

THE BALLANCE OF REASON.

A toast at the four societies meeting Feb. 13th. 1885.

The Union is a union of mind. Not that each individual mind of the number that make up the sum total of this society is the moddle of each other mind; and that they think alike on the matters that may ~~ee~~ come before us for consideration. <sup>This.</sup> The record of our discussions ~~that is~~ so faithfully made by our ever present Secretary will show. Even the mind of the individual is not a perfect unit, for, we find that ~~that~~ it struggles with itself almost as with another, arguing questions, debating rules of right, contending

with questions of policy and a <sup>t</sup>fter argument of the pros  
and cons, <sup>λ</sup> weighing in the ballance of Reason and  
arriving at conclusions. These conclusions

may be mature, and ~~once formed, be~~ permanent; or they  
may be immature, and easily overturned by the next  
series of facts that come within the range of the  
mental faculties. A conclusion that is arrived at  
without thinking is a mere mental fancy, founded on  
nothingness. To Think is the minds work. To think  
effectively it must discuss with itself. It must compare  
the facts newly acquired, with the ideas already ar-

ranged in its storehouse of garnered thought, and assign the new comer to its appropriate shelf. Not ~~to~~ throw it aside in any out of the way place; but after deliberation; after compareing it with this and that fact in store with which it is rightfully associated, find its value, as of a coin, by the amount of true metal it contains, find its weight by its turning of the scales of conclusions, and then, and not until then it may be registered for ready reference. This is thinking. The mind retires into its storehouse with newly

4

gathered treasures, compares them with the stock on hand, clasifies, weighs, and registers.

Each one of our Societies is a clearing house, or a place of exchange, in which each ~~one~~ of us opens up his or her store of garnered thought for comparison, determination of value on the societies Ballance of reason, and for exchange with his fellows. <sup>by</sup> ~~For~~ as the treasures are exchanged they must be weighed anew and the value reconsidered in council; and here comes the tug of the waring elements of thought. In each of

this quartett, the clash of mind with mind, fact against fact, thought upon thought, proceeds steadily- modifying- correcting- broadening and deepening the thinking power of each.

At the Round Table <sup>Banker</sup> Avers, throws into the Ballance his conclusions on Banking- which are corrected by <sup>Banker</sup> Elliott. <sup>Jeweler</sup> Mason, undertakes to adjust the time accounts to which <sup>Lawyer</sup> Bellatti, interposes legal objections. The effect of future legislation is determined by Mc'Donald <sup>in the legislature</sup> <sup>Lawyer</sup> -- unless Yates obtains the floor. And finally

the Ballance sheets are criticised by Brown.

In the Club the current of thought is deep and old. Storrs <sup>- Geologist -</sup> brings in a fossil from the Silurian

period. Turner <sup>- Antiquarian</sup> a grain from the Lake Dwellers of

Switzerland. Prince <sup>- Surgeon</sup> the skull of an anti-diluvian.

Sturdivant <sup>- President of the College</sup> a text from Genesis. Crampton <sup>- Mathematician, etc.</sup> a right

angle rectangle from the Chaldeans. Carter a brick

from the pavements of Troy. Walcot an Obelisk from

from the Nile. and Morton, with a little laugh, snaps

out the "soberness of thought" with the Caligraph.

of our Sisters

And now one ~~member~~ in a more gloomy mood than the rest are want to be, having weighed in her own private ballance of reason the misery of this world ~~as~~ against the good, brings to the Sorosis her conclusions and casts them in the ballance weighted down with the evils of intemperance, the sorrows of the erring, the wailings of the bereived, the anguish of disappointed hopes and the piteous moan of the homeless, Thus laden this end of the beam sinks low. But in this presence it cannot so remain; for at once Miss Dummer throws in

8

to the opposite tray a beam of sunshine; <sup>Artist</sup> Mrs Kirby a  
well worked scrap of may morning; <sup>Musician</sup> Miss Walcot a war-  
ble of a bird; Mrs Carriell the smile of an infant;  
<sup>Botanist</sup> Mrs Milligan a joy plucked from nature; Mrs Drury  
the love of a mother; and just as the beam is begin-  
ing to waver Mrs Kellog <sup>slips</sup> ~~pokes~~ in a joke from the  
last election, which is immediately followed by a ring-  
ing laugh from Mrs. Tanner. The Ballance turns with  
a jirk, and the gloomy conclusions are broken, displace  
ed and dispelled by the weight of the joys <sup>(against them)</sup> set over



In the union the war is quick and aggressive. for  
so soon as I bring a conclusion and throw it on  
the one tray of the great ballance of reason; ~~Dr. Jones~~  
Dr. Jones, ever on the alert, drops a thought on the  
other, Barnes the younger a page or two of Blackstone.  
Dr. Morey, a text from Paul. Dr. Easter throws in with  
a desperit thud, a keenly ground hatchet from the  
stone age. Dr. Milligan drops in half an Encyclope-  
dia. Barnes the elder, with the utmost assurance of  
its crushing weight, casts in a dishonest Republican.

And now as I see my conclusion becoming light in the tray ~~and~~ the Ballance begin to totter, ~~and~~ am trying to support it with weighty reason; and hoping that Dr. Hawes will come to my aid with something heavier than the Campaign<sup>g</sup> of St. John, Professor Bullard sudenly throws in against me a new question, and the Ballance reverses at once.--my conclusion that seemed so weighty in my private thinking, rises in nothingness, outweighed, and overturned by the mass of evidence placed on the other side of the Ballance of reason.

But seriously it is here in our societies that we set up the ballance in which each member weighs the product of his thinking, and compares it with that of his <sup>fellows</sup> and each takes home the findings of ~~the~~ <sup>this</sup> common ballance of reason for the readjustment of the weights and measurements of his ~~or her~~ private store of thought. New leaven is added to the loaf, it is neaded anew and set rise again. In this way thought is added to thought, and fact after fact is scanned, and settles into its appropriate nook in the mind.

To what purpose is all this thinking, this careful adjustment, and readjustment of the Ballance of reason. I answer, that the world of thought may be enriched, while each individual is made a broader and a better man. That each one may see and appreciate more and more of the varied subjects of thought that come before us. The individual, whatever be his calling should not be content with his School or College ~~train~~ training, no matter how thorough it may have been, for the mature adjustment of his ~~more mature~~ ballance of

reason. It becomes the duty of each, to gather into his  
 mind the widest range of intelligence possible. <sup>and our societies</sup> <sup>one of the means to this</sup> <sup>end</sup> The  
 Minister of the gospel of Christ should not be con-  
 tent with a knowledge of the Bible and biblical lit-  
 erature. Let him confine his visible labors to the  
 pulpit if he will, but the whole range of science, of  
 philosophy, every avenue of intelligent activity should  
 be his field of thought. It requires this to produce  
 that broad <sup>Mental</sup> expanse ~~of mental power~~ necessary to the  
 best, most brilliant, and effective handling of the sub-

ject of religion; a subject fraught with the most stupenduous results, for good or evil, to the human family. Too close a confinement to the one subject in thought, renders the man narrow in mind, over confident, biased, saps his strength, is liable to run him into error, and endangers those that depend on his teachings.

The Lawyer should know his forms of law, should know well the principles of law, and have a fair knowledge of the statutes and the decisions of Courts; but

15

*these alone will not constitute him a powerful lawyer. These are the tools with which he works; he must have the muscle with which to render these tools effective; and this figurative muscular strength he attains by increasing the breadth of his intelligence, by extending his knowledge of philosophy, of art, of science, and the doings and findings of the world at large. In his visible labor he may confine himself to the Bar if he will, but his field of thought should spread to*

16  
the four corners of the earth if he would become great and powerful.

I do not mean by this that we should be mere gatherers of the facts of the world, the bare facts of the arts, of philosophy, of religion, and of science; ~~but~~ but that thoughtful search through the intelligence of the world, that mental grapple with the great surging sea of thought which brings the mind face to face with the great problems of human existence; that mental experience of human wants, human strivings and



17

intelligence, which tunes the mind to the play of fact upon fact, thought upon thought, and brings forth its power.

In this general struggle with the elements of thought, in its varying channels and the weighing of the findings on the <sup>worlds</sup> great Ballance of reason, it is not obligatory or necessary that every man should become an original investigator in all of the lines of study which he may take up. The mechanic may seek new truths in mechanical powers and combinations; the

electrition unfold new facts in his particular field,  
 the histologist may seek new paths through the maze  
 of cell forms; or the biologist may hew his way back  
 down the rugged annals of time to the early beginnings  
 of life on our planet; and all may unfold to the  
 world their findings in their special fields, so that  
 their neighbors may, with little expense of time, ~~remanufacture~~  
 snatch up the findings of each, become master of the  
<sup>Play of</sup> thought to which they give rise, and appropriate them  
 to his use. It matters little what the hand may be do-

ing if the mind is free and active, is always engaged,  
and kept in harmony with nature and natures God..

have been

Some few there ~~are~~ who have been able so to ~~weigh~~  
gather from the world of intelligence arrange classify and  
weigh their thought in the Ballance of reason, that  
they stand out on the horizon of time like mountains  
that rise from the plain, about whose lofty brows the  
storms of the world, have poured their thunders and  
turbulent torrents, and the strife of the waring ele-  
ments of thought have swept down rich treasures of  
reason, and strewn them all along down the levels of

human intelligence, where they seem forever lodged, yet forever float on down the stream of the generations that are to come, enriching human wisdom for all time. Of such was Plato, Newton, Humbolt, and of such was our own Lincoln.

Members of the Sorosis.

Miss Allen.

Miss Fuller.

Miss Rhoads.

Miss Edith Walcott.

Miss Grace Dummer.

Miss Myer.

Mrs. South.

Mrs. Drury.

Mrs. Day.

Mrs Kellogg.

Mrs Milligan.

Mrs. Belatti.

Mrs. Martin.

Mrs. Walcott.

Mrs. Carriell.

Mrs. Tanner.

Mrs. Jones.

Mrs. Keiser.

Mrs. Stearns.

Mrs. Prince.

Mrs. Hall.

Mrs Scott.

Mrs. Kirby.

Mrs. Ed. King.

Members of the Union.

H. K. Jones. M. D.	W. H. Barnes	F. W. Short. D. D.
W. H. Milligan. M. D.	H. H. Hall.	. . EASTER. D. D.
T. J. Pitner. M. D.	Harry Dummer.	. . Morey. D. D.
A. E. Prince. M. D.	Mr. English.	Rev. Wm. Barnes.
G. V. Black. M. D.	Prof. Bullard.	Rev. . . Mc'Elroy.
. . Kellogg. M. D.	Prof. VanLear.	Rev. M. D. Hawes.
	Prof. Wood.	

Members of the Club.

Dr. Sturdivant	Prof. Crampton.	Mr. Walcot.
Dr. Prince	Prof. Turner	Mr. Butler.
Dr. Neveus.	Prof. Johnston	Mr. Carter.
Dr. Morton.	Prof. Sanders.	Mr. Fairbanks.
M. P. Ayers.	Leut. Barnes.	Mr. Palmer
Dr. Tanner.	Prof. Storrs	

Members of the Round Table.

W. D. Wood.	John Ayers.	Chas <sup>h</sup> Barnes.
Prof. Brown.	F. H. Rowe.	Frank. Elliott
Prof. Harker.	Wm. Mason.	Dick. Yates.
Fred Sturdivant.	Bellatti.	Julian Lipencott.
Ed. Mc'Donald.		