

# HERALD EXTRA.

[Reported for the HERALD by J. B. Cooper, Esq.]

## SPEECHES

DELIVERED AT THE DEJEUNER IN HONOR OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 2, 1868.

The Hon. JOSEPH HENSLEY, Attorney General, on rising, as President, to propose the first toast of the evening, said he had an agreeable duty to perform. Her Majesty the Queen was now in the thirty-second year of her reign, and it was his first and most pleasing duty, as a British subject, to propose "The health of Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family." In doing so, however, he might be permitted to say that this was a toast in which their distinguished guests would, he felt assured, join as heartily and enthusiastically as they could themselves. The manner in which Her Majesty had discharged her public duties, and the unblemished excellence of her private life, had not only endeared her to her own subjects, but had secured for her also the admiration and respect of the civilized world, and especially, he believed, of the Great Republic. As regarded the people of P. E. Island, a more loyal people he had never known; and, as manifesting Her Majesty's gracious sentiments towards them, they had been honored on two separate occasions by the personal visits of their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh. Her Majesty, he repeated, was everywhere respected as a woman and as a Queen, but more especially as the warm friend of America. He knew, therefore, that there was not one among them that evening who would not heartily join them in drinking "The health of Her Majesty and all the Royal Family."

This toast having been "enthusiastically honored," "God save the Queen" was played in good style by Mr. Galbraith's Brass Band.

Mr. Hensley said the next toast he had to propose was "The President of the United States." In proposing such a toast as that their American guests would, he had no doubt, remember that in this matter of drinking healths at least, there was a marked distinction to be drawn between American citizens and British subjects—theirs was an elected head, whilst ours was an hereditary monarch. When, therefore, it was proposed by British subjects to drink the health of the President of the United States, it was simply intended as a recognition of, and a compliment to, the great country of which he was, for the time being, the recognized head. It was one of the undoubted rights and privileges of the people of this Island freely to discuss the current events of the day. A diversity of opinion would, therefore, be the natural result; and the feelings of British subjects would sometimes be enlisted on the one side and sometimes on the other. But of this he was quite certain—there was but one wish, one general sentiment in P. E. Island, and that was, that happiness and prosperity might attend the American people in all their undertakings.

This toast was also duly honored, the band afterwards playing the air, "Yankee Doodle."

The Hon. EDWARD PALMER, Vice President, on being called upon by the Chairman (Mr. Hensley) to propose the next toast, said it afforded him much pleasure to comply with the request. He was sorry, however, that His Excellency the Lieut. Governor was not then in the Island, for, had he not been absent, they would, he had no doubt, have been honored with his company on that occasion. Mr. Dundas was a member of a very distinguished Scotch family. He had been, for several years, the head of the Government of P. E. Island; and he had on all public occasions shown himself a true friend of the people. The political principles by which he was actuated as a public man were strictly constitutional; and his desire evidently was, that every privilege to which, as British subjects, the people of this Island were entitled, should be conceded to them. He (Mr. Palmer) again regretted that the Lieut. Governor should have been prevented from dispensing the hospitalities of Government House, as the representative of their beloved Queen, to the guests to do honor to whom they had that evening met together. He hoped, however, that the visit of the eminent men to whom he alluded would not be the last of the kind they were destined to receive from the Great Republic; but that, on some future occasion, the Lieut. Governor of this Island would be found among the first to avail himself of his official position to extend his well-known hospitality, with every mark of courtesy and respect, to such gentlemen as those whom they then had the honor and the privilege to entertain. Mr. Palmer then proposed "The health of Lieut. Governor Dundas."

Having been honored in the usual style, this toast was followed by the air, "Auld Lang Syne."

The Chairman (Mr. Hensley) said the next toast was one that would, he thought, provoke a speech from at least one of the members of the delegation, although the toast of "The Congressional Committee," he observed, stood as the fourth toast in the programme that had been placed in his hands. He, nevertheless, thought they would get a speech from one of those gentlemen in response to the toast he was then about to propose, viz: "The Congress of the United States." Our Island Legislature would but very feebly compare with that of the United States; but, insignificant as we were we still thought a good deal of ourselves, and it was quite right and natural that we should do so; for a man who thought but little of himself, and a people who thought but little of themselves, would most probably be thought but little of by other people. That P. E. Island was, however, deemed worthy of some consideration, was quite clear, for they were honored with the presence that evening of a Committee of the Congress of the United States, who had been appointed with the special object of instituting certain inquiries respecting matters intimately connected with their interests and Island interests. They had with them, moreover, as Chairman of that Committee, Gen. Butler, a man whose reputation was at once military, senatorial, and forensic; Judge Poland, who, for nineteen years, was Chief Justice of the State of Vermont; the Hon. James Beck, a distinguished lawyer, and a member of Congress for the State of Kentucky; and the Hon. B. H. Derby, who was also a distinguished member of the American Bar and an eminent financier. They had with them, too, Major Ruy Diaz-de-Kay, who, not satisfied with the military glory acquired in his own country by long service in the field, had lately distinguished himself and been wounded whilst fighting for the Greeks. They ought, therefore, to consider this visit as a great compliment. They had in fact, been treated by the Congress of the United States almost as if they were a small nation. They had made this Island—small as it was—the subject of a separate Resolution and a separate Committee; and he fervently hoped, nay, he believed that good would come out of it. One effect of all this would, at all events, be the bringing of this Island into a more prominent position than it had heretofore occupied. They could not do less, therefore, than drink "The Congress of the United States," coupling therewith the name of General Butler, as one of its most distinguished members.

Having been duly honored, "Hail Columbia" was played by the Band. After which,—

Gen. BUTLER said it became him, in the first place, to discharge an imperative duty, and, at the same time, a most grateful task, viz: to thank the gentlemen present for the very distinguished manner in which they had received the deputation of which he was the chairman. The reception they had met with could not fail to make the deepest impression on all their hearts, and they would allow him to say that, in coming to this Island, they came not with any desire of hope, or with to interfere with the happy relations subsisting between this Colony and the Mother Country. They came simply to consider the best means of fostering their mutual interests and adjusting existing tariffs, so that both countries might reap the largest amount of advantage from the free interchange of their respective commodities. They had come to us first because they recognized this Island as holding the key of the fisheries, lying, as it did, like a tongue in the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to dictate terms with respect to that most important interest. They came to us, further, because they were not likely to create complications such as must, of necessity, be raised when the question of Reciprocity came to be dealt with in connection with the neighbouring Provinces. Here they found the most fertile soil in America, not excepting even the prairies of the West. Here was everything that could be desired in the way of raising immense quantities of valuable products. Why then should not the best markets be secured for those products? Much of the arid and rugged lands in the Eastern States could only be turned to profitable account by Yankee energy and enterprise, whose manufactories gave employment to large numbers and increased the wealth of the nation generally, and whose productions they would gladly exchange for the productions of this Island. They had come to see this fine country, and they had, amongst other things, ob-

served that large numbers of Yankee fishermen were now upon these coasts. These hardy fishermen had left their own granite cliffs for the purpose of prosecuting the fisheries, but they had not, he feared, always kept strictly outside of the three-mile line. The delegation came here not to ask that hospitality which Americans had always received in this country, but to ask, as a right, to be allowed to come into the harbors of this Island whenever it might be found necessary, to fish within the three-mile limits, and to exchange the productions of both countries whenever it might be advantageous to both parties to do so. They wanted to get all this, and nothing more. He (Gen. Butler) had a complaint to make against our Queen—it was this: no Sovereign had done so much to damage Republicanism as Queen Victoria. The beauty of her private life—the influence of her example—and the many estimable qualities of mind and heart which she possessed, and manifested on all suitable occasions, had rendered tolerable to the Republic of the West, to some extent at least, a Kingly Government. Coming to this Island with interests and interests of this description, and with the object of gathering such information to lay before the Congress of the United States, as might lead to the happiest results, the delegation found themselves face to face with the descendants of the same great country with themselves. Surely they could not be expected to forget their common language and their common literature, Shakespeare, Milton, Byron, and Moore were viewed as the common property of both nations. Franklin, Fulton, Arkwright, Watt, and Stevenson were also considered as common property. "The Mother Country to you," said Gen. Butler, "is the Mother Country to us;" and although, in early days, the American people were, perhaps, a little forward—a little rebellious even—they would, he hoped, excuse the energy so early manifested, or, if not, attribute their defects to the noble Anglo Saxon race from which they sprang. They had, at all events, shewn the world what English, Scotch and Irishmen could do in a new country. They had shewn the world an army, 1,500,000 strong, arrayed on one side only. Having accomplished its work they had seen that immense army melt away like a snow flake, the individuals of whom it was composed again becoming citizens, and all the better citizens for having once been good soldiers. They would also shew the world in the coming year, the iron road stretching across from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The iron horse would start, panting, from the shore of the Pacific and not stop till it had quenched its thirst in the waters of the Atlantic. They could shew the world the Chinese Empire, a thousand—nay, two thousand miles distant, finding them out and knocking at their gates; the Chinese Emperor sending an Ambassador to treat with the United States on commercial matters,—to treat with Great Britain next. The claims were much stronger here,—those now present were of the same blood, possessed of the same manly independence, and ought, therefore, cheerfully to hold out the hands of amity. Why not? How could reciprocity be brought about? There was, he doubted not, a reciprocity of feeling already existing; but suppose it was permitted to them, amid the darkening shades, to scan the future with the eye of prophecy—suppose they looked forward into futurity, to what people should it be given to spread their dominion throughout this western world? Look at Spain, fresh from the wars with the Moors, landing where nature had made an earthly paradise, and yet her Colonies dwindled away and became nations in name merely. France, somewhat more fortunate, established herself in San Domingo. From P. E. Island, and Louis-burg, in Cape Breton, to the mouth of the Mississippi, nearly all was her own. But she was driven out. In San Domingo the blacks revolted, and your fathers and ours took Louis-burg and P. E. Island from the French. So that for all practical purposes the great section that had gone up had been that portion that was first conquered by the Anglo Saxon race; and from these premises he ventured to predict that this Western Continent was to be governed by that race,—by the descendants of the men who had come out from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and by no others. Allow me to give, as a toast—

"The British Empire and the United States: Acting together in unity, peace, and concord, it is due to their common origin and common language that they should occupy, subdue, and govern this Western World."

The Hon. Mr. Hensley, on rising to propose the next toast, remarked that they had the pleasure of listening to one of their most distinguished guests (Gen. Butler); but he thought it would hardly be right to allow the other of those gentlemen to depart without hearing from him also. He alluded to the Hon. Judge Poland, of Vermont. So comfortable did the learned Judge feel, that he left his home, and had been on the Island several days, although he was a candidate, no farther back than the day previous, for re-election to Congress. Owing to the telegraphic cable being broken, he did not then know whether he was in or out; but he believed he was quite sure of being returned with a very comfortable majority of 40,000 or 50,000. And they had another representative to Congress present (Mr. Beck), who could also speak for himself. He would, therefore, cut his remarks short by proposing "The Congressional Committee," coupling therewith the Hon. Judge Poland and the Hon. Mr. Beck.

The Hon. Judge POLAND, formerly Chief Justice of the State of Vermont, and a member of Congress, remarked that the duty of responding to this toast more properly devolved upon Gen. Butler, as Chairman of the Congressional Committee, than upon himself; but, as Gen. Butler had already spoken in response to another toast, he (Judge Poland) would endeavor, however imperfectly, to take his place on that occasion. The present delegation was entirely owing to the Chairman (Gen. Butler,) who represented the great fishing interests of Massachusetts, etc. In making up Committees of Congress, it was the duty of the Speaker to see that, as far as possible, all parts of the country were represented. That officer, accordingly, quite unexpectedly placed him (Judge Poland) up on the Committee, and simply, he supposed because he happened to represent an interior district, but whose population had very little to do with the fisheries, and in which, consequently, they took but little interest. The delegates were, however, he said, very pleasantly pleased with their visit to P. E. Island. Indeed, their visit had been a continual source of astonishment to them from the hour of their arrival to that moment. It was no compliment to him, he said, nor to those who heard him, to say that, when he embarked on this expedition, he was entirely ignorant of everything, save the mere knowledge of its geographical position, connected with this Island or its inhabitants. But when, on reaching its shores, their eyes beheld this fine agricultural country,—when they beheld it peopled with such a fine race of men,—everything in short, so widely different from what they had expected to find in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, their astonishment was greater than he could undertake to describe. Since his arrival, he had been naturally led to inquire into the state of the Judiciary and the Public School system of this Island, and he was astonished at the state of advancement—nay of perfection—at which the Colony had arrived with reference to both these important matters. But more especially was he astonished when he learned how they had dealt with the land titles of the Colony. A tenantry on a large scale was totally unadapted to this side of the Atlantic,—in America every man's house was, or ought to be, his home, and his farm his kingdom. They had the same difficult question to deal with in the United States, and in some cases it was not settled yet; when, however, he found that this little Colony had grappled with this question, and had come off conqueror, he was, he would again say, perfectly lost in amazement. With all these things they had been highly pleased. And they found assembled there that evening a set of brothers who had descended from the same ancestry as themselves,—members of the same great family,—in reality and in substance an independent people; for theirs was a Government of the people,—precisely what the American Government was. The interests of both countries were identical, and the delegates came here to promote that fraternal feeling which ought to exist, in all essential particulars, between the people of the Colonies and the people of the United States. They came to this Island with no narrow jealousies; they had looked in vain for any on the side of those whom he now addressed; and their present visit would, he trusted, result in a further and still more intimate acquaintance. Although he took no credit to himself for initiating the present movement, he would, he said, be the pioneer in a system of excursions which would, he had no doubt, be mutually beneficial. The wealthier portion of the inhabitants of the American cities were accustomed, during the heat of summer, to visit certain fashionable places of resort,—such as Saratoga, the White Mountains, etc., but he had seen sufficient to induce him to affirm that this Island was far better adapted for such excursions than the places to which he had just referred; and al-

though not hitherto a leader, he would himself become one in that enterprise, and would, if spared, most certainly re-visit this Island next summer.

Mr. BECK, Member of Congress for Kentucky, on being called upon by the Chairman, also responded to the toast in a very pleasing and agreeable manner. He agreed with Judge Poland in thinking that it was difficult to tell why either of them had been put upon the Congressional Committee appointed to visit this Island. What he desired to say, however, was this, that although not familiar with trade and the question of the fisheries, he was quite unprepared to find such men and especially such women as they had found in this out-of-the-way corner of the world. They would, he was sure, pardon the allusion to the fair sex, when he told them that Kentuckians, but especially Scotchmen, had an amiable weakness in that direction; and, whatever might be his other failings, he would be able on his return, to tell the people of the State he had the honor to represent that they had seen a people who were worthy of their friendship and esteem; that they had found here an Island that was capable of producing what no other portion of America, perhaps, could produce with equal facility; that the people of this Island raise in abundance just what the American people want; who, in their turn, can furnish in equal abundance the very articles that are wanted here. And for whatever sacrifices the people of this Colony might be disposed to make, in order to secure reciprocal free trade with the United States, they would, he felt assured, be compensated ten-fold by the latter. He (Mr. Beck) had seen a telegram, since his arrival in P. E. Island, by which he was informed that the British Minister at Washington (Mr. Thornton) and Mr. Seward, were just now engaged in negotiations for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, to embrace all the Provinces of British North America. "Let them do it," said Mr. Beck, "but let them see to it that they do it well." The people of the Western States had no particular interest in this question of Reciprocity. Nevertheless, an injury could not be inflicted on New England without injuring Kentucky also. The delegates could go to those who sent them to this Island, and tell them what its people were prepared to give in exchange for the privileges they wished to obtain, and if they could be convinced that the arrangement would be mutually advantageous, their wishes would, doubtless, be acceded to. The desire of the Western States was to establish free trade with all nations—in short, to be permitted to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets. This Island was a part of that Empire on which "the sun never sets," and that great nation and the United States were bound together by bands stronger and more enduring than those which formerly bound the thirteen Colonies to the Mother Country. Americans had never lost sight of the fact, that they were the descendants of the same common ancestry with the inhabitants of these British colonies. They looked back to the authors of Magna Charta with the profoundest veneration; and the common law of England and trial by jury were regarded by them—equally with British subjects everywhere—as the palladium of their civil rights and liberties; whilst Shakespeare, Milton, Fulton, Watt, and Franklin, were looked upon as the property of both nations. After some additional observations, and the quotation of a stanza or two, which elicited great applause, but which did not reach the reporter's ear very distinctly, Mr. Beck proposed as a sentiment:—

"The Common Law of England—its rights and liberties."

FREDERICK BRECKEN, Esquire, on being called upon by the Chairman, said that he could have wished, after the eloquent and very cosmopolitan speech of the honorable gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Beck), to which they had just been listening, to have been spared the necessity of offering any remarks on that occasion. He knew, however, that the high appreciation of the Common Law of England which Mr. Beck had expressed was common to the more intelligent portion of the American people. That Hon. gentleman had remarked, he believed, that it was upon the Common Law that the rights and liberties of both Britain and America were mainly based, an opinion in which he (Mr. Brecken) heartily concurred. The principal difference between the two nations appeared to him (Mr. Brecken) to be simply this: whilst British subjects live contented, happy, and prosperous under a limited monarchy, that under which the American people flourished was Republican. The two peoples had a great deal in common as well as their origin. It was therefore no common sentiment that the most friendly relations ought always to subsist between two nations so closely allied, and it ought always to be their most earnest desire and prayer that the flags at that moment so gracefully suspended over their heads might always be seen in the most friendly companionship. Mr. Beck had remarked also that the Great Charter had been achieved by Britain long before the war that ended in the separation of the thirteen Colonies from the Mother Country; and he did not say too much when he affirmed that the two nations were the representatives and the embodiment of true liberty. He (Mr. Brecken) believed that the Queen of England was as dearly loved by her subjects as was the memory of George Washington by American citizens. Perhaps the former were a little more democratic in their notions than the latter. At all events, a Cabinet could never be seen in Britain sitting for four years in direct opposition to the wishes of a Parliamentary majority, as was sometimes the case, he believed, in the United States. The toast proposed by Mr. Beck had reference to the Jurists of Great Britain, but on this point he would say but little. It might serve the purposes of some to depreciate or seek to undervalue the legal profession; but it happened, curiously enough, that on the Congressional Committee, then with them, three were lawyers, and of whom had filled the important position of Chief Justice of the State of Vermont. It would thus be seen in what estimation gentlemen of the legal profession were held by their neighbours the Americans. The truth was, that the battle of Constitutional liberty had been fought in America, as well as in Britain, by lawyers; and the present day some gentlemen of that profession had not only greatly distinguished themselves in the Senate and at the Bar, but had recently been engaged fighting their country's battles with equal bravery on the battlefield, one of whom (Gen. Butler) was present with them that evening. Amongst their other guests on that occasion, he was also happy to recognize several members of the legal profession; and it would be generally admitted, he thought, that no other class of men had labored more zealously for the achievement of national liberty, and for the advancement of the social interests of mankind, than lawyers. In proof of his assertions he only deemed it necessary to mention the names of Lords Campbell and Brougham in England, and Judge Storey in America. He would not, however, weary their patience much further, as they were still to be addressed by several gentlemen whose presence with them that evening they were all very justly proud of. He hoped these gentlemen would carry back with them to the United States a high impression of P. E. Island and its resources. With respect to Reciprocity, what was there, he would ask, to prevent its re-establishment? They all spoke the same language,—had one common ancestry, one history, one literature. Americans lived and died under the Stars and Stripes, and the inhabitants of these Colonies lived and died under the Union Jack of Old England; and he did most sincerely hope that the result of the negotiations and investigations now in progress would be the speedy re-establishment of those reciprocal relations that had formerly proved so beneficial to the interests of all parties. The people of this Colony had a keen appreciation of that off-handed manner in which intelligent Americans were wont to deal with such questions as Reciprocal Free Trade, and wished to know why they should not be permitted to re-establish those commercial relations with the neighbouring Republic under which they had undoubtedly flourished and prospered greatly. What caused the loss to Britain of the thirteen Colonies but the arbitrary conduct and stupidity of George III. and Lord North? It would also be recollected that there were in the British Parliament of that day a Lord Chatham and an Edmund Burke, who fought as sternly, as unflinchingly, and as eloquently for the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers as any man on this side of the Atlantic could have done; but George III. and the Grenvilles triumphed, and, in doing so, lost forever by far the richest portion of England's vast possessions in America.

"The Executive and Legislative Councils of P. E. Island," the next toast on the programme, was proposed by General Butler,—and the Chairman called upon the Hon. Mr. Haythorne, a member of both Bodies, to respond thereto.

The Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE expressed his surprise, on being called upon by the Chairman to return thanks for