West Virginia Day

Louisiana
Purchase
Exposition

June 29, 1904

Speech of

Hon. John T. McGraw

Of West Virginia

With the Compliments of

The West Virginia Commission

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Mr. Chairman, President Francis, Governors White and Odell, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In the formal ceremonies of this day set apart to West Virginia by the gracious act of the officers of this marvelous Exposition, we have been honored by the presence of its distinguished President—the directing genius whose masterful mind and herculean efforts have crowned with such signal success the labors of himself and his associates; you have witnessed the formal transfer, in graceful language, by our honored Governor of the State's contribution to the historical, the industrial, and commercial pageant which is now challenging the attention of the civilized world. We have, also, been specially honored by the presence of the distinguished Governor of the Empire State of New York, to whom this occasion recalls the memories of other days when he sat at the feet of Dr. Pendleton in the classic shades and under the historic oaks of old Bethany College; and I have no doubt the lessons he there learned have contributed something to the accomplishments which enable him to make and unmake Presidents and Governors at will.

And for the first time in the history of the State we all love so well, you are present at the christening and have witnessed the beautiful flag unfurled as a distinguishing mark of her individual sovereignty. The occasion is auspicious and the surroundings inspiring for the last and best beloved daughter of the old commonwealth of Virginia to throw to the breeze for the first time the beautiful ensign which identifies her in the galaxy of surrounding States. Its white field will long stand as an emblem of the purity of purpose which characterizes her homogenous citizenship made up, as it is, of the best blood of the old State and her adjoining sisters. Its blue border is an earnest of the loyal patriotism of her people to that Union of States, so beautifully typified by the starry banner with which her destiny is inseparably en-

twined; and the Mountain Laurel on its white bosom symbolizes the rugged character of the hardy sons who live among her mountains and reside in her fertile valleys. As the State Flower, it represents the mountain fastnesses of that earlier period when great Virginians aided by Northern patriots, carved out the destinies of an infant republic and dedicated it to the cause of freedom—the West Augusta of the colonial period, made memorable by the declaration of the immortal Washington, himself, when asked what he would have done if the Continental Army had failed at Yorktown, replied, "I would have gathered together the remnants of my bleeding army and taken them to the mountains of West Augusta, and there raised anew the standard of my country, and fought until the last man had expired."

For this people and that which yonder flag represents, I have been commissioned by partial friends to say a few words in emphasis and affirmation of our State's imperial resources, her commanding, industrial, and commercial position, and the historical associations which give us the proud privilege of claiming an unique place in the event which the genius of Virginia Statesmanship enables us to commemorate today on the banks of the Mississippi.

While we cannot claim designation as a territorial part of what is now fixed as boundary lines of the Louisiana Province, yet, as the last jewel taken from the coronet of Virginia and placed in the diadem of Columbia, we do claim as a sacred heritage a share in her contribution to the historical side of the great event we here celebrate. For, although severed the ties which bound us in compact form to the Old State, and yielding no part of the loyalty and love we bear for our own, we have ever turned with filial affection to the Old Commonwealth, and in her darkest hours have felt that:

"If sunk her sun and all her stars be set,
"Virginia—our Mother—we love thee yet."

From the throes of the great Civil War which settled the irrepressible and irreconcilable conflict between the principles of State's sovereignty and Federal supremacy,

and welded us into an indissoluble Union of indestructible States, West Virginia—the War-born child of the Union—came Minerva like, full born; and from the vantage ground of the larger observation, from which the intervening years have enabled us to view it, we feel that Providence wisely ordered the event, and we justify even the Caesarean operation essential and necessary to our birth.

At the threshold of our Statehood, the names of Waitman T. Willey, the scholarly Senator from Monongalia; Alexander W. Campbell, the valiant champion of West Virginia Sovereignty; Francis H. Pierpont, our first Governor who lives in enduring marble under the dome of the Nation's Capitol; Arthur I. Boreman, who honored his State and himself by many years of efficient public service, and Nathan Goff, the younger, who threw off the cap and gown of the school room, and with his good sword won the epaulettes of a Brigadier General at twenty-three, and now wears the ermine of an exalted judicial station with a record as stainless as his sword, will ever be remembered as the central figures in the group of strong men West of the Alleghenies, who contributed so much by their statesmenship and valor towards placing the new State in the National Constellation.

In the territory severed from the Mother State, comprising an area of 24,645 square miles, with boastful pride we feel that from the viewpoint of material and industrial greatness, we acquired the best part of her territory. Located between the Eastern seaboards and the waterways of the Middle West, our commercial location is unsurpassed, while our natural wealth is not equaled by a like area within the confines of the two oceans.

It was Bismark, the great Chancellor who welded into an Empire the scattering Prussian States, in pointing to the position which Germany occupied among the States of Continental Europe, said, the gate-way to Europe was through the Brandenburg pass, and we may well claim that the gate way to the Golden West and Sunny Southland lies through the passes which Nature has delved through the Mountains of West Virginia. In our pride of

place, we feel that Nature in making an equitable distribution of material things useful to man, and necessary to commercial greatness throughout the States of the American Union, while in a gleeful humor and a bountiful mood, after the general distribution, poured the large surplus remaining into the lap of West Virginia.

On the 20th day of June, 1863, at the formation of the State, it represented a sparsely settled region, which has now increased to a population of over one million happy, contented, and prosperous people.

In mineral wealth, the State stands at the front of industrial development, and comprises within her limits more coal than is contained within a like contiguous area within the confines of the two oceans; and constitutes a subsisting future greatness which will remain long after her gas beds and oil fields will have been exhausted, and her mountain sides denuded of their primeval forests. Her coal area comprises 16,000 square miles of the Appalachian coal fields, and represents more than 80 per cent of the total bituminous coal area of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio combined, and the development of this industry during the last twenty-one years has increased at the rate of one million tons per annum. The development of the coal interests of the State is best illustrated by the fact that from 672,000 tons of coal produced in 1873, the output of its mines has increased to over twenty-five million tons within the last year, and the State has passed from an inferior place to third in the list of coal producing States in the Union, and is fast taking its place at the head of the column. The importance of this growing branch of our commercial life is emphasized by the fact that the coal products of the country are essential to the industrial life of the nation, and may be illustrated by the fact that the American Navy had the sea fighting machinery necessary to sweep the Spanish Fleet from the seas, yet a great Admiral with the Stars and Stripes floating from the head mast of his flag-ship, could not get to the harbor of Santiago because he did not have the necessary West Virginia coal to fill the bunkers of his fighting fleet.

The manufacture of coke has kept in steady progress with the production of its coal, and stands today well up in the list of the coke producing States of the whole country. The development of these industries and the value of our coal deposits is best illustrated by the exhibit we have made at the Exposition, under the efficient direction of Col. Neil Robinson, of Kanawha, and to it we point with pardonable pride, and invite the scrutiny of the world.

Before leaving this particular industry around which revolves so much of our future hopes, I cannot resist a tribute to the memory of James Otis Watson, that rugged and robust pioneer in the development of the coal industries of the upper Monongahela Valley, who, surrounded by his sons did more than any other set of men towards the development of that favored region.

In the production of oil and natural gas, West Virginia stands first among the producing States, and its gas furnishes to the work shop and the home one billion cubic feet per day, equal in heating power to one million bushels of coal, and the equivalent of over fourteen million tons of coal per annum, or equal to more than one half of the State's annual coal production. Its gas beds feed the manufacturing industires of Pittsburg, Cleveland and Toledo,, and furnish cheap fires and power to a large majority of the cities and towns west of the Allegheny Mountains.

In the production of oil, the State stands as a pioneer in the country's development, and its present production of the highest grade of petroleum, representing over 16 million barrels per year, and of a cash value in excess of twenty-five million dollars per annum, exceeds Pennsylvania and New York combined.

Our public schools have increased from 133 school buildings in 1865 to 6112 public school buildings, six normal schools, and one great University, second to but few in the country, with an aggregate enrollment of nearly a quarter of a million students in the several colleges and schools of the State. Its public, Normal, and Collegiate system of education is the pride of its citizens of all

classes, and to the credit of an irreducible school fund, stands one million dollars in cash in our public treasury. The fostering care of the State opens widely the doors of these schools to every child, and its chief seat of learning invites her sons and daughters to that higher education and moral training which constitutes in an educated citizenship the pillars of our free institutions.

Our lands from the mountain ranges of Pendleton, Randolph and Pocohontas to the fertile valleys of the Shenandoah, the Monongahela and the Kanawha, generously respond to the labors of the husbandman, and yields to no other section of country in an indigenuos growth of blue grass. In this connection, I must not forget the rapidly developing horticultural interests which have outstripped all the other products of the farm within the past ten years. The best evidence of our productiveness as a fruit growing State on hillside and in valley will be found in the showing we have made in the Horticultural Building, and to one who carefully examines the exhibits there made, and of which we are proud, he will quickly conclude, that the seductive apple which caused man to fall from the high estate through the primeval disobedience of our first parents, was transplanted from the Garden of Eden, and found congenial soil in the orchards of Berkeley, Jefferson, Brooke, Greenbrier and Monroe.

I have heretofore alluded to the men who by their statesmanship contributed so much to the formation of our State, and I cannot refrain from referring to three men still among us in the lusty Winter of their lives, who have contributed to her greatness in developing her resources, and in placing her in the commanding position she now occupies in the industrial and commercial world. To West Virginians the names of Henry G. Davis and Johnson N. Camden will at once spring to the lips and fill the imagination. To their sagacious business instincts, operating independently and on separate lines were given the privilege of first striking our mountain sides and causing them to give forth their wealth. They brought to the attention of the world the matchelss re-

sources of the State, and pledged the energies and activities of their busy lives as an earnest of their representation; they did not wait for outside capital to lead in this development, but like an ancient king, pawned their own possessions, that the State and its citizens might be benefited by its development.

In an entirely different line, but so closely interwoven in its results with this material development, as to constitute no small part of its history, is another distinguished citizen, who, in a record covering many years of public service, has contributed to the Treasure House of the State, in the long line of judicial decisions which settled the tangled web of uncertain land titles which the new State inherited from the old. When the story of the State comes to be written, and the roster completed of the men who are to be enrolled in her Hall of Fame none will stand out more conspicuously than that of John J. Jackson, the Iron Judge, who occupies a pinnacle overlooking half a century of public life, holding in his firm grasp the scales of the blind goddess, in the balances of which are found the commission he bears from the pen of Abraham Lincoln; and the long line of judicial decisions which marks his forty-three years of continuous judicial life.

In enumerating the pleasures of old age, Cicero indicated the last and best as "the consciousness of a life well spent, and of many meritorious actions." These three splendid specimens of West Virginia citizenship enjoy a proud distinction, and in the mellow sunshine of lives well spent, they wait as the evening tide draws on, and ere it fades into night, they still pursue the even tenor of their busy ways, and possess the aspirations of loyal, faithful, friends that they may long be spared to enjoy the fruits of their well spent lives.

In these personal allusions, I do not indulge in invidious comparisons, because no statement which deals with the State's history and her marvelous development would be complete without giving to this splendid triumvirate of West Virginia's most distinguished citizens a

full measure of credit for their contributions to the State, and the prosperity of her people.

I have thus far alluded to the material things which go to make up the jewels of our young commonwealth, but these are not all which commend us to the thoughtful attention of the student who studies deeply and well the eventful period which this Exposition commemorates. It emphasizes not alone the greatest transfer of territory known to history from one sovereign power to another by peaceful means, but the act itself breathed the breath of enduring life into a young and struggling Republic, and converted the Union of States from a group of allied principalities into a firmly welded nation.

To Virginia, the world awards the place of honor; and to us, then component parts of her territory, life of her life, and warp and woof of her early history, we are entitled as a sacred inheritance to a share in her glory. And what a heritage this just claim implies! From the time when a Virginia farmer took command of the army of the Revolution in the capital of Massachusetts, down to a time when a like soldier led the armies of the Union into the Halls of the Montuzumas, the sons of Virginia, had borne a conspicuous part in every effort, and in every sacrifice for the glory of our common country. It was a great Virginian who stood sentinel at the birth of liberty in the Western World, and contributed to humanity the great charter of American liberty which will survive for centuries yet unborn. It was a great Virginian, who, by the suggestion of the conference at Annapolis originated the idea of a unity of States; and it was Randolph, the Virginian, who propounded the fundamental plan of Government to the Convention at Philadelphia, and Virignia, in conjunction with one Northern State determined the final adoption of the Constitution. It was Marshall, Virginia's greatest jurist, whose construction of the Constitution endowed the Union with the energies of a Nation, and enabled it to survive the strains of civil war. It was Monroe, the Virginian, who asserted the freedom of the New World from the intrigues of Eu-

ropean ambition, and opened the whole country to an imperishable arena of development. It was Virginia, of her bounty, that brought to the bridal of the young Republic the gift of an imperial domain, the Great Northwest territory, greater than the wealth of all the Incas; and never in her direst woe, did she repent that she had impoverished herself for the aggrandizement of the whole country, and it was from Virginia that our common country received the tongue of the greatest American orator in Henry, the sword of America's greatest warrior in Washington, and the pen of America's greatest statesman, in Jefferson. And to the philosophic statesmanship and diplomacy of the last of these colossal sons of Virginia that we acquired the province of Louisiana extending from the warm waters of the Gulf to the frozen trail of the hunter in the great Northwest. And what memories freighted with the destinies of a young nation does this act of the great Virginian revive in retrospect of the years which have passed? Confronted with fierce opposition to an extension of territory beyond the limits of the original colonies led by Josiah Quincy of Massachusetts with the tri-colored flag of France floating in sovereign sway over the mouth of the Mississippi, and the internal commerce on this great artery of trade so menaced as to be almost destroyed, this splendid figure in our country's history determined that the easterly bank of the Mississippi should not remain the westerly limits of our territorial extension, but that God in His infinite wisdom, had ordained and intended it to extend to the Western seas. Had one of less courage and heroic mould filled the Presidential office, either the plan of Napoleon for the establishment of a French colony on the the Mississippi after the Treaty of Amiens, which he deluded himself with the thought, had brought peace to France; or England, as a result of the final struggle which drove the great Emperor into exile and to a premature death on the barren rocks of St. Helena, would have taken Orleans, and established English colonies West of the Mississippi as she had done North of the St. Law-

rence. I think I assume no liberty with American history when I say that Thomas Jefferson determined that the Province of Louisiana should become a part of the American domain, peaceably, by treaty if possible, and forcibly, by asserting the color of title which Virginia possessed from sea to sea, if necessary. While the ostensible purpose of Jefferson in his negotiations with France was to remove the obstructions to the free navigation of the Mississippi; and to secure the acquisition of New Orleans and West Florida, yet, had the fates not brought to us through the complications of European politics, by treaty for a paltry sum, this mighty Empire, Jefferson would have asserted Virginia's claim, and under it, added the territory. Virginia's color of title was in the charter of James I., and by royal grant extended:

"From the point of land called Cape of Point Comfort, all along the seacoast to the Northward, two hundred miles; and from said Point or Cape Comfort, all along the seacoast to the Southward two hundred miles; and all that space and circuit, lying from the seacoast of the precinct aforesaid up into the land throughout from sea to sea, West and Northwest."

As early as 1777 under this royal grant, George Rogers Clarke explored the region West of the Ohio, and beyond the limits of the Illinois and the Wabash, clothed with the commission of Virginia's Governor which pledged to the settlers of that territory the protection of the State, because, as it asserted: "It is certain, they live within her limits." And to this Clarke expedition, organized by Henry, then Governor, advised by Washington and Jefferson, and paid for out of Virginia's depleted treasury, there was added to the area of the old State the Northwest Territory, out of which, through her bounty, the great States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, were formed and added to the Union. Under this same color of title of Virginia, running from sea to sea, after Jefferson had succeeded to the Presidential office, and before the conditions in European affairs had become so acute as to cause France to abandon her cher-

ished hopes for the establishment of a French Colony in the Louisiana Territory, Jefferson, selected his confidential friend and Secretary, Meriweather Lewis, who, in conjunction with William Clarke, the younger brother of the same George Rogers Clarke, organized a new expedition for the exploration of the country between the Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean, the purpose of which, as shown by the recently found papers of this Lewis and Clarke expedition, was to obtain such data and exact information as would enable the great Executive to adopt a policy of force in extending Virginia's claim from sea to sea, in the event that diplomatic negotiations and purchase could not acquire the coveted territory. The fruitful evidence of this expedition and its historic association is found on these grounds, in the State Building of far-off Oregon, which is an exact duplicate of the fort built by Lewis and Clarke on the waters of the Pacific.

The acquisition of the Louisiana Territory by purchase and without the loss of a single life out of which have been carved fourteen States, each an empire within itself, was the masterful stroke of wise statesmanship, as bold as it was courageous. And in the record of the Nation's great and mighty dead, there is no more heroic figure (Washington, alone excepted) than the tall form of Jefferson, as he comes down to us through the corridors of time, carrying in one hand the Declaration of American Independence, and Virginia's Bill of Rights for civil and religious liberty, and the title deeds of the the Louisiana Purchase in the other.

And what a mighty realm is this Trans-Mississippic Empire! Its manufactures last year measured by dollars, represent an aggregate sum equal to sixty-seven times the cost of the original purchase of the whole territory. Its prairies are today the world's greatest granaries, and two states alone, of the former Province furnish one-fourth of the bread produced in the entire country. Napoleon, with prophetic vision, foresaw the future and knew the value of the territory he surrendered, because in signing the Treaty, he said, "I know that Nation

which owns the Valley of the Mississippi will be the greatest on earth. I prefer letting it go to the United States than to any other power, because that government will, at least, be neutral to France."

From the viewpoint of today, reveling as we do in our territorial greatness, we cannot appreciate the vitriolic opposition which the acquisition of the territory engendered, nor can we understand the approbriums which, in certain sections, were cast upon the Administration which acquired it. When Josiah Quincy of Massachusetts, the leader of the opposition, hurled his anathemas against the admission of Louisiana as a State, he insisted that the act alone would be sufficient "to dissolve the bonds of the Union," and that under the Constitution, no authority existed "to throw," as he called it, "the rights and liberties of the people into 'hotch pot' with the wild men of Missouri, nor with the mixed, though more respectable race of Anglo-Hispano-Gallo-Americans who bask on the sands in the mouth of the Mississippi.

To Virginia's credit be it said that she stood with loving loyalty by her great President and rejoiced in his great achievement, and in the long roll of the statesmen who supported the purchase, none yielded more valiant service than George Jackson, the representative in Congress from the counties now comprising the State of West Virginia, and his distinguished son, John G. Jackson, who succeeded him. George Jackson, a resident of Harrison County, who represented these counties from the first Congress under the Constitution until Jefferson's administration, was a strong and forceful character, typical of the section from which he came, and a true type of its rugged manhood. In discussing the questions then agitating the public mind, he was taunted by a congressional opponent because of his lack of education, to which he replied: "I admit, sir, that my educational advantages have not been good, and that I am deficient in the learning which others here possess. I live in the mountains beyond the Alleghenies, where these advantages are limited, and no one regrets my deficiencies more

than I, but I have a son at home whom I shall send here as my successor, and against him, you will not be able to make the charge you have against his old father." That son was John G. Jackson, who took the seat vacated for him by his father, as Western Virginia's Congressional representative, and as we follow him through the broad green uplands of his career, we find him in the forefront of Congressional debate, as the valiant champion of the Louisiana Purchase and Statehood for the Louisiana territory, and the acknowledged leader of the Administration of Mr. Madison. His fine figure and splendid abilities occupied the public eye as he filled conspicuous places in his country's service. He was the first Federal Judge of the Western Virginia District of Virginia, and it is a pleasing coincidence that his distinguished grandson was the first Federal Judge of the new State of West Virginia. He was the first man married in the White House, his wife being Mary Payne, a sister of the beautiful Dolly Madison, the memories of whose sweet life and accomplishments, like the perfume of the roses, have extended over the homes of a century of national life; and his second wife was a daughter of Return Jonathan Meigs, the first Governor of Ohio. This accomplished son of West Virginia was a potential factor in the history of his country and the correspondence left by him, and now in the possession of Colonel Thomas Moore Jackson, a worthy descendant of this race of strong men, shows that he had the confidence and possessed the esteem of the men who controlled the destinies of the nation. From this storehouse of unpublished letters connected with our early history, I hold in my hand an original letter which comes to us, musty with age, and written by Jefferson when the death damp was on his brow, which breathes the sentiment of a generous friendship, and shows us the thoughts which filled the mind of that great Virginian in the evening of his day, which was then fast settling into night:

"Monticello, Dec. 27, '18.

"Dear Sir:—I feel with great sensibility the kind interest you are so good as to express on the subject of my health. My trial of the Warm Springs was certainly ill-advised, for I went to them in perfect health, and ought to have reflected that remedies of their potency must have effect some way or other. If they find disease, they remove it. If none, they make it. Although I was reduced very low, I may be said to have been rather on the road to danger than in actual danger. I have now entirely recovered my strength, and consider my health as restored. But as to the value of my life, dear sir, of which you speak so partially, it is now, nothing. I may do for our University what others would do better were I away. My vicinity to the place alone giving me prominence in its concerns; as to everything else, I am done. Enfeebled in body, probably in mind, also in memory, very much, and all those faculties on the wane which are the avenues to life's happiness. I am equal to no pursuit, useful to others, or interesting to myself, beyond such employment of my remaining time as may protect me from the taedium vitae, not the least afflicting of the distresses of old age. I read with avidity, but have the sensation of the gallows when obliged to take up my pen. To yourself, I sincerely wish a lengthened life of health and happiness. TH. JEFFERSON.

"JOHN G. JACKSON, ESQ."

While this distinguished son of the mountain counties of West Virginia left the impress of his services upon the history of his country, yet the State which produced him did not lose the science of Statecraft in the roster of distinguished men who succeeded him in the National Legislature. It would be improper for me here to call this roll, but the occasion would be wanting in just appreciation of their illustrious services, if I were not, from the unfading glory which memory weaves, lay a chaplet upon the graves of John E. Kenna and William L. Wilson. Like Hamlet at Elsinore, they were "Native

here and to the manner born," and gave to the service of their State and their country their only wealth—the treasures of their well stored minds. Kenna, the great Senator, sleeps on a slope of his native hills, overlooking the beautiful Kanawha, the historic stream which his statesmanship did so much to improve and make navigable for trade and commerce; and as its rippling waters murmur a silent miserere, as it flows by his grave, it recalls to his old constituency the tender memories of him, who, although dead—

"Left behind
The enduring produce of immortal mind,
Fruits of a generous morn and glorious noon,
The deathless part of him who died too soon."

Wilson, the leader of his party in the American Commons—

"Of pleasing wit and frequent thought,
Endowed by Nature and by learning wrought,
To move assemblies."

and of whom, it might well be said, as Burke said of a great English statesman, "He would feel a stain upon his honor as keenly as a wound," also, sleeps in his native valley, near the sparkling waters of the Shenandoah, and almost within the shadow of the great Univesity, the sceptre of whose executive office he took as it fell from the nerveless hand of General Lee. Both live in the annals of their State's history, and over their graves go up the prayers of their friends that the sods of their native hills may rest lightly upon their honored breasts, and its grass grow green over their graves.

In our pride of place and position, I have referred to the elements which Nature has so generously lavished upon us, and like the Gracchi have pointed to some of our sons, who fill our jewel case. This great exhibition like a panorama is passing before the eyes of the world, and while each State may rejoice in its own achievements, the event which it celebrates, and the lesson it teaches,

emphasizes the national character, and revels in the greatness of the American Union, which knows no State lines, and is fettered by no human power save the sovereign will of the American people. The Louisiana Purchase made it a nation and paved the way for the easy acquisition of the remaining territory between the seas. Before this mighty typhon of the West, kingdoms and principalities stand mutely in awe, as they look in amazement at what we have accomplished, and our ability to govern ourselves. As the curtain rises upon a century of new life, we have our faces turned serenely to the rising sun with no lurking danger appearing upon the horizon. From the modest settlements along the bays and inlets of the Atlantic seaboard, our possessions have extended by parallel lines across the Continent to the Golden seas, and our territorial greatness is best illustrated by the thought that the "eagles of Rome" when their wings were strongest never flew so far as from the seal rookeries of Alaska to the orange groves of Florida. The Spanish king whose proud boast was that the sun never set upon his possessions, and Alfred the Great, in the regal splendor of his possessions, had no such elements of Empire, and yet within this God given domain, we have the material resources and undeveloped wealth necessary to make happy the homes of millions yet unborn. And yet, our material wealth revolves itself about the national character which adds renewed brilliancy to the designation of an American citizen. Proud should be he who can claim this glorious prerogative, for this citizen takes his place, not by fortune, not by chance by those who claim their right by the privileges of birth, for—

"What to him that wears great Natures patent
in his breast,
Are all the trappings of a Court?"

He holds his position, not by the frail tenure of inheritance, but in his own direct, absolute, unquestioned right under the genius of his country's laws. He builds not upon the forms of his ancestors, but stands as a freeman upon his own feet, under God, self-dependent and

self-sufficient. The poor and friendless boy is forgotten in the educated, accomplished, mature citizen, and is appreciated in a country where a brilliant intellect, and an improved mind shed a brighter lustre around a poor man's son than the richest pearl in a monarch's crown, because it is his own.

Upon the civic virtues of this citizenship, more than upon material wealth rests the perpetuity of our governmental structure, and the milestone which this great Exposition marks in a nation's progress, revolves itself about the high ideals of the citizen as well as industrial greatness.

A beautiful legend tells us that the chimes in the towers of the vanished and lost city of Is are heard by the children of Brittany through the hollow of the waves as they listen at midnight by the shores of the sea; so will the memory of the white spires and arched domes of this Magic City, its Festival Hall with its monumental stateliness, and simple grandeur and the evidences of mechanical skill and ingenuity which its white palaces contain, long survive the empire of decay and perpetuate, not alone the historical event which it celebrates, but the progressive development in education and the arts and sciences of the American people as well. It will carry the lessons which the beneficent effects of a republican form of government teaches to the tottering thrones of the Old World, and in the fullness of time, when the seed here sown will have borne fruit, and the roll of nations be called, it will find an American Ambassador, sitting at the head of the Council Board, enforcing American principles, not for conquest, nor the lust of empire, but to protect the weak against the strong and to stimulate justice among the nations of the earth.

And when that time does come, Mr. Chairman, West Virginia will, we have no doubt, justify the horoscope we cast for her, and be found keeping reliant and steady step with her sister States in the march along the path ways of human progress and the highest intellectual, moral and physical development.