

Address of Welcome in behalf of the Elks' Reunion Committee and
Lodge No. 99, B. P. O. E.-----Motley H. Flint

Contralto Solo-----Miss Lillian Scanlan

Address of Welcome in behalf of the City of Los Angeles-----
-----Mayor George Alexander

Song—Quartette-----Elks' Quartette of Spokane Lodge No. 228

Address in Behalf of the State of California-----
-----Governor Brother James N. Gillett

Response on Behalf of Grand Lodge-----Brother Rush L. Holland
Grand Exalted Ruler B. P. O. Elks

America-----Orchestra and Audience

The Response and Annual Address on behalf of the Grand Lodge by Grand Exalted Ruler Rush L. Holland was as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of California, and Fellow Wanderers far from home, and yet, tonight, at home within the hospitable walls of this beautifully bedecked city,—I greet you, one and all:

In the name of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and on behalf of the three hundred and odd thousand members of our Fraternity, I humbly beg to thank the people of California and of Los Angeles, for the fervor and cordiality of the welcome to which such eloquent expression has been given.

When Caesar led his cohorts back to Rome, triumphant from campaign and siege, and bloody conflict, with captives at his wheels, he rode his chariot with less of pride than comes to me tonight as I stand before you, the leader of an army of three hundred thousand strong, tried and proven true as was no army ever led by Caesar, which with Fidelity is fighting in the cause of humanity under banners inscribed to Charity, Justice and Brotherly Love, and whose battle cry is an echo from the Sermon on the Mount. (Applause.)

Had we brought with us hearts carved from the marble of the Alleghenies or from the granite of the Rockies, ere this they would have been quickened by your greetings to responsive pulsations.

I am impressed that our coming bears at least one analogy to the return of the prodigal son, in that we have come to feast on the fatted calf of hospitality. Now that we are here, let the slaughter proceed. (Laughter and Applause.)

This is indeed a most happy and auspicious occasion. We are pleased to come here and meet you people of the east in your far western home. We are glad of the opportunity to learn by actual observation what degree of credence may safely be placed in the reports which you have sent back to us of this land, pictured more wonderful by far than that fabled land of old which flowed with honey, milk and

with wine. We are not all from Missouri. (Laughter.) We all possess, however, that characteristic which has made the Missourian famous. (Laughter and applause.) I congratulate you on the manner in which you have "shown us", up to the present time, and no fears are entertained as to what the succeeding days of the week may hold in store.

It is indeed gratifying to be convinced in this practical way that you still worship the household gods you brought with you across plain and mountain and desert into this Garden of Eden, where I am fully persuaded the tempter cometh not and where the avenging sword of flame shall never be unsheathed. We are ready to believe of this land all you claim for it, and as its beauties and grandeur unfold before our wondering gaze, the mistake of Moses in locating the Promised Land assumes the proportions of an egregious blunder. (Laughter and Applause.)

"Though one thing for Moses might be said,
That he, as well as the Israelites, was led,
For had he but seen California's shore
Canaan would have looked good to him no more."

(Laughter and applause.)

This is indeed a wonderful land, peopled by wonderful people. We are really proud of you and of what you have been able to accomplish since you took your departure a few years ago from the parental roof. You may be inclined to resent our claim upon you as our offspring. It is indeed an ungrateful child that denieth its own parent. And then, it may be because we do not know all about you that we so proudly proclaim the nearness of our kinship. (Laughter.) I understand that you have quite a flourishing society out here, the members of which boast that they are native sons of California. (Laughter.) Why, bless your souls, you cannot trace your lineage back of one generation without running into "the fust families of Virginia, sah". (Laughter.) Or into the Dutch of Pennsylvania (Applause) or the Yankee of New England (Applause) to say nothing of the Scotch, nor yet of the Irish, who, so far as I have been able to learn, are people claiming no permanent abiding place. (Applause and laughter.) Native sons, I glory in your pride of state, but you need not be ashamed of your ancestors nor the states from which they came. (Applause.) Of course, it is a bit difficult at times out in this western country to trace family names back very far. Being a western man myself, I have experienced the embarrassment attendant on the suggestive and altogether impertinent inquiry as to what my name was before I sought refuge in the wilds of Colorado. (Laughter.)

Our friends of the east sometimes delight to jibe us in this way, but all that is neither here nor there. While they have been peacefully dreaming their lives away, unconscious that there are still new worlds to conquer, we of the west have been building empire upon empire, and the people of no state have builded wiser and better than have you in this land of mystery and magic. (Applause.)

While state lines divide our lands, thank God no state lines divide our hearts and sympathies. East, West, North and South—we are one people, bound together by the golden chain of Fraternity, more securely than if held in fetters of iron. Yes, we are one people; we worship one God; we have one common country! and we know one, and but one, allegiance! (Applause.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

Yes, Mr. Governor, we are glad to be in California tonight, but Mr. Mayor, we are especially glad to be in Los Angeles. I have understood that your name, translated somewhat liberally perhaps, signifies the "City of the Angels". As I look about me tonight I am convinced. (Applause and Laughter.) You must not, however, forget that we brought some of them along with us. (Applause and laughter.)

It may be thought by some heartless individual that, looking to the uncertainties of the hereafter, so many Elks having succeeded in getting into the "City of the Angels", it might be well to see that the gates are securely locked. Speaking for myself, you are privileged to lock them, bolt and bar them and then lose the key. (Applause.) I should ever wish to depart, which now seems to me highly improbable, I know that I would only have to appeal to your generosity which also would protect me from an invitation to depart.

It was Pericles, I think, who said of Athens that she alone of all her contemporaries, was better than the report of her. These are the words, and this the sentiment woven into the garland which I, tonight place upon the brow of this fair city as I kneel to kiss her proffered hand in token of an Elk's appreciation. (Prolonged applause.)

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