

GROVER CLEVELAND TALKS ON PHILIPPINES

Deplores the Campaign as Pregnant with Dire Consequences.

ALSO DENOUNCES BOER WAR

His Remarks Not Received with Unmixed Approval at Holland Society Dinner—Wedding Congratulations Sent to Queen Wilhelmina.

The Holland Society gave its sixteenth annual dinner last night at the Waldorf-Astoria, and the function was the largest in its history, nearly five hundred diners being at table. The principal feature of the dinner was the presence and address of ex-President Grover Cleveland, who, in speaking on "Conservatism," made his first public utterance on the Philippine question.

The ex-President said that with success in subjugating the islands a new, untried, and exceedingly perilous situation will be forced upon the Nation. "We can conquer the Philippines, and after conquering them can probably govern them," said he. "It is in the strain upon our institutions, the demoralization of our people, the evasion of our Constitutional limitations, and the perversion of our National mission that our danger lies.

"Our country will never be the same again. For weal or woe, we have already irrevocably passed beyond the old lines."

Mr. Cleveland also denounced the Boer war; declaring that the British, like the Americans, are killing natives in an effort to possess their land.

The large ballroom of the hotel in which the banquet was served looked like a Summer bower, the tables and walls being profusely decorated with greens and flowers. Above the seat of the Rev. Dr. Henry Van Dyke, the President of the society, hung the flag of the Netherlands entwined in loving folds with the Stars and Stripes, and these flags also decorated a large part of the dining hall. The boxes were filled with women in evening dress, who helped to give a cordial reception to the ex-President and lent a festive air to the occasion. Mrs. Cleveland, however, although she is in the city, was not present.

The dinner throughout breathed an air of sympathy with the Boers. The menu, the first that the Waldorf has printed entirely in Dutch, bore on its front cover portraits of Presidents Krüger and Steyn, and every mention of the South African republics brought forth a storm of applause. To the right of the Rev. Dr. van Dyck sat ex-President Cleveland, and on his left sat Tunis G. Bergen. The others at the main table were:

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| Dr. D. B. St. J. Roosa, | F. de Peyster Foster, |
| Louis Wiley, Society of | St. Nicholas Society, |
| the Genesee, | R. C. Ogden, Pennsyl- |
| T. H. Bartendale, Cana- | vania Society, |
| dian Society, | G. Lawyer of Albany, |
| M. I. Southard, Ohio So- | R. E. Roosevelt, Sons of |
| ciety, | the American Revolu- |
| F. J. de Peyster, So- | tion, |
| ciety of Colonial Wars, | William M. Polk, South- |
| Judge J. A. O'Gorman, | ern Society, |
| Friendly Sons of St. | Dr. A. H. Smith, |
| Patrick, | George G. Ward, Saint |
| Warner Van Norden, | George Society, |
| Hon. Chas. W. Dayton, | M. P. Ferris, Sons of |
| Wm. B. Duncan, St. An- | the Revolution, |
| drew's Society, | J. M. Van Hoosen. |
| Gen. T. H. Hubbard, | |
| New England Society, | |

When the "koffle" and cigars were under discussion the Rev. Dr. Van Dyke made his introductory address.

DR. VAN DYKE'S ADDRESS.

"One noteworthy feature of American social life in the nineteenth century," he said, "has been the growth of ancestral societies. They have become so numerous and various that about the only one now lacking is a Society of the Friendly Sons of Paradise, composed of direct descendants of Adam and Eve in the male line with the crest of an apple tree rampant, and a motto, 'Forgive your ancestors if you cannot forget them.' Some of these societies have done remarkable things in New York in the science of forestry of genealogical trees. I am reminded of a man whom I met on the street some time ago whose beaming face told me that something unusual had happened. I asked him the cause of his joy, and he replied proudly, 'I have just had an addition to my family.' I congratulated him and solicitously inquired if it was a boy or a girl. 'Neither,' he replied. 'A grandfather.' [Laughter.]

In speaking of New York Dr. Van Dyke said that it was Holland's discovery—Holland's gift to the New World—and that the descendants of the Dutch had a right to feel proud that their forefathers had placed this pearl in the country's diadem. Continuing, he said:

"New York has her faults and consequently her misfortunes. She is too tolerant always to be vigilant, too patient always to guard her own liberty. She suffers from depredators. She groans under the rule of absenteeism alike from Tloga and from Tipperary. But even her misfortunes cannot break her native strength, and with all her faults we love her still. Give her home rule. Let her own best citizens be her leaders and Governors. Ransom her municipal government. Free her from the yoke of politics, and let her conduct it as an honest business, and New York stands out as the imperial city of the continent, magnanimous as she is magnificent."

Following his address Dr. Van Dyke read the following, which, handsomely emblazoned and engrossed, will to-day be forwarded to Queen Wilhelmina of Holland on the occasion of her wedding:

To Her Majesty Wilhelmina of the House of Orange-Nassau, Queen of the Netherlands, by the Grace of God and with the Favor of all the People:

The Holland Society of New York, in the United States of America, desire to present your Majesty, on the occasion of your happy marriage, admiring felicitations and earnest wishes for the welfare and prosperity of yourself and your royal consort.

As the direct descendants of the men of the Netherlands who enjoyed, in the sixteenth century, the wise counsel, powerful protection, and heroic leadership of your famous predecessor, William of Nassau, Prince of Orange, we feel and acknowledge a debt of gratitude to your illustrious house. Many of the blessings of civil and religious liberty which we now possess in these United States are an inheritance and a fruitage from the principles clearly proclaimed and bravely defended by the great Stadholder of the United Netherlands.

In you, Madam, we recognize and honor the historic virtues of your ancient house: fearless courage, wise foresight, love of liberty, and devotion to duty, adorned now by a right royal womanhood, and crowned by the loyal affection of your people. To you, therefore, and to the Prince who has won your love, we send our respectful salutations on your wedding day.

May you live long and prosper, under the benediction of Almighty God. May your life be fruitful in benefits to your kingdom and its colonies, and so to the world. And may millions of grateful voices say of you:

"She wrought her people lasting good."

"Her Court was pure; her life serene;
God gave her peace; her land reposed;
A thousand claims to reverence closed
In her as mother, wife, and Queen."

Written at Nassau Hall, Princeton University, in the State of New Jersey, December the twentieth, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred. By order of the Holland Society of New York.

HENRY VAN DYKE, President.
THEODORE M. BANTA, Secretary.

There was a great burst of applause as Dr. Van Dyck sat down, and after the orchestra had played the Dutch national hymn he rose again to introduce ex-President Cleveland, who was down on the toast card to speak to "Dutch Dikes and Dams."

"It has been said," began Dr. Van Dyck, "that speech is silver and silence is golden, but there are men who know so well how to speak and to be silent that both speech and silence from them can be taken on a solid gold basis. [Great applause.] Once when we wanted a President to speak to us he had to decline because, as some one said at that time, the President of the United States was the hardest worked employe of the Government. We are glad that he is not now so busy. [Laughter.] He is here under duress to some extent, and he gave up the ducks for the Dutch."

men—but he really got both. He was promised that he would be given *carte blanche* in his address, and so he will speak on conservatism, of which no man better than he is able to speak."

A tremendous reception followed this introduction. Men and women alike rose and, waving handkerchiefs, shouted their reception to Mr. Cleveland. The ex-President read his address, and only once were there signs of disapproval. When he said that this country could never be the same again there were cries of "Oh! Oh!" which were continued when he said that, for weal or for woe, we had passed beyond old lines.

MR. CLEVELAND'S SPEECH.

Mr. Cleveland's address was as follows:

"The cordial welcome you extend to me is exceedingly grateful and comforting, for it gives me a grain of satisfaction in the ordeal that confronts me. I am convinced that the art of making an after-dinner speech without distress is for me a sealed book; and as the years pass, I am only saved from complete wretchedness in my efforts in that direction, by the kindness and toleration of those who are good enough to listen to me.

"I cannot resent the charge that I am apt to preach a sermon on occasions of this kind, for I am afraid this accusation is justified. It has been my lot to be much on the sober side of life, and to feel the pressure of great responsibilities. Besides, I believe it sometimes happens that an excess of light-hearted gaiety creates a condition of popular thought and impulse that may profitably be steadied by sedate suggestions and the expression of conservative sentiment—even though it may be called sermonizing. At any rate, I am quite willing to take an humble place among the sermonizers in this time of headlong National heedlessness, and to invoke the cultivation and saving grace of Dutch conservatism.

"This is the kind of conservatism that counts the cost, but for the sake of principle and freedom will disregard the cost; that lays out a voyage by chart and compass and follows chart and compass to the end; that loves the liberty and National happiness which rest upon tried and sure foundations; that teaches reverence for National traditions and encourages the people's satisfaction with their country's mission. It is the kind of conservatism in which our Constitution had its birth, and which has thus far been the source of our Nation's safety and strength—the conservatism of justice, of honor, of honesty, of industry, of frugality, and of contented homes.

"In this assemblage of those who know so well the meaning of these things, the question is suggested whether in present conditions this conservatism characterizes the conduct or guides the sentiment of our people. There can be but one answer to this question. Conservatism has in a great degree been jauntily cast aside, or condemned as opposed to our country's welfare and glory.

"A strange voyage has been entered upon without count of cost and without chart or compass. The tried and sure foundations of our liberty and National happiness have been discredited. Reverence for our National traditions has been relaxed, and satisfaction with our country's mission has been undermined. The restraints and limitations of our Constitution have become galling and irksome under the temptations of National greed and aggrandizement. Our old love of peace, honor, and justice has been weakened, and frugality and contentment are not now traits inseparable from American character.

"War, even with the world's advanced civilization, may still be sometimes necessary and justifiable, but whether necessary and justifiable or not, the demoralization that follows in its train can never be evaded. It teaches bloody instructions, which, in a country whose citizens do the fighting, can not fail to leave their impress, for a time at least, upon public and private life in time of peace.

ANGLO-AMERICAN ARBITRATION.

"Thirty years after the close of the war for the preservation of the Union a treaty of arbitration was formulated between the United States and Great Britain, which, if completed, would have gone far toward removing every pretext of war between the two countries. Thus these two great English-speaking nations then assumed leadership in the path of peace and in advocacy of the abolition of war—with the hope and expectation that the example would be followed by other nations, and that a more general adoption of arbitration as a means of settling international disputes would result in a great advance toward the abandonment of war throughout the world. This treaty failed of confirmation in the Senate of the United States.

"Less than five years passed, and these English-speaking champions of peace and arbitration are still operating in parallel lines—one in the Philippines and the other in South Africa—but no longer for peace and arbitration. Both are killing natives in an effort to possess their lands.

"This indicates a sad relapse, and in our case it is a most serious one. If England succeeds in her attempt in South Africa she will but add another to her list of similar acquisitions; a brave people will be subjugated, and because of our engagement in a similar venture in another quarter they will miss the expressions of American sympathy which we are accustomed to extend to those who struggle for national life and independence. On the other hand, with success in our subjugating effort, a new untried and exceedingly perilous situation will be forced upon us.

"We can conquer the Philippines, and after conquering them can probably govern them. It is in the strain upon our institutions, the demoralization of our people, the evasion of our Constitutional limitations, and the perversion of our National mission that our danger lies. As a distinguished Bishop has said, 'the question is not what we shall do with the Philippines, but what the Philippines will do to us.'

"Our country will never be the same again. For weal or woe we have already irrevocably passed beyond the old lines.

"The Republic will in some sort be saved. Shall it be only in name and semblance, with fair external appearance, but with the germs of decay fastened upon its vitals, or shall it, though changed, still survive in such vigor and strength as to remain the hope and pride of free Americans?

"The problem is a momentous one. Its solution depends upon the extent to which the old patriotism and good sense of our countrymen can be rescued from impending danger. Thus these are sober days for thoughtful citizens—days for preaching—days for sermonizing. If we are to be saved from disaster, it must be through the cultivation and enforcement of that sort of conservatism that should find a congenial home in the Holland Society.

"In the midst of reckless tumult and in the confused rage of national greed and bloodiness this conservatism should defiantly stand forth and demand a hearing. Let it be proclaimed that American freedom and popular rule cannot perish except through the madness of those who have them in their keeping; and by the blood and sacrifices of our fathers, by the lofty achievements of the free institutions they established, by our glorious victories of peace, and by our reliance on the promises of God, let Dutch conservatism enjoin upon our people a faithful discharge of their sacred trust."

Dr. Andrew Heermance Smith spoke to the toast, "Dutch Discoverers"; George Lawyer of Albany to the toast, "Dutch Destiny," and ex-Postmaster Charles W. Dayton to "Dutch Dames," which bore with it this sentiment:

"The heroines of Leiden, the matrons and maidens of New Netherland, and the gracious young Queen, the dawn of whose nuptial day is now irradiating the old Netherlands, are types of the fair women to whom we yield our homage, love, and admiration."