

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ELEVENTH
ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UNITED
TYPOTHETAE OF AMERICA, HELD IN THE
CITY OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,
OCTOBER 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH, 1897**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649680726

Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Convention of the United Typothetae of America, Held in the City of Nashville, Tennessee, October 6th, 7th and 8th, 1897 by United Typothetae of America

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Cover @ 2017

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OF THE

Eleventh Annual Convention

OF THE

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OF AMERICA,

HELD IN THE CITY OF

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,

October 6th, 7th and 8th,

1897.

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THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
UNITED TYPOTHETÆ OF AMERICA,
AT NASHVILLE.

WEDNESDAY, October 6, 1897.

The eleventh annual convention of the United Typothetæ of America met in Watkins hall, Nashville, Tenn., October 6, 1897, and was called to order by the president, J. H. Bruce, of Nashville, at 10:40 o'clock A. M.

On opening the convention, the president said:

Gentlemen: It is my pleasure to introduce Mr. John M. Gaut, of Nashville, who will welcome you on the part of the Typothetæ of Nashville.

MR. GAUT: *Mr. President and Brethren of the Typothetæ:* It is my very agreeable duty to express to you, as far as I am able, the pleasure with which the Nashville Typothetæ welcome your advent into our city. They realize that in receiving you they receive the representative printers of the entire English speaking people of the American continent. A nation's printers are the disseminators and the conservators of its thought and its history. This, when applied to this country, means a great deal. We have almost the entire continent for our own; our nation is mixed, drawn from almost every nation on the face of the earth. We began our national life freed from the conventionalities and the conservatism of the old world, energetic, daring in thought and experiment,

and we have developed a more varied history, more creeds, more isms than all the nations of the earth put together.

Now, the printing press is no respecter of persons or creeds; it records them all with unflinching fidelity. Every school of politics, of religion, of science, of medicine, every vocation almost, has its journal and its text books. The arts and the sciences and history are in the keeping of the printing press, and it is a faithful servant to them all. Your vocation, therefore, fits you for the enjoyment of the exhibit which we set forth as best we can in our Centennial Exposition. You see there the progress which we have made as a people in the first hundred years of our existence. We think you will find we have made a progress of which we need not be ashamed; I trust you will find in it interest and profit. We appreciate the privilege of making the acquaintance and enjoying the society of so large a number of ladies and gentlemen coming here from almost every city in the Union and from the British dominions across the river. We trust that you will find enjoyment in our midst; perhaps you may find in our magnificent mountains, our beautiful valleys and streams, our golden sunsets, our splendid horses and cattle, and last, though not least, our beautiful women, suggestions and inspiration for adorning the printed page. [*Applause.*] But, if we fail in everything else, we trust that we shall convince you that we receive you as fellow-citizens of a united, fraternal and enduring nationality. [*Applause.*] We trust that however large may be our hosts, however wide open may be our

doors, they are not larger or more open than our hearts. Perhaps, after all, this may prove to be the most important of anything which we may hope to accomplish.

In other words, in the language of a certain editor, "We will try to get the main fact." There was an editor who received for publication a poem written by a lovesick swain, in which he pictured in very graphic colors the beauty of his adored, and how he pressed his suit, and how she accepted, and how he "kissed her beneath the silent stars"; but unfortunately the printer got hold of it, and he set it up so that it read, "kissed her beneath the cellar stairs." Well, of course, the editor had a fuss to settle the next morning, and resourceful as editors always are, and failing in every other expedient, he patted the youth on the shoulder and said, in a patronizing way: "My dear sir, we got the main fact right, anyway."

Now, we hope if we don't do anything else, we will get the main fact right, and I assure you that in no country and in no city has the American Typothetæ received a warmer welcome than it will receive in the city of Nashville. [*Applause.*]

President Bruce then called upon Mr. Todd, of Boston, to reply to Mr. Gaut, who responded as follows:

Mr. President and Members of the Typothetæ:
When I saw my friend Donnelley coming in with a yellow paper a few minutes ago, I made up my mind that he was the person who would be chosen to make a few extemporary remarks, but immediately after that, when our secretary approached me and stated