns he will find us ready to welcome him. Raise your glasses and drink “Long Life, Good Luck and Prosperity to ———.”

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CXX. —REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Old Friends,—

I have no words in which to express my thanks to you, not only for the kind things that have been said about me, but also for this magnificent gift, which will always be amongst my most treasured possessions.

It was not without much doubt and hesitation that I made up my mind to leave a place where I have been so happy and have made so many real friends, but, gentlemen, opportunity comes but seldom, and if you do not grasp her when she comes, she may never return, and I felt that I owed it to my wife and family not to let this chance slip. Need I say how sad I am to lose so many good and true friends, how much it costs me to go from you to strangers—it is like leaving a part of myself behind. If my life here has been a happy one, and it has, it is to you, to your friendship and your company that I owe it all. Be assured that I shall never forget you, and remember that, wherever it is, you are always welcome to my home; nothing could hurt me more than that any of you should be within reach and fail to visit me.

For your good wishes, too, I thank you from the bottom of my heart; in return will you accept my own? May you prosper and be happy as you deserve to do. I can say no more but this,—Again and again I thank you.

CXXI.—ON THE OCCASION OF A DINNER IN HONOUR OF A FRIEND AFTER LONG ABSENCE ABROAD.

Gentlemen,—

The circumstances which have brought us together to-night afford us a golden opportunity of spending a happy, harmonious, and convivial evening. To feast in the company of one another is at all times a pleasant diversion from the cares of business, but to-night our pleasure is two-

fold—not only do we see the faces of our friends and neighbours, but we have amongst us Mr. —, our guest, who not so many years ago occupied such a prominent and responsible position in our midst and whose close and enduring friendship to many of us meant so much in our daily lives. No longer perhaps are we entitled to refer to him as a neighbour, nevertheless we claim him and with good reason as one of our oldest and most trusted friends. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing him while he lived here have never forgotten his many acts of kindness to all sorts and conditions of people, his unflinching support of every movement which was for the benefit of the neighbourhood. Time cannot erase these things from our memories, and we are proud to think that our friend has not forgotten old times in the heyday of success. Gentlemen, let me tell you that one of his first thoughts on his return to the old country was to seek an opportunity of visiting the scenes of his earlier days. The ties of neighbourliness are often material, but the bonds of friendship are made of more lasting stuff, which neither time nor space can destroy. So, gentlemen, although our friend has been separated from us for a long time we somehow feel as we see him tonight that he has always been present with us.

Gentlemen, in bidding him welcome back to his old home—I am sure he feels that he is at home—I would remind you that he left at the call of duty—duty to his family and to himself. We are glad that the “Stern Daughter of the Voice of God” has led him to the “green pastures and beside the still waters.” We are thankful for that Providence which has watched over him and his, and with all our hearts we congratulate him on his brilliant success, so honestly sought, and so well-deserved.

Gentlemen, I bid you fill your glasses and drink the health of our guest, and bid him—“Welcome home.”

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CXXII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Gentlemen,—

I am so overwhelmed with the kindness which has prompted my friend the proposer of this toast, and with the warmth of your reception, that I am wholly at a loss to find adequate words to express my thanks to you. I must ask you, therefore, to excuse my shortcomings in this respect, and to believe me when I say how deeply grateful I am, not only for the kind things which have been said about me on this occasion, but for all the good things which you have done to me in the past.

Gentlemen, although it is idle for me to deny that my life abroad has been happy and successful, I can honestly say that I was looking forward more than words can tell to a visit to the old home, and to this re-union with my old friends. Success I have had—perhaps more than I deserve—but I feel I can truly say that I never envied the success of anybody else.

Gentlemen, I will only repeat that I am glad to be with you once more, and again thank you from the bottom of my heart.

CXXIII.—ABSENT FRIENDS. [PROPOSED AT A DINNER.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

The toast I am about to propose is one that, even on the most festive occasions, provokes a touch of sadness, yet it is one which we would not willingly let pass unhonoured. I give you "Absent Friends." It means much to us, this simple toast. Some of us have left home, family and friends in the old country to find a new home and new friends here, and on occasions such as this our thoughts must for a moment turn across the waters to those dear ones who are far away. Others will think of those of their

family who have gone to other lands in pursuit of fame or fortune; hardly one of us but has kith or kin far away to whom his thoughts will turn as he lifts his glass to drink this toast. All of us have friends whom we miss, scattered in the far parts of the earth, severed from us by miles of land and leagues of ocean, but with us, we believe, in spirit. In silence let us drink to them—"Absent Friends!"

CXXIV.—**THE FIRE BRIGADE.** [PROPOSED AT A MUNICIPAL OR OTHER DINNER.]

Gentlemen,—

I have been called upon to propose a toast to our Fire Brigade, which from the childhood days when our greatest delight was to see the engines streaming past in response to a call, has always held a place in our hearts. Of the important duties which it so ably performs, it is only necessary for me to say a few words. Although, let us hope, there is no one present to-night who may have had occasion to enlist its help, I do not think anybody will dispute that of all branches of the municipal service, none deserves greater credit or more encouragement than the Fire Brigade. We are aware of the distress and unhappiness which may result from an outbreak of fire, and it is upon the resource and energy of our Brigade that security of life and property to a large extent depends. And, gentlemen, I may safely say that whenever the services of our firemen have been requisitioned, they have fulfilled their arduous duties zealously, and justified the confidence reposed in them. We must not, however, in praising the efficiency of the Brigade, overlook the important factors which have contributed to its splendid organisation and discipline, with which we have for so long associated the name of our

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worthy and respected guest, —, to whose untiring efforts in this direction, the highest credit should be paid. It is to their undaunted courage and constant readiness to face danger when life and property are at stake, that the popularity and respect which the Fire Brigade have gained are due, and I have the greatest pleasure in asking you to drink to the welfare of the men of the Fire Brigade.

CXXV.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST. [BY
THE CHIEF OFFICER OF THE FIRE BRIGADE.]

Mr. — and Gentlemen,

I have to thank the proposer of the toast for the too flattering way in which he spoke of the Fire Brigade, and you for the very friendly reception you gave to his remarks. Still, I can assure you that your appreciation of the efforts of the Brigade will inspire the men to even greater exertions in their efforts to save life and property, while knowledge of your confidence will tend to maintain the present standard of efficiency. Without egotism, I may truly say that the members of the Brigade do not spare themselves. It would be absurd to declare that they love their work, but they recognise that it is necessary to the security of the community, and therefore they undertake it with a desire to do it thoroughly. The work is exacting, responsible, and dangerous, and demands pluck, presence of mind, and almost abnormal activity. These qualities, I believe, characterise the present staff, and they will always be at the disposal of our townsfolk whenever occasion for their display unfortunately arrives. These social gatherings offer an agreeable relief to my duties, and it has afforded me sincere pleasure to know that you have not forgotten the arduous services of your Fire Brigade.

CXXVI.—THE POLICE FORCE. [PROPOSED AT A MUNICIPAL OR OTHER DINNER.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

We are all law-abiding citizens here—at least, I hope so—and the toast it is my pleasant duty to propose is one that cannot but commend itself to law-abiding citizens—it is that of the Police Force.

Candidly, gentlemen, when I reflect how much of our peace and ease of mind is due to the “Man in Blue,” I shudder to think what would be our plight if he and his uniform were suddenly to desert our streets. Imagine the horrible contingency of a police strike, with Bill Sykes and all his friends free to work their will on our hapless selves. But I must not introduce horrors to spoil the harmony of the evening; this I shall say, that few of us could be here enjoying our dinner with minds free of care and anxiety did we not know that our homes are under the constable’s vigilant supervision! Whether he be indulging in a little nocturnal flirtation with Mary Jane, or holding up the traffic to enable a timid old lady to cross a busy street, or taking under his paternal care the small child “found wandering,” or fulfilling sterner functions in “running in” Bill Sykes, Robert carries out his part with characteristic conscientiousness and tact. Let us then, gentlemen, show our appreciation of his services by raising our glasses in honour of “The Force.” To give point to our praise, I ask you to associate with the toast the name of Inspector —, and to wish him and his colleagues long life, happiness, and prosperity.

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CXXVII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Mr. —, and Gentlemen,—

I am quite taken aback by the honour you have so unexpectedly done me. I came here to enjoy myself, to spend a pleasant evening among you, and the last thing I thought I should be required to do was to make a speech. But I must at all events thank the proposer for his kindly and facetious remarks, and the company for their hearty acceptance of them. It is nice to know that the police force have earned the friendly appreciation of their fellow-townsmen. There is, I believe, good authority for the notion that "a policeman's lot is not a happy one." Sir William Gilbert, perhaps, spoke from a personal experience that may not have been wholly agreeable, or, like King David, he may have uttered his opinion "in haste." For if I were to take him seriously I fear I should have to qualify his remarks with a very large pinch of salt. We know what our duties are and are always ready to take the rough with the smooth. Every man of us has gone through a prolonged course of discipline, and that enables us to face our daily or nightly round without regard to the troubles and difficulties that may be in store for us. We know what is expected of us, and it is our constant aim and endeavour to render as good an account of ourselves as we can. Gentlemen, for your considerate and valued approval I thank you.

CHAPTER XI.
TEMPERANCE ADDRESSES.

CXXVIII.—ADDRESS BY A LIFELONG ABSTAINER.

My Friends,—

I have come up here this evening, and venture to address you, though I am conscious of my inability to do justice to the cause we all have at heart—I mean Gospel Temperance. Remember that. We put the Gospel first, and we wish you all to understand that we mean total abstinence from intoxicating liquors.

Some may, hundreds do, openly proclaim the advisability of "permitting moderate drinking." Now let us look at this moderate drinking. What is it? Can we lay down any line and say, "I will not pass that; I will not drink more than two or three glasses of wine or beer all day?" No; we know we cannot do so. Would we parley with a declared enemy, with one who we knew was ready to take advantage of us? We should estimate ourselves at a very low figure if we did so. But I think I can prove to you all, by figures and facts, that even what is called very moderate drinking is harmful, on the authority of Sir Benjamin Richardson, who was an eminent total abstainer. I need not quote such authorities as Sir Henry Thompson and Dean Farrar, but will pass at once to the physical aspect of the question, putting aside

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for the moment the moral bearings of the case. Now suppose a man be very regular in his drinking as well as "moderate," and that he consumes a pint of beer, half a pint of wine, and a glass or two of whisky and water. These contain, says Sir Benjamin Richardson, six ounces of alcohol. The effect of this is to make the heart beat 18,000 times a day more than it ought to do, and it has to raise what would be equivalent to nineteen extra tons' weight one foot; and so on as we diminish the quantity we will diminish the extra action of the heart. Therefore, the less we drink, the better for us physically. Too much exercise is detrimental to weak hearts. Drinking is equally detrimental to heart and body and soul.

But look at the moral side of the question. Is not every one here who indulges in drinking aware that, when under the influence of wine or other liquor, he will do things which he would never have done if perfectly sober. Have we not often heard the expression, "I'm sure I never would have said so (or done so) unless I had had a glass too much?" Is not intoxication pleaded daily in our courts as excuse for all kinds of offences, from murder downwards? Are not we aware that wine heats our blood, and incites us to excesses of every description.

Well, then, as to the wine of Scripture. We read that water was turned into wine, *pure, good wine*—there was no alcohol or adulteration in it. It was even purer than the ordinary expressed grape juice, and it is the present loaded and mixed wines and beers which do so much harm. Men—and alas! women—are poisoned, intoxicated, by drugs. Pure beverages will hurt no one in moderation, I believe. But we must take things as they unfortunately are, and until we can obtain pure drinks let us abstain.

There is yet another point. We must, or at any rate I may say we *should*, abstain for others' sakes. I heard an opinion expressed the other day to the effect that a man is more worthy of regard who can say "No," and stop

when he has had enough. It is better to use and not abuse. Yet even to such an one I would say, "Granted that you are able always to restrain yourself—and that is granting a great deal—if you can by example and abstention make a convert and one drunkard's home happy, will you not abstain entirely?" Those who abstain for example's sake are even better and more self-denying Christians than those who are moderate. "For the sake of the weak they become as weak, that they may gain the weak!"

I want you to do this of your own free will, and come forward to take the pledge honestly, and with a full conviction of good. No children should be forced to sign the pledge in my opinion. They should first be convinced of the necessity for abstinence, and then it is highly probable that their own good sense will lead them to become abstainers. Pray for help, cut off the drinking, and you will find rest unto your souls!

CXXIX.—ANOTHER SPEECH ON TEMPERANCE.

My Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am glad to see such an assembly here to-night, because I have some very important things to say, and I hope to receive many of you into our Band of Total Abstainers this evening. I want you—we want you—to look at this movement for Gospel Temperance fairly, and ask yourselves whether you think drinking does you any good, morally or physically. I do not want to force you to come here, or to remain to take any pledge, unless you can conscientiously do so. But, nevertheless, I will put a few facts before you. Firstly, do you require to drink? Can any of you present tell me honestly that you find any wine, or spirit, or intoxicating liquor necessary for your well-being? Does it make you better, warmer, or less liable

to feel hungry? If so, there may be something to say in its favour. But it does not. There is no human function improved by strong drink. A debilitated frame may derive a certain satisfaction from a glass of wine or brandy. But does the benefit remain? I think not. You may receive a temporary "fillip" from the use of stimulants, but the reaction will be correspondingly great, and depression will ensue. Good food will do much more for you than alcoholic liquors. That is a fact.

It is a curious but easily ascertained fact that in all organisms, water—not any stimulant—is the necessary fluid for the support of the body. There is no doubt about that. Moreover, when any such stimulant is introduced there is a certain change in the organisation. Now alcohol has a great affinity for water, which makes up two-thirds of the human body. When we use alcohol we are actually putting into our bodies an agent which will in time dry us up, and absorb the fluid of our tissues. This will account for the great dryness of the drunkard's mouth and stomach, and his craving for cooling liquid, water, etc., which will restore the balance of fluid to the exhausted body.

It is a great mistake to suppose that alcoholic drinks are beneficial. Rheumatism, gout, and many other diseases are attributable directly and indirectly to indulgence in wine. The ideas we have concerning the strengthening powers of alcohol are in the main, if not entirely, fallacious. It may be at times necessary to administer brandy as a medicine, as doctors administer strychnine or other poisons in certain circumstances; but no one who has studied the subject will tell me that alcohol in any form is beneficial to the ordinary human being. It causes temporary excitement and destroys the appetite for food, and by food the body is warmed and kept alive. Let any of you take a couple of glasses of whisky and water in the middle of the day, even *after* food, and tell me the result. Are you more fit for work, or not? Can you go back to

work after that luncheon hour, or dinner hour, and settle down as well as if you had had no alcoholic liquor? You know you cannot. The senses are dulled, the hand is not so ready, the brain is chilled if the body is warmed. You wish for some excitement or other, not quiet work at your desk. And then comes the reaction. The appetite is gone: tea, supper, or perhaps dinner, supervene, and you have no wish to eat. You are sleepy or dull, and this is the result of alcohol. In an exaggerated form such indulgences make a man tipsy, and I need not inform you how helpless and disgusting is a soddened and tipsy man--what a fearful object is a tipsy woman!

The conclusions which have been come to concerning alcohol are summed up by an experienced analyst:—

- (1) It gives no strength.
- (2) It gives no warmth.
- (3) It builds up no tissue.
- (4) It reduces the "tone" of the body.

In the face of such facts will any wavering one persist? "Oh, House of Israel, why will ye die?"

Come, then, and take the pledge and shew your fellows by practice rather than by precept what are the virtues of tectotalism and setting an example to others of the benefits to be derived from Gospel Temperance and complete abstinence from the use of every kind of strong drink.

CHAPTER XII.

TOASTS AND SENTIMENTS.

LOYAL TOASTS.

May the King live ever in his subjects' hearts.

All our Nobles and all noble hearts.

Firmness in Parliament, valour in the field, and fortitude on the sea.

May all our Commanders have the eye of a Hawke and the heart of a Wolfe.

May the sword of Justice be swayed by the hand of Mercy.

Church and King.

May no true son of Neptune shrink from his gun.

May the hearts of our sons be honest and brave, and our daughters modest and pure.

May the enemies of England never meet a friend in Great Britain.

Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle.

MILITARY.

The British Army: firm in disaster, courageous in danger, and merciful in victory.

Every soldier a pleasant halt, and every rogue a long halter.

May British laurels never fade.

May the British soldier never turn his back to the foe.

Honour and the sword: may they never be parted.

May the soldier never fall a sacrifice but to glory.

British arms, and British hands to use them.

May the brow of the brave never want a laurel wreath.

The memory of the brave who fell at —.

May good leaders always have good followers.

 NAVAL.

The British Navy: may it ever sail on a sea of glory, wafted to victory by the gales of prosperity.

The Sea: may it bring a spring tide of prosperity to the Empire.

May the tar who loses one eye in war never see distress with the other.

May our seamen wear hearts of oak even if iron-clad.

May Content be our pilot in the voyage of life.

Here's to the tar that sticks like pitch to his duty.

The memory of Nelson and the brave.

May rudders govern and ships obey.

Britain's sheet anchor—her ships.

Lots of beef and oceans of grog.

Sweethearts and wives.

Foes well tarred, and tars well feathered.

LOVE.

The spring of love and the harvest of enjoyment.

Love in a cottage and envy to none.

May lovers' vows never end in lovers' quarrels.

The rose of love without any thorns.

A health to all those whom we love,

A health to all those who love us,

A health to all those who love them that love those,

Who love those that love them who love us.

Love, liberty, and true friendship.

Laughing lovers and merry maids.

May we kiss those we please, and please those we kiss.

May the bud of affection be ripened by the sunshine of sincerity.

May the wings of love never lose a feather.

The single married and the married happy.

The face that Nature paints, and the heart that knows no deception.

Love to one, friendship to a few, goodwill to all.

Constancy and kindness : may they never be parted.

The lady we love, and the friend we trust.

May we have sense to win a heart, and merit to keep it.

Constancy in love, sincerity in friendship.

The fountain of love in all its purity.

The roses of love with the sweetbriar of chaste affection.

May the spark of love brighten into flame.

SHAKESPEAREAN SENTIMENTS.

Now good digestion wait on appetite:
And health on both.—*Macbeth*, iii. 4.

Let us not burden our remembrance with
An heaviness that's gone.—*The Tempest*, v. 1.

Better a little chiding than a great deal of heart
break.—*The Merry Wives of Windsor*, v. 3.

O! it is excellent
To have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant.—*Measure for Measure*, ii. 2.

Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,
And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.
—*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, i. 1.

The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils.
—*The Merchant of Venice*, v. 1.

He that wants money, means, and content is without
three good friends.—*As you like it*, iii. 2.

Be not afraid of greatness; some men are born great,
some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust
upon them.—*Twelfth Night*, ii. 5.

There is some soul of goodness in things evil,
Would men observingly distil it out.
—*King Henry V*, iv. 1.

Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,
Thy God's, and truth's. —*King Henry VIII.*, iii. 2.

To thine own self be true ;
And it must follow, as the night the day
Thou canst not then be false to any man.
—*Hamlet*, i. 3.

He jests at scars that never felt a wound.
—*Romeo and Juliet*, ii. 2.

Let's teach ourselves that honourable stop,
Not to outsport discretion.
—*Othello*, ii. 3.

Who steals my purse, steals trash ; 'tis something, nothing :
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands ;
But he that filches from me my good name,
Robs me of that, which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed.
—*Othello*, iii. 3.

Speak of me as I am ; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice.
—*Othello*, v. 2.

To me, fair friend, you never can be old,
For as you were when first your eye I eyed
Such seems your beauty still.
—*Sonnets*, 104.

No,—I am that I am ; and they that level
At my abuses, reckon up their own.—*Sonnets*, 121.

FRIENDSHIP.

May the bark of friendship never founder on the sea of deception.

May we be richer in friends than in money.

May we never want a friend to cheer us, nor a bottle to cheer him.

May old friends never be forgot for new ones.

May the lamp of friendship be lighted by the oil of sincerity.

Ability to serve a friend, and honour to conceal it.

May difference of opinion never alter friendship.

More friends and less need of them.

May the friend of distress never know sorrow.

Gratitude to our friends and grace to our foes.

May the hinges of friendship never rust.

May the friendly bosom never lack a friend.

May friendship smile in our joys and content in our lives.

A friend who is true—the sunshine of life.

To the secret and silent.

All absent friends on land and sea.

May our friends have no present burden, and futurity no terrors.

May we always have a friend and know his value,

CONVIVIAL.

May we always have a friend and a dinner to give him.

May our love of wine never make us forget our manners.

May we act with reason when the bottle circulates.

Cheerfulness in our cups, content in our minds, and competency in our pockets.

May the moments of mirth be regulated by the dial of reason.

Champagne to our real friends and real pain to our sham friends.

May the juice of the grape enliven each soul,
And good humour preside at the head of each bowl.

Old wine and young women.

We met to be merry, now let us part wise,
Nor suffer the bottle to blind reason's eyes.

The feast of reason and the flow of soul.

All absent friends—God bless them!

A bottle to-night and business in the morning.

Oh, wine, the juice of the grape divine,
In thy good spirit may I ne'er forget mine.

Here's health to all good lasses!
Pledge it merrily, fill your glasses,
Let the bumper toast go round.

The Ladies, and may they always share our joys and sorrows.

Let the cup pass, here's to the lass,
I'll warrant she'll prove herself worthy a glass.

COMIC.

May your shadow never be less.

May every hair of your head be a mould candle to light you to glory.

May the chicken never be hatched that will scratch on your grave.

The early bird and the worm he picked up!

The nimble ninepence: may it soon grow into a florin.

May we live all the days of our lives.

A good Sovereign, and his image in our pockets.

The land we live in: may we never be sent out of it.

All true joys—but may we never be transported.

Here's to the maiden of blushing fifteen,
Here's to the housewife that's thrifty,
Here's to the flaunting extravagant queen,
And here's to the widow of fifty!

The three great commanders—General Peace, General Plenty, and General Prosperity.

The best doctors—Dr. Quiet, Dr. Diet, and Dr. Merryman.

The merry thought, and no "black legs" at table.

Here's to the poor heart that never rejoices.

Here's to the good man who kept a dog and barked himself.

Here's to the old bird that was not caught with chaff.

Our noble selves.

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SPORTING.

May the end of the chase be the beginning of happiness.

The pack that a sheet will cover.

May our horses, hounds, and hearts never fail us.

May those who love the crack of the whip never want
a brush to follow.

The gallant huntsman of the — country.

The brave sportsman !

The huntsman dear !

The sportsman that never beats about the bush.

The tender heart, and the brave rider.

The man that catches fair game and doesn't poach on
another's preserves.

Rod and line : may they never part company.

The gallant hound that never goes on a false scent.

Bat and ball. Long may they be honestly opposed in
the field.

The steady fisherman—who never " reels home " !

The Eleven : may they always be steady in adversity,
and upright beside the *wicked*.

May Britons never neglect sport for double-dealing.

Our " Masters : " may they always show us good game,
and deal well with their packs.

Reynard the fox !—Heaven preserve his family and
friends !

A strong arm and a steady eye !

May the sweet savour of our good deeds lie well when
we have " gone over the last fence."

MISCELLANEOUS.

May opinions never float in the sea of ignorance.

May we never crack a joke and break a reputation.

May the pleasure of youth bring us consolation in old age.

May the sunshine of comfort dispel the clouds of despair.

All fortune's daughters except the eldest—Miss-fortune.

All tails but tell-tales.

Great men honest and honest men great.

Good trade and well paid.

May the devil cut the toes of all our foes
That we may know them by their limping.

May we live to learn and learn to live well.

May we never murmur without cause, and never have cause to murmur.

May we never want a bait when we fish for conduct.

Love, life, liberty, and friendship.

Success to our army, success to our fleet,
May our foes be compelled to bow down at our feet.

May the mirror of conscience show us the face of truth.

May modesty rule our desires and moderation our wishes.

May avarice lose his purse and benevolence find it.

May care be a stranger to every honest heart.

May fortune recover her eyesight and distribute her gifts.

May bad examples never corrupt youthful morals.

May poverty never come to us without hope.

CHAPTER XIII.

**RULES FOR THE FORMATION OF LOCAL
PARLIAMENTS.**

THERE are in the United Kingdom at the present time a number of Debating Societies calling themselves "Parliaments," which have been organised to give members the opportunity of ventilating political and social questions on the basis of Parliamentary procedure.

These Parliaments have in many instances been very successful in developing debating talent, and in discovering the party preponderance in certain districts, and therefore in indicating the feeling of the country upon important questions of the day.

It has appeared to the publishers that a brief *résumé* of the chief points to be attended to in the formation and conduct of such Parliamentary Debating Societies may be usefully included in the present volume; and they have accordingly caused the following rules to be compiled, principally from actual "Parliamentary Procedure" as set forth by Lord Farnborough, who, as Sir Erskine May, had been the Clerk of the House of Commons.

The Rules and Regulations have been revised and, when necessary, adapted to local parliamentary necessities by an experienced hand. The assistance here given will, the publishers believe, be found useful to any one engaged in mimic legislative debates.

The following Rules or "Standing Orders" are based upon experience :—

It will be necessary to have a book in which every member must enter his name and address when he pays his subscription for the year, or for the session, as may be decided by the Council.

The OFFICERS of a Parliamentary Debating Society should be as follows, and must be members of the society.

- (1) The Speaker.
- (2) Chairman of Committees (or Deputy-Speaker).
- (3) Clerk of the House.
- (4) Deputy-Clerk and Secretary.
- (5) Treasurer.

The COUNCIL should consist of seven or nine members, the officers of the House being *ex officio* members of it. The Council may advisedly be selected from different political parties, as evenly balanced as possible. The Council should be elected on the first night of the session, and continue in office until the first night of the ensuing session. A fresh election of Council and Officers will then take place.

The President of the Council is elected by the Council, who in a body have the control of the funds through the treasurer, and the inspection of the accounts, etc., rendered by him. A vacancy in the Council may be filled up by that body at the first meeting after the announcement of such vacancy to the House in session. Five out of nine members form a quorum, and so on in proportion.

Notices of a Council meeting should be sent out by the Secretary at least one week before the date named for the meeting. (For this and other reasons it is advisable that the Secretary be a paid official and responsible to the Council.)

FORMATION OF A MINISTRY.

The "Ministry" should be formed by the elected Leader of either political party whose means and opportunities are sufficient to do so. The Government should at first, if possible, be of the same politics as the actual Government of the country. But they may be compelled to resign by the rejection of a Bill, or a Vote of Censure, etc., being carried against them.

The Leader of the Ministerial Party will choose his colleagues, and will nominate them to various posts corresponding, when practicable, to those actually in the Cabinet. He must find subjects for debate, compose the "King's Speech," and introduce Bills and other matter for discussion—in correspondence with the Leader of the Opposition.

When the Ministry resigns (or is defeated) the Leader of the Opposition will take office if prepared to do so; or he may permit the hitherto existing Ministry to resume the business and carry on the government until the end of the session, if his party be not sufficiently strong to conduct it.

The MEETINGS of a Local Parliament may be called weekly, at an hour most convenient to the majority of the members. This time should be fixed upon at a preliminary general meeting of the members, who can at the same time elect the officers, etc., of the Parliament. The Regulations proposed should be submitted to this preliminary meeting and formulated after full discussion.

The subscriptions being paid, and the members elected being present at the specified time, the first proceeding will consist in *reading the Minutes of the previous meeting*. This must always be done first after the Speaker has taken the chair; or, if considered desirable, the Speaker may

put the question to the House that " the Minutes be taken as read." This will save time.

After the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting, the introduction to the Speaker of newly elected members, and the names of newly proposed members, will be recorded.

The newly elected members should be accompanied by their respective proposers and seconders, and should advance up the floor of the House to the Speaker's chair, and be formally introduced to him by name, and as the Members for the Constituencies they have severally elected to represent.

When all the new members have been introduced, then those whose names have been submitted, with their addresses, and the names of their proposers and seconders, are read to the House, and they will be elected by the Council at the following Council meeting if no objection be lodged, and may be introduced as new members at the following meeting of the Parliament.

When any member presents himself at the table to pay his subscription, the Clerk or Secretary shall request him to enter his name and address and Constituency in the Members' Book, and the Secretary or Clerk shall enter his name in the " Constituency " Book ; and if the place have a member already allotted to it, the member must choose another place to represent.

Members take their places to the right or left of the Speaker, according as their party is in or out of office. The front seats on the right are occupied by the Ministry, those on the left by the Leaders of the Opposition.

After the introduction of, and the proposals for, new members have been completed, Notices of Questions and of Motions should be handed in, and either read by the members who wish to bring them forward, or handed in *in duplicate* to the Clerk of the House at the table. He will then read them, and the Secretary will see that the Ministry have the questions to answer by next meeting.

The Motions will then be proceeded with in the same way, and when those of which previous notice had been given have been answered or debated, the adjourned debate (if any) will be resumed.

The above is the mode of proceeding which will be found perfectly suitable to Local Parliaments and in accordance with usage. It is desirable that all routine business should be conducted as expeditiously as possible, as the members generally will be interested only in the debate.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
LOCAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETIES.

The **SPEAKER** is the controller of the House: all debate ceases when he rises, and his dictum must be accepted as final. He has a casting vote when parties are equal, and may give it either way, but experience teaches that he gives it to the "Noes." His duty is to keep the debate in the proper channel and to enforce the rules of the House. It is proper and customary to bow to the Speaker when entering or leaving the House, and no member or stranger wearing his hat must sit in the House in presence of the Speaker.

Members must not pass and repass between the Speaker and the member addressing the House.

No stranger must seat himself or be permitted to remain in any portion of the House set apart for members only.

When a member is in possession of the House all the rest should be silent, or at any rate no audible interruption should be made; and no periodical should be read unless for information to be used in connection with the debate.

SPEAKING.—In speaking in the House a member must look to the Speaker and address him, and keep strictly to the point of discussion. He must not allude to previous debates that session unless he wish to move that a question be re-opened, or a decision be rescinded. He must then conclude with a Motion to that effect.

When a Motion has been made and then seconded, after due notice having been given of the member's intention to propose any question for consideration, it is then put to the House by the Speaker; but if the Motion be not seconded it is dropped.

A Motion, if unopposed, may be made without previous notice; but if subsequently any one objects to it the proposer must withdraw it.

In the absence of the Speaker the chair will be taken by his Deputy ; but if it should happen that the Deputy Speaker is also absent, then the House must choose one of its members to the position. The nomination may be challenged, and a show of hands will decide the point, and so on till a selection be approved.

The Rules for DIVISIONS are those generally in force in the House of Commons, the Tellers being appointed by the Speaker ; and these gentlemen in pairs receive the votes as the members file in to the right or left lobby, according as they are "Ayes" or "Noes." The Tellers then respectively hand the papers to the Speaker, who reads the numbers, and declares which party has the advantage, in the usual way.

We can only thus indicate a few of the leading points to be observed in the formation and arrangement of a Parliamentary Debating Society. Every such society must be influenced more or less by local conditions, which will change ; but the chief points to be observed are touched upon above—the details can easily be filled in from any work upon Parliamentary Procedure.

CHAPTER XIV.

DEBATING CLUBS AND SOCIETIES.

WHILE there is no royal road to proficiency in public speaking, practice is above all things essential, and for the beginner this is best acquired by joining some well conducted debating club or society, and frequently taking part in its discussions. He will thus get not only practice in the art of speaking, but much valuable information on a variety of topics; above all, he will in course of time overcome the nervousness that marks the novice and acquire the readiness of speech and quickness of thought that are, perhaps, the chief weapons in the public speaker's armoury.

And for a beginner, too, a debating club is perhaps more useful than a local Parliament; there is less formality, fewer rules and conventions to be observed, and he is less likely to be overburdened by a feeling of the importance of the occasion or fear of criticism from his audience; moreover, there is more of "rough and tumble" debate, which is excellent in producing readiness and quickness.

When, however, the beginner feels quite at home in his own debating society, and feels, too, that his speeches carry weight there, he should seek a wider field and a different audience, for there is always a danger that, having grown accustomed to one audience and one kind of debate, he may fail to do himself justice elsewhere. It is then that local Parliaments are useful; and the speaker who has

emerged successful from the ordeal of both debating society and local Parliament need not fear to address almost any audience.

But though, as has been pointed out, debating societies have rules less rigid and formal than those of local Parliaments, nevertheless, the rules should be sufficiently clear and precise to ensure the proper conduct of proceedings, and, while allowing of the interruption which enlivens, should check the disorder which reduces debate to chaos. A settled "constitution" and regular officers are therefore necessary.

Dealing with the latter first, the officers are generally :—

- (1) President or Chairman.
- (2) Vice-President (one or more).
- (3) Treasurer.
- (4) Secretary.
- (5) Committee, which will include all the officers and five or seven elected members.

The PRESIDENT will, of course, take the chair at any meeting at which he is present, and will regulate the progress of debate and see that the rules are observed. His duties may be gathered from the chapter in this volume on the subject. In his absence the senior officer present, and in the absence of all officers, one of the Committee will take the chair.

The TREASURER, of course, has charge of the funds, and it is his duty to see that subscriptions are paid, and—a much more difficult task this—to endeavour to have a small balance on the right side at the end of the year. He is responsible for all payments, and should see that no money is expended except in the manner and for the objects provided by the rules.

The SECRETARY'S duties are manifold. He is in charge of all the Society's official correspondence, he keeps the Minute Book, or arranges with some one else to take

Minutes of meetings at which he is not present, he arranges the details of joint debates with other societies, and is charged with the duty of seeing that members receive all official notices and announcements.

In most societies it is the duty of the COMMITTEE to decide all important matters arising within the society, and generally to manage its affairs and select suitable subjects for debate, as well as leading speakers on each side for each meeting.

AN ORDINARY MEETING.

Proceedings are opened when the Chairman takes the chair. He will first call on the Secretary to read the Minutes of the last meeting, and these having been confirmed, he will sign them. Then comes an interval for "Private Business." Questions are put to the officers as to the conduct of their duties or matters of general importance, and, if notice has been given, proposals to amend the rules of the Club are discussed and voted on; and new members are elected, if the rules provide for public election.

After the period for private business has elapsed, the Chairman will announce the Motion for discussion, stating that Mr. —, will move that [—]. Thereupon, the first speaker—it is customary to select two beforehand on each side—will open the debate, addressing his remarks always to the Chairman. When he has finished, or the time allotted to the Motion has elapsed, the Chairman will call on the Opposer. These two are generally allowed a somewhat longer time than other speakers. After the first four speakers have finished, the debate becomes general, members showing their desire to speak by rising in their places. Should two or more spring up together, the Chairman will decide which is to speak first.

When there are no more speakers, or when the time set

apart for the meeting is drawing to a close, the Chairman will, if the rules provide, call on the Opposer to wind up the debate against the Motion. Then the Mover of the resolution will reply shortly and immediately after the resolution will be put to the meeting, voting being by show of hands.

RULES OF A DEBATING SOCIETY.

Each Society will, of course, make its own rules, and these will vary according to circumstances.

The rules generally will come under eight heads.

1.—THE CLUB.—Rules under this head will fix the name of the club, its object, its place, and time of meeting.

2.—MEMBERSHIP.—Under this will be provided for the nomination and election of members, entrance fee and subscription, and penalty for non-payment, which is generally suspension after notice, followed if necessary, by expulsion.

3.—OFFICERS.—The number and names of Officers will be fixed, their term of office, the method of proposal and election, and their duties when elected.

4.—MEETINGS.—These rules fix the times and days of meetings, providing for a regular or ordinary meeting and for special meetings to be called by the Secretary, on a requisition from a certain number of members, or by the Committee. They will also lay down what business must be transacted at a special meeting—*e.g.*, alteration of rules.

5.—CONDUCT OF MEETINGS.—Here will be described the ordinary procedure. The number of members to make a quorum, the Chairman's duties, his powers, and the order of business at a meeting will be defined. Rules will also be laid down to regulate debate, allotting time for

opening speeches and ordinary speeches and reply, and for taking the vote.

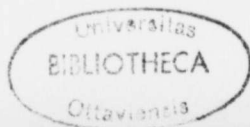
6.—SELECTION OF SUBJECTS.—This is generally allotted by the rules to the Committee, though often it is ordered that the Secretary shall keep a suggestion book.

7.—RULES, AND ALTERATION.—This section provides for the making of new rules and altering old ones, and contains regulations as to giving notice of proposed changes in the Society's constitution, and making such changes and for the enforcement of the rules.

8.—MISCELLANEOUS.—Under this head the rules will deal with such subjects as the keeping of attendance books, the duty of members to attend meetings, the admission of visitors, etc.

In conclusion, it should be said that, however informal the proceedings, speakers should be very careful always to get up the subject of debate before the meeting, otherwise they can hope to derive little benefit from it, and, having no fixed scheme in their minds, will be apt to fall into bad habits, such as hesitancy and prolixity.

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