

HOLLAND SOCIETY'S WAR

Ex-Senator Vedder, the Regular Nominee, Becomes a Trustee.

Chairman Van Hoesen Rebukes Secretary Banta—Mr. Banta's Reply—Ex-Judge Van Wyck's Support.

There was war in the Holland Society last night. The members, wearing the orange usual upon the nights of their annual meetings, fiercely characterized each other as calumniators, defamers of a fellow-member, and in one case what might have been taken for the lie circumstantial was passed.

Ex-Judge Augustus Van Wyck, ex-Judge George M. Van Hoesen, and Theodore M. Banta did the characterizing; the other members took sides or tried to restrain the combatants, while Dr. Henry Van Dyke tried at frequent intervals to calm things down a bit. Meanwhile, there had been a heated debate.

Several days ago the members of the society received a circular signed with the name of the Secretary, Theodore M. Banta, saying that the Nominating Committee had decided to present the name of Arthur H. Van Brunt as Trustee in place of ex-Senator Commodore P. Vedder of Ellicottsville, Cattaraugus County.

Later, Mr. Banta explained that the notice had been sent out by him after consultation with other members, as it was a precedent that the Treasurer of the society should become a Trustee.

Last night's hostilities began when ex-Judge Van Hoesen took the floor as Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

"For the first time in sixteen years," said he, "there is a heated contest in the honorable society. Two ballots have been passed around. Secretary Banta has made a personal attack in a personal letter to me upon Mr. Vedder, the nominee of the Nominating Committee."

"He has said that Mr. Vedder was driven out of public life, he has denied to him the qualities of a gentleman. Mr. Banta said that Mr. Vedder was forced out of the Senate because of his attitude upon insurance matters."

"To have yielded to his demand that Mr. Vedder withdraw his name under these charges would have been cowardice. I investigated them. I found that every statement was absolutely without foundation. It is true that in 1891 he was defeated, but it is true that he ran in a strong Republican district. He was beaten by a trick."

"I do not believe that the constituency of Cattaraugus County would have nominated such a man as Mr. Banta makes him out to be. Two years after his defeat he was nominated for the Constitutional Convention by a larger vote than Root or Choate received."

"But Banta says, 'as an insurance man, I know what Vedder has done.' I have letters here from Richard A. McCurdy, President of the Mutual, and John A. McCall, President of the New York Life, speaking in the highest terms of Mr. Vedder."

Judge Van Hoesen found that he had left the letters in the coatroom, and went out to get them. As he stepped down from the platform several men addressed the Chair at once.

"Must we listen to such a speech, full of personalities?" demanded a voice, out of the confusion.

"The gentleman is speaking to nominations, and so far as I know, he is entirely in order," decided President Van Dyke.

Returning, Judge Van Hoesen read the letters. There was a slight applause at their conclusion.

"It is unfortunate," continued Judge Van Hoesen, "that Mr. Vedder is not here to-night to answer in person, but to-night he is in Chicago paying the last tribute of respect to his wife's father. All these things are not told you by Banta. He—"

"I object to these personalities as being unparliamentary," shouted a voice from the back of the room.

"The gentleman must be in order," said the Chair.

"What I was saying about Mr. Banta was an appeal from what he had said," hurriedly said Judge Van Hoesen. "Now, Mr. Van Brunt here—"

President Van Dyke interrupted: "Mr. Van Brunt has not been nominated yet. You must confine yourself to the nominations."

"Mr. Van Brunt is here now," said Judge Van Hoesen, "and I only wanted to say that he has been a good Treasurer and has had a great deal of work to do."

Judge Van Hoesen sat down amid a hubbub, and Secretary Banta got up with a copy of his ballot in his hands to make his nominations.

"I am no orator," he said, "as Mark Hanna is. I had not intended to make an attack upon Vedder. I am glad that Mr. Van Hoesen thinks him good. I am glad that he thinks him a man after his own heart, that his reputation in Albany is such that Van Hoesen envies him, and I may say that I am glad that Van Hoesen desires to have no higher reputation in New York than Vedder had in Albany."

"If you did not know what kind of a man Vedder is you have heard of him from Van Hoesen, and if he did not tell all perhaps it was his time was limited. Somebody said that on the list of the trustees of the Holland Trust Company there were five members of the Holland Society, and Vedder, if elected, would make six. It seemed too bad to me to have six from one company. But I find that after Vedder was elected trustee of the Holland Trust Company two of the others left. I have no doubt that Van Hoesen finds Vedder very useful in the Holland Trust Company and desires—"

"Personalities, personalities," loudly interrupted Judge Van Hoesen from his seat. "Withdraw them," advised several voices.

"I withdraw all those remarks," observed the Secretary. "But there's one thing that I think I may tell. No, I won't. Yes I will."

"I might tell you how Mr. Vedder went up to my chief, how he went to Mr. McCall, and tried to get him to make me favor him in this office."

"I deny it. It's not true," Judge Van Hoesen interjected.

Secretary Banta then nominated his ticket, which was similar to the regular ticket with the exception of the substitution of Arthur H. Van Brunt.

Ex-Judge Augustus Van Wyck wanted to know if seconding the nominations was in order.

The Chair recognized a number of members who seconded the nomination. Then Mr. Van Wyck took the floor.

"This contest is unseemly," he said. "It is unfavorable for the society. No one can say any more for Mr. Van Brunt than I can—"

"Are you speaking to the nominations?" demanded President Van Dyke.

"I am, Sir," returned Mr. Van Wyck, "but the Chair seems to be trying to limit and prescribe my form of speech. I regret that politics have been introduced here to-night. It seems from what has appeared that this is not only a political fight, but a political attack—"

"The gentleman will come to order," interrupted the Chair.

"I was speaking of the nominations," answered Mr. Van Wyck.

"Let me hear you do so, Sir," the Chair returned.

"I do not know Mr. Vedder, but I regret that two tickets have been named and that a single man has been singled out as being unfit. It's striking a man below the level. But this society will not permit a man's character to be thus taken away. I am glad that Mr. Vedder did not withdraw."

G. D. B. Hasbrouck said that he had known Mr. Vedder in the Senate, and that his record and character were beyond reproach. Others spoke in the same strain. Finally Louis B. Gaasbeek made himself heard above the clamor of his voice.

"Previous question," he shouted.

That closed the debate, and the vote was taken. It resulted in the election of Mr. Vedder. The vote was 74 to 67.

These are the new officers: President—John H. Starin; Secretary—Theodore M. Banta; Treasurer—Arthur Van Brunt; Trustees—Robert B. Roosevelt, John L. Riker, Robert A. Van Wyck, George G. De Witt, and Commodore P. Vedder.

GIFT FOR QUEEN WILHELMINA.

St. Nicholas Society to Send a Cup as a Marriage Gift—Banquets and Speeches.

Over 200 members of the St. Nicholas Society and their guests sat down to a "Paas," or Easter festival dinner, at Delmonico's last night. The large banquet hall was decorated with Dutch colors, but the principal feature of the occasion was the exhibition of the loving cup given by the society to Queen Wilhelmina of Holland as a wedding gift.

The cup, which was made by Tiffany & Co., stood on a large case in front of the electrically illuminated dais on which the guests of the evening sat. The cup is a fine piece of repousse and modeled work and stands, with base, about 20 inches in height. Its cover is surmounted by the Royal Arms of Holland. Around the cup are medallions, one showing the Half-Moon, the ship which brought over Henry Hudson, sailing

up the Hudson River, another an old view of Manhattan Island, showing Fort Amsterdam, the seal of New Netherland, and the St. Nicholas Society seal.

Running around the cup back of these are the ivy leaves of friendship; above are the heads of American eagles, with American pearls pendant from their beaks. Below the medallions festoons of roses encircle the cup. At the base are modeled in full relief the figures of St. Nicholas, Henry Hudson, and Peter Stuyvesant. The base is of wood from the old Middle Dutch Church of New York, which stood on the present site of the Mutual Life Building, on Nassau Street. The base bears a plate with the following inscription:

"To Her Gracious Majesty Queen Wilhelmina, A Marriage Gift from the St. Nicholas Society of New York, 1901."

An illuminated address accompanies the cup. The cup and address are inclosed in a handsome box of Texas vermilion wood, lined with royal orange velvet.

Frederic de Peyster Foster, the President of the society, presided. The guests were marched into the room by a trumpeter in orange and red costume and wearing a white wig, with acolytes, composed of colored men, dressed in red and yellow costumes. There were large cup pipes and Turkish tobacco for the guests.

Toastmaster Foster, in his opening address, pointed to the cup, and declared that it was a gift they were all proud of. He said that for the first time the address that accompanied the cup would be made public. It was written by Bishop Potter, one of the chaplains of the society. Mr. Foster read the address, which is as follows:

To Her Very Gracious Majesty, Queen Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands: Madama: The undersigned and their associates, citizens of the United States and members of the Society of St. Nicholas, approach your Majesty with the respectful homage and congratulations in view of your recent marriage; many of another hemisphere and nation than your own they are still in a very real sense, if they may venture to say so, of kin to both. It is their proud claim that they are of Dutch ancestors; that their forefathers laid the foundation of this great metropolis and planted the first Christian civilization on this island; they were men of Holland and of that courage, patience, large foresight and manly virtues; those rare men were bred in that land which to-day enjoys the happy privilege of your benignant rule.

The letter is a lengthy one, full of lofty phrases and touching references to the love the descendants of the Dutch bear to Holland's Queen. The letter ends:

Long live Queen Wilhelmina they call across the seas. God guard her throne, her people, and the good ideas for which they stand, pray your Majesty's most humble and respectful servants.

After the reading of the letter Baron Gevers, the Minister from Netherlands, made a brief response, thanking the St. Nicholas Society for its gift. He said that he wished that society might send a delegation with the cup to Holland.

District Attorney Philbin was called on for a speech, and told many stories. The Rev. Henry J. Van Dyke read a sarcastic poem which dealt with what St. Nicholas would say if he came to modern New York. Prof. Wilson Woodrow of Princeton College spoke of the tenacity of character of the Dutch. Gordon Knox Bell gave imitations of the speeches of President Eliot of Harvard College and Vice President Roosevelt. Others spoke.

CHICAGO ALUMNI BANQUET.

Dr. William Rainey Harper, President of the University of Chicago, was a guest last night at the third annual dinner of the Eastern Alumni Association of Chicago University at the Manhattan Hotel. Chancellor Henry M. MacCracken of the New York University was also a guest, and made a brief speech of welcome to the diners. Robert Bruce Smith, President of the association, presided.

President Harper spoke of the progress of the university, which, he said, had profited greatly in the efforts required to meet the conditions of certain of the latter gifts made it by John D. Rockefeller. Failure to have met them, he said, would have put the institution back years, while success gave it the greater confidence of the people of Chicago and extended its influence.

He said that in July a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the university proper, the beginning of the new institution, would take place when the cornerstones of ten new buildings would be laid, adding about 40 per cent. to the present building equipment of the university.

Chancellor MacCracken made a few remarks about the purity of the educational institutions. He said he believed they stood on a plane equal in height to that of the higher courts and the Church, and that the talk of commercialism in scholastic life was nonsensical.

Others who talked were H. C. Mabie, W. C. Bitting, Prof. Eben C. Sage of Yale, and Milo B. Price of Worcester, Mass.

OLD MAN'S QUEER ESCAPE.

Rescued from a Burning Building, He Returned to It to Sleep.

An explosion of chemicals in the basement of the two-story frame house at 761 Metropolitan Avenue, Williamsburg, early yesterday morning did considerable damage to the building and caused much excitement in the neighborhood. The building was occupied by Joseph Lippe, seventy years old, a manufacturer of patent medicines. Lippe did his manufacturing in the basement, and used the first floor for storerooms, while he had his living apartments on the top floor.

Lippe, who lived alone, was asleep in the building when the explosion occurred, and was rescued in an unconscious condition by Fireman John Walker, a member of Salvage Corps No. 1. Dr. Hoyt of St. Catharine's Hospital responded to a call for an ambulance, and Lippe was restored to consciousness with difficulty. During the excitement of the fire Lippe disappeared, and was discovered later in his room. He had gone back into the building while it was still burning and gone to sleep. He was routed out by the firemen.

The loss on stock is placed at \$1,000, and on the building \$500. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

TENANTS SAVED FROM FIRE.

Fire was discovered at 12:10 o'clock this morning in a vacant flat on the second floor of the five-story building, 157 West One Hundred and Eleventh Street, by Mrs. Louise Verbeck, who lives on the floor above.

She was roused by the smoke, and going into the hall saw the flames. She ran up and down through the house rousing the tenants, and the firemen arriving, took everybody in the building to the street. The blaze was put out with a total damage of \$500.

The fire is believed to have been the work of an incendiary, as earlier in the evening several persons heard footsteps in the empty rooms in which it started.