

AT MIDDLE BASS ISLAND

GLORIOUS CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH BY THE CLUB

Patriotic Address by Rev. Dr. Kelsey – Destiny of America – Little Folks Contest for Prizes

The Fourth at Middle Bass was made the occasion of a glorious celebration. To the Toledo people who are accustomed to spend the summer at this resort, the beauty of the grove and lawns, and of the pretty cottages with their bright flowerbeds, is well known. Yesterday, the addition of flags and bunting to the various buildings gave a gala day appearance to the scene.

Sunday the presence of Gov. and Mrs. Bushnell was an interesting feature, and it was much regretted that they departed for Sandusky in the afternoon. Ex-Gov. Foster was expected, but did not come.

Church services were held in the morning, Rev. J. S. Montgomery preaching. In the afternoon, several of the younger crowd visited the Victory or enjoyed quiet water excursions.

The exercises of the Fourth commenced shortly after lunch with an address by Rev. F. D. Kelsey. Dr. Kelsey referred to the heroes of the Revolutionary War of Franklin, Patrick Henry, John Hancock, Israel Putnam and George Washington, and of the remembrance in which we shall ever hold Bunker Hill, Saratoga and Yorktown.

“The War of 1812 furnished an example of a battle which was fought almost within sight of where we now stand and which immortalizes Commodore Perry and recalls his famous message to General Harrison: “We have met the enemy and they are ours.”

“There is no need now to recall the heroes of the Mexican war and the more recent conflict of 1861-1865, when was completed and endorsed the work of 1776, which proclaimed all men free and equal before the law, a war which left us such inspiring heroes as Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan.”

“We now find ourselves two months along in a war with a European nation – a nation in whose grasp once has been held the most brilliant possibilities any nation ever had, a nation of noted warriors, discoverers, and conquerors. Once her sway extended from the Columbia river to the Straits of Magellan and Cape Horn, a nation of persecutors and robbers like Pizarro and Cortez, a nation that has wasted unparalleled opportunities and squandered unprecedented prizes, a nation of bullfights and ignorance, poverty and prejudice, a nation of stupendous blunders and failures – but it has been left to 1898 to demonstrate that even Spaniards can fight a naval Manila without slaying a single enemy or sinking a single ship of their foes.”

“This is a war which has been providentially forced upon us in defense of the weak against the strong, and by a sense of duty to suffering humanity at our very doors. Where would be our manhood, if we stood by and witnessed without protest the abuse, starvation and death of 200,000 non-combatants by a mass of armed butchers? We could not, nor should not, stand by and see it done, when we have the power to prevent it.”

The marvelous change which has come over our country at the call of war was noted by Dr. Kelsey, and the contrast drawn between our army of intelligent, industrious, robust thinking men to the “army

machines” of countries which support great standing armies. The complaining spirit of some in regard to the slowness of our military movements was referred to and emphasis was placed on the change of policy which this war is forcing upon us with regard to the Monroe doctrine. “It has seemed to us almost an axiom of American politics and constitutional principle that this nation should keep aloof from all European complications and confine our territory to our continental possessions now known as the United States territory. It is this spirit which has thus far refused Hawaiian annexation, and laughed at the Steward purchase of Alaska, and defeated Grant’s cherished hopes of the purchase of Cuba as we had previously purchased Alaska.

Destiny of the Nation

“The dangers of territorial aggrandizement, standing armies and powerful navies are of much import, but no great nation can refuse the destiny thrust upon her by providential events. The Philippine Islands have practically been thrust upon us by the will of the God of nations, working through the energy, bravery, dash and skill of that remarkable hero who first wins a battle and then informs the world where he is, and what he has done, and then quietly sits down and waits two months for troops to be sent him, meanwhile holding on with a bulldog grip, which makes it dangerous even for Germany to meddle with a man who can calmly warn the emperor’s brother to be careful not to get between the enemy and his bullets.”

“The problem of what to do with the Philippines is difficult to solve, but our nation can no longer refuse participation in the world’s problems. Our self-preservation demands representation in the councils of the nations.”

“This war has also brought to the front the natural alliance of the Anglo-American nations.”

The reasons why this is inevitable and natural were mentioned by the speaker, who continued:

“Auspicious day when the Stars and Stripes, mingled in union with the English flag, carries peace, plenty, safety, liberty and blessings to all inhabitants thereof.”

“Who shall be the heroes of the present struggle time will tell. We already have names sacred for self-sacrifice, heroic daring and wise generalship. Long live the names of Dewey, Sampson, Schley, Hobson, Merritt and many more.”

With a glowing tribute to the Stars and stripes, Dr. Kelsey closed his inspiring and enthusiastically-received address.

At its conclusion the audience joined in the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner.”

The speech was delivered from the veranda of the club-house, overlooking the large lawn, which was the scene of the next feature, the races.

There were eleven in number, and they continued through the remainder of the afternoon. The first, the “pair oar race,” for boys under 11 years old, was won by Aaron Kelsey, Russell Rutherford and Jack McCune. The prizes were money - \$3, \$2 and \$1. The course lay between Rehberg’s dock and that in front of the club-house.

A croquet game for girls under 10 years, of age was won by Constance Woolson, Florence Nettleton and Florence Nelson, Miss Nettleton and Miss Nelson were tied for the second place. Miss Nettleton won a "Maine" pin, the other two young ladies receiving patriotic belt buckles.

The shoe race was the occasion for much fun. About ten young boys left their shoes in a pile about 20 yards distant, then ran, found their shoes, put them on, fastened them, and then returned to their original places. After a lively scramble, Russell Rutherford won the first prize, \$2, and Harold Baker the second, \$1.

The fun had not quite subsided when the three-legged race was called. Among the twelve or fourteen contestants, Clifford Smith and McNair won the first prize, \$2, and George Johnson and Leroy Brooks, Jr. were awarded the second \$1.

The "high kick" showed the skill of several of the boys, Carlton Shaw obtaining \$2 as a first prize, Ernest Baker, \$1 the second.

The girls under 13 years of age had an opportunity to try their alertness in the potato race, carrying potatoes, one at a time, from one pile to another. Helen Kelsey, Frances Baker and Mary Kelsey won handsome belt buckles for their skill.

In the bicycle race the girls' prizes were also buckles, and the boys' sums of money. Other races were the Cuban lighting race, named appropriately to the times and consisting, in main, of the lighting of cigarettes; the sand river diving which was, as usual, amusing; the running races for girls and boys under 10 years age, and the tub races. In each of these the prizes were money, except the girls' running race, where the rewards were dainty bisque figures.

The races were in charge of Mr. A. M. Woolson, Mr. E. C. Shaw and Mr. F. B. Shoemaker, who acted as judges. After the races the prize-winners received their rewards at the same time a little presentation speech being made before they were awarded.

The dinner at the club-house was appointed in harmony with the day. The dining room had on its patriotic dress, the tables being arranged with flags as centerpieces, and the walls and chandeliers being draped with bunting and flags and otherwise beautified with Japanese lanterns and parasols. The menu cards for dinner yesterday were embossed with the Cuban and American flags, with the eagles as a shield, and the text beneath, "Clear your decks for action and follow me." – Dewey.

The menu consisted of such patriotic dishes as "Consommé, Red, White and Blue;" "Fillet of whitefish a la 1776;" "Potatoes Washington;" Roast young turkey McKinley;" "Salpicon of chicken, a la Dewey;" "Croustade of fruit General Miles;" "Punch a la Cuba Libre;" "Salad Independence;" "Blue and Gray pudding;" "Cherry pie, George Washington;" "Our Navy pie;" "Manila ice cream;" "Jelly a la Hobson;" "American cheese;" "Hard-tack U.S.A.;" "besides many other less warlike dishes.

Last evening a fitting close was made to the day's festivities, the entertainment being in several directions. A lawn fete with music was held on the grounds, ice cream and cake being served. A sale of fancy articles was held near the club-house for the benefit of the little church of the village.

As soon as darkness came on a magnificent display of fireworks was given under the direction of "Pyrotechnical Director" Rutherford. Hundreds of lanterns strung from tree to tree along the water's edge, added to the beauty of the fireworks, and heightened the pyrotechnical effect. Many of the

pieces were fired from the ground. Among those of this description were the “devil among the tallors,” and colored batteries of various kinds.

Colored torches, and aerolites, winding circles and fiery tornadoes added their glaring beauty, while all sorts of whistling rockets were to be seen. Some of the pieces, as the “Mines of Tartar,” shot forth stars, serpents, and small animals; some like the “Edison Cascade,” were like electric fountains and some were miniature volcanoes. Add to these big balloons with fireworks attachments, and a multitude of rockets, Roman candles and other fireworks of more ordinary type and the result was one of marvelous beauty and grandeur.

The program of the day ended with a grand dress ball at Rehberg’s Hall. The ladies were gowned in their daintiest costumes and the music furnished by a Cleveland orchestra was most entrancing. Some of those seen on the floor or participating in the other festivities of the day were Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Shoemaker, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Nettleton and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Woolson and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. James Rodgers, Mr. James Rodgers, Jr., Miss Florence Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Flickinger, Mr. and Mrs. Manning, Mr. Herbert Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cone, Mr. Calvin Cone, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Fuller of Norwalk, and guest Mrs. Franklin of Kansas City, Mr. and Mrs. John Berdan, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair Berdan, Mrs. And Mrs. Marshall Sheppey, Mr. and Mrs. Reeve Kelsey and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jay K. Secor, Miss May Taylor, Miss Eva Bond, Mr. Horace Suydam, Mr. W. A. Gosline, Mrs. T. C. Rowland, Miss Edna Rowland, Mrs. Josphe Cummings, Miss Belle Cummings, Mr. Harry Cummings, Mr. Robert Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. John Cummings, Mrs. Robert Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Walbridge and little son, Mr. and Mrs. John Clarke, Miss Harriet Clarke, Mrs. and Mrs. James Brown Bell, Miss Helen Suydam, Miss Jennie Scott, Mrs. Scott, Miss Belle King, the Misses Waters and Miss Steif of Baltimore, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Childs, and Misses Culvert, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smith, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Baumgardner, Mr. Ned Baumgardner, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Shaw, Mr. Carlton Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Colburn, Mr. Bert Colburn, Judge and Mrs. Doyle, the Misses Doyle, Mrs. J. A. Rutherford, Mrs. J. M. Rutherford, Master Russell Rutherford, Miss Florence Hoag, Miss Gertrude Spencer, Miss Annie Reynolds, Mr. Marshall Bell, Master Bruce Bell, Mr. Franklin Macomber, Mr. Joseph Cooper, Mr. Joseph Teipol, Mr. Herman Brand, Mr. Joseph Scott.

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