

"Celebration of the Iowa Territorial Temperance Society," January 2, 1840

Celebration of the Iowa Territorial Temperance Society.

According to previous notice given, the Iowa Territorial Temperance Society met in the Hall of the House of Representatives, on Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 1839. The exercises commenced by the choir singing the following:

Land of Columbia! awake from thy slumbers,
Awake! for thy foe is oppressing thee sore;
Down the dark stream of Intemp'rance what numbers,
Are urging their way to Eternity's shore!
Land of Columbia! awake from thy slumbers,
Awake, e'er thou fall to recover no more.

Land of Columbia! thy sons are enslaved,
A tyrant infernal has bound them in chains;
Arise in thy might, let thy children be saved,
Expel the dread foe from thy mountains and plains,
Land of Columbia! thy sons are enslaved,
Awake, e'er they sink where despair every reigns.

Land of Columbia! thy daughters are wailing,
The ruin of husbands and sons they deplore;
By grievous oppression, their sad hearts are quailing
In piteous accents thy help they implore.
Land of Columbia! thy daughters are wailing,
Awake to their rescue from rum's deadly power.

Land of Columbia! thy children are groaning,
With alcohol's victims the dungeons are filled;
In chains here the captive his wretchedness mourning,
Till all his complaints in death's silence are still'd.
Land of Columbia! thy children are groaning,
O! dry up the source whence their tears are distill'd.

Land of Columbia! the morning hath gleamed,
The day-star of temp'rance ascendeth the skies;

Awake to the light that from heaven hath beamed,
No more let the darkness o'ershadow thine eyes.
Land of Columbia! the morning hath gleamed,
Now, hail its bright rays with soul-cheering cries.

Land of Columbia! awake to thy glory!
And let thy blest influence be felt the world o'er!
Awake, till intemperance be known but in story,
Awake, till its woes shall oppress thee no more!
Land of Columbia! awake to thy glory!
Awake !! and the foe shall oppress thee no more.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Clark, of Fort Madison. The executive committee, by their chairman Gen. J.D. Learned, presented a report which was, on motion, referred to a select committee of three -- Messrs. Learned, Clark and Edwards, composing said committee.

The following hymn was then sung by the choir.
How long shall virtue languish?
How long shall folly reign
While many a heart with anguish
Is weeping o'er the slain?
How long shall dissipation
Her deadly waters pour,
Throughout this favored nation,
Her millions to devour?

When shall the veil of blindness
Fall from the sons of wealth,
Restoring human kindness
And industry, and health?

When shall the charms so luring,
Of bad example cease;
The ends at once securing,
Of industry and peace?

We hail with joy unceasing
The band whose pledge is given;
Amid the smiles of heaven;
Their virtues never failing,
Shall lead to brighter days,
When holiness prevailing,
Shall fill the earth with praise.

The following communication and resolutions, presented by P. Viele, Esqr of Fort Madison, were received and adopted:-

At a regular meeting of the Lee county Temperance Society, held on the 5th day of December, 1839, the following resolutions were passed,

1st Resolved, That this Society become auxiliary to the Territorial Temperance Society at Burlington.

2d. Resolved, That the Rev. J.A. Clark, Philip Viele, Esqu. and S. B. Ayres, be appointed delegates to represent this Society in the Territorial Temperance Society, on the 25th inst.

S.B. AYRES, President.

On motion of General Learned,
Resolved, That after singing the following hymn and prayer, we adjourn to meet again this evening, at half past six o'clock.

Friends of Freedom! swell the song;
Young and old, the strain prolong,
Make the temp'rance army strong,

And on to victory.
Lift your banners, let them wave,
Onward march a world to save ;
Who would till a drunkard's grave,
And bear his infamy ?

Shrink not when the foe appears;
Spurn the coward's guilty fears;
Hear the shrieks, behold the tears
Of ruin'd families!

Raise the cry in every spot --
"Touch not - Taste not - Handle not."
Who would be a drunken sot,
The worst of miseries?

Give the aching bosom rest;
Carry joy to every breast;
Make the wretched drunkard blest,
By living soberly.
Raise the glorious watchword high-
"Touch not - taste not till you die!"
Let the echo reach the sky,

And earth keep jubilee.

God of mercy! hear us plead,
For thy help we intercede;
See how many bosoms bleed!
And heal them speedily.

Hasten, Lord, the happy day,
When, beneath thy gentle ray,
Temp'rance all the world shall sway.
And reign triumphantly.

ROBERT LUCAS, President.

Prayer by H. Robb, Esq.

J.M. ROBERTSON, Secretary.

Wednesday evening, December 25th, 1839.

Society again was convened, according to adjournment -- was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Batchelder. Singing by the choir. The select committee, to whom was referred the report of the executive committee, by their chairman General Learned, presented a report accompanied by an address to the people of Iowa, which was adopted.

On motion of the Rev. J. A. Clark, Resolved, That the success of the temperance cause depends on the fidelity of its officers and the integrity of its friends. The above resolution was ably advocated by the mover and P. Viele, Esqr.

On motion of Gen. Learned,
1st. Resolved, That the corresponding committee be instructed to open a correspondence with gentlemen in the Territory, inviting them to unite with us in support of our cause, and delivering a course of lectures in their respective neighborhoods upon temperance, agreeably to the recommendation in the report of the executive committee just adopted.

On motion of the Rev. J. A. Clark,

Resolved, That whereas the prosperity of our territory depends on the prevalence of temperance principles the early formation of the Iowa Temperance Society may be regarded as a most auspicious omen of our future greatness.

Governor Lucas (Chief Justice Mason being in the Chair) and Mr. Edwards addressed the meeting at considerable length in favor of this solution, presenting many important facts and arguments in favour of temperance, and the necessity of temperance societies.

An interesting discussion on the subject of altering the constitution then took place, in which Messrs Grimes, Lucas, Mason, Clark, Viele, Edwards and Robertson participated.

On motion of P. Viele, Esqr.

Resolved, That this society will, as soon as practicable, procure an itinerant lecturer to visit the different parts of this territory to lecture on the subject of temperance, and organized temperance societies auxiliary to the Iowa Territorial Temperance Society.

On motion of General Learned,

Resolved, That this society meet on the first Wednesday of each month, and that a lecture upon temperance will be considered a standing exercise of each meeting, and that no public business relative to the Temperance Society be transacted at such meetings.

Concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Clark. Singing by the choir.

On motion, the society adjourned to meet again on Wednesday evening next, January 1st, 1841, at half past 6 o'clock, and that the Rev. Mr. Batchelder, address the meeting on that day.

ROBERT LUCAS, President.

J.M. Robertson, Secretary.