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:: BERLIN ::

More than seventy members of the "American Association of Commerce and Trade" assembled on Friday last in one of the fine dining rooms of the Hotel Adlon, corner Unter den Linden and Wilhelm Strasse, where they sat down to enjoy the annual banquet of the Association. President Hessenberg received the guests and then the feast began. After fish was served President Hessenberg proposed first the toast: "President Roosevelt, the man, who has done more for his country than any other president since Lincoln," and, immediately following, the other toast: "Emperor William, under whose lead Germany has made such rapid and wonderful progress." Both toasts were given with a will. After the first one the band struck up "Hall Columbia." They were ordered to play the "Wacht am Rhein" after the second one, but they seemed to like the American tune so well that they repeated the first melody, to the great amusement of the guests, until they were reminded of the programme and corrected the mistake.

A little later, President Hessenberg addressed the Association, calling their attention to the fact that the seventeenth day of January was the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, one of the best and greatest men America ever produced. The speaker very vividly described the career of Benjamin Franklin in its many and various phases, the achievements of the statesman, the politician and the man of science, of a personality which everywhere made a deep and lasting impression upon such men as Pitt and Frederick the Great. It was Benjamin Franklin who concluded the first commercial treaty of the young republic with any European Power, with Prussia, which again, through Frederick the Great, was the first one to recognize the American Republic's fight for liberty. But, Mr. Hessenberg continued, there was another birthday to be celebrated today: that of the American Association of Commerce and Trade, and this gave him the opportunity to discuss, in a really masterly manner, the financial and business situation in America and Germany. He was of the opinion that a high discount served as a check to unhealthy speculation, and that it was to be regretted that some kind of a regulator was lacking in the financial organisation of the United States. He finished his most interesting speech with a toast to the "Geburtstagskind", the American Association of Commerce and Trade of Berlin, and it was answered lustily by the members.

As the next speaker of the evening President Hadley, of Yale University, was introduced. In a very witty and diplomatic little speech he praised the good work done by the Association and its president in the interests of America and Germany, as both countries had to learn a good deal from each other. His "Austausch-Kollege", Professor Schofield of Harvard, followed with a long and interesting speech, in which he explained that men of his profession receive their best inspirations when they are able to meet men of affairs, and they should never miss an opportunity such as this one. Nowadays, the majority of American students, before or after graduating, enter business life and therefore it must be the aim of the universities to educate their students for business; for this career young men can find no better preparation than contact with business men. The American nation observed the sound principle of first providing for material development, to furnish the necessary means to use them later for higher purposes. According to an inscription which he found on an old book, the fathers of the Republic first provided for the necessities of life, then founded a sound civil government, and afterwards began to follow higher ideals. Vividly Professor Schofield described a scene which he witnessed last



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