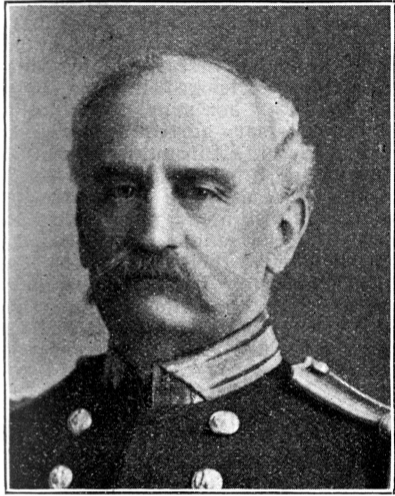


the Philippine Islands, and on terms of full citizenship, which the President said was the only condition on which a representative of those islands could be admitted. "And now, gentlemen," continued the President, "I have the great pleasure of introducing to you a representative from Germany, a representative of the German Government in former time, a representative of German education now, a representative of a university that is located in one of the most beautiful cities that I have ever seen—I introduce to you Baron von Rottenburg of the University of Bonn."

Baron von Rottenburg.

"Mr. President and gentlemen: I am very glad that the degree of LL.D. has been conferred upon me before I got examined. I am afraid otherwise I would never have got this degree. You must acknowledge I am in a very difficult position. It is difficult to talk in a foreign language. The remarks of your President brought back into my memory a scene of my earlier official life. It is fifty years ago I stood with



REAR-ADMIRAL FRANCIS M. BUNCE, U. S. N. (RETIRED.) Given the degree of M.A. by Yale at Commencement.

Prince Bismarck in a well known watering place in Germany, near Kissingen, when a Chinese diplomat came in order to hold a diplomatic consultation. The man spoke something very fluently, which he called English; but Prince Bismarck, who was himself a perfect English scholar, did not understand a single word of what he said; and after a while the Prince turned to me and said: 'I wish that man would talk Chinese, I am sure I would understand him far better.' Well, Mr. President and gentlemen, I feel somewhat like that Chinese diplomat. I am sure that even those amongst you who do not speak German will think: 'Why doesn't that man speak German? we would understand him far better.' However, you made me an American LL.D., and now you must bear the consequences. All I can do for you is this, that I shall be short, especially as I think a few words are often a better herald of deep feeling than long orations.

"Mr. President and gentlemen, I am very much obliged and deeply indebted for the honor you have conferred upon me, and I am deeply indebted for those beautiful words which have been addressed to me this morning, but I cannot accept them. It would mean appropriating a thing which I have no right to, and I am sure an LL.D. would not dare to do such a thing, and especially not in the presence of the Attorney General of the United States.

YALE CONNECTIONS.

"Well, Mr. President, and gentlemen, I think this honor of LL.D. which has been conferred upon me is mostly due to the fact that I am a relative or connection of the family Sheffield, especially of the family Phelps. I must explain that I am son-in-law of William Walter Phelps, a man who, I think, has always been loved by Yale, and who always will be loved by Yale. I hope his memory will last a long time.

THE TWO COUNTRIES.

"And then I think it is a recognition of my University of Bonn. I am most thankful for this honor, and I am thank-

ful especially in regard to the fact that this honor has been conferred upon me at a time when wicked attempts have been made to stir up ill feelings between our two countries. I do not mean what you call the 'yellow press.' We do not use such a mild expression for it. I do not mean such men who understand their past so little, the noble past of the press—men whom we call in German pennyliners. Even amongst the better classes there are some who do not always act very wisely on both sides of the ocean. Only the other day I read a speech made in your country by some merchant who said, 'Beware of the Germans. They are our worst enemies.' and you hear the same thing, I am sorry to say, on the other side of the ocean: 'Beware of the Americans. They are so intelligent, those fellows. They are so smart and so hard working, they are our worst enemies.'

"Well, I am afraid that neither these American merchants, nor those of my country are very good in political economy, otherwise they would know that competition does not mean hostility. I should advise these men to buy a book which has been recently published about economics, and I understand that the author is your new President. I would advise them to read this book and to learn from it that mutual hostility always involves mercantile evil to the parties concerned.

"Well, Mr. President and gentlemen, material interests are, I am sorry to say, only too apt to separate nations. It is always the consequence of wrong calculation, but this calculation is very often made. There is no danger, or at least less danger, in science. I think that science, true science, has always been instrumental in uniting nations.

"And therefore, Mr. President and gentlemen, you may be convinced that it is not a phrase, but that it comes from the bottom of my heart, when I am grateful for this honor conferred upon me, and when I express my feeling of gratitude by saying:

"Vivat, floreat, crescat Universitas Yalensis."

The heartiest applause followed the Baron's speech.

Captain Wise.

"I am now going to give myself the pleasure," said the President, "of calling upon a gentleman who said to me that he would not speak, that he must be excused, and I intimated to him that he might be excused from speaking, but that he must rise and show himself to the audience. The gentleman to whom I refer is like myself in one respect, as I have been in the past, but his position is a little different from mine. I have had command of Yale in time of peace. He had command of the Yale in time of war. The gentleman to whom I refer is Captain Wise."

When the tumultuous applause ceased, Captain Wise spoke thus:

"Mr. President and gentlemen: An honest confession is good for the soul. I am little given to set phrases of speaking, and you will therefore excuse me from making any such speech. But there is one thing I want to say. On the battleship Massachusetts is a beautiful statue of the Winged Victory, and under it this legend: 'By duty done is honor won.' The Navy has always tried to do its duty. I know that the sons of Eli have always done their duty, not only on land, but on sea. I thank you, gentlemen."

Prof. Minot of Harvard.

In introducing Prof. Minot of Harvard, President Dwight said:

"Gentlemen: I will now introduce to you a distinguished Professor of Harvard University. To his disadvantage I know of nothing except this one thing, that he went to the ball game yesterday, and I didn't, and the result followed. I will introduce to you Prof. Minot."

Professor Minot's response was as follows:

"Gentlemen: It is true, I did go to the game. To-morrow I may be obliged to disgrace myself by waving the blue flag in Boston. Mr. President, I have had a great disappointment threatened, but not realized fortunately. As I came out this morning to join the celebration to-day, the first thing which caught my eye was great throngs of people which were standing along the street. I said to myself, 'Alas! Yale

has an influence even upon the youthful population.' I was comforted by my esteemed friend, Dr. Carmalt, who said: 'These people have come out to see Buffalo Bill, and the bill is overdue.'

"I have been asked to say something of the way in which we work at Harvard. I suppose there is an insinuation, if you will, that I will tell you something of our secrets. As one who has at least had the very great privilege of calling myself an alumnus of Yale, I may mention one of our Harvard secrets, the source of our accumulated learning. It was discovered by a somewhat more profound student of university organization than ordinary, that every Harvard Freshman brought a little learning to Cambridge, and no Senior ever took any away; so of course it accumulated. You will understand, therefore, gentlemen, why I find myself in the same uncomfortable predicament as the Attorney-General, a conditioned man who passed, but was conditioned again. I stand as one who delivered his speech, supposing that that was to be the only examination. I too find myself in the predicament of having failed once.

COMPANIONS IN ARMS.

"If you will permit me for a moment to be more serious, I should like to say something which concerns the welfare of Yale, Harvard, and all the other great universities of this country. It seems to me there is a defect in our way of looking at things, looking at our relations to one another, which can only be deplored. When two of our regiments went into battle, the Rough Riders and a colored regiment, on the hill of San Juan, each man in each regiment was in his place, but the two regiments went up the hill together, fought side by side, and manfully upheld one another, and together they won the victory.

"We have a far greater war to carry on than this war of the bullet. We have a war to carry on against all the most dangerous and most difficult things in the world, the dangers of ignorance; dangers of prejudice; and Harvard and Yale seem to me like the two regiments which must take up the fight. They must feel their solidarity. They must never for one moment forget that they are companions in arms in the great battle of civilization!

"And I should like to add one word more concerning the impression made upon me by the few days of most delightful intercourse with the members of this University. It is the impression that there is throughout the whole



CAPT. W. C. WISE, U. S. N. Given the degree of M.A. by Yale at Commencement.

of the Yale Faculty, and I presume throughout the whole body of students and graduates, the conviction that the future of Yale is to be vastly greater than its past, that, as your President who retires to-day has laid a broad foundation and helped in his great and liberal way towards the construction of the College into a true and great university, so it is hoped on all hands that your new President-elect will take up the work and carry it forward in the same splendid spirit, and that we at Harvard shall always feel that at Yale there is an inspiration that is worthy to possess and uphold. I think nothing is so much of value to a university as this feeling of exultation of what is to be accomplished, when this is based, as it is in Yale, upon the splendid past achievements.

A STORY.

"I am not a wit, gentlemen, but I can give you, as Dr. Holmes once happily said, the soul of it, which is brevity. I will therefore not attempt to do more, pleasing as it is to have so kind an audience, than to tell you a little anecdote of one of our Harvard professors, that passed through my mind. The professor to whom I refer was one from the German fatherland. He was brought from abroad by Prof. Agassiz to take a position in the museum in Cambridge, where he had a large collection of insects. His knowledge of English was confined to writing, when he came to this country at the age of fifty-three. Therefore his mastery of spoken English was not perhaps the same as that prescribed by your curriculum here. He once went down the Mississippi River. I know there may be a few who know his experience, and they will please pardon the repetition, as I think it will be new to most of you. This is the account which he gave me of his exploration:

"I was going town de Mississippi rifer; unt I set dare on de steamer, unt I was bleased; unt all was so peautiful on efr side. Unt I looked around unt I saw a bug, as we shall not haf in Charmany; unt den I vatch unt I see fly around me a beeg dragon fly, unt I thought dragon flies very scarce. He is a spezimen, I say, vitch ve do not haf at de moozeum just yet, unt Mr. Agassiz will be so bleased ven I vill pring him peck dot dragon fly. Unt I sot dare very schdill until he flew around, unt make so motion, but he fly away. I vait until he fly around again already unt make so motion, unt he flew away again. I vait very schdill, unt I vatch some more until he is com peck, unt den I make so motion mit the two hants, unt den I turn around unt I hear such a noise as I refer haf heard; unt upon my life, dar vas de whole ship's koompany; dare vas the ship's clock vot also laf, unt in front of dat clock vas a pole, unt in front of dat pole vas a string, unt on de end of dat string dare vas dot dragon fly. But I got him."

"I felt very much that way when I saw that diploma dangling before my eyes, and when I stepped forward to get it in my hand, I said: 'Well, I got it.' I heard such a noise behind me as I have never heard before. But, gentlemen, nobody laughed."

Dr. George Adam Smith.

President Dwight introduced the next speaker as follows:

"I am happy now to introduce to you an honored friend from the other side of the ocean, whom I have heard before with great delight and whom I am sure we shall hear this afternoon with the greatest pleasure. I introduce to you Professor George Adam Smith."

Professor Smith replied as follows: "Mr. President, there was a gentleman on our side of the Atlantic, at a gathering such as this, who was asked by the Chairman, the autocrat of the proceedings, to answer for a toast in the absence of the appointed speaker, who had to leave. He got up and said: 'Gentlemen, a short time ago I received this note from the Chairman, Mr. so and so, when I call upon you, will you say one word. Gentlemen, I said that one word, but wild horses will not drag from me what that word was.' The president said to me, after the graduation ceremony was over, 'Dr. Smith, will you say a few words in Scotch.' Gentlemen, I said those few words in Scotch, but I want to assure you, what I daresay most of you know, that the Scotch is a reverent and godly dialect.

"I felt very much at home to-day in Yale for many reasons, which I will go on to particularize afterwards, but especially on account of the weather. I warn you, gentlemen, never to have a Scotch graduate again, or you may expect the like atmospheric conditions. I must ask your pardon, while I explain to you why I feel a very great personal gratification in receiving my degree, not only from the Yale University, but at the hands of President Dwight, a reason that he is unaware of. Long ago when I was a child of five or six, some fifty or sixty years ago, in my grandfather's library there was, upon the second shelf, before the fireplace, a large illustrated Bible, of which my brothers and I were very fond. We used to take it down, but