

# BERLIN

America and Germany seemed to have united last Friday evening in Berlin to bid farewell to the departing Ambassador, Mr. Charlemagne Tower. There had assembled in the splendid banquet hall of the Hotel Adlon on Unter den Linden about one hundred guests, high officials of the German and Prussian Governments, headed by Admiral v. Tirpitz and Minister v. Rheinbaben, State Secretaries v. Schoen and Krätke, Minister of Education Holle, and Secretary of the Treasury Dr. Sydow; members of the German aristocracy, among them the Prince of Pless, Prince Henckel-Donnersmarck, Prince Max Hobenlohe, the Counts Sierstorpff, Ballestrem, and von der Asseburg, the chief of the American division in the Foreign Office, Baron von dem Busche-Haddenhausen, Dr. Lewald, who is known all over America as the German Commissioner-General at the Saint Louis World's Fair, and many others. In addition, the entire American colony of Berlin had evidently assembled to do honour to the man who, for nearly six years, has represented with dignity and success his country at the Imperial German Court.

As Mr. Hesseberg, the President of the American Association of Commerce and Trade, which had arranged this brilliant and most successful affair, is at present in America, the first Vice-President, Mr. Elmer Roberts, acted as chairman and proposed the toasts of the Emperor and President Roosevelt, the band playing the National Hymns of both countries. After this, the Prince of Pless followed with a glowing eulogy of Mr. Tower. The Prince had been selected as the chief speaker of this occasion by the Association for the following reason: when, about four years ago, a German Chamber of Commerce was established in New York—an organisation similar to the American Association in Berlin—he was sent by the German Government as their official representative, so that he is intimately versed in the affairs and efforts of these two kindred organisations and was well qualified to make the chief speech of this evening.

Prince Pless eloquently described how Mr. Tower had won the hearts of men of all classes with whom he had come in contact, officially, socially, or otherwise, during his long stay in the German capital. He enumerated many incidents, showing that Mr. Tower had always worked for harmony and peace, how he had fostered the interests of his compatriots and of mutual good understanding. The great banquet given to Mr. Tower in New York by Mr. Ridder, the proprietor of the most important German-American newspaper, had shown the general public how his efforts were appreciated. The orator closed with a warm tribute to the fine qualities of Mr. Tower as man and diplomat, and the three cheers he called for were given with enthusiasm.

Almost immediately afterwards Mr. Tower rose and returned thanks in a voice which betrayed his emotion. His speech was as follows:

"I am deeply touched by the compliment which you have paid me in inviting me to this dinner at which you have asked me to be your guest of honour this evening. I should fain see in your act a sign of approval, and I feel also that it is an indication of the community of interest which unites us all in the same purpose toward which we have striven together, you in your way and I in mine, for the forwarding and completing of a great and a noble work,—the friendship, good understanding, and cordial relations between the United States of America and the German Empire. If you believe that I have contributed my part and have carried in and set in place my stone in the building of the edifice, I am grateful indeed.

It has been my pride to live with you and amongst you during the last five years and more as the representative of the President and people of the United States. In whatever I have been able to accomplish, I beg you to be assured that I have always kept very close to my conscience the obligation that I owe to them and my duty to their welfare.

The time has gone quickly by, so quickly indeed that it is hard for me to realize that the events uppermost in our minds at the moment of my arrival in 1902, and the questions which succeeded them in the following years, are already incidents of the past to which we are now looking back from the year 1908. It seems but yesterday that we were consulting together as to the organization of your Association upon its present basis, the establishment in Berlin of an American Chamber of Commerce upon the plan proposed by you, and the overcoming of the temporary obstacle which presented itself as to the selection of a name suitable for your purpose which should meet all exigencies. How far this is left behind may be seen at a glance if we regard your flourishing condition today, and the great good that you have accomplished since then by your activity in connection with the commerce and trade between America and Germany.

It is a pleasure to me to testify to this, and I wish it might be widely understood and ap-

preciated from one sea-board of the United States to the other, that this Association of American merchants and business men in Berlin is carrying on with vigilance and with the trained hand of a skilled workman a patriotic work devoted to the interests of the whole of American manufactures and industry. I congratulate you heartily and I wish you many years of prosperity and success.

In my own field of duty, that of the purely diplomatic relations between the two countries, very many questions have presented themselves which have been disposed of one after the other and need, of course, not to be discussed in detail here.

The matter of greatest importance, however, and I mention it with extreme gratification, is, that as I look back upon these succeeding years I cast my eye over one continuous stretch of harmony and peace. No disturbing question has caused disappointment and heartburns on either side, and I very gladly seize the opportunity to declare here that my task has been rendered an easy one by the conciliatory attitude and the never failing courtesy of all the German authorities with whom I have come into official contact. I have never emerge from a Government Department in Berlin with the feeling that either the business which I had to transact there ought to have received better attention or that I personally ought to have been treated with greater kindness than had been the case.

I am leaving Germany with the assured feeling that I have made friends here,—friends not only for myself but for my country and my people first of all, and I take as the proof of it the presence at this table of these distinguished German statesmen and representatives whom I have the honour to see about me tonight.

Gentlemen, I scarcely know how to express to you my deep appreciation.

It would be impossible for an American to live in this country for a period of years, as I have done and as many of you have done, without estimating and acknowledging the many fine qualities of the German character,—a people of high aims which lives up to its national ideals and which through the process of development and the experience of centuries has produced an example of national life not only strong in its influence upon others but admirable in itself.

The American finds himself in sympathy with much here that is kindred to his own ideals,—the sanctity of the home, the impartial administration of justice and the high standard of intellectual development which attracts so many of our compatriots to the Universities of Germany; and I should say that if he carries with him a precept as a younger brother might do from the wider experience of his elder,—he would draw it from the splendid public order everywhere and from the thoroughness with which the German finishes his task, whatever it may be. These are the secrets of his success.

The United States and Germany are on terms of the most cordial friendship today, a situation of inestimable value to the interests of both countries, which it is to be hoped may be maintained for long years to come. Toward that end, as in the past, so in the future, in so far as my voice and influence may be of use, they shall be exerted with ready willingness and with zeal.

Let me call to your attention the fact that we have at present as a basis the best and safest foundation upon which international friendship can be built up,—the absence of conflicting interests; this should be and remain the leading thought in the minds of our statesmen on both sides of the Atlantic in laying out the policies of the future.

And now, gentlemen, a word of farewell. There is a touch of sadness about every parting, but the asperity of separation may be greatly mitigated by a show of kindness. I feel this to be so now. There is that in your expression of goodwill this evening which warms the heart, and from my heart I thank you."

Prolonged and hearty applause greeted the conclusion of this speech. Later on Mr. McFadden, the Second Vice-President of the Association of Commerce and Trade, rose and, on behalf of Mr. Tower's American compatriots in Berlin, presented to him an artistically written address, bound in leather and gold. Mr. McFadden spoke as follows:

"Your Excellency: I have the honour of presenting to you this evening an address by the American Colony in Berlin.

In performing this most pleasant duty I shall say but little, for no words of mine are necessary to express the high esteem in which we all hold you.

The quiet dignity with which you have fulfilled the functions of your high office, with all its attendant responsibilities, has won the respect of all whose privilege it has been to know you, and the record of your achievements in the field of diplomacy will ever remain a worthy testimonial to your merit; particularly your untiring efforts in the direction of bringing about closer

relationship between the nation you represent and the nation to which you are accredited.

In this age of open and honest intercourse between nations, such endeavour may well be looked upon, as the highest and noblest work of statesmen; for the relationship of nations, one to another, might fitly be called "the keystone in the arch of diplomacy," the keystone against which lean for common support all the higher hopes, desires and ambitions of nations in the onward march of civilisation.

That a closer relationship between nations is desirable, and I may say essential in the interest of civilisation, there can be but little doubt... particularly in this age of coalition, where, in the adjustment of world-interests, individual nations must of necessity play but the part of states.

To have, therefore, assisted in cementing more closely such State-relationship is indeed an honour, and one which any Ambassador might well be proud of.

Now your Excellency: We ask you, as compatriots enjoying for a while, like yourself, the privileges and the hospitality of this great German Nation, ... as compatriots between whom exists a common bond of sympathy and interest, to accept this testimonial of our sincere and earnest regard, as a token of recognition and appreciation of the unselfish devotion with which you have served the broader and, therefore, the greater interests of our beloved country."

Mr. Tower briefly but heartily returned thanks for this high honour, and assured his friends that he would carry the address with him to his country as a precious remembrance of his Berlin sojourn.

The list of official speakers was thus concluded, but the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Baron von Schoen, rose and paid a charming tribute to Mrs. Tower, the lady who had so admirably managed the household affairs of the American Embassy in Berlin. This spontaneous compliment paid her was doubly interesting, since Mrs. Tower, without the speaker's knowledge, listened to it from a neighbouring room. The three cheers in honour of Mrs. Tower, for which Baron von Schoen called, were given with an equal enthusiasm as those for her husband.

The whole affair was splendidly managed, and reflects the greatest credit on the American Association of Commerce and Trade in Berlin.

**Eugen Bachmann** Master of German elocution  
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THE LONDON PRESS ON THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

THE PRESIDENT IN THE CITY.

"President Fallières tells us how highly he values the relations which now happily subsist between England and France and which are developing every day to the advantage of our two countries, and he assures us in the name of France that trust and lively sympathy are the sentiments which animate her towards us. He can need no proof, after what he has seen and heard, that those sentiments are heartily and earnestly reciprocated by the British people."—*Times*.

"President Fallières' reception in the City, of which he was good enough to speak as 'the hearth from which radiate generous and liberal ideas, the ineradicable principles of all progress and all civilisation,' was such as will assuredly convince him that the commercial classes as well as the populace of London are sturdy supporters of the Entente."—*Telegraph*.

"The close approximation of England and France is something more than a recognition of geographical facts pointing to the paramount necessity of superseding the old rivalry with the good feeling that should obtain between neighbours who have no desire to remove each other's landmark. It is also the public and formal expression given to the rising sense of mutual need and reciprocal usefulness."—*Standard*.

"The President expressed the warm sympathy with Great Britain which animates France, and added that the community of interests which unites France and the British Empire is represented by the importance of the daily transactions between the two countries. In these passages was contained the essence of the existing relations between the two nations and the substance of the wishes of them both for the future."—*Morning Post*.

"We need no deeds of partnership. Our friendship rests on a community of ideas and institutions, a close interchange of thought, and a reciprocity in commerce which require no formal treaty. Indeed, speaking for ourselves, we should regard the formation of a specific alliance as a disaster for European peace."—*Daily News*.

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