

# West Point Graduates

BANQUET AT GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL IN CHICAGO

In Commemoration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the West Point Military Academy. Col. P. Turnley, of Highland Park, the Evening's Orator.

The graduates of the United States Military Academy, in Chicago and vicinity, commemorated the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of that institution, Saturday evening, March 15, 1902, by a dinner at the Grand Pacific hotel, Chicago.

Of the twenty who assembled, ten are in civil life. It was the fourteenth meeting of the kind in Chicago, the first meeting being held in 1888.

The oldest graduate present occupies the "chair" at the table. This fell to Colonel P. T. Turnley, of Highland Park, who is a graduate of the class of 1846. Then followed in dates of graduation: General Milo S. Hascall of 1852, General William Sooy Smith of 1853, both of these residing in Chicago; W. H. Upham, late governor of Wisconsin, and General Charles King, both of the class of 1866; Major A. D. Schenck,

Garlington and Charles L. Hammond, all of the class of 1876; Major W. T. Wood, class of 1877; Major C. McD. Townsend and A. M. Ogle, both of the class of 1879; Charles S. Burt, class of 1880; Captain S. E. Allen and Williston Fish, both of 1881; Captain L. G. Berry, class of 1886; Colonel E. C. Young, class of 1887; Captain John J. Bradley, class of 1891; Captain F. B. McKenna, class of 1893; Lieutenant J. C. Nichols, class of 1899.

It was a delightful social gathering and a sumptuous dinner, well prepared and served. Colonel Turnley, holding the chair, was the first to speak. Then followed short speeches by others, Generals Hascall, General Sooy Smith, Governor Upham; General King, etc.

Colonel Turnley in acknowledging the honor of the chair said:

Brother Graduates—The honor of occupying this chair this evening has come to me by reason of age. There are other games played in life in which age holds the winning hand. In fact age is a valuable asset in balancing one's doomsday book of life. The dignity of age is, or ought to be, of considerable value, for it may be the latest and the greatest some of us may ever attain. Twenty-four hours ago I had

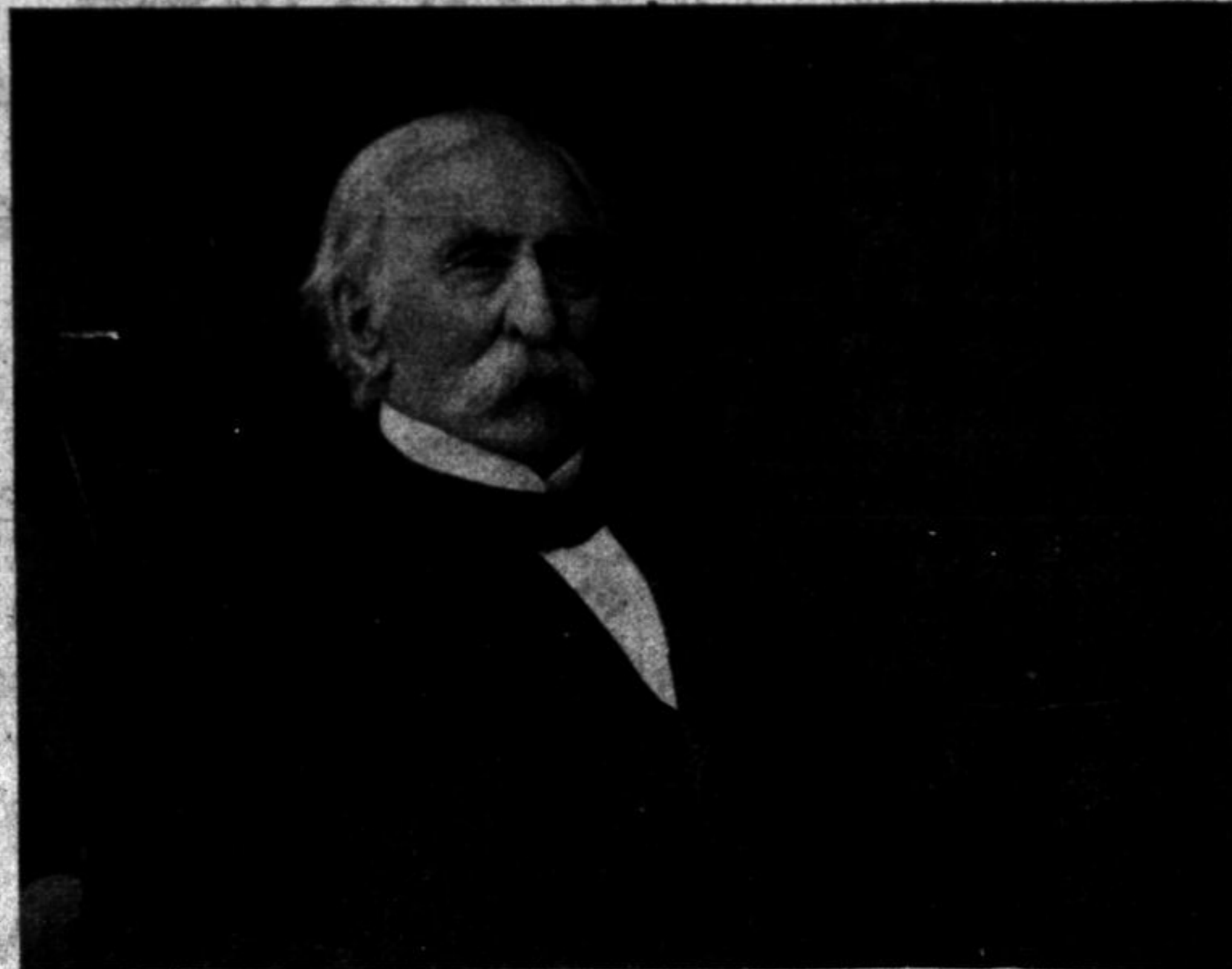
no idea of being present here tonight, and had just finished dictating to my typewriter, in my den at Highland Park, some things which I felt it important to give utterance to on this centennial of our National Academy. I mailed that to our esteemed secretary, Mr. Charles S. Burt, with request that he read it to the meeting. Scarcely had I mailed that paper when I received a second letter from our secretary, urging me to come, which I determined to do. I will ask now that our brother graduate, Governor Upham, will read that paper as

feel interested in. It will interest you more, no doubt, than if spoken by me from the chair. To say the truth, my greatly impaired hearing, together with loss of my teeth, very much interferes with my speechmaking.

us of the necessity to enumerate or point out the achievements of graduates in proof of the excellence of the fruits of the Military Academy.

I prefer, therefore, to make only a few remarks pertinent to the great indispensibility of our Academy, and to the high and noble aspirations it implants in the hearts and minds of those who pass through its curriculum. Wherever one meets a graduate, whether in this or any other land, he meets a "brother-in-chip" who, equally with himself, pays homage to that cherished Mecca of his early education. It is the one spot on earth which every

graduate visits with the warmest and heartiest welcome. It is the shrine at which every graduate kneels in sweetest remembrance and reverent devotion. It is fitting, therefore, that we commemorate its birthday anniversary.



COL. PARMENAS TAYLOR TURNLEY IN HIS 81ST YEAR.

This photograph was taken some years ago and, although the Colonel is well past four score years, he is as hale and hearty as most men are at fifty.

Governor Upham then read the following paper, which elicited universal applause, and after some other short addresses "Benny Havens" was sung standing, and the meeting dispersed near 11 p. m.:

The United States Military Academy at West Point was permanently established as a government school March 16, 1802, and we have voluntarily assembled here this evening as graduates from that fondly cherished alma mater to commemorate the birth and to celebrate the fruits of that nursery of military training as exemplified by many of its graduates. Happily for us, current history, and almost daily recitations in our public schools, relieves

The government, too, is doubly warranted in holding in high esteem that nursery of its brave and distinguished officers, citizens and patriots. It is a school no less renowned for its high morality than for its discipline and its mental and physical education.

It might, at first sight, appear paradoxical to say that the truly educated officer is the handmaid and co-worker with the pulpiteer and educated advocate of "peace and good will among men"; yet I claim that history demonstrates this to be true. The progress of civilization has shown that the great English scholar's (Chatham) ideal "heaven-born general" has become a fallacy in war and obstructive to true civilization. The heaven-born general may have been well enough in times of

barbarous conflict among men of barbarous instincts, but is out of place in our day and generation. No intelligent nation or people of this period will deny that true warfare is the product of science and intellectual culture, and that both elements are naturally developed by rules and principles which must be mastered by painstaking study before an officer is fitted to command men or an army. From the early Grecian times military education has been considered necessary to that chivalric character demanded by the gospel of humanity. It is the well-instructed mind which leads an army

up an empire of contented people. This culture of the soldier may not all be acquired in the college, yet the groundwork, the seed, must be there planted. Albeit its full growth may require the wider school of camp and battlefield. The efficient commander must have been taught by masters of the art and science, and it is during the process of this teaching that science and intelligence clasp the hand of humanity and both open the path of civilization together and achieve moral as well as military conquest. Therefore we say, so long as wars must need come it is essential to man's higher development in all that is worthy and noble, that officers who control armies and command soldiers shall be educated, not only in the science and art of war, but also above the political passions of the hour and the savagery of conflict. Our Military Academy fills this requirement more than any other institution in the world.

We have entered the twentieth century of the Christian era, spanning a period of two thousand years since a gospel of peace was proclaimed to the

in the direction of peace and good will among men.

From the days of the apostles to the present, men of the purest lives and highest culture have preached this gospel and urged its acceptance by mankind. It has softened obdurate hearts, restrained and subdued the passions, and planted in lost and erring natures the seeds of celestial virtues. Nations and lawmakers have felt its influence and have been led onward and upward by its divine spirit, and still we are forced to deplore the fact that in all this time, that gospel has not been made the basis for the settlement of differences between nations and peoples. Selfish ambition and un-Godly purposes still sway nations in criminal aggression on the weaker people.

It is a humiliating reflection that, with our boasted advancement in art, science and Christian graces, we must still witness the brutal spectacle of brothers and kindred rising from bended knees and with prayers to the God of that gospel hasten to the field of battle and there slay each other till the stronger shall overcome the weaker. Blasphemy and sacrilege are the fitting words to ascribe to such action by any nation or people.

But, while we deplore this frailty of man's nature and look hopefully for better methods by the peace congresses,

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