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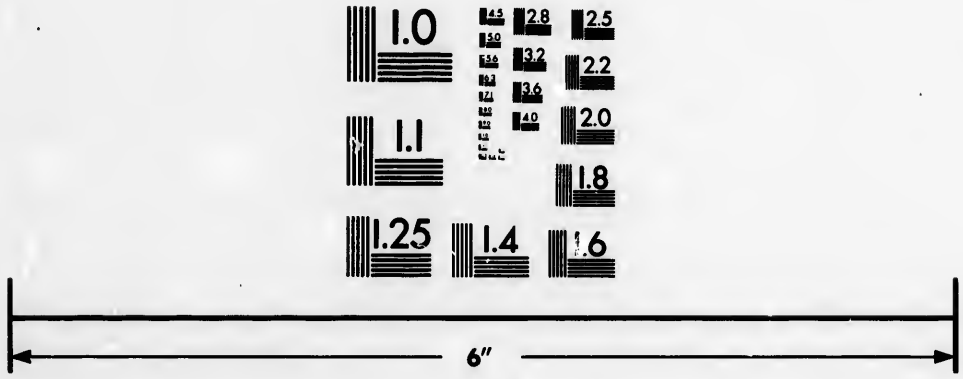

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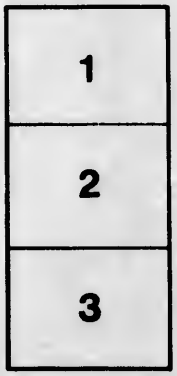

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No. 2.

North America St. George's Union.

REPORT

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION,

HELD AT

St. George's Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.,

September 12th, 13th and 14th, 1877.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF CONVENTION.

BRIDGEPORT:
FARMER OFFICE STEAM JOB PRESS, COR. WALL AND WATER STS.

1877.

PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Tuesday Evening, September 11th, 1877.

The delegates to the fifth annual Convention of the North America St. George's Union assembled at St. George's Hall, in the city of Philadelphia, at 8 o'clock P. M. The beautiful room was handsomely decorated with flags, the English and American predominating. On each side of the statue of St. George and the dragon, which surmounts the building, were respectively the American and English flags.

The meeting was called to order by the venerable President, Lewis Thompson, Esq., who, in the name of the "Sons of St. George" of Philadelphia, cordially welcomed them to the City of "Brotherly Love," at the same time introducing Wm. Waterall, Esq., Vice-President of the "Sons of St. George," who, in an eloquent address, tendered a hearty welcome to the "North America St. George's Union." He was followed by W. T. Wilkins, Esq., who also delivered an address of welcome. Responses to these addresses were delivered by the following delegates: D. Batchelor, of Utica, N. Y.; C. E. Peirce, of Hamilton, Ont.; J. A. H. St. Andrew, of Va.; and G. W. Longstaff, of Bridgeport, Conn.

After the singing of "God Save the Queen," the meeting adjourned to the lower hall, and resolving itself into a social body, had a real enjoyable time.

(The addresses of welcome, responses, inaugural address and papers read, will be found in full in the Addenda.)

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Wednesday, September 12th, 1877.

MORNING SESSION.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock A. M.; the Hon. Lewis Thompson, President, occupied the chair. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Suddards, Chaplain to the Union and the Philadelphia Society of the Sons of St. George.

The Vice-President of the Sons of St. George of Philadelphia, Wm. Waterall, Esq., at the request of the President, (who was suffering from indisposition), read the inaugural address.

On motion of Mr. G. Lindley, of Brantford, Ont., the thanks of the Convention were returned to Mr. Thompson for his admirable address.

The following gentlemen were appointed as secretaries: Rev. W. D'Orville Doty, of Waterloo, N. Y.; S. C. Collis, of Philadelphia; C. E. Peirce, of Hamilton, Ont.; and S. Trees, of Toronto, Ont.

Messrs. D. Batchelor, of Utica; F. R. Price, of Virginia; John Pennie, Jr., of Albany; C. Chase, of Guelph, Ont.; and G. Lindley, of Brantford, Ont., were appointed a Committee on Credentials.

Mr. Alfred Green, of Hamilton, Ont., was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms, and Mr. W. T. Wilkins, of Philadelphia, Assistant.

Mr. Wm. Tomlin, of Bridgeport, Conn., Secretary to the Executive Committee, then read the annual report. On motion, it was adopted.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen of the St. George's Union:

In presenting a record of the proceedings of the North America St. George's Union during the past year, your Committee, as a matter of justice, feel called on, in the first place, to express their deep sense of the generous reception given to the Convention at its

last meeting in the beautiful city of Hamilton, in Canada. To the warm-hearted members of the St. George's Society, and to the public-spirited citizens of Hamilton, is due the credit of the success which attended our last Convention, and which will make it memorable in the annals of the Union.

REGISTER AND STATISTICS OF THE ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETIES.

One of the first official acts undertaken by Mr. William Tomlin, Corresponding Secretary, on behalf of your Committee, was the issuance of a circular to the St. George's Societies of the United States and the Dominion of Canada, asking for statistics as to membership, income, expenditures, etc. Sixty-two societies were applied to, and replies were received from thirty-four, of which eighteen belonged to the United States and sixteen to Canada. These thirty-four societies possess upwards of 5,000 members. Their funded capital amounts to $115,794. From twenty of these societies it was reported that 14,500 persons had been relieved during the last fiscal year, at an outlay of $15,800. A calculation based on these returns, shows that the St. George's Societies of North America expend, in the aggregate, not less than FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS per annum in charitable relief.

Your Committee have made up the following list of existing societies, viz.: The Sons of St George and Albion Society, Philadelphia; Albion Society and St. George's Society, New York city; the St. George's Societies of Utica, Buffalo, Albany, Skaneateles, Waterloo, Oswego, Schenectady, Cohoes, Syracuse, Little Falls, Auburn and Rochester, in New York State; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Newark and Patterson, New Jersey; Worcester and Fall River, Massachusetts; Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Indianapolis, Indiana; Chicago and Peoria, Illinois; Augusta, Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; St. Louis and St. Joseph, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Omaha, Nebraska; San Antonio, Texas; San Francisco, California; Baltimore, Maryland; and Fredericksburg, Virginia. Also, the British Association of Virginia, British Society of Farmville, Virginia, and the Cockney, Anglo-American and Britannia Societies of Brooklyn; the British Provident Society of New York, and the Alfredians of Boston and Providence. In Canada, there are St. George's Societies in Hamilton, Kingston, Guelph, Bellville, Peterborough, Strathroy, Clifton, St. Catharine's, London, Ottawa, Toronto, Galt, Brantford, Coburg, Prescott, Quebec, Montreal and Halifax. It is probable that some societies may have been omitted from this list, and your Committee will be glad to receive information in respect to any such. From this register of the St. George's Societies, it will be seen that they constitute a great power, and properly united in the

work of this Union, none can measure the amount of good which they are capable of accomplishing throughout the length and breadth of this great continent.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY AND OUR PATRON SAINT.

St. George's Day—our great anniversary—is becoming year by year more generally observed throughout the United States and the Dominion of Canada. To tens of thousands of Anglo-Americans, the 23d of April is the red-letter day in their calendar. Meeting in this splendid St. George's Hall, surmounted by the noblest statue of St. George which genius has ever designed or fashioned, a few words respecting our patron saint may not be out of place.

There is some doubt about the legendary history of St. George. Butler, a very reliable historian, maintains that St. George was born of Christian parents in Cappadocia, obtained high distinction in the army, and was beheaded for his faith, under the Emperor Diocletian. A thousand heroic achievements have been accredited to St. George. He slew an immense and ferocious dragon, and is said to have saved a king's daughter as the monster was about to devour her. It is in the performance of this chivalric deed that he is represented on horseback, armed with a lance and piercing the dragon. St. George was the patron saint of Genoa as well as of England, and he is particularly honored in Russia. In ancient times, in England, when knighthood was conferred, the sovereign, addressing the knight, used to say, "God and St. George make thee a good knight." Whatever may have been the real character of the saint, he has been held in the highest honor in England from a very early period. In the calendars of both the Greek and Latin Churches, he shared the 23d of April in common with other saints. A Saxon martyrology, however, declares that the day was dedicated to him alone; and ever since the time of the Norman conquest, the day has been celebrated by Englishmen in the most approved manner. In 1344, the feast was made memorable by the creation of the Order of the Garter, of which St. George is patron, and the knights of which have their stalls in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The Order of St. Michael and St. George has been more recently instituted. Among our forefathers, by both feast and tournament, the day became the occasion of great rejoicing throughout the nation. Many of the old customs have become obsolete, but the day is still honored by Englishmen in all parts of the world; and through the instrumentality of the St. George's Societies, the name of the saint is perpetuated, and a large amount of charity is dispensed.

According to tradition, St. George was brave, gallant, noble and chivalrous, and to those who have ranged themselves under

his banner and cherish his memory, he is not only the ideal hero of romance, but the source of inspiration to benevolence and Christian love towards their fellow man. Let us strive to be worthy of St. George, and our societies everywhere will have to complain neither of lack of numbers nor of funds.

PROPOSALS FOR THE INCREASED USEFULNESS OF THE UNION.

Your Committee have carefully considered the best means of adding interest and usefulness to the annual Conventions of the Union. Many new features will be introduced during our present sessions, with, it is hoped, great advantage. The papers to be read by Messrs. Batchelor, Underdown and Tomlin, will, it is believed, awaken and renew enthusiasm for the good work which is being accomplished by our St. George's Societies. There is plenty of latent energy in our societies, but it needs to be aroused and stimulated, and this is precisely the vocation of the St. George's Union. Your Executive Committee also believe that when the Union is in full working order, it will become a valuable means of aiding members of the various societies who may desire to change their residences from one part of the United States and Canada to another, and generally will prove highly useful to members. With this view, the subject of visiting cards for members of the Union has been carefully considered by your Committee, and such cards are now ready and will be supplied to affiliated societies by the Corresponding Secretary, at a cost of $2 per hundred. To prevent imposition, your Committee recommend that each affiliated society be requested to report to the Secretary of the Union all cases of fraud on the part of applicants for relief, and that such information be circulated among the societies generally, for the prevention of further fraud. It is to be desired that all affiliating societies forward to the Secretary of the Union, annually, their list of officers and reports.

COMMON SEAL.

At the last annual Convention, Capt. C. S. Sault, on behalf of the Cohoes St. George's Society, kindly offered to present to the Union a common seal. The promise thus made has been faithfully carried out, and the thanks of the Union are due to the Cohoes Society for their generous donation.

PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION.

Mr. St. Andrew, of Virginia, at the last annual Convention, moved the following resolutions, which were referred to the Executive Committee, to report thereon at this meeting:

"1. That while the North American St. George's Union is only an advisory body and cannot claim jurisdiction over the charters

and constitutions of St. George's Societies already existing, it is nevertheless important that the Union should, as the central authority, secure powers whereby persons who may henceforth desire to form St. George's Societies, can secure charters from this Union."

"2. That the executive officers of this Union be instructed to procure an act of incorporation from the Congress of the United States and the Dominion Parliament, conferring the necessary powers for the issuing of charters to subordinate societies and such other purposes as they may deem needful for the good of the Union."

Your Executive Committee have duly deliberated on the above resolutions, and respectfully recommend—

1. That the Union be incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania.

2. That the chief offices of the Union be permanently located in Philadelphia.

With a view to further carrying out the spirit of these resolutions, the Executive Committee have prepared a new Constitution, which will be submitted to the Convention, and which, if adopted, will enable the Union to—

1. Issue charters for new St. George's Societies, wherever four or more qualified persons may desire to establish a society.

2. To issue charters of confirmation to existing societies desirous of joining the Union.

It is to be hoped that the adoption of this Constitution may enable the Union to become a great federation of societies, while the Union will also directly encourage and foster the formation of new societies.

BADGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

The subject of badges of membership, upon which your Executive Committee were instructed at the last Convention to take definite measures, awaits the action of local societies. The expense of producing the badges selected, was such that your Committee deferred ordering the same until they were guaranteed that a sufficient number would be taken by the members to warrant them in so doing.

THE INTERNATIONAL BRITISH CELEBRATION.

At the last annual Convention, an invitation was extended to and accepted by the Union, to take part in the International British Celebration, in Petersburg, Virginia, on Queen Victoria's birthday, in May last. The Convention appointed Messrs. C. E. Pierce, of Hamilton; Wm. Underdown, of Philadelphia; C. S. Sault, of Cohoes, and Wm. Tomlin, of Connecticut, a special committee to coöperate with the British Association of Virginia in the

arrangements for the International Celebration. In discharge of the duties thus imposed, Mr. Wm. Tomlin, in March last, visited Petersburg for the purpose of conferring with the British Association. During this visit to Virginia, Mr. Tomlin was the recipient of many honors and hospitalities, which evidenced the high regard felt for our St. George's Union in the Old Dominion. As Secretary of the Union, Mr. Tomlin appended his signature to addresses to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and to His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, which elicited from those distinguished personages warm expressions of interest in the International Celebration. Mr. Tomlin was also presented with an "Address of Welcome," signed by the Hon. D. B. Tennant, President of the British Association, and by the Hon. Wm. E. Cameron, Mayor of Petersburg. Mr. Tomlin was further entertained at a complimentary banquet, and his visit to Virginia was favorably commented on by the press in all parts of that State.

Returning home with a strong determination to make the International Celebration a great success, Mr. Tomlin corresponded with every St. George's Society in the United States and Canada, and conducted an immense correspondence with railroad companies, in order to secure reduced fares for members of the various societies attending the celebration. The results of the joint labors of the special committee of the Union and of the British Association, are known to all. The International British Celebration was a magnificent success. It extended over four days, and the festivities included a grand military display, civic and societarial processions, religious services, excursions, a grand banquet and numerous social gatherings and other public and private festivities on the most elaborate and costly scale. Her Majesty Queen Victoria, His Excellency the President of the United States and His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, forwarded special messages of sympathy and congratulation. Altogether, the Celebration was a unique and glorious event. The fame of it has extended throughout the habitable world. The American press everywhere noticed it with approval. The English papers, from the Land's End to John O'Groats, published cablegrams and leading articles on the celebration, and combined to give Old Virginia and the hospitable Cockade City noble recognition, which cannot fail to be of lasting good to the gallant and chivalric people of the Ancient Dominion. The Canadian papers, from end to end of the New Dominion, published reports and eulogies on the celebration.

INTERNATIONAL COURTESIES.

As a conspicuous proof of the good done by the International British Celebration, your Committee have pleasure in mentioning that the municipal address presented to Ex-President Grant in

Manchester, and read by Sir Joseph Heron, the Town Clerk, contained the following direct reference to the Celebration:

"We feel that your visit, coinciding as it does with the kind expressions which the birthday of our beloved sovereign recently evoked in the United States, is likely to do much to increase the good feeling which happily now exists, and which a common language, kindred and descent ought to render permanent."

A leading English paper, remarking on Ex-President Grant's visit to England, said editorially:

"General Grant has been cordially welcomed. This is as it should be. Americans, the other day, celebrated the birthday of Queen Victoria. Such a compliment well deserves a cordial return."

In view of these facts, your Committee feel that the great International gathering in Petersburg, Virginia, last May, has directly tended to promote "peace on earth and good will towards men," and has very largely increased the friendship now so happily subsisting between the United Kingdom and the United States.

THE HISTORY OF THE CELEBRATION.

Long and interesting accounts of the Celebration have been published in the press, from the accomplished pens of Alderman McLellan, President of the St. Andrew's Society of Hamilton; C. E. Peirce, Esq., of the Hamilton St. George's Society; the Hon. W. B. McMurrich, President of the Toronto St. Andrew's Society, and the Rev. Canon Street, D. D., of the Chicago St. George's Society, all of whom attended the Celebration. Your Committee have pleasure in announcing that Mr. John J. Campbell, the talented Assistant Secretary of the British Association of Virginia, is preparing for publication a full and complete account of the festivities in connection with the International British Celebration. This work, which will be published under the auspices of the North America St. George's Union and of the British Association of Virginia, will be of great and permanent value. Whatever the St. George's Societies can do to extend its circulation will, undoubtedly, tend to promote peace and friendship between England and America. The contents of Mr. Campbell's book will be divided under the following heads:

Reception Meetings of Visitors from United States and Canada, viz:

Delegates from the North America St. George's Union.

Delegates from North America United Caledonian Association.

The Press Association of Virginia.

Speeches by Mayor Cameron, the President of the British Association of Virginia and Visitors.

Special Religious Service at St. Paul's Church.

Annual Address on a British Farmer's Experience in Virginia, by J. W. Hebditch, Esq., author of "Three Years in Virginia."

Annual Meeting of the British Association of Virginia.

Grand Banquet in honor of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Birthday.

Toasts and Sentiments. Speeches and Responses in full.

One hundred Telegrams and Letters of Congratulation from Royalty and eminent and distinguished persons in the United Kingdom, the Dominion of Canada and the United States.

Excursions, Visits to the Lines around Petersburg. Complimentary Concert at the Academy of Music.

Closing Festivities at the Rooms of the British Association of Virginia.

Comments of the Press of three Countries.

The Results.

Every Englishman in the United States and United Kingdom, and every Canadian, may well be proud to secure a copy of a book which will tell, for years to come, the story of brotherly love among Anglo-Saxons all the world over.

ACTION OF ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETIES.

The Society of the Sons of St. George of Philadelphia, the St. George's Society of London, Canada, and many other St. George's Societies have, by appropriate resolutions, acknowledged the generous hospitality shown to their representatives by the good people of Virginia. In view of the important part taken by the North America St. George's Union in the International British Celebration, your Committee suggest that the Convention should adopt some suitable means of recording the satisfaction of the Union at the entire success of the Celebration.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S BIRTHDAY.

Many of the St. George's Societies of Canada took a prominent part in the public celebrations of Queen Victoria's birthday in the Dominion, and your Committee are glad to state that the day was also marked by festivities in several parts of the United States, in addition to those of the International Celebration in Virginia. The Onondaga County St. George's Society had a most agreeable celebration in Syracuse. These proofs of the love and esteem with which Queen Victoria is regarded in the United States, have more than ever endeared to Anglo-Americans the land of their adoption, and these events, one and all, testify to the fact that Englishmen and Americans are determined, henceforth, to make their kinship as much a matter of heart and mind as it is indestructibly of race, language and religion.

ST. GEORGE'S HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA.

English visitors to the Centennial Exposition, last year, cannot fail to have noticed the beautiful St. George's House, erected by the British Government. To the great gratification of your Committee, St. George's House has been presented by Her Majesty's Government to the United States, and will remain a standing memorial of international friendship and an object of peculiar pleasure to the brethren of St. George.

ARBITRATION AS A MEANS OF SETTLING DISPUTES BETWEEN CAPITAL AND LABOR.

While your Executive Committee were in session in Philadelphia, in July last, J. Harper Morris, Esq., an English gentleman, occasionally resident in this city, directed their attention to the great good which might be accomplished by the adoption of arbitration as a means of settlement in the great strikes then agitating the country. Methods of arbitration in disputes between capital and labor, have long been popular in England, and have received the support of Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright and other great statesmen. Your Committee, after long and anxious consideration, came to the conclusion that they would be justified in taking action, and on the 25th of July, they adopted the following

MEMORANDUM.

1. That the members of the St. George's Societies of the United States, among whom are many thousands of adopted citizens and sons of adopted citizens, view with grave anxiety the present industrial crisis in which their interests, public and private, in common with those of their fellow citizens throughout the republic, are directly involved.

2. That experience in Europe has demonstrated beyond doubt, that the only hope of satisfactorily closing disputes between capital and labor is to be found in wisely conceived and judiciously carried out methods of arbitration between the contending parties.

3. That the advantages of arbitration as a means of settlement for international and national disputes, have been abundantly manifested by the peaceful and happy arrangement of the Alabama claims between Great Britain and the United States, and by the solving of numerous industrial problems on both sides of the Atlantic.

4. That the present Government of the United States, having already earned the gratitude of the nation by a policy of domestic peace, would, by the initiation of proposals for arbitration between the railroad companies and the men now on strike, confer immense

benefits on the trade and commerce of the country, on the laboring classes and on the people at large, while any suggestions emanating from so high authority would be likely to give equal satisfaction to the contending parties, and would probably be gladly accepted by both as a sure and certain means of extrication from further loss and disaster.

5. That it be respectfully suggested by this Committee that if the United States Government would take the lead in establishing a joint commission of masters and men, with some leading statesman designated by the President, as chairman thereof, all questions now in dispute could be speedily settled by arbitration, and that the confidence of the workmen in such a tribunal would probably induce them to resume work until a fair and equitable adjustment could be reached.

6. That Mr. St. Andrew be appointed to convey this memorandum to the Hon. W. M. Evarts, Secretary of State, Washington.

(Signed) LEWIS THOMPSON, President.

WM. UNDERDOWN, Secretary.

In accordance with the above, Mr. St. Andrew visited Washington on July 26th, and sought an interview with Mr. Evarts. It happened that the day was a Thursday, which had consequently been reserved by the Secretary of State for the reception of foreign ambassadors only. Notwithstanding that it was a violation of official *etiquette*, Mr. Evarts, in the kindest possible manner, at once accorded an interview to your representative. In presenting the memorandum, Mr. St. Andrew, on behalf of the Committee, informed Mr. Secretary Evarts that our Union was a body which, to a large extent, represented both capital and labor among its membership, and that many of our members had seen strikes satisfactorily settled by arbitration in Europe; also, that in England, during a great strike, the Government had appointed a royal commission, composed partly of both masters and men, and the results had been highly gratifying.

Mr. St. Andrew further said that as citizens of the United States, the members of the St. George's Societies were deeply concerned in the then condition of affairs, and anxious to discover some means of permanent settlement, which they believed arbitration would afford. Even if the riots were suppressed, the business interests of the country would suffer so long as the strikes continued; hence, the necessity for adopting arbitration as soon as public order was restored.

Mr. Evarts, in reply, expressed his general approval of the principle of arbitration, and kindly promised to give the matter due consideration.

GENERAL APPROVAL OF ARBITRATION.

Your Committee trust that the course they adopted in seeking to

secure a peaceful settlement of the terrible troubles then afflicting the country, will be approved by the Convention. The New York Herald pronounced the idea of arbitration, as suggested by your Committee, "a sensible one," and it met with general approbation among both employers and employed, and very largely in the newspaper press. It may yet prove of lasting benefit to the nation.

The following resolution, endorsing the action of your Committee, was passed at a regular meeting of the St. George's Society of Bridgeport, Conn., held on Monday, August 6th, 1877:

"*Resolved*, That we fully endorse the action of the Executive Committee of the North America St. George's Union, with regard to arbitration as a means of preventing strikes.

Attest: G. KINGSTON, Secretary."

Your Committee having been the first to suggest voluntary arbitration as a means of preventing strikes, rejoice to record the general favor with which the idea has been received. A remarkable proof of this is found in the fact that in Ohio and other States, the great political parties of the republic have cordially endorsed the suggestions of your Committee.

Further proofs of the correctness of the views of your Committee have been furnished by the prompt settlement, during last month, of the great strikes in Scotland by means of voluntary arbitration. The subject of arbitration has already been considered by the Cabinet at Washington, and is now one of the leading questions of the day in America. Your Committee desire that it should be remembered that they confined their suggestions to methods of *voluntary* arbitration, and that they have never contemplated compulsory measures calculated to interfere with the free development of the great principles of political economy in relation to capital and labor. Society is strong enough to demand that arbitration shall be tested fairly, and that is what your Committee have sought to promote. That arbitration may ultimately harmonize the relations between capital and labor and thus prevent strikes, with their multiform and multitudinous evils, is earnestly to be desired by all good citizens.

THE ENGLISH ARBITRATION SYSTEM.

Following the suggestions of your Committee, the subject of arbitration between capital and labor has been very extensively and favorably considered by the American newspaper press. Your Committee would in particular refer to an exhaustive *resume* of the English system, which has appeared in the Baltimore Sun. Arbitration was, it appears, first advocated in England more than half a century ago, although not very widely known or adopted until within recent years. Provision for the arbitration of disputes

between masters and workmen, was made in England by statute as early as the reign of George IV., and by subsequent statutes passed in the early part of the reign of the present Queen. Without repealing any of these former laws, Parliament, in 1867, by statute 30 and 31 Vict., c. 105, commonly known as "The Councils of Conciliation Act," established the more modern system, which has since been somewhat amended. The "Councils of Conciliation Act" provides that any number of masters and workmen belonging to the same trade and residing in the same town, etc., may, upon petition, and after due publication, etc., obtain a license from the Secretary of State for the Home Office, for the formation of a Council of Conciliation—the first council to be elected by the petitioners, and afterwards to be elected annually by masters and workmen, who may register and qualify as voters for the purpose. The council consists of an equal number of masters and workmen —not less than two nor more than ten of each, besides a chairman elected by the council. A quorum consists of not less than three, viz.: A master, a workman and the chairman. The chairman must be a person unconnected with the trade, and votes only in case of a tie. No counsel, solicitors or attorneys are allowed to attend, except by the consent of both parties, and no member of the council can act in any case in which he or any relation of his is plaintiff or defendant.

Provision is further made for the appointment of sub-committees, called Committees of Conciliation, consisting of one master and one workingman, whose business it is to endeavor to reconcile all disputes and obviate the necessity of a formal reference to the council for award. The council are clothed with the usual powers of arbitrators in reference to any matters submitted to them—which power does not extend, however, to establishing a rate of wages or price of labor or workmanship at which workmen shall *in future* be paid—and their award is made final and conclusive between the parties, without being subject to review by any court. Subsequently, in 1872, (35 and 36 Vict., c. 76,) Parliament passed another act, amendatory of the previous one, and known as "The Arbitration (masters and workmen) Act."

This act provides that any master and workman may enter into an agreement, by which they shall be mutually bound, to submit to such arbitration as they may designate, any questions which may arise between them during the term of the workman's employment. The agreement may provide that the parties, during its continuance, shall be bound by any rules contained in the agreement, or made by the arbitrators, as to the rate of wages to be paid, the hours or quantities of work to be performed, or the conditions or regulations under which work is to be done.

It will be seen that there is nothing whatever of a socialistic or communistic character in the plans of arbitration which have been

so successfully carried out in Great Britain. In recommending similar methods of averting strikes in the United States, your Committee feel that they have initiated what is bound to become a great moral and social reform.

MORE INTERNATIONAL AMENITIES.

The visit to the United States of the British Rifle Team, under the leadership of Sir Henry Halford, for friendly competition with American riflemen, has already done great good. At Bridgeport, on August 30th, the St. George's Society took a prominent part in welcoming Sir Henry and his comrades. On that occasion, Mr. Wm. Tomlin, as President of the Bridgeport St. George's Society, said:

"On behalf of the St. George's Society of Bridgeport, Connecticut, we beg to assure you of the great pleasure with which we greet your presence among us. We cannot but feel that your visit to this country to take part in a peaceful trial of skill, is likely to do much to increase the good feeling which happily now exists between England and America, and which a common language, kindred and descent ought to render permanent."

Your Committee feel assured that the St. George's Societies throughout the United States will fully endorse these sentiments.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, your Committee believe that if the recommendations embodied in this report are carried out by the Convention, the North America St. George's Union, already a successful and useful institution, has a great and prosperous future before it.

Respectfully submitted by the Executive Committee of the North America St. George's Union.

LEWIS THOMPSON, *President.*
J. A. H. ST. ANDREW, *First Vice-President.*
DANIEL BATCHELOR, *Treasurer.*
WILLIAM UNDERDOWN, } *Secretaries.*
WILLIAM TOMLIN, }

On motion, Resolved that the thanks of the Convention be presented to the Cohoes Society for the presentation of seal.

On motion, Resolved that the financial statement of the Treasurer of the Union be received at the evening session.

The Convention here took a recess of one hour, to visit the Masonic Temple.

On reassembling, the Chairman of the Committee on Credentials reported the credentials of the delegates in attendance, correct.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

St. George's Society, Albany, N. Y.—Marshall Tebbutt, J. Pennie, Jr., Thomas Mayes.

St. George's Society, Auburn, N. Y.—G. J. Bunting, G. F. Hague.

St. George's Society, Bridgeport, Conn.—W. Tomlin, G. W. Longstaff, J. H. Eyre, G. Kingston.

St. George's Society, Brantford, Ont.—G. Lindley.

St. George's Society, Cohoes, N. Y.—Capt. C. Sault.

British Society, Farmville, Va.—J. A. H. St. Andrew.

St. George's Society, Guelph, Ont.—C. Chase.

St. George's Society, Hamilton, Ont.—A. Green, C. E. Peirce.

St. George's Society, Norfolk, Va.—Col. I. S. Pagaud.

St. George's Society, Oswego, N. Y.—J. Phillips, J. Neill.

Sons of St. George, Philadelphia, Pa.—L. Thompson, Wm. Massey, Rev. Dr. Suddards, J. H. Pilley, Wm. Waterall, H. Nelms, Wm. Underdown, J. Smith, S. C. Collis, W. King, W. F. Wilkins, T. P. Rhodes, J. B. Willian, H. Jones, J. N. Willian, W. H. and John Lucas, John, Samuel and Joseph Lees.

St. George's Society, Toronto, Ont.—C. Riley, S. Trees, J. E. Pell.

St. George's Society, Utica, N. Y.—D. Batchelor, I. Whiffen.

British Association, Virginia.—W. Hunter, F. R. Price, W. D. Rice, Thomas Knock, Col. W. Townes, Jr.

St. George's Society, Waterloo, N. Y.—Rev. W. D'Orville Doty.

And as a guest of the Convention, Mr. Thomas Connolly, of London, England.

SYNOPSIS OF BIRTHPLACE OF DELEGATES PRESENT.

London, Middlesex, 7; Lancashire, 11; Staffordshire, 6; Yorkshire, 4; Glostershire, 3; Derbyshire, 3; Norfolk, 3; Hampshire, 2; Kent, 2; Leicestershire, 2; Wiltshire, 1; Surrey, 1; Hertfordshire, 1; Westmoreland, 1; Suffolk, 1; and Bedfordshire, 1.

Sixteen counties represented.

The draft of the new constitution was then taken up; after some discussion, it was, on motion, referred to a committee composed of one delegate from each society represented.

The following gentlemen were appointed on said committee:
Auburn, N. Y., G. J. Bunting.
Albany, N. Y., Marshall Tebbutt.
Cohoes, N. Y., Capt. C. Sault.
Brantford, Ont., G. Lindley.
Bridgeport, Conn., G. W. Longstaff.
British Association of Virginia, F. R. Price.
Farmville, Va., J. A. H. St. Andrew.
Guelph, Ont., C. Chase.
Hamilton, Ont., C. E. Peirce.
Oswego, N. Y., J. Phillips.
Philadelphia, Pa., Wm. Waterall.
Toronto, Ont., J. E. Pell.
Utica, N. Y., I. Whiffen.
Waterloo, N. Y., Rev. W. D'Orville Doty.

Mr. D. Batchelor, of Utica, N. Y., then read a paper on the "General Objects of the Union," and a vote of thanks was cordially tendered him.

Invitations were read from the Permanent Exhibition Company, the Presidents of both railways leading to Atlantic City, the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, to visit their coal-yards; President and Board of Directors of Academy of Fine Arts, Northern Home for Friendless Children, Reform Club, and Mr. Joseph Smith, to visit his residence on the Wissahickon, and partake of an old-fashioned English lunch.

A recess was taken till 3:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On reassembling, the Vice-President, Mr. J. A. H. St. Andrew, in the chair, Mr. Wm. Underdown read a paper on the "Society of the Sons of St. George of Philadelphia, its Usefulness and Success."

On motion, the thanks of the Convention were tendered Mr. Underdown for his interesting paper.

Brief addresses, reviewing the charitable works of various societies, were made by Messrs. Peirce, Tebbutts, Batchelor, Longstaff, and Thomas Connolly, of London, England.

The Convention then adjourned till 7:30 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention assembled as per adjournment, the President in the chair.

On badges of membership, Mr. Tomlin reported the procuring of them awaits the action of local societies.

On motion, a committee was appointed to record the satisfaction of the Union at the entire success of the Virginian Celebration; Messrs. Collis, Tomlin and Wilkins were appointed by the chair.

The report of the Committee on Constitution being in order, the Chairman, Mr. Waterall, presented the draft, which had been unanimously passed by the Committee.

On motion, the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth articles were severally and unanimously adopted as read. The ninth and tenth articles—amended to read "the Executive Committee" in place of "the Union"—were also severally and unanimously adopted. On motion, the eleventh article was adopted and was ordered to be placed as article second in the Constitution, the other articles following in regular order.

On motion of Mr. Daniel Batchelor, this Constitution as a whole, was unanimously adopted.

On motion, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the Committee for the report.

The following is the

CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED.

ARTICLE 1. The name of this association shall be the "North America St. George's Union."

ART. 2. It is hereby declared that the objects of this Union are open and undisguised, and such as are entitled to the sympathy of all good citizens of Canada and the United States, the purposes of the organization being solely to promote social intercourse, benevolence and mutual assistance among the members of the affiliated societies; to encourage the formation of new St. George's Societies, and for the advancement of friendship and amity between the English speaking nations.

ART. 3. Its meetings shall be annual, the election of its officers annual, and each meeting shall designate the next place of assemblage.

ART. 4. Each annual meeting hereafter, shall be composed of delegates from such St. George's Societies in the United States and British America as may choose to affiliate with the Union,

and delegates from such other British organizations as may be admitted to affiliation with the Union by the vote of a Convention.

ART. 5. Each affiliating society shall be entitled to send not more than three (3) delegates to the annual Conventions of the Union, and said delegates shall bring with them letters credential from their respective societies.

ART. 6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, First Vice-President, Treasurer, General Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and two other members, any three of whom shall form a quorum; and the Presidents of the affiliating societies shall be *ex-officio* Vice-Presidents of the Union.

ART. 7. A Chaplain to the Union shall be elected at each annual Convention.

ART. 8. The Union shall be governed by the usually recognized parliamentary rules and by the Constitution now adopted.

ART. 9. Each society affiliating with the Union shall subscribe annually to the funds, to cover the expenses of the Union.

ART. 10. The Executive Committee of the Union shall furnish to any number of respectable Englishmen who may so desire, the necessary information for the formation and working of St. George's Societies.

ART. 11. The Executive Committee of the Union shall publish and furnish to each affiliated society an annual report of the proceedings at each Convention, a full report of the Executive Committee during the year, and also a list of the various affiliated societies, giving the location of them and the names and addresses of the President and Secretary of each.

On motion, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the Grand Tyler of the Masonic fraternity, for his kindness in conducting this Convention through the Masonic Temple, and the Corresponding Secretary was ordered to notify him of the same.

A vote of thanks was also ordered to Professor Allen, for conducting the members of the Convention through Girard College.

Mr. S. C. Collis read a paper bearing on the usefulness and objects of the various St. George's Societies, in their sentimental, charitable and practical aspects.

The report of the Executive Committee and Treasurer, for the past year, was then read by the Treasurer, and the report was, on motion, accepted.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TREASURER.

BALANCE SHEET.

Dr.

1877.		
Jan. 1.	Postage and stationery,	$ 1 87
Feb. 25.	" " "	2 25
"	Printing report,	25 00
"	" badges,	2 00
Aug. 1.	Envelopes,	1 10
"	Circulars,	2 00
Sept.	Bridgeport Printing Co.,	22 00
"	J. B. Ege, printing,	16 75
"	Postage stamps,	2 75
"	Cut of seal,	20 05
		$95 77

Cr.

1876.		
Sept. 6.	Balance on hand,	$ 6 25
1877.		
Sept.	Traveling cards,	1 00
	Balance due,	88 52
		$95 77

The following subscriptions were received:

Albany, N. Y.,	$10 00
Auburn, N. Y.,	5 00
Bridgeport, Conn.,	5 00
Brantford, Ont.,	5 00
British Association of Virginia,	5 00
Cohoes, N. Y.,	5 00
Farmville British Society,	5 00
Hamilton, Ont.,	5 00
Oswego, N. Y.,	5 00
Philadelphia,	20 00
Toronto, Ont.,	5 00
Utica, N. Y.,	5 00

Waterloo, N. Y.,	5 00
Ottawa, Ont., Treas.,	5 00
Guelph, Ont., "	5 00
London, Ont., Treas.,	2 00
	$97 00
Amount due Treasurer,	88 52
Balance in hand,	$8 48

The Corresponding Secretary, Mr. W. Tomlin, then read letters from the President of the United States, the British Chargé d'Affaires, the Governors of South Carolina and Virginia, Secretary of the British Rifle Team and others.

On motion, Resolved that Mr. Wm. Tomlin be requested to prepare and publish a full report of this Convention, with the various papers read to the Convention.

On motion, Resolved that the Convention proceed to select the next place of meeting, invitations being received from the St. George's Societies of Brantford and Guelph, Canada. The claims of the two conflicting, the Canadian delegation were excused for deliberation, and finally reported in favor of Guelph. On motion, the invitation of the St. George's Society of Guelph was accepted. The Canadian delegation was, on motion of the Convention, empowered to nominate a President for the ensuing year. Mr. Peirce accordingly nominated Mr. Roach, of Hamilton, who was then duly elected. Convention adjourned till Thursday morning, 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Thursday, September 13th.

The Convention assembled at 10 o'clock A. M.

The President, Hon. Lewis Thompson, occupied the chair, and the meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Suddards.

Mr. W. Tomlin, of Bridgeport, Conn., read an interesting paper on the "Importance of establishing homes for impoverished members of the St. George's Societies, and Asylums for children of English parents, left orphans in this country."

On motion, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to Mr. Tomlin for his able paper, which was ordered to be printed in the journal.

On motion, the subject of the above paper was laid over for consideration at next Convention.

On motion, the election for officers for the ensuing year was now ordered.

On motion, one member of each delegation was appointed a Nominating Committee.

The Committee brought in the following nominees, who were duly elected:

President—George Roach, of Hamilton, Canada.

First Vice-President—Samuel Lees, of Philadelphia.

Treasurer—Daniel Batchelor, of Utica, N. Y.

Corresponding Secretary—William Tomlin, of Bridgeport, Conn.

General Secretary—C. E. Peirce, of Hamilton, Canada.

Chaplain—Rev. W. D'Orville Doty, of Waterloo, N. Y.

Executive Committee—The above officers and J. E. Pell, of Toronto, and C. Chase, of Guelph, Ontario.

Thanks were tendered by the newly elected officers for the honor conferred upon them.

On motion, a unanimous vote of thanks was given to the retiring President and Executive Committee.

On motion, a unanimous vote of thanks was given to the members of the Philadelphia press, for the able manner in which they have reported the proceedings of this Convention.

Dr. Jamieson, late of Virginia, was introduced to the Convention by Mr. St. Andrew.

On motion, the last Tuesday in August, 1878, was appointed for the meeting of the next Convention, at Guelph, Ontario.

Mr. St. Andrew presented the following resolution:

At a meeting of the Virginian Delegation, held this 13th day of September, 1877, Mr. J. A. H. St. Andrew in the chair, it was moved by Mr. F. R. Price, seconded by Colonel W. Townes, Jr., supported by Mr. W. Hunter, and was unanimously

Resolved, That the warmest thanks of this delegation be presented to the President, Secretary and members of the Society of the Sons of St. George of Philadelphia, for their generous and warm-hearted hospitality to the members of the Virginian Delegation, in common with the other delegates to the Convention.

J. A. H. St. Andrew, *Chairman.*

The following resolution was presented by Mr. Tomlin:

The delegates of the North America St. George's Union in Convention assembled, beg to extend their congratulations to the British Association of Virginia and the St. George's Societies of the United States and Canada, at the immense success attending the International Celebration of Queen Victoria's Birthday, last May; also, to express their thanks to the individual members of the Association and to the citizens of Petersburg, for the unbounded hospitality extended to the committee appointed at the last Convention in Hamilton, to coöperate with the Association, and other members of St. George's Societies who were present on that occasion.

W. Tomlin, *Chairman.*

On motion, the Convention adjourned to 9 o'clock A. M., on Friday, the 14th.

FINAL SESSION.

Friday, September 14th, 1877.

The Convention assembled at 9 o'clock A. M., Vice-President J. A. H. St. Andrew in the chair.

The minutes of Convention were read and approved.

The President having arrived, he was loudly cheered on taking the chair.

The following resolutions were offered and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, First, that the design of the common seal of the North America St. George's Union be adopted as the permanent badge of membership of the Union.

Second, that the various affiliated societies be authorized to procure badges of membership of such material as they may deem fit.

Resolved, That the British Association of Virginia and the Farmville British Society be admitted to permanent affiliation with the Union, in accordance with the Constitution.

A vote of thanks was presented to John Lucas, Esq., for his kind invitation to the delegates to visit Atlantic City; also, for his generous gift of grapes and wine.

A vote of thanks was also given to the Secretaries, Messrs. Peirce, Collis, Doty and Trees, for the able and efficient manner in which they had attended to their duties.

A vote of thanks was also passed to the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. A. Green, and Deputy, Mr. Wilkins, and Mr. Muff, janitor of the hall, for services rendered.

On motion, the thanks of the delegates from abroad were tendered to their kind hosts and hostesses in the city of Philadelphia.

On motion, the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

Attest:

S. C. Collis,
C. E. Peirce,
S. Trees.
Rev. Wm. D'Orville Doty,
} *Secretaries.*

THE GRAND BANQUET.

St. George's Hall, Thursday, September 13th, 1877.

A little after 6 o'clock P. M., the delegates to the Convention and a number of invited guests assembled in the committee rooms, and were soon after conducted to the magnificent hall, which bore a very imposing aspect; the beautifully arranged tables, laden with the good things of this life, and lavishly decorated with flowers; the display of bunting surrounding the beautiful centennial banner of the Sons of St. George; and the artistic life-size picture of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, flanked on either side with the silken banners of America and Old England, formed a *tout ensemble* not easily to be forgotten. Three long tables extended nearly the length of the noble room. There was also a table extending across, at which was seated Hon. Lewis Thompson, the presiding officer, on his right being General Patterson and on his left, John Lucas, Esq., President of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad. There were also seated at this table several Presidents of the St. George's Societies represented at the Convention. In the centre of this table, was a beautiful representation of a ship, in flowers, the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes flying from her masts. There were about one hundred and fifty persons seated at the tables, and the divine blessing was invoked by Rev. Dr. Suddards.

After those assembled had partaken of the *recherche* viands, the following toasts were drank:

"The Queen," followed by singing "God Save the Queen."

"The President of the United States," followed by singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

"The Governor-General of Canada."

Responded to by S. Trees, Esq., President of the St. George's Society of Toronto, Ontario, who said Lord Dufferin, though not

a son of St. George, is a witty, eloquent and popular gentleman, who most worthily represents Her Majesty in Canada. He is a Governor-General of whom we are justly proud; who fully enters into the wants and wishes of the people, and also by personal observation, is thoroughly acquainted with the resources and requirements of this vast Dominion, sympathizing with the humblest and least lovely of them. Last year, we found him on the slopes of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island; this year, we find him in Manitoba, sailing over its vast lakes and traversing its prairies, so that on his return to the capital, he can better legislate. I am uttering the sentiment of every true Canadian when I wish his reappointment as Governor-General, and that His Excellency may enjoy prosperity, happiness and length of days.

"England, the land of our birth, the pioneer of civilization, the bulwark of civil and religious liberty."

Responded to by Mr. G. W. Longstaff, First Vice-President of the St. George's Society of Bridgeport, Conn., as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

I feel proud of the honor which the committee has conferred upon the Bridgeport delegation by selecting me to respond to the toast of "England," the land where our heart's affections are centred, the land where our fathers lived and died. What tender memories crowd upon us as we think of her busy cities, her peaceful valleys, and in imagination, listen to the music of her rippling streams. How our hearts swell and exult when we remember that out of that little island springs a power and an influence that, like the vast horizon, encircles the world, and everywhere it is felt to be a power for good, a power to forward civilization, to free the oppressed, to help the needy and suffering, and, above all, a power that has planted the standard of religious liberty and toleration on almost every soil; and she receives for these things not only the homage and loyalty of her sons, but also the respect and admiration of the nations. What a glorious record have we as Englishmen to look back upon when reviewing the history of our nation! How the pages teem with great events and greater men! And as the mind's eye glances back through the rolling centuries, we are dazzled and awe-struck by the glittering phalanx, and today, our nation stands, as she ever has done, first, in all that pertains to the social, political and religious welfare of the world. At times, her sky has been obscured by passing clouds. There are some blots on her escutcheon, and her fair fields have been the scene of many a bitter and deadly conflict for the right, but always out of the obscurity she has emerged, brighter and better and with

renewed energy, and while we recognize with all due humility her many mistakes, yet we would with Cowper, our sweet poet, exultingly cry: "England, with all thy faults, we love thee still, our country; and while yet a nook is left where English minds and manners may be found, shall be constrained to love thee."

Mr. W. Tomlin then sang with patriotic fervor, the song of "England."

"The United States, the land of our adoption, cosmopolitan in character: may her moral forces be commensurate with the development of her boundless material resources."

Responded to by Mr. Wm. Waterall, Vice-President of the Sons of St. George, Philadelphia, who said he trusted his heart was large enough to take in his mother country and his adopted country. The best part of his life had been spent in the United States, and his children were born here. There is an underlying thought in the toast, and they hope to have a country equal to the mother country. He wished the Yankees would invent some machine to tow over here the little island of England. It might have been asked twenty years ago, Who uses American tools and reads American books? Now, the question may be asked, Who does not read American books and use American tools? As the two flags are the symbols of power and strength, may the two countries ever stand together as the defenders of civil and religious liberty, and of the rights of man.

Mr. G. Lindley of Brantford, Ontario, recited "John Bull's Address to Jonathan."

"Her Majesty's Representatives."

Responded to by General Patterson, who said we could never pay Great Britain the debt we owe her. Not only did Great Britain send a magnificent contribution to the Centennial Exposition, but such was also the case with her colonies. He thanked God that Philadelphia alone, with Great Britain, Canada and Australia, made a fine display at the Exhibition.

The song, "John Anderson, my Joe," was so effectively rendered by Mr. Bishop that a repetition was demanded.

"The City of Philadelphia, great in her manufactories, blest in her homes, noble in her charities."

Responded to by MacGregor J. Mitcheson, Esq., who deemed it a great privilege to be able to join in the festive conclusion of a

convention of Englishmen whose watchword is benevolence, and whose philanthropic results cannot be computed in pounds, shillings and pence. We have in our city some eight thousand manufacturing establishments, vastly more departments of industry than any city in the world can produce. These manufactories represent a capital of over $500,000,000. Philadelphia has, too, institutions unlimited in extent.

"The armies and navies of Great Britain and the United States: may they ever be united in defense of liberty and the rights of mankind."

Responded to by General Patterson, who trusted in God they would never be arrayed against one another.

Mr. G. W. Longstaff, of Bridgeport, Conn., recited Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade," with thrilling effect.

"The St. George's Union."

Responded to by Hon. D. Batchelor, of Utica, N. Y., Treasurer to the North America St. George's Union. Mr. Batchelor spoke rapidly of the objects of the Union and of the incentive which had brought the convention together. Alluding to the glory and grandeur of England, he said that her sons and descendants ought to be proud of her mighty achievements, and that every true Briton, at the mere mention of the names that shine on her historic scrolls, must feel a glow of manly pride. The speaker said that no man who was not proud of the fame of England, had a right to belong to the St. George's Union. For himself, when he heard or read the name of any illustrious Briton, who, by word or deed, had adorned the history of his native land, he was thrilled through and through. It had been eloquently said that "the sun never sets on Her Majesty's dominions;" that in her garrisons, "the morning drum-beat belted the globe with one continuous strain of the martial glories of England." So, too, was there never a day in the calendar but was the date of a birth, or a deed done, which added to the renown of Old England. This September month, from first to last, is full of anniversary days; not the least are the battle of Poitiers and the birth of Lord Nelson. The first day of this convention was the date on which John Churchill, Duke of Marlboro, won the great battle of Malplaquet. This very day, my Canadian friends, is the anniversary of that victorious morning,

"When Wolfe was climbing Abraham's Heights,
To snatch the Bourbon lilies."

"Our Guests, they are welcome."

Responded to by J. A. H. St. Andrew, Esq., of the Farmville Mercury, Farmville, Virginia, who said that those who had come from a distance, had reason to say the Sons of St. George had got up a magnificent demonstration. He was glad so many persons were gathered together from the United States and Canada, to testify their love for their native land.

Mr. M. P. Neal, of Oswego, N. Y., also made some remarks. He said that such conventions or reunions as the present, he could not but think are conducive to the general interest and welfare of the societies participating in such. The fertile territory of the United States stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and beneath the ample and starry folds of its flag, the oppressed of all nations may find a home.

Mr. Tomlin gave the song of "Old Simon, the Cellarer," in his peculiar, inimitable style.

The other toasts were as follows:

"The Sons of St. George in the United States and Canada, and their work."

Responded to by Messrs. J. E. Pell, of Toronto, Ont., and Marshall Tebbutt, of Albany, N. Y.

"The Clergy."

Responded to by Rev. Dr. D. Otis Kellogg, of Philadelphia.

"The Press, a mighty force in our civilization, only to be followed when its teachings are in harmony with the precepts of Christianity."

Responded to in a most happy manner by Mr. Thomas Connolly, of the London Times, who, by his witty remarks, tinged with satire, kept the guests in a perfect roar of laughter.

The last toast on the programme was

"Woman: man was not satisfied till he had her; is not altogether satisfied with her, yet would as soon think of parting with her as with the sunshine and flowers."

Responded to in a humorous strain by Messrs. C. E. Peirce, of Hamilton, Ontario, and W. T. Wilkins, of Philadelphia.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LONDON, 32 ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE, S. W.,
17th March, 1877.

To the St. George's Union:

DEAR BRETHREN:—As the yearly meeting and gathering on St. George's Day is nigh at hand, I send a few words of greeting.

Of my stewardship as a Corresponding Secretary, I can say but little. All my endeavors to get together a meeting on St. George's Day have met with good wishes, but have come to no good end in England, where St. George's Day is no longer kept nor St. George's Cross unfurled, unless, so far as I know, at the dinner of the Verulam Club, in St. John's Gate, Smithfield, to keep the birth and death-days of Shakspeare.

At Smyrna, in Asia, in the birthplace of Homer, I was happier, for I there set up a St. George's Guild.

Nevertheless, there is a great awakening of true feeling. This is seen in the nearer knitting of ties with our kinsfolk in New England, answering to their warmer feeling; in the growth of more thorough English in writing and speaking; in the better teaching, as with you, of our mother-tongue and of its hand-book, in the works of Shakspeare and in poems of Wm. Morris, Tennyson and others, grounded on our old story.

How is the great work to be followed up here and elsewhere? As you have begun the work by your Union, so you must still take the lead. As I have before said, the best way is to rouse the feeling of your friends in Liverpool and in other towns here, who know and have learned from you what a St. George's gathering is.

Then, too, it looks as if the time had come for greater deeds. Why should you not take heed for keeping up and spreading our tongue throughout America? How many there are of our men and children in Mexico, in Central America, in the towns of Brazil, of the Plata and of the West Coast, for whom there are not English schools. For them, such schools should be set up; and for this, all—whether brethren of the Union or not—should be asked to give, so as to spread the work far and wide. Thus, not only would those of our blood keep up their English, but the

knowledge of a tongue so useful would be more readily taken up by the natives.

Then we could look forward to a time when St. George's Unions here, in Australia and South Africa would do their share for India and for Africa.

In the hope that your wisdom may raise a harvest from these seeds, I send you greeting, and am

Yours truly,

HYDE CLARKE.

HAMILTON, Sept. 6, 1877.

W. Tomlin, Esq., Bridgeport, Conn.:

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 4th ultimo came duly to hand, and should have been answered sooner only I have been away from home, and when I returned, I was so busy I overlooked it. Accept my very best thanks for your kind invitation to the Convention of the N. A. St. George's Union, but as it happens on the same week our Grand Lodge of Masons meets, I will, I am sorry to say, have to forego the pleasure of seeing your happy face on that—I have no doubt—pleasant occasion. With my best wishes for the success of the Union, and that you may have a most enjoyable meeting, believe me

Yours very truly,

DAVID MCLELLAN,

President St. Andrew's Society.

TORONTO, 16th August, 1877.

W. Tomlin, Bridgeport, Conn.:

DEAR SIR:—On returning from the seaside, I found your favor of the 4th awaiting me. If I can spare the time to get away, I shall only be too happy to avail myself of your very kind invitation. I have especially to thank you for it as being extended to an *outsider*, but rest assured, although not a member of your *Union*, yet as representing a sister society, I sympathize with the objects you have in view. I shall be delighted to renew the acquaintance of those kind friends I met at Petersburg in May, and cement still more the ties of friendship then formed. Thanking you again for your kindness in sending me an invitation, believe me

Yours very truly,

W. BARCLAY M'MURRICH,

President St. Andrew's Society.

SYRACUSE, Sept. 6.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:— * * * Greet the brethren, if not with a holy kiss, at least a hearty shake. I regret exceedingly my inability to be with you.

God save the Queen, and may He bless her, you, and the rest of the beloved brethren.

Most fraternally yours,
JAMES FULLER.

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY,
OTTAWA, April 13, 1877.

Hon. D. Batchelor, Utica, N. Y.:

DEAR SIR:—Having had the pleasure of corresponding with you before, I am authorized by our society to address you with regard to affiliation with the North America St. George's Union. At our annual meeting, held on the 3d inst., the action recommended to be taken in the report of the Committee of Management was fully approved, and I have now to ask the favor of your submitting the name of the St. George's Society of the city of Ottawa as a candidate for affiliation with the North America St. George's Union.

On my being notified of the admission of our Society into the Union, the necessary fees will be promptly forwarded. Believe me to be, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM MILLS,
Treasurer St. George's Society.

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY,
PETERBORO, ONT., August 27, 1877.

W. Tomlin, Esq., Bridgeport, Conn.:

DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your circular of the 5th instant. I am directed by the President of our society to inform you that it will not be convenient to send a delegate to attend the Fifth Annual Convention, to be held on the 11th proximo, which we regret. * * * Hoping you may have a pleasant and profitable time at Philadelphia on the 11th, I am, dear sir,

Yours fraternally,
GEO. E. SHAW, *Secretary.*

BELLEVILLE, ONT., Sept. 5, 1877.

To the Secretary of the North America St. George's Union:

DEAR SIR:—Your circular has been placed before the St. George's Society of this town, and after duly considering it, the conclusion we have come to is that it is not convenient for us to send any delegates to the Philadelphia St. George's Convention.

Our heartiest wishes you will please accept, and we trust you will have a great success in all your British undertakings.

I remain yours, etc.,

WM. ALFORD,

Secretary St. George's Society, Belleville.

STRATHROY, ONT., August 27, 1877.

Wm. Tomlin, Esq., Secretary N. A. St. George's Union, Bridgeport, Conn.:

DEAR SIR:—I am directed by the St. George's Society of this place to thank you for your invitation to send delegates to the Convention, to be held at Philadelphia, September 11th next. I am sorry that, on account of the position of the society and distance, we cannot send delegates, although we are in accord with the objects of the Convention. I remain,

Yours fraternally,

CHARLES GREENAWAY,

Secretary St. George's Society, Strathroy.

ST. CATHERINE'S, ONT., Aug. 28, 1877.

MY DEAR SIR:—Our society had again appointed me delegate to Philadelphia, on 11th proximo, and I fully expected to have been with you, but find I am prevented by business from leaving home.

It is a severe disappointment to me, taking such interest in the St. George's N. A. Union as I have, and I feel it the more, as I was obliged to omit the gathering at Petersburg.

God grant that the meeting at Philadelphia may be the means of drawing you all closer together. Believe me, dear sir,

Yours, very fraternally,

J. FRED'K SAXON,

President St. George's Society, St. Catherine's.

Wm. Tomlin, Esq., Bridgeport.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, Sept. 3, 1877.

DEAR SIR:—I am directed by the President to acknowledge the receipt of your kind favor of the 28th ultimo, extending to him an invitation to be present at a banquet, to be given by the St. George's Union Society of North America, and to say in reply that while he cordially appreciates the courtesy, he regrets his inability to accept, owing to previous engagements.

Very truly yours,
W. K. ROGERS, *Secretary.*

Wm. Tomlin, Secretary, Bridgeport, Conn.

BRITISH LEGATION,
WASHINGTON, August 30, 1877.

SIR:—Your favor of the 28th reached me only this morning. I beg you will be so good as to convey to the Executive Committee of the North America St. George's Union my best thanks for the invitation which they have so kindly sent me for the banquet, to be held on the 13th of September, but which, unfortunately, other engagements already made for that time, will prevent my availing myself of. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
F. W. PLUNKET.

W. Tomlin, Esq., Secretary of the North America St. George's Union.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
BALTIMORE, September 10, 1877.

SIR:—I have just received, upon my return from my summer vacation, your kind letter of the 28th ultimo, inviting me to attend the banquet, to be given in Philadelphia, by the North America St. George's Union. I regret extremely that my engagements prevent me from leaving my post at present.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS DONOHOE, *H. M.'s Consul.*

W. Tomlin, Esq., Secretary, etc., etc.

GARDEN CITY HOTEL, L. I.,
6th Sept., 1877.

DEAR SIR:—I am desired by Sir Henry Halford and the other members of the British Rifle Team, to thank you for your cordial

invitation on behalf of the St. George's Union, to the banquet of the 13th inst.

Unfortunately, the International rifle match will take place on the 13th and 14th, and the first day's shooting will only be over about the time that you sit down to dinner.

Though prevented by this cause from accepting the kind invitation of the St. George's Union, we shall reckon upon having your good wishes on that day, as you will most certainly have those of the British Rifle Team. Believe me, dear sir,

Yours, very sincerely,
C. L. PEET.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
COLUMBIA, Sept. 6, 1877.

Wm. Tomlin, Esq., Bridgeport, Conn.:

SIR:—It would afford me great pleasure to attend the banquet at St. George's Hall, Philadelphia, on the 13th inst., but prior engagements render it impossible for me to accept your kind invitation.

Yours very respectfully,
WADE HAMPTON.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
RICHMOND, 30th August, 1877.

William Tomlin, Esq., Secretary, etc.:

SIR:—I return you my cordial acknowledgments for the honor of the invitation which you extend to me on behalf of the North America St. George's Union of Philadelphia.

My public duties here will deny me the privilege and pleasure of attending the banquet, to be given at St. George's Hall, on the 13th proximo, but I send through you my hearty good wishes for the prosperity of the noble association then to be assembled.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
JAMES L. KEMPER.

HARTFORD, CONN., Sept. 1, 1877.

DEAR SIR:—I am very grateful for the compliment of an invitation to the banquet of the North America St. George's Union, at Philadelphia, on the evening of September 13th, and decline with regret. Engagements and duties elsewhere forbid my attendance. Again thanking you,

Respectfully yours,
JOS. R. HAWLEY.

Wm. Tomlin, Esq., Bridgeport, Conn.

UTICA, N. Y., Sept. 1, 1877.

MY DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, inviting me to attend the banquet, to be given by the North America St. George's Union, at Philadelphia, on the 13th instant.

It would give me great pleasure to be present, but it is not possible to command the time to do so, owing to a multiplicity of occupations resulting from absence from home for weeks.

I beg you to express my thanks to the association for their kind invitation, and to assure its members of the reluctance with which I deny myself the pleasure they propose.

Your obedient servant,
ROSCOE CONKLING.

FROM EX-PRESIDENT GEORGE J. BRYAN.

BUFFALO, Sept. 8, 1877.

Daniel Batchelor, Esq.:

DEAR FRIEND:—Although my heart will be with you in the forthcoming Convention, at the "City of Brotherly Love," yet affairs beyond my control will render it impossible for me to be present and participate in the proceedings of an organization which commands my highest regard. But I cannot forbear expressing to you, and by you, I hope, to the convention, my heartfelt wishes for the continued prosperity of the benevolent sons of St. George, not only on this continent, but throughout the world. I cannot doubt there will be a brilliant and joyous assemblage of Britons and their descendants, on the occasion of our annual meeting, on the 13th inst., at Philadelphia. Our cause is righteous and must succeed.

Fraternally and heartily yours,
GEORGE J. BRYAN.

LIST OF KNOWN SOCIETIES

IN THE

UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO A MORE COMPLETE AND CORRECTED LIST MAY BE ADDRESSED TO W. TOMLIN, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

UNITED STATES.

		PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.
*Albany, N. Y.,	St. George's,	W. Lacey,	J. Pennie.
*Auburn, N. Y.,	St. George's,	J. Mellor,	G. F. Hague.
Augusta, Ga.,	St. George's,	E. W. Peyhes,	T. Hammond.
Atlanta, Ga.,	St. George's,		
*Buffalo, N. Y.,	St. George's,	G. T. Bryan,	T. Dickinson Jr.
*Bridgeport, Ct.,	St. George's,	W. Tomlin,	G. Kingston.
Brooklyn, N. Y.,	Britannia,		
Baltimore, Md.,	St. George's,	S. Darrell,	
Bay City, Mich.,	St. George's,		
*Cohoes, N. Y.,	St. George's,		
*Chicago, Ill.,	St. George's,	G. E. Gooch,	
*Detroit, Mich.,	St. George's,	Wm. Haste,	R. Hodgkin.
Fred'ksburg, Va.,	St. George's,		
*Farmville, Va.,	British Society,		
Fall River, Mass.,	St. George's,		
Indianapolis, In.,	St. George's,		
Little Falls, N. Y.,	St. George's,	J. Cowell,	E. W. Evans.
Memphis, Tenn.,	St. George's,		
New York, N. Y.,	St. George's,	H. E. Pellew,	H. Romilly.
" " "	Albion,		T. S. Griffith.
" " "	Anglo-Americ'n,		C. J. Pritchard.

		PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.
New York, N. Y.,	British Provid't,	D. Goodge,	
" " "	Cockney,	A. H. Wood,	
Newark, N. J.,	St. George's,	J. Barratt,	G. Dadd.
Newburg, O.,	St. George's,		G. Higgins.
*Oswego, N. Y.,	St. George's,	W. Mans,	W. Cochrane.
Onondaga, N. Y.,			
Omaha, Neb.,	St. George's,		
*Philadelphia, Pa.,	Sons of St. Geo.,	L. Thompson,	W. Underdown.
" "	Albion,		
Patterson, N. J.,	St. George's,		
Peoria, Ill.,	St. George's,		
*Petersburg, Va.,	British Assoc'n,	D. B. Tennant,	J. Campbell.
Port Huron, Mich.,	St. George's,		
St. Louis, Mo.,	St. George's,		
St. Joseph, Mo.,	St. George's,		
S'n Antonio, Tex.,	St. George's,		
S. Francisco, Cal.,	St. George's,		
Savannah, Ga.,	St. George's,		T. Lunn.
*Skaneateles, N.Y.,	St. George's,	R. M. Stacey,	C. Weeks.
*Schenect'dy, N.Y.,	St. George's,	W. Giles,	A. Fenwick.
*Syracuse, N. Y.,	St. George's,	G. Fuller,	T. Lunn.
*S'th Cleveland, O.,	St. George's,	H. J. Reeves,	G. Higgins.
Toledo, O.,	St. George's,	G. Wilson,	G. Brereton.
*Utica, N. Y.,	St. George's,	J. Whiffin,	T. Bish.
Worcester, Mass.,	St. George's,		
*Waterloo, N. Y.,	St. George's,		D. McArthur.

CANADA.

*Belleville, On.,	St. George's,		
*Brantford, On.,	St. George's,	J. Elliott,	J. P. Exell.
*Clifton, On.,	St. George's,	R. Law,	M. J. Henders'n.
Coburg, On.,	St. George's,		
Galt, On.,	St. George's,		A. H. Blakesley.
*Guelph, On.,	St. George's,	G. Muder, Sr.,	A. Burrows.
*Hamilton, On.,	St. George's,	A. Green,	A. Brunditch.
Halifax, N. S.,	St. George's,		R. T. Murray.
*Kingston, On.,	St. George's,		A. Le Richeux.
*London, On.,	St. George's,	T. Heaman,	I. B. Cox.

		PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.
Montreal,	St. George's,	J. Kerry,	F. H. Reynolds.
*Ottawa,	St. George's,	D. Sweatland,	Wm. Mills.
*Peterboro, On.,	St. George's,	G. Bartie,	G. E. Shaw.
Prescott, On.,	St. George's,		
Quebec,	St. George's,	D. E. Price,	A. Pope.
*Strathroy, On.,	St. George's,	W. H. Ewer,	G. Greenaway.
*St.Cath'rines,On.,	St. George's,	T. Saxon,	
*Toronto, On.,	St. George's,	S. Trees,	J. E. Pell.

Those marked with a * are affiliated with the North America St. George's Union.

Information in regard to affiliation or the forming of St. George's Societies, will be cheerfully given by W. Tomlin, Corresponding Secretary, Bridgeport, Conn. There are no fixed fees, but annual subscriptions to cover the incidental expenses only are expected, the officials giving their time and services gratuitously.

N. B.—The societies at Detroit, Mich., and Kingston, Ont., not being represented at the Convention, have remitted their subscriptions since the list was in type.

NAMES OF THE PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS

OF THE

NORTH AMERICA ST. GEORGE'S UNION.

1872.—John Greenaway, President, Syracuse, N. Y.; Dr. James Fuller, First Vice-President, Syracuse, N. Y.; George T. Jones, Recording Secretary, Syracuse, N. Y.; Thomas P. Way, Corresponding Secretary, Albany, N. Y.; Dr. Charles Barnes, Financial Secretary, Syracuse, N. Y.; D. Batchelor, Treasurer, Utica, N. Y.

1873.—Williamson Spruce, President, Utica, N. Y.; J. F. Saxon, First Vice-President, St. Catherines, Ont.; Stracy Lake, Recording Secretary, Oswego, N. Y.; Thomas Lunn, Corresponding Secretary, Syracuse, N. Y.; D. Batchelor, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Utica, N. Y.

1874.—George T. Bryan, President, Buffalo, N. Y.; J. F. Saxon, First Vice-President, St. Catherines, Ont.; Stracy Lake, Recording Secretary, Oswego, N. Y.; Thomas Lunn, Corresponding Secretary, Syracuse, N. Y.; D. Batchelor, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Utica, N. Y.

1875.—George T. Bryan, President, Buffalo, N. Y.; J. F. Saxon, First Vice-President, St. Catherines, Ont.; Stracy Lake, Recording Secretary, Oswego, N. Y.; Thomas Lunn, Corresponding Secretary, Syracuse, N. Y.; D. Batchelor, Treasurer and Financial Secretary, Utica, N. Y.; Rev. J. M. Henderson, Chaplain, Buffalo, N. Y.

1876.—Lewis Thompson, President, Philadelphia, Pa.; J. A. H. St. Andrew, First Vice-President, Farmville, Va.; Thomas Lunn, Syracuse, N. Y., and C. S. Sault, Cohoes, N. Y., Recording Secretaries; Wm. Underdown, Philadelphia,

Pa., Wm. Tomlin, Bridgeport, Conn., Corresponding Secretaries; D. Batchelor, Treasurer and Financial Secretary, Utica, N. Y.; Rev. D. Suddards, D. D., Chaplain, Philadelphia, Pa.

1877.—George Roach, President, Hamilton, Ont.; Samuel Lees, First Vice-President, Philadelphia, Pa.; D. Batchelor, Treasurer, Utica, N. Y.; W. Tomlin, Corresponding Secretary, Bridgeport, Conn.; C. E. Peirce, General Secretary, Hamilton, Ont.; Rev. W. D'Orville Doty, Chaplain, Watertown, N. Y.; the Executive Committee, the above officers and J. E. Pell, of Toronto, Ont., and G. Chase, of Guelph, Ont.

COPY OF TRAVELING OR VISITING CARDS

FOR

MEMBERS OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES IN GOOD STANDING.

NORTH AMERICA ST. GEORGE'S UNION.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY *That Mr.*
is a member in good standing of the ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY of . *We commend him to your kind consideration.*

President.
Secretary. } ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY.

Signature Visiting Brother.

These cards can be obtained by affiliated societies on application to W. Tomlin, Corresponding Secretary, Bridgeport, Conn.

PLACES OF INTEREST VISITED.

The following places of interest were visited by the delegates. Many other invitations extended to them, could not be accepted through press of business and shortness of time.

Independence Hall.
Girard College.
Masonic Temple.
Reformatory Schools.
Academy of Fine Arts.
International Exhibition.
Mr. Joseph Smith's, on the Wissahickon.
Atlantic City.
Mr. Julius Hinckes' vineyards, Egg Harbor City.

AT THE EXHIBITION.

The delegates were received at the music stand in the Main Building by Manager Greene and the Executive Committee of the Exhibitors' Association. Mr. W. T. Wilkins spoke on behalf of the society, and returned thanks for the kind invitation to visit the Exhibition. He said it gave them all great pleasure to be present. During their stay in Philadelphia, the delegates had received the most hospitable treatment. The kindest feelings had been evinced toward them by the people of Philadelphia, and they should carry to their homes the same kind sentiments in return.

Mr. J. A. H. St. Andrew, of Virginia, said that one hundred delegates of the society were present, and that the objects of the Sons of St. George were benevolence and the promotion of peace and good will among all English speaking people. He regarded the late Centennial as a forerunner of the good time coming, when we should turn all our swords to plowshares, and peace should

reign supreme. He was glad to see the Centennial perpetuated by the Exhibition, and hoped it would long stand an honor to Philadelphia and to the country.

Mr. Charles W. Greene, on behalf of the Exhibition management, expressed pleasure in welcoming these representative gentlemen to the Main Building. While those from all the other States were always welcome, he was particularly glad to see so many present from the Canadian Dominion. The prominent share taken in our Centennial celebration was remembered by all, and the company fully appreciated the kindly interest manifested in the recent shipment of a large exhibit of Canadian goods for the Educational Department of the present Exhibition. He thanked them for the honor of the visit. He then introduced Mr. M. Erickson, Chairman of the Executive Committee, who welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Exhibitors' Association, and expressed the kindest feelings toward all, but particularly desired to welcome those from England and Canada, which countries were better represented at the Centennial than any other except the United States. He concluded by speaking in the highest terms of the Society of St. George, which he pronounced an honor to Philadelphia.

Mr. Peirce, of Hamilton, responded on behalf of the Canadian delegation, and said they regretted that their visit would have to be brief. He could not thank Mr. Greene enough for his remarks with regard to the Canadian educational exhibit. Not only in the name of the Canadian delegates, but in that of all, he desired to return thanks for the very kind and hospitable treatment they had received. The visitors were then shown about the building, expressing themselves much pleased with the display.

"God save the Queen" was sung by Mr. Tomlin in the main transept, the whole of the company present joining in the chorus.

After making a somewhat hurried visit to the Art Gallery and Horticultural Hall, the party were driven out to Mr. Smith's place on the Wissahickon, where a warm and truly hospitable old English welcome greeted them. After admiring the many curiosities manufactured from roots by the venerable proprietor, (now in his eightieth year), and a short pull on the river by way of an appetizer, dinner was announced. After partaking of the good old English fare—roast beef and plum pudding, washed down with nutty

brown ale—an adjournment to the parlor took place, where the hours passed rapidly away in social mirth and fun. In the gray of the evening, the party were whirled away to the city, many of the delegates having to leave for the East, West and North by the midnight train.

On Saturday, the remaining delegates paid a visit to Atlantic City and the vineyards at Egg Harbor. A most enjoyable time was had, a fitting finish to the labors and enjoyments of the week.

Thus ended the most enjoyable and successful Convention of the North America St. George's Union.

ADDENDA.

FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION,

OF THE

North America St. George's Union.

HELD AT

St. George's Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.,

September 11th, 12th and 13th, 1877,

CONTAINING REPORT OF THE ADDRESSES OF WELCOME, REPLIES TO SAME, INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, AND FOUR INTERESTING PAPERS READ BEFORE THE CONVENTION.

BRIDGEPORT:

FARMER OFFICE STEAM JOB PRESS, COR. WALL AND WATER STS.

1877.

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME.

WM. WATERALL, ESQ.,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE "SONS OF ST. GEORGE."

GENTLEMEN:—The Society of the Sons of St. George of this city has commissioned me, one of its humble members, to offer you, in their name, a word of cordial greeting and welcome. We feel at liberty to use earnest words of welcome to you, because the very atmosphere around us is charged with tender words and kindly glances that have already passed from eye to eye and ear to ear, and, we trust, taken from you the feeling of being strangers in our midst. As we bid you welcome to our City of Homes, we assure you that our desire is to maintain the fair fame of our city, won during the Centennial, for its hospitality. As we invite you to our private homes, we tell you that, although many of them are small, in this free land, like English homes, they are our castles, and from *large hearts* we bid you welcome to them. You will pardon us if we manifest what the Scotch call a little "dacent pride," as we bid you welcome to the stately home of our venerable society, and tell you that true British energy laid its foundations, reared its marble walls, put on its capstone, crowned it with the finest statue of St. George and the dragon, in the world,—all in the face of "hard times." With pleasure we throw wide open the doors of our St. George's Hall to greet you, gentlemen, who have come from the fair Dominion of Canada, from the far East, so prolific in ideas, and the sunny South of our adopted land, to represent your respective societies at this Convention of the N. A. St. George's Union. We are glad to know that all over this broad land, there are springing up St. George's Societies, emulating the example of the older societies in caring for the suffering and unfortunate ones, our fellow countrymen who come among us as strangers, fresh from our beautiful island home. Sons of St. George, it is our mission to divest the stranger of his sense of loneliness in a strange land, to smooth the rough places and ease him of the heavy burdens in his new sphere of life. Let the Cæsars and Napoleons pursue the warrior's blood-stained path to human glory: let us emulate the

virtue of charity embodied in the storied life of our nation's saint, who, after performing the heroic deeds we now have with us so exquisitely told in bronze, and after liberating the fair Princess Clerodilinda, you will remember, gave the costly gifts the King presented him with, to the poor, and went quietly on his way. Let us shape the policy of our respective societies by the same peace-loving spirit that has made the life and reign of England's Queen transcendently brighter to the moral vision of all good and true men. Victoria, the good, has ever been more ready to heal broken hearts than to crush them.

England, under the benign influences of her reign, has gradually risen from the lower plane of being the leader of the physical forces of the world, to that grander and higher plane of marshaling and leading its moral and intellectual forces, thus helping onward that better time that England's gifted poet sings of in such lofty strains:

> "When the war drum throbb'd no longer,
> And the battle flags were furled,
> In the parliament of man,
> The federation of the world."

Gentlemen, again we renew our hearty welcome, and will you pardon us for saying, as we are about to meet in convention to deliberate on questions pertaining to the well-being of our countrymen, that if the hearts and energies of Lord Nelson's men were fired when he uttered that famous war note, "England this day expects that every man will do his duty," so, in this age of light, a greater than Nelson, Christ, expects that every man bearing *His* name will be faithful to God and duty.

WM. T. WILKINS, ESQ.,

OF THE SONS OF ST. GEORGE.

SIR AND BROTHERS:—It has fallen to my lot to say a few words of welcome to you as Sons of St. George and delegates of this Union. Brethren, I am free to say that I feel my inability to fulfill so pleasant a task. But then, we know that a generous, hearty welcome, a true English greeting, is not to be expressed in words, but deeds; and those not so much by their magnificence, as by their natural simplicity, not throwing around you the restraints of formal society, but the freedom of home.

As Sons of St. George, we greet you as those who claim noble, generous, truth-loving, freedom-planting, law-abiding ancestors, whose

illustrious line runs back to pre-historic times, and for the last one thousand years, have ever been foremost as Britons, to take their stand for the rights of man, those natural and those acquired, and ever having an undying love for their native isle, lifting it from a barbarous state to one of superior civilization; that, to-day, among all the nations of the earth, to be born a Briton will carry with it respect and protection—all that a man has a right in this world to claim. The Roman citizen was protected because the tread of its armies made the nations tremble, and that citizen soon had his revenge by the fleet-footed justice of the Roman tribunal, if his right was invaded. In that respect, a Briton stands on a par with the "most noble Roman of them all." But, add to all that, a Briton has the moral power to sustain him, which is more powerful than the tread of armed men and serried host, proud to claim such a heritage and so strong an individual character, that to day, the English nation is substantially the same as before the Conquest, and while other conquered nations have lost their individuality and have become absorbed by the conquerors, England has maintained against all forces, her language, customs, laws, and absorbed into herself her conquerors, Roman, Norman, Pict, and Scot, and Dane, and fused them into one mass, known as the English nation, not *Anglo-Saxon.* Let us then be careful of the fundamental principles that lay as the bottom rock of our glorious nation, against which the storms of centuries have been beating in vain, ever keeping in mind that to whatever clime we may be transplanted, we must be English so far as our principles and duty to our fellow men, of whatever station, or color, or nationality; for, of all men, an Englishman should be cosmopolitan, for he is found a dweller in every part of the habitable globe, leading commerce, planting colonies, ruling empires, formulating laws for nations just emerging from barbarism, making discoveries in the earth and heavens, building schools, establishing colleges, founding hospitals, driving back heathenism into the night of the past, and bringing forth Christianity as the light of the morning. So we welcome you of Canada to this, our adopted land and city, with all its beauties, the City of Brotherly Love, so fully carried out by the number of its noble charities, more than any other city, of greater diversity, and the Sons of St. George not the least among them, with its generous heart and open hands, and its beautiful, chaste marble hall standing in the midst of our city, an enduring monument to the æsthetic taste and liberality of Englishmen, in a city more English than any other. And if it was not a city of America, it would be an English city. Hoping that before you return to your homes, we shall be able to prove all this to you by actual observation, and add so much to your happiness while you dwell in our midst. As delegates, then, to this noble Union of the Sons of St. George, coming from different parts of this mighty land and Cana-

da, we welcome you to its duties, and they are of no trivial kind, for to you is committed the welfare of man, "a creature dear to God," and not man in his prosperity only, but more especially man in need, at a time when to advise and counsel, and to help, is to prove your nationality and brotherhood, as well as to carry out that divine injunction of Him who was always ready to help the needy: "The poor ye have with you always, and when ye will, you can do them good," and then the reflect influence is blessing on those that give. It enlarges our hearts, widens our sympathies and gives us a better understanding of the human character; and when charity is given with sincerity and without ostentation or unkind scrutiny, it will have its reward in this life and in the life to come. Then, brother delegates, let us address ourselves to the work with all our energies and directness of purpose, having a forbearance with each other, so that, when we separate, we may feel that it has not been in vain that we have met, not only as Englishmen and delegates, representing our different societies, but as brothers, having one common object, bound by the common ties of blood; which is thicker than water and will tell, as we who had the great pleasure of meeting in Old Virginia, can testify, where all was done for comfort and happiness. "The fatted calf was killed, and we were merry." The remembrance of such kindness and generous hospitality will never be removed as long as memory holds her sway. As far as we can, we will try and emulate such brotherly kindness. Come, then, brothers, to our festive board, and while we meet around our table and together partake of the good things that God has provided for his creatures, we can rejoice and feel the joys of brotherhood afresh, which will help to bring on the good time coming, when "all the world shall brothers be," and our intercourse, I trust, will instruct and improve us, intellectually and morally. And we will know each other better and gather fresh knowledge, all tending to round out our lives and make us more useful in this world, to dry the tear, ease the burden, cheer the downcast, instruct the child, plant flowers, not thorns, in the pathway of men, and perform the duty of the passing hour with all our might, for life is short and opportunity is fleeting, and we are warned by its transitory character to make the most of it. One of the great German poets has said, "Only the want of habit to do something good, is the cause why many men find pleasure in what is silly and absurd. One ought, every day, at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see an excellent picture, and, if it could be done, say something sensible." Let us, then, try to imitate the excellent of the earth; let us look for duty with the same earnestness that we look for pleasure. I know, brothers, the height charms us, but the steps to it do not, and with the sunny summit of our expectation in our eye, we love to walk along the plain. Let us not grow weary in well-doing; we shall

reap if we faint not, ever keeping in mind, if we fulfill our duty, we are agents of God, instruments in His hand to work out His purpose for the elevation of man, and prepare him for greater revelations of His power and goodness. How great the honor conferred on us, to be co-workers with God in some humble sphere, and, brothers, if any plan is brought before us for enlarging our work, and thereby increasing our opportunities for doing good, let us give it attention and thought, so that we may plan wisely, execute speedily, and with perseverance carry out such plans to their desired end, for the future is ours, as well as the present. Other men, a hundred years ago, planted for us, and we must plant for coming generations; for one of the highest objects of man's life is to be remembered when that life is fled and the green grass shall cover the mortal. The spirit will live in his deeds, and will become an influence for good. Knowing that this is the object of our gathering, and when we go again to our homes and become an atom in the great mountain of humanity, and perhaps to the bustling world and money grabbers, little and unknown, do not think that your labor is in vain. Keep heart, for no event of life, no good deed, no kind word is lost. All are treasured up and watched over by Him who said that a cup of cold water shall not lose its reward. Never mind disappointments; let them nerve you to greater deeds, and if you do not get the applause of men, and a shade of sadness should come over your spirit, and you should say—

What shall I do lest life in silence pass?
And if it do,
And never prompt the bray of noisy brass,
What needst thou rue?

Remember aye the ocean deeps are mute,
The shallows roar:
Worth is the ocean; fame is but the bruit
Along the shore.

What shall I do to be forever known?
Thy duty ever.
This did full many who yet slept unknown;
O, never, never.

Thinkest thou, perchance, that they remain unknown
Whom thou knowest not?
By angels' trump in Heaven, their praise is blown;
Divine their lot.

What shall I do, an heir of endless life?
Discharge aright
The simple dues with which each day is rife—
Yes, with thy might.

One perfect scheme of action then devise,
Will life be fled;
While he who ever acts as conscience cries,
Shall live, though dead.

RESPONSES.

D. BATCHELOR, ESQ., OF UTICA, NEW YORK.

He responded to the words of welcome, and said he knew they were not mere empty words. He had enjoyed their hospitality, and would venture to say there was no city that possessed more English characteristics than the city of Philadelphia. The first year of his manhood was spent in this city. When he came here last Autumn, and witnessed the glories of the Exposition, he saw what far surpassed it. West Philadelphia, which was formerly nothing but farms, is now a great city. When he looked around the magnificent hall of the Society of the Sons of St. George, he felt proud of being an Englishman.

C. E. PEIRCE, ESQ., HAMILTON, ONTARIO.

He returned the thanks of the Canadian delegates for the magnificent reception they had received. It is a pride and pleasure for them, in looking at the hall, to think a body of men had put up such a building. He trusted that the stay of the Canadians would be conducive, not only to their own benefit, but to that of the other societies.

J. A. H. ST. ANDREW, ESQ., FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA.

GENTLEMEN:—On behalf of the delegation from the British Association of Virginia, it falls to my duty to acknowledge the generous welcome which has been offered us to-night. In May last, the members of our Association had the pleasure of meeting many of you in the Sunny South, and our recollections of the gratification afforded by our intercourse on that occasion, has brought us here to-day, with delightful anticipations of our visit to

Philadelphia. Your noble reception makes us at once at home and happy among friends indeed. Depend upon it, these great reunions are accomplishing a glorious work. They are bringing Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen and Welshmen, resident in the United States, into closer relations of trust and friendship. They are making Canadians and Americans better acquainted. They are reuniting the Northern and Southern sections of our adopted country. They are exerting no small influence upon the diplomacy which regulates the relative positions of the United States and the United Kingdom. It is, therefore, no merely idle purpose which has drawn us together from the far North of Canada to the extreme South of Dixie's Land.

It is a matter of deep regret to me that Mr. D. B. Tennant, the genial and whole-souled President of our Association, and many other of the appointed delegates from Virginia are absent to-night from unavoidable causes. Their hearts are with us, and your words of welcome will be as gratifying to them as to us.

On behalf of Old Virginia, I may remind you that when the "late unpleasantness" was ended, our State was the first to chivalrously surrender the sword, and the first to extend a warm invitation to Northern and British settlers to locate within her borders. Southside Virginia, in which portion of the State I reside, has taken the lead in the immigration movement. In the region south of the James River, of which Petersburg may be said to be the metropolis, we have numerous Northern and British colonies. I am informed by Dr. Whitehead and Capt. Griffin, who have made this subject peculiarly their own, that within twenty miles of Petersburg, there are whole townships which have been bought up by Northern men, and which are making excellent returns on investments of Northern capital and industry. The country between Richmond and Petersburg will probably, ere long, be mainly owned by Northern settlers. In Mecklenburg County, the memory of the lamented Chief Justice Chase is perpetuated by the building up of "a Northern city in a Southern State," and Chase City, with its four or five churches, its tobacco warehouses, its weekly newspaper, its numerous stores and other evidences of thrift and enterprise, is a conclusive proof of what Northern energy can accomplish in the South when wisely directed. In Charlotte County, there are upwards of three hundred Northern families. In Lunenburg, Nottoway and Cumberland, there are Northern colonies. In Amelia, Mr. Murray M. Blacker, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant and County Magistrate from the Old Country, has successfully located a large British colony, appropriately designated "the Abercorn Colony," in honor of His Grace, the Duke of Abercorn. In Prince Edward County, at Farmville, the British colonists have established an "English and American Bank," (which, by the way, passed through the panic of 1873 with open doors and credit

unimpaired), while the principal hotel and the local newspaper are conducted by Anglo-Virginians.

To these facts I could add many more, showing that since the war, millions of dollars of Northern and British capital have been attracted to Southside Virginia. Of course, there have been failures as well as successes, but, on the whole, the results have been highly encouraging, and it has been clearly demonstrated that Northerners and Englishmen can settle in the South, with advantage to themselves and benefit to the country. The vast mineral wealth of Virginia will, ere long, be developed; her immense water power is certain to find employment; her waste places will bloom again, and in "the good time coming," the ancient Commonwealth will once more uplift her head among the Union of States, second to none in the wealth and enterprise, as she has ever been in the chivalry and nobility of her people. To promote these grand results, we gladly welcome settlers, whether from the East, the West, the North, or from Europe. Under the beneficent *regime* of President Hayes and Governor Kemper, political animosities are dying out everywhere; but as a matter of fact, we never had much of that sort of thing in Virginia. Settlers in our State have never heard of a real or imaginary Ku-Klux. They can vote as they please, advocate whatever opinions they choose, and will be respected by everybody, irrespective of politics, if they conduct themselves as gentlemen and *bona-fide* citizens.

On behalf of Anglo-Virginians, what can I say more than that we love our adopted State with a devotion equal to that with which we always remember the land of our birth? The love of Old Virginia for Old England is shown in a thousand ways which are gratifying to the heart of the British settler. The Ancient Dominion is the most essentially British portion of this great republic. The mother of States and of statesmen is also the mother of adopted citizens. Of Virginians it has well been said that they are

> "The knightliest of the knightly race,
> Who, since the days of old,
> Have kept the lamp of chivalry
> Alight in hearts of gold."

In years to come, the Union, "one and indivisible," will have reason to rejoice, not so much perhaps in the victories of war, as in the fact that this gallant people of the genial Southern clime have been preserved to the nation, whose grandeur and glories they have done so much to create, and will yet do more to extend. After the civil war, Pennsylvania nobly came forward with the sublime greeting to the South of "let brotherly love continue," and I am here to tell you that this message of peace was accepted, and that Virginia and Pennsylvania stand united for all time.

Gentlemen, we have long heard of your great St. George's So-

ciety and of your magnificent St. George's Hall. Your good deeds and grand achievements have stimulated us to strive, however humbly, to follow in your footsteps. While we can never hope to attain the success which has crowned your efforts, we are nevertheless encouraged thereby to do what little we can in the same good cause. Your society is a glorious exemplar to similar organizations elsewhere. We will gladly follow your lead. Our presence at this Convention will but serve to strengthen our resolves that the British Association of Virginia shall yet be made a credit to Old Virginia and a permanent blessing to our British settlers. May the smile of Heaven rest on all your undertakings, and may the friendships formed in Virginia and strengthened in Philadelphia, grow with our years and extend with our wisdom.

G. W. LONGSTAFF, ESQ., BRIDGEPORT, CT.

Being the recipients of such a truly generous British welcome, and listening to the hearty expressions of fellowship and good feeling, we realize the truth of the words of the old song: "'Tis a rich, rough gem, deny it who can; and this is the heart of an Englishman."

We have come here, Mr. President, to use our best efforts for the purpose of extending among our fellow countrymen this same bond of unity, until it shall embrace all honest Englishmen on this side of the Atlantic, and we trust the characteristic energy, pluck and perseverance of my countrymen will accomplish this result. For our own little society, I will say a few words by way of defining our present position. We number about one hundred members, and have been organized about four years. At first, its objects were more social and convivial than benevolent; but the earnest, thinking men soon became dissatisfied with this, and resolved to build up a society that should be a credit and honor to Englishmen; a society that should relieve the distressed, feed the hungry, and care for the widow and orphan. I am proud to say that in these respects, our society is a success, and we feel that we shall go back from this Convention with renewed strength and vigor for the good work. On behalf of the Bridgeport delegation, I beg to thank you heartily for the kind welcome you have extended to us.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

LEWIS THOMPSON, PRESIDENT NORTH AMERICA ST. GEORGE'S UNION,

AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, IN ST. GEORGE'S HALL, PHILADELPHIA, ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1877.

Gentlemen of the Convention:

Once more, we are assembled in what we may term the Annual Parliament of Englishmen in the United States and Canada. On this occasion, it first becomes my pleasing duty, on behalf of the members of the ancient and prosperous Society of the Sons of St. George, to welcome you, one and all, to the hospitable city of Philadelphia. Sons of St. George, our hearts, our homes, and our hospitality respond to your presence with delight, and we hope to make your visit to Philadelphia at once agreeable and useful. All we ask is, that you will make your wants known, that they may be supplied, and that you will accept what we have to offer, as unreservedly as we tender the same.

Our esteemed Secretary, Mr. Underdown, will place before the Convention some account of the success and usefulness of the Philadelphia Sons of St. George. I will, therefore, only say, respecting it, that it worthily maintains the great name it has received, by what I may term charitable succession—surely a genuine apostolic succession—from those heroes of the past, Benjamin Franklin, good Bishop White, Governor Penn and Mr. Thornton (the father of our beloved Sir Edward Thornton, the British Ambassador at Washington)—all of whom were identified with its early history. This society is not only older than the American Union, but is also, I believe, the oldest St. George's Society in this country.

In Philadelphia, the delegates will find a city which, in many respects, is essentially English. As "every Englishman's house is his castle," so you will discover it to be here. This is a home-loving people, and more than in any other American city are there homes for all, from the humble laborer to the merchant prince.

Philadelphians of all classes are like Englishmen, and believe that:—

> "Be it ever so humble,
> There is no place like home."

They live in genuine homes, and do not affect the gregarious habits of their fellow-citizens in some other cities. They live at home, and do not board out. To these *homes*, then, you are welcome.

In viewing many of our public buildings, you will be reminded of Old England. Independence Hall is a quaint and perfect specimen of English architecture in the reigns of Queen Anne and the earlier Georges. This grand old historic building is rich in memories which, like the inspirations of Shakespeare and of Milton, belong now to all the English-speaking nations. The greatness of Washington and of the fathers of the republic descends, as a noble heritage, to the Anglo-Saxon race, and is limited to no mere division of that race. Passing along our streets, you may yet catch glimpses of members of that "Society of Friends" who helped William Penn to lay the foundations of Pennsylvania in peace and righteousness. "The Quaker of the olden time," immortalized by Whittier, still survives in this city:

> The Quaker of the Olden Time!
> How calm and firm and true,
> Unspotted by its wrong and crime,
> He walked the dark earth through."

Meeting in this city, which the peaceful Quakers dedicated to Brotherly Love, we may well hope that the blessing of the God of Peace and Love may follow our deliberations.

That Englishmen have largely contributed to the growth and extension of the trade and commerce of our city, is beyond dispute. Many of our merchant princes are of English origin, and in every department of business enterprise there are Anglo-Americans, whose careers are honorable to themselves and creditable to the countries of both their birth and adoption.

Gentlemen, you meet in Philadelphia, not only in the most appropriate place in the United States, but also under circumstances of a peculiarly auspicious character. A year ago, the first Centennial of American Independence was here celebrated, amid international festivities of peace. Old England and Young America then grasped hands in friendship, for all time. The magnificent Centennial Exposition owed no small portion of its unparalleled success to the hearty sympathy and coöperation of Great Britain and her colonies. The young, vigorous and go-a-head Dominion of Canada, so ably represented by gentlemen I see before me, was admitted, by all fair-minded observers, to have occupied a foremost place in the displays of the industries of the world;

and once more, in this assemblage, Beautiful Columbia and Fair Canada lock arms in a sisterly embrace.

This Convention, under the banner of St. George, has assembled for no ulterior purposes of private gain or political advantage. Anglo-Americans do not trade on their nationality. They do not seek to win political positions and soft places under Government, by race combinations. Ours is purely an association of brotherly love. Those of us who reside in the United States, seek only to become good citizens, to obey the laws, succeed in business, pay our taxes, and in every respect prove worthy of the land of our adoption. We desire to appropriate to ourselves no public spoils, and our platform is one of philanthropy and not of politics. Englishmen in the United States seldom seek and rarely accept public office; and hence the influence they exert, is quiet and useful rather than noisy and self-assertive. And yet, from the very beginning of the republic, Anglo-Americans have contributed as largely, perhaps, as any class of citizens, to its success and prosperity.

Within the past few years, a perceptible change has come over the native American mind with regard to English Americans. Time was when England was hated and Englishmen were disliked by the leading politicians of this country. In those days, it seemed as if Americans cared only for those citizens of foreign birth of whom it could be said:

> "True patriots they, for be it understood,
> They left their country for their country's good."

It is gratifying, however, to note that during recent years, Englishmen and Americans have been brought into closer friendship. The satisfactory adjustment of all matters in dispute by the noble and Christian methods of arbitration; the heartiness with which John Bull assisted Brother Jonathan in the Centennial Exposition last year; the International British Celebration in Virginia, and the enthusiasm with which Ex President Grant has been received in England, as a representative American, all illustrate the genuine affection which binds the two greatest nations of the world together.

In many respects, the true mission of the Englishman in the United States is to advance the sacred cause of peace. Our efforts aim at peace between the English-speaking nations of every clime. May I not add, that our labors may also be useful in healing the differences which once divided our fellow-citizens? This, at all events, is my belief. I do most firmly believe that such gatherings as the Petersburg Celebration and the Annual Conventions of this Union are, under Divine Providence, becoming powerful agencies of peace and reconciliation. We of the North, have been to the South, and have seen with our own eyes the good order and Christian progress which characterize Southern communities. You,

gentlemen of the South, as you mingle among the people of the Northern States, will be able to return to your homes and friends, to testify that the dead past is buried and the living present means "no North, no South, but one Union."

It cannot but be gratifying to the Hon. George J. Bryan, of Buffalo; the Hon. Daniel Batchelor, of Utica; Joseph Mellor, Esq., Auburn, N. Y.; Dr. James Fuller, Syracuse, N. Y.; and the other public-spirited gentlemen, who, four or five years ago, founded the North America St. George's Union, to see that, in so short a time, it has accomplished so much good. It has brought Canada and the United States closer together, not with any foolish idea of establishing a united autonomy, but as kindred nations, living side by side in peace and friendship, and emulous only of doing good deeds, the one to the other. As I have remarked, this Union has been also a messenger of peace between the Northern and Southern sections of the United States. More than all, the Union has benefited Englishmen, resident in the United States, everywhere. If, within the past few years, Anglo-Americans have made their influence known and widely acknowledged—and always for good; if the American press and people have at length recognized the fact that Anglo-Americans form an enterprising, philanthropic and patriotic portion of the nation; then, sirs, the quiet, unostentatious and useful labors of this St. George's Union have largely assisted in accomplishing these happy results. Loyal Canadians may rejoice to see that they are now welcomed within the borders of the United States as friendly allies, and not viewed askance as possible food for the eagles of Uncle Sam. Our Southern brethren may "hope on, hope ever," as they find themselves welcome guests in Northern cities. Englishmen everywhere, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, may well acknowledge the good Providence which, through the St. George's Union, has elevated their position in the nation and made the word *English* a synonym of respectability. Native Americans have also some reason to be proud that their universal invitations to immigrants have brought them adopted citizens who, in the United States, are always ready to practice those great principles of patriotism, benevolence and Christianity which they inherited from a glorious ancestry in the Old Country.

In thus speaking of what is *English* in the United States, I must, of course, be understood to refer to whatever is *British.* My remarks apply also to loyal Irishmen, Scotsmen, Welshmen, and others who once lived under the protection of—

> "The flag which braved a thousand years
> The battle and the breeze."

We acknowledge no divisions between us in remembering our British origin. Here, I would say that the presence of members

of the St. Andrew's Societies, Cambria Societies, Caledonian and Irish Associations, in many of our meetings, has given me unqualified pleasure. I hope to see the day when our St. George's Union will develop into a great North America British League, in which we shall carry on our labors, side by side with our Scotch, Welsh, and Irish brethren. Yes, my friends of the United States and of Canada and of Europe, our Association, in labors of love, is of happy omen for humanity, and cannot but receive the Divine blessing.

"God is Love, saith the Evangel;
And our world of woe and sin
Is made light and happy only when
A Love is shining in."

The Annual Report of the proceedings of your Executive Committee, which will be submitted to you by our indefatigable fellow-worker, Mr. William Tomlin, of Connecticut, will be found to be a most interesting and instructive document. Your committee have taken important action on many matters which it will be the duty of the Convention to consider, and possibly amend or supplement. The adoption of a uniform badge of membership now only awaits the definitive action of local societies. A general visiting card has been prepared, which, issued to individual members of good standing, will bring the membership of all our affiliated societies into friendly communion, and will confer the benefits of our great bond of brotherhood on every member of our several societies. Your committee recommend the Convention to legislate with the view of preventing, in future, the fraud and imposition which have so often been practised on St. George's Societies by designing impostors, who go about the country, assuming any nationality which will serve their purpose to extract benefactions from the charitable. Your committee desire, also, that steps may be taken for the assistance of worthy members of our societies, in their efforts to obtain employment, or to change their residences from one State or province to another. A new Constitution will be submitted to your consideration, which, if adopted, will, your committee believe, make the Union not only the connecting link between existing St. George's Societies, but will largely facilitate and encourage the formation of new societies. The Annual Report will explain how faithfully the Special Committee, appointed at the last Annual Convention, fulfilled their duties in aiding the British Association of Virginia to organize and successfully carry through the grand International British Celebration in Virginia, on Queen Victoria's Birthday, last May. But neither the report nor anything we can say and do, can adequately measure the noble hospitality with which the people of the Ancient Dominion welcomed the delegates from Canada and the North to their hearts and homes. In time to come, the good accomplished by that great

International gathering will become more and more manifest. To those of us whose good fortune it was to unite in the Celebration, it will ever remain a green spot in our memories, while it will forever give Old Virginia a warm place in the hearts of British people all over the world.

It will be necessary for the Convention to decide on the place of meeting for next year, which, of right, belongs to Canada; and also to legislate on numerous questions of vital importance. My faith in the sound common sense of the English character induces me to believe that the immediate results of our deliberations will be an increase of usefulness, an improved organization and the general progress of the Union.

In conclusion, as an Englishman proud of the land of his birth, and as an American not less proud of the land of his adoption, I believe in our St. George's Union as a missioner of good to Old England, to Fair Canada and to the United States. Never has the pride of race, tempered, as I hope, by the humility of the Christian religion, glowed within me more than at this moment. What a glorious destiny, under Divine direction, is that of the Anglo-Saxon race! Britannia, with her millions of stalwart sons and hundreds of millions of Christianized and civilized aborigines, carrying the standard of the Cross into the darkest places of the world! Columbia, extending a new Christendom from the stormy Atlantic to the gentle Pacific! Young and already glorious Anglo-Saxon Confederations, organized in Canada, Australia, South Africa and the West Indies! The English language spoken in far-off Japan, and rapidly becoming the one language which men of education must understand and adopt in the ordinary business of life, as the Roman Church has Latinized all her services in every nation! Such is the outlook to-day, and in our efforts at moral and social reform, I would say to you, in the words of the poet whom I have already quoted:

> "The great hearts of your olden time
> Are beating with you, full and strong;
> All holy memories and sublime
> And glorious round ye throng.
>
> The truths ye urge are borne abroad
> By every wind and every tide,
> The voice of Nature and of God
> Speaks out upon your side."

Gentlemen, I have now the honor to declare this Convention of the North America St. George's Union open for the transaction of business.

PAPER ON THE

"AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE NORTH AMERICA ST. GEORGE'S UNION."

BY D. BATCHELOR, ESQ., TREASURER, UTICA, N. Y.

Since the Executive Committee instructed me to prepare a paper, to be read before this Convention, some new and incessant duties have occupied my time, hence my effort is but brief, and your patience will be the less tried in listening to the reading thereof. The theme set apart, is the "Aims and Objects of the North America St. George's Union." It is a trite saying that "Union is strength," and no matter what may be the enterprise engaged in, the adage is true; but if united action were applied to such humane and benevolent operations as are constantly performed by the various St. George's Societies all over North America, then the old saying, so far as we are concerned, would be true and beautiful. It is, however, a fact that the St. George's Societies do not act in concert, and indeed, there are those who honestly assert that there is no necessity for united action, and this, too, notwithstanding the fact that the almoners of the separate organizations are constantly imposed upon by unworthy itinerants, whose whole lives are spent in the practice of deceit and inventing the most plausible and pitiful tales, solely as a means to "raise the wind." It is also well known that until the last Report of the Proceedings of the Union was published, (when a very imperfect list of the names of officials was printed), most of the scattered societies were unknown to each other, and direct correspondence was, of course, impossible. Now, one aim of this Union is, I hope, to devise some scheme whereby the affiliated societies, at least, can so act in concert that when called on to help an unfortunate but deserving fellow countryman, especially if he be a member of our benevolent body, they can render him that little assistance with a cheerful confidence. And is it not also very desirable that the local societies should be able to give to a worthy applicant an authorized credential as to *apparent* character and condition? If, on the other hand, an impostor is going the rounds, it is well that he should be heralded in advance, either by missive or telegram. What I have suggested is but tentative and perhaps open to objec-

tions in its working operations, yet if essayed, good would be done and more and more perfect methods at last adopted. I have written and received many letters, along the line of the New York Central Railroad, on this matter, either commending or condemning many of those who have claimed aid as unfortunate Britons. As I have before stated in this and a former paper, there are no proper means by which one society can advise another of the advent of an impostor, nor is there any system by which the worthy destitute, as they journey to their destination, can be commended *en route* from one society to another. I confess that I have no well-considered scheme to offer, relative to these delicate matters, yet I trust that the subject will be thoroughly discussed by this Convention, and action taken thereon. Ought it not, too, to be an object of the Union that all its affiliated members, when impelled to travel from State to State, or province to province, that they should know, by repute at least, the names of prominent members of the St. George's or other British benevolent societies in the places which they visit? To make this object easier, the Union has, through its excellent Secretary, Mr. Tomlin, issued traveling cards, bearing the seal of the Union. These are for the use of affiliating societies, and are to be dispensed to their members when going abroad. The cards ought to be dated at the exact time when the traveler begins his journey. It is evident that by these and kindred means, if judiciously managed, very desirable social and confidential relations might be made between Englishmen in various and remote places all over the country. Another object, and one of no small import to us as Britons, is that by all these efforts, and also by our annual reunions, we keep fresh the recollections and reminiscences of our native land and her thousand years of glorious history; also, that we, anywhere and everywhere, bring our great commercial influence to bear against those who would bring England and America into conflict; that we at all times endeavor to foster that natural sentiment of union which exists among the English-speaking people on this continent. It should be a paramount aim and object to encourage that feeling of cordiality and good will which so recently found utterance from the lips of General Grant, and which he so eloquently and so ingenuously expressed in the presence of potentate, peers and people, in Old England, when he said: "I am delighted with the cordial reception given to me by the people of England. I take it as an honor to my country, and I hope that England and America will always be at peace. I believe, too, that nothing should occur to disturb the peaceful relations now so firmly established between the two countries." The emotions awakened in the breasts of thousands of Englishmen and English women in America, on reading that utterance, were of the most exquisite delight. There are few cultivated Americans but in their heart of hearts love Old Mother England,

and are proud of her history, her grand literature and her mighty achievements. Shakspeare, Spencer and Bacon, Peterboro, Marlboro and Wolfe as much belong to the American of long lineage on this continent, as they do to the Englishman just arrived at the port of Philadelphia. Race, language, law, literature, freedom,—all came, in rich argosies, to America, not out of the Tiber, but out of the Thames. Well might a great American poet say:

> To England, over dale and mountain,
> My fancy flew from clime more fair;
> My blood, which knew its parent fountain,
> Ran warm and fast in England's air.

PAPER

ON "THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF ST. GEORGE OF PHILADELPHIA, ITS USEFULNESS AND SUCCESS."

BY WILLIAM UNDERDOWN, ESQ., SECRETARY.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

I have been placed upon the programme of this Convention to address you upon the "Society of the Sons of St. George of Philadelphia, its Usefulness and Success." I do not propose to occupy your time to any great length, but as briefly as I can to discharge the duty assigned me, with the hope that something may be stated that may interest the delegates who have come from a distance, and perhaps throw out some hints that may be put in practice by our younger societies.

First, then, "The Society of the Sons of St. George." Our full corporate title reads thus: "The Society of the Sons of St. George, established at Philadelphia, for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in distress." I know of no society or association, either American or foreign, whose title is so expressive *as ours.* The very reading of our name unfolds our character and work. Gentlemen, we are getting rather old, but we don't want you to carry home with you the impression that we are getting at all feeble in our old age, but rather that we are trying to be more useful and vigorous each year that is added to our history. Some of you are perhaps aware that we celebrated our one hundred and fifth anniversary on the 23d of April last; consequently, we are in our one hundred and sixth year. Let us in imagination picture, if we can, the birth and birthplace of this society, on St. George's Day, 1772. There assembled at Patrick Byrne's tavern, on Front street, below Walnut, on that memorable occasion, eighty-five Englishmen, who subscribed their names—as you can see by referring to that first Minute Book of this society—and formed themselves into an association, with the title before mentioned: not for the purpose of keeping alive any invidious national distinction, but merely that unfortunate Englishmen, and especially those who are strangers in America, may know where to apply for advice and assistance. It may be interesting to you to know the class of men who composed

those first eighty-five members. *Gentlemen, we are proud of our ancestors!* The first name upon that honored list is the Rev. Richard Peters, D. D., rector of Christ Church and St. Peter's, who was the first President of the society. Robert Morris was the first Vice-President. This gentleman you will all remember as the eminent merchant, financier and patriot. Other illustrious names might be mentioned if time would permit. We will only state that in that list were four clergymen, eight physicians, seven captains and one lieutenant, and sixty-five others, who were private gentlemen, active merchants, or members of the legal profession. Soon after the formation of the Society, we find the names of Benjamin Franklin and Bishop White, the first Protestant Episcopal Bishop in the United States. Can any other benevolent society on this continent point to a more honorable origin than ours? Could the spirits of those departed founders gather here with us, to-night, in this noble hall, and were permitted to speak to us, what should we hear? Methinks there would be great rejoicing among themselves for what they were permitted to do, more than a century ago, and then a solemn word to us:—"Be thou faithful to thy trust;" and to others:—"Go and do likewise."

We will not attempt to sketch the century and more, that has passed, only to mention that we celebrated our centennial on St. George's Day, April 23d, 1872,—four years before the centennial of these United States—a full account of which will be found in our Historical Sketch, from pages 32 to 55. At that time, our society numbered three hundred and sixty-four members, seventy-two of which were elected on that day. We have now over six hundred on the roll. Six months ago, our membership was larger, but many names have been stricken from the list on account of removals from the city and other causes. We may here state with great pleasure that we have now the honored name of Sir Edward Thornton, Her British Majesty's Minister at Washington, on our roll of members, who is a liberal contributor to our benevolent fund annually; and also, Charles E. K. Kortright, Esq., who has for so many years been Her British Majesty's Consul at this port, also a liberal contributor to our society.

We have spoken of our birthplace: we will say a few words about our dwelling-place. The society, as you have heard, had its birth in a tavern. It now dwells in a stately marble hall: we will call it a Temple of Charity, for that is its main object and end. During the first century of our history, we had no settled habitation. The society met where best it could until 1868, when we located in room No. 30, Merchants' Exchange, which was comfortably furnished by contributions of our members, for the meetings of the society and its work of charity, but this room was far too small, only accommodating about seventy-five persons. Soon after our centennial, a committee was appointed, to consider the

propriety of building a St. George's Hall. In February, 1875, the committee heard that this property was for sale. A meeting of the officers was called, and the subject fully discussed, which resulted in a special meeting of the society being held, one week from that night. It proved to be the most stormy night of the whole winter, and some members did not attend because they considered the night too bad to get a quorum, which is thirteen; but such was the interest in the enterprise, that nearly seventy-five members were present, and before the meeting adjourned, sufficient money was subscribed to purchase the property, which was done the following day, February 26, 1875. We did not get possession until June. Work was immediately commenced, under the daily superintendence of the honored President of this Union. Gentlemen, need I say more? Does it not speak for itself?

It was opened with appropriate services, on April 20th, 23d and 24th of last year. Those of you who have not yet read the account of those exercises, will be furnished with a copy before you depart. There is one fact connected with these opening services, which I cannot pass unnoticed. St. George's Day, our one hundred and fourth anniversary, fell on Sunday, as you will remember. It was considered appropriate that we should have a dedicatory religious service on that day. The hall was packed long before the time to commence the service. Nine clergymen officiating on the occasion, it was a sight, gentlemen, that will ever be remembered by those present. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Rudder, rector of St. Stephen's Church. I would ask you to give it a careful perusal. It will amply repay you. When you have read it, loan it to your fellow members. Every Englishman, yea, every one who speaks the English language, is interested in what the Doctor has there sketched. And now, gentlemen, I think your eyes see and your ears have heard that the Society of the Sons of St. George of Philadelphia, is a living reality and a success. But one point only remains for me to prove. Has it been useful during the century and more that has passed? I wish briefly to state to you what our work is, and how we do it. Ever since the formation of the society, its main object, as its title declares, has been to give advice and assistance to Englishmen in distress, more especially the newly arrived from our dear native isle. It would be impossible to give you the century's work in dollars and cents. Although a record is and has been kept of the stewards' work, which is very good as far as it goes, and which our friends are invited to inspect, yet, gentlemen, I am bold to say it does not give a full detail of all the work done by the society. But there is another book, which we shall see by-and-by, in which is recorded every kind word that has been spoken to the needy applicant, every kind act and deed done by the officers and members of this society. I refer to that book kept by Him who no-

ticeth the cup of cold water given in His name. Will it not be interesting then to look back upon our work of charity and love? Gentlemen, brothers of St. George, I pity the Englishman who now stands aloof from our society and its work of charity, because it costs a few dollars a year and not a little time to be an active member or officer; but such men will be more the objects of pity hereafter, when the Master shall say: "Inasmuch as ye did it not unto these, my brethren, ye did it not to me." The usefulness of our society may be, perhaps, best shown by giving you one of our steward's reports as an illustration. The report reads as follows:

"The acting stewards for the quarter ending July 23, 1876, beg to report that the applications for relief, advice and assistance, have been quite numerous and varied in their character, taxing alike the judgment and abilities of your stewards, as best how to meet them. Large numbers having been attracted hither, in the hope of finding something to do, either directly or indirectly, with the Centennial, or resulting therefrom, have only met with disappointment and trouble, while sickness and disease have rendered many who otherwise would have been able to keep themselves, utterly incapable of doing so. A case of this sort was that of Thomas R——, recommended by Mr. Charles S——, who had but recently arrived from England, but during the few months he had been here, had contracted a severe lung disease, which rendered him entirely unfit for work. Another case wherein no money was expended by the society, but as exemplifying the good it does and the work it often performs which cannot be shown by figures, was that of a poor man, who, but for the quick and determined interposition of the stewards, would have been not only cheated out of the money that had been collected to enable him to return to England, but would have been compelled thereby to seek refuge in the almshouse. Many instances could be given to illustrate the character of the work, as well as the unwritten amount of pecuniary aid that is so often rendered by individual members of the society, of which no record is made upon their books.

"The following is a summary of the amount expended during the quarter:

Cash paid to three hundred and thirty-two applicants, -	$262 60
Cash paid for lodging and meals to three hundred and nine homeless ones, - - - - -	123 50
Meals, - - - - - - -	9 10
Twenty passes to New York, - - - -	20 00
	$415 20

"Of this amount, sixty-eight dollars was contributed by individual members, for special cases. We can also state from personal

knowledge, that some sixty to seventy-five dollars additional were contributed by members of the society, not recorded in the stewards' book. We would suggest hereafter that all personal relief be entered in the contingent book, so that the society may show at least the pecuniary good it does."

This, gentlemen, is the work of a summer quarter. Let me give you the figures for a winter quarter. I have selected the one immediately after the failure of Jay Cooke & Co. The distress witnessed that winter, was perhaps unparalleled in the history of our society. Our stewards met daily at our room, No. 30 Merchants' Exchange, at four o'clock, and were frequently engaged until seven o'clock, hearing the tales of suffering of so many applicants. The stewards made eight hundred and nineteen entries on their book for that quarter, representing from three to four thousand persons relieved, as follows:

Cash given to applicants, - - - -	$495 98
Cash paid for six hundred and seventy-three nights' lodging and meals to homeless ones, - -	269 25
Cash paid for coal, - - - - -	93 72
" " " groceries, - - - - -	108 50
" " " meals, - - - - -	21 25
" " " shoes and sundries, - - -	53 74
	$1,042 44
To which we may add the amount saved by reduction on passages to England, - - - -	180 00
Estimated value of clothing distributed, - -	200 00
Amount contributed by members, for a library at the institution where we send our applicants for lodging,	80 00
	$1,502 44

If time would permit me to detail the many distressing cases that were personally visited by the stewards and their wives and other ladies, during that quarter, the stoutest heart here, to-night, would be melted to tears. We will mention but two. The first was that of a poor woman, near her confinement, who came to the room in great pain, having been at the Continental Hotel, to purchase ten cents' worth of pieces. While standing in line, waiting her turn, she was kicked in the stomach by a colored woman, to make her fall back and lose her place. We hurried her home. She was, soon after, visited by one of the ladies and two of the officers. We found her, with the new-born babe at her breast, without any bed or bed-clothes. All she had to cover them was a piece of old rag-carpet. We immediately purchased a comfortable, soft mattrass and proper bed-clothes, and made the poor woman comfortable. Our second case was a family of about

twelve persons, including the grandmother. There were males and females, all living—or rather, existing—in a small back fourth-story room; and the landing of that same floor!—such a sight I never wish to witness again. This family all without employment and almost starved, having parted with almost every article before they made their wants known. These cases gentlemen, will illustrate what our stewards are doing, more or less, all the year round. Let me say a word for our counsellor, who attends to all legal cases brought before the society, and they are not a few, I assure you. One poor woman was saved from the gallows by his timely aid. Many having been wrongly cast into prison, have been released, and many saved from going to prison. A very interesting case you will find on page 28 of our Historical Sketch, to which I would refer you. It is the case of the little child known to us as the "Young Zephyr," who was cruelly treated by a Frenchman. We had him arrested and put under bail for trial. The bail was forfeited. The result was, the Judge committed the child to the Northern Home for Friendless Children, to be reared under the superintendence of our society, and seven hundred dollars was handed over to us in trust for him, when he arrives at that age to leave that excellent institution and commence life on his own account.

Need I detain you longer, gentlemen, to prove my last point? I will only mention one other act of our society for the good of our fellow countrymen, which, perhaps, far exceeds all others in its wide-extended usefulness. To my mind, if there were nothing else on record, during the century passed, we and our fellow countrymen, not only in England, but throughout the entire British Empire, have cause to rejoice that this society was ever established, for who can estimate the amount of suffering and disappointment our prompt action prevented. I refer to our letters to the London Times, the Manchester Guardian and the Liverpool Mercury, in the summer of 1874. The cause of these letters was as follows: We learned from several applicants that large bills were posted up in England, stating that ten thousand men were wanted, to work on the Centennial buildings at Philadelphia; wages, five pounds sterling per week. This induced many to take passage to this city, to find themselves the victims of designing men, who only cared for what they could make out of their passage money or the commission thereon. We felt it our duty to address a letter to each of the above papers, stating these placards were base misrepresentations. These papers very kindly published our letters immediately, with strong editorials on the subject, and sent us copies of their papers. There was scarcely a paper of any note in England that did not republish these letters. In fact, they were also published in many of the colonial papers. The result of this was, emigration was immediately checked, and there-

by many saved the bitter disappointment they would otherwise have been exposed to.

Gentlemen, one closing word. We are here in council from different parts of this North American continent. What is our object in thus assembling together? If I understand it aright, it is to make our societies more useful for good to our brethren in distress. This we may be enabled to do by learning from each other. If I have stated anything to you, to-night, to this end, then I have accomplished the design of my paper, and we will all have cause to rejoice that we have met in this City of Brotherly Love, in this St. George's Hall, beneath the two greatest flags, those of England and America, which, placed side by side, as they are now upon our Hall, will be the great defenders of civil and religious liberty, and also ever be the emblems of CHARITY, PEACE AND LOVE.

PAPER

ON THE "IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING HOMES FOR IMPOVERISHED MEMBERS OF THE ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETIES, AND ASYLUMS FOR CHILDREN OF ENGLISH PARENTS, LEFT ORPHANS IN THIS COUNTRY."

BY WM. TOMLIN, ESQ., CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

Read before the Convention of the North America St. George's Union, held at St. George's Hall, Philadelphia, September, 1877.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—Being a true admirer and lover of nature, when possible, I steal away from the busy haunts of every-day life, and amid rural scenes, delight to muse and conjure up before my mind's eye, as in a panorama, recollections "sad but sweet," of the days of "auld lang syne;" and the following truthful soliloquy that our immortal poet, Shakspeare, declaims from the lips of Jacques, while musing in the forest, often comes to my mind: "All the world 's a stage, and men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages." In the course of half a century's career, I have played many parts; but the question comes home: Have I played that part, or have any of us done so effectually, in the several *roles* in which we have been cast in the great drama of life, of "doing unto others as we would be done by?" I am afraid not; and we are constantly reminded by the "call-boy," conscience, that the stage is waiting, and the assistance of the Divine Prompter is needed, to turn our thoughts from self and teach us how to act out faithfully the part allotted us until the closing scene, when the curtain of death is rung down upon the stage of human existence, "and the place that knew us

once, knows us no more for ever." "Life is only a shadow, but a shadow may bless land and sea in passing." There is a responsibility resting on every one, and it behooves all of us to examine ourselves and see whether we have been a blessing to our fellow men, or, on the contrary, been so wrapped up in self, that on an honest retrospection, we shall have to admit that our lives have been, in a measure, a blank. In connection with these thoughts, arose the idea of making an effort to establish and found homes for our unfortunate countrymen, and asylums or schools for their orphans. I mentioned it to a few friends, who thought favorably of it, and I was encouraged to lay the subject before this Convention, merely as a suggestion to be carried out in the future, if it meets your approval. What is the secret of our beloved country's wonderful success as a nation? I believe it is in the multitudinous and glorious institutions of charity and benevolence, founded by wise and good men, in the days gone by; and that the continuous prayers of the faithful participators of these noble institutions have ascended, like sweet-smelling incense, to the Great Architect of the Universe, who has blessed the land for their sake. What feelings of thankfulness and pride well up in the breasts of all true Englishmen, when he hears remarks made by observant travelers, that the "charitable institutions of Old England are the pride and glory of the land;" and although some of these noble charities are abused, and the intent of the founders has not been fully carried out, still the fact remains, they are there, lasting monuments "till time shall be no more," of the good intentions of the worthy benefactors. In these degenerate days, the worship of Mammon and the desire to heap up riches ("knowing not who shall gather them,") is the all-absorbing idea of the majority. "Is there any money in it?" is the first question asked when any new scheme is broached, as if the getting of it was the first and principal duty of man. How often does it prove a phantom, and, like the imaginary dagger seen by Macbeth, that, after hands and brain have toiled to grasp it, it "melts into air, thin air; and, like the baseless fabric of a vision, dissolves, leaving not a wreck behind." Much more ennobling is it to strive to do good in our own day and generation, and not postpone good intentions for others to carry out after we have "shuffled off this mortal coil." That riches take to themselves wings and flee away, is a truism none can deny; and instances can be quoted where founders of benevolent institutions have been glad to become inmates of the same, through the fickleness of the goddess Fortune. Therefore, do not let our supposed security from reverse of fortune lull us to fold our hands in slumber, and float calmly down the tide of life, without endeavoring, as much as in us lies, to succor our unfortunate brothers who have been snagged or stranded on their voyage. As stated in the annual report, our patron saint, St. George, is not only the ideal hero of

romance, but the source of inspiration to benevolence and Christian love towards our fellow countrymen; and what could we do better than to try and emulate his virtues, and copy the example set us by our ancestors, and to this land of our adoption transplant all that will tend to carry out the golden rule of charity? Let this beautiful temple, reared by the loving hands of our worthy brothers, the Sons of St. George, stimulate us, as a body, to go and do likewise, and establish a refuge for our decayed brothers emanating from the same glorious land of our nativity, where they may spend their declining years in peace and comfort, without the fear of want, or the horror of a pauper's grave staring them spectre-like in the face.

Where can you find a more pleasing spectacle than in visiting some of the alms-houses, as they are called, in Old England? Built with an eye to beauty, lavishly surrounded with floral beauties, and replete with comfort and neatness; the inmates, in the evening of life, sitting, as it were, "under their own vine and fig tree, none daring to make them afraid," and contemplating with calmness and serenity, the final journey which all must take, will not a blessing be evoked on behalf of the founder or founders of such a peaceful retreat, where, after the trials, storms and shipwreck of hopes, long since "deep in ocean buried," such a haven of rest is found for the poor tempest-tossed traveler? I have such scenes vividly brought before my mind's eye.

Or, change the scene from nature's second childhood to the playground of some of the orphan asylums, and mingle with the happy and healthy-looking inmates. Who does not like to recall the merry days of youth, before carking cares and anxieties had taken possession of our souls? It is the season of joy, and if we can do anything to perpetuate that joy and cause the participators to look back in after-life upon it as an oasis, ever to be treasured up in the store-houses of memory, we shall have accomplished much. What more pitiable sight than to witness the squalor, filth and vice in the form of childhood, running through the streets of our cities, like a stream of iniquity. Is it not a stigma upon the boasted civilization of the nineteenth century? Are we fulfilling the Divine injunction, "Train up a child (not in the way he would, but) in the way he should go."

Memory and perception are strongest in youth. A child will learn a new language more easily than a young person, and a boy of fifteen will discover a bird's nest, or commit a list of names to memory, more easily than a man of fifty. As the twig is bent, so will the tree be; therefore, it is our paramount duty, both socially and politically, to see that our rising generation is trained in ways of rectitude and virtue; and how much more is it our duty, and a privilege, too, to be permitted to provide for the offspring of our countrymen, left destitute in a strange land, far away from kith

and kin, the little fatherless ones, with no mother's loving hands to assist, or loving words to counsel, in the momentous period of childhood. In years gone by, it has been my privilege to attend the annual gatherings of the patrons and supporters of some of the leading orphan asylums and schools in the city of London, and when, during the evening, the children have been brought into the banqueting hall, and have shown by their bright, happy looks and interesting deportment how they appreciated the kindness of their benefactors, many an eye among the guests has been dimmed with tears of gratitude and thankfulness, that they had been permitted to help on with their contributions such noble institutions; and as a happy result, many leading merchants in that city, who received their education in such asylums, have to thank the officers and friends of the institution for their first start in life. By founding institutions of this character, generations yet unborn may have cause to rise up and call us blessed, and we may for our shortcomings take to ourselves the consoling and blessed truth that "charity covereth a multitude of sins," and that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Never let us forget the inspired aphorism of our immortal hero, Nelson: "England expects every man (not here and there one, but *every man*,) to do his duty," especially so when separated by distance from the land of his birth; and amid the cosmopolitan character of the population of this great country, let us, as Englishmen, show that we live up to the motto, and that it is not a myth, but a stern, moral, but pleasing duty, permeating the character of every true son of Albion.

I trust these few remarks on a subject in which I take a deep interest, may meet your approval. I have said nothing about the ways and means of providing for such an undertaking, leaving that for abler hands than mine, but I am sure it would not require any gigantic effort, but principally a united one among the St. George's Societies throughout the States and Canada: an effort in which every individual member ought to be interested. I have no doubt that a site for such an institution or institutions could easily be procured and the buildings erected, without much trouble, and then, by an appeal to our affluent brethren in this country and at "home," a sufficient fund could be raised for endowment. I know it would require valuable time and serious thought, to work out the details and carry them through successfully, but I am quite sure willing workers would not be wanting to take hold. "Excelsior" is the motto of the society I represent, and "Nil Desperandum" is my own. Combine the two, and you are bound to succeed. Gentlemen, I leave the subject to your kind consideration.

PAPER

READ BY S. C. COLLIS, ESQ., BEFORE THE CONVENTION OF THE NORTH AMERICA ST. GEORGE'S UNION, HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL, PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 12TH AND 13TH, 1877.

MR. CHAIRMAN:—It appears to me, sir, there are two distinct principles involved in the objects of this Convention. One may be said to be charity; the other, interest. There is the sentimental and there is the practical side of the matter, and I will endeavor in my remarks to separate, as much as possible, the one from the other. "The Society of the Sons of St. George, for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in distress," is the title of our society, and, at first sight, it would seem to cover all the work it could legitimately carry out; the sole principle involved in that title, the only object for which the society was originated, was to "advise and assist Englishmen in distress." This charitable feature was the only principle recognized, and during the last one hundred years, that single plank, which composes the whole platform, has never been narrowed and has never spread beyond its original limits. But we are asked now, sir, to join in an effort to extend the usefulness and object of this and other St. George's Societies, and the question naturally arises, Are these objects legitimately within the sphere of the society and in harmony with the intentions of the founders of it? If these are answered in the affirmative, it will become our duty to assist in shaping the character they may assume, to keep within the strict letter, or, at least, within the strict intentions of our charter. Let us look first at its sentimental side, which may be divided into two primary objects: First, the good that may be done through this union of societies to Englishmen, individually and collectively; and second, (though entirely of a different character from the first proposition, yet in some degree connected with it,) the good that we, as Englishmen, may do in our degree and to the best of our ability, in assisting to promote the better feeling now happily growing up between the Northern and Southern sections of this, our adopted land. The latter proposition, at first sight, may, perhaps, seem visionary; and yet, I venture to say, sir, it is worthy of attention and discussion. I think it will be admitted, as a general thing, that Englishmen

do not interfere in the politics of this country. Usually, we get along very well minding our own business. We grumble, and perhaps with reason, at times, at many things which we conceive and know are not as they ought to be, but we are content to obey the laws as we find them, and refrain from interference or offensive meddling with elections or the political questions of the day. Nor do I understand it as the intention of any gentleman to involve any of these societies in a departure from a well-established rule; but rules are not absolute, and while we hold to the strict letter of the law, we may, without violating the spirit of our charter, extend the sphere of our usefulness. As Englishmen, no less than as good citizens, the duty falls on us to give all the weight of our influence to further all measures looking to reconcilement and good feeling between the North and the South. Our interests, no less than our patriotism, demand at our hands support for that good work. We shall win the respect of the best classes of the North, and the love and friendship of the people of the South. I do not advocate meddling interference, but I think it well for Englishmen to do all that lays in their power to strengthen the best men of both sections in all efforts made in that direction.

Looking at it, sir, from the practical side, it is worth consideration whether we cannot assist and further the objects of these societies by the extension of our knowledge of the needs and desires of those portions of the country where they may now, or in the future, be established. What is the great trouble in the North, at the present time? Over-population. What the great need of the South? More population. Now, sir, if we can help transfer some of our superabundant population to the South, where they are wanted and where their services would be of value, we might do a good work, both for ourselves and others. We should be carrying out the intentions and aims of our societies; and while charity is a good thing, in its way, you may have too much of a good thing. I venture the assertion that no man's self-respect is helped by charity, and the bestowal of alms is sometimes as much a gratification for the self-complacency it begets in the giver, as it is a degradation to him who is forced to ask it. The best possible good you can do a poor man is to put him in the way of making an honest living. If you can open up a system of help to the needy by assisting them to fresh fields, where their labor, skilled or unskilled, will be useful and appreciated by those among whom it may be their good fortune to be cast, you will do a good work indeed; and the attainment of such an object is laudable in its intentions, practical in its nature, and would be beneficial in its results. Such, sir, I consider to be some of the legitimate subjects of consideration by this Convention.

REPLY

OF J. A. H. ST. ANDREW, ESQ.,

TO THE TOAST OF "OUR GUESTS," AT THE GRAND BANQUET, IN ST. GEORGE'S HALL, PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 13, 1877.

[The full report, received too late for insertion in the regular order.]

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

I had hoped that this toast would have been responded to by a gentleman whose eloquence and power charmed all those who attended the banquet at the International British Celebration in Petersburg. I allude to my friend, Col. William Randolph Berkeley, of Virginia, a gentleman whose ancestors were distinguished in historic annals, a thousand years ago; the scion of a noble house, which has contributed statesmen, warriors, philosophers and authors to Old England, and which has been closely allied to John Randolph, of Roanoke, and other great leaders of America. A Randolph or a Berkeley will always be a welcome guest at a British banquet, especially when, as in the case of Col. Berkeley, chivalric devotion to his native State is mingled with love and esteem for England and Englishmen. The absence of the Colonel is, I am sure, a matter of regret to him, and caused by circumstances beyond his control. However, gentlemen, while I cannot equal the graceful utterances of our absent friend, I can, at all events, speak that of which my heart is full, words of thanks for the noble hospitality which the Sons of St. George of Philadelphia have extended to their guests from every State and province and clime. The Philadelphia meeting of the North America St. George's Union will be henceforth a cherished memory among those whose good fortune has made them your guests. Your welcome to the stranger within your gates has been so hearty and generous, that the stranger feels himself a familiar friend, and will bid you adieu as if he were leaving home scenes and parting with his own family.

And now, gentlemen, a few words as to the general subjects which interest our minds may not be out of place. Attending this

banquet as an Anglo-Virginian, I am reminded that a century ago, the Quakers of Pennsylvania and the Cavaliers of Virginia were very reluctant to sever their connection with the Mother Country. Mr. Evarts recently remarked that "had Queen Victoria been on the throne instead of George the Third, or if we had postponed our rebellion until Queen Victoria reigned, the rebellion would not have been necessary, and if there had been any rebellion at all, it would have been *on the part of England.*" Mr. Evarts is doubtless right, but even under the then existing circumstances, it is a fact that very strong pressure had to be brought to bear on Virginia and Pennsylvania, to induce them to join in the revolution. Joseph Reed, writing to Gen. Washington, in March, 1776, said: "There is a strong reluctance in the minds of many to cut the knot which ties us to Great Britain, particularly *in this colony and Southward.*" General Washington, replying to Reed, said that the people of Virginia, "from their form of government and steady attachment heretofore to royalty, will come reluctantly into the idea of independence." Thus, a century ago, the people of my State and of your State were united in their love for the Old Country, and I am happy to think that in some degree, there is still the same common feeling between them.

Englishmen may well remember that the noblest tribute ever paid to the grandeur and extent of the imperial sway of their native land, came from the gigantic intellect of an American—Daniel Webster. Mr. Webster it was who described England as "a power to which, for purposes of foreign conquest and subjugation, Rome, in the height of her glory, is not to be compared; a power which has dotted over the surface of the whole globe with her possessions and military posts, whose morning drum-beat, following the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England."

This is the great Empire—greater to-day than in Webster's time—which has sometimes been described by foolish writers as in a state of decadence. There have been, even in America, vivid visions of Macaulay's New Zealander, seated upon Blackfriars' Bridge and gazing upon a dismantled St. Paul's. But if we believe in the truth of the great principles of the Christian religion, then "the secret of England's greatness" is not to be found in the magnificence and splendor of her empire, but, as Queen Victoria told the African chief, in that supreme revelation of God's will to man, from whence is derived the Christian civilization of the Anglo-Saxon everywhere; and may not Christian England still say:

> "O, God, our help for ages past,
> Our hope in years to come."

Sometimes, as one who is not *in* the Church so much as, I hope,

of the Church, I am amazed at the doubts and fears of those who peculiarly profess to be the servants of God by public identification with His Church. For myself, whatever be my perplexities upon formulas of faith, I can never doubt that so long as Englishmen and Americans preserve their Christian civilization, God will protect them, for they will be His chosen people.

A thousand years ago, Alfred the Great gave us what Lord Brougham said was the sum total of free government and liberty —trial by jury. A thousand years ago, King Alfred planted an Anglo-Saxon Tree of Liberty, beneath the wide-spreading branches of which millions of diverse races of men have found peace and shelter. This was no tree of liberty, to be planted with frantic fanaticism to day, and cut down with stupid execrations tomorrow. Our forefathers watched it with tender and constant solicitude, and we who enjoy its noble shade, revere it as among the most glorious heritages of the ages. There are no signs of decay about it, and it cannot fall for centuries yet, unless the axe of some ruthless foe should attempt to level it with the dust. But that is what will never happen, for were there any such danger, as firmly as I believe in the grand future of America, do I also believe that, in the hour of danger, there would be heard the commanding voice of Brother Jonathan:

> "Woodman, spare that tree,
> Touch not a single bough,
> In youth it sheltered me,
> And I'll protect it now."

But, more than this, I would remember that

> "This England never did, nor never shall
> Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror."

And if a supreme crisis were to come, the brave hearts of Old England would rally to her defence and

> "Come the three corners of the world in arms
> And we shall shock them. Nought shall make us rue
> If England to herself do rest but true."

Let not the world think that because England is a Christian country, anxious above everything to promote peace and fraternity among the peoples, that she is weak because she is Christian. The God of Battles still reigns, and the banners of His people shall ever be victorious. As General Garibaldi lately said, let a foreign invader approach the shores of England, and he would find forty millions of people in arms, with a volunteer service as well drilled and equipped as any standing army of any despot and nerved to victory with the sublime feeling of:—

"How can man die better
Than by facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers
And the temple of his gods."

Casual observers are apt to see the points of difference between Englishmen and Americans, but the longer I live on this side of the Atlantic, the more I am impressed with the fact that practically England is America and America is England. As Judge Story told Lord Morpeth, it is English law which rules throughout the broad domains of the great republic. English names, English faces, English fashions, English customs, English manufactures, abound everywhere. Of all the Presidents, only one, Van Buren, had a name which was not English; and he made up for that by the possession of a character which would have made him the model of an old English squire. American progress reminds us of the gigantic strides that England has made in our own day; while American sluggishness—and there is plenty of that, too,—is quite in accordance with English traditions. England may criticise America, and America may criticise England; and that again reminds us of home. Did you never hear of the great dispute betweed Leeds and Bradford, as to whether the description ought to be "Leeds near Bradford," or "Bradford near Leeds?" This was as hotly debated as were the Alabama claims. Did you never know that "Manchester men" and "Liverpool gentlemen" were anxious upon questions of precedence? Are you not aware that "the men of Kent" used to contest the supremacy of their county with the "Kentish men?" Thus England used to be divided by sentiment, but the men of Leeds and Bradford, of Manchester and Liverpool, and of Kent, were all Englishmen. So, my friends, it matters not in the future that we have minor differences, or whether America is stronger than England, or England than America—we are all Anglo-Saxons. The grandeur and glories of the imperial race to which we belong, will only gain in refulgence and power, now that the last bone of contention has been forever buried out of sight, and Anglo-Saxons—friends and brethren—stand shoulder to shoulder in the grand march of Christian civilization, and there shall be "peace on earth, good will towards man, and glory to God in the highest."

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