COLONEL BRYAN WINED AND DINED

Silver Champion is the Guest of Honor at the Banquet.

RESPONDS TO THE TOAST.

Members of the Virginia Democratic Association Listen to the Speech with Interest.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The Virginia Democratic association of the District of Columbia celebrated Washington's birthday by a party attended by 1500 at the National Hillies armory. Hon. William J. Bryan was the guest of honor, and among those present were Senators Daniels, Martin and Stewart. In the center of the stage in the rear of the hall was an immense floral display presented to Mr. Bryan by his admirers. Patriotic speeches were made, and songs sung, while the band played a medley of popular airs. Mr. Bryan was given an enthusiastic reception, and every reference to him by the speakers was received with tremendous applause.

Senator Daniel of Virginia was the first to be responding to the toast, Virginia Washington, we celebrate his birthday anniversary for his worth as a soldier, statesman and patriot."

"Democracy's mission" was responded to by Representative Bailey of Texas. In the course of his speech Mr. Bailey referred to the organization of the Democratic party and referred to the 1896 campaign in which the party had performed its mission. The man whose virtues we celebrate tonight did not teach his children to exchange principles for success, he said. They taught us that in this world a principle is worth infinitely more than a triumph, and if the principles are followed out, our triumph will follow our fidelity to them. "I crave success," said Mr. Bailey, "as sincerely as any man, but I also believe there is things worse than a defeat. We have survived that before, and we can survive that again, but we could not survive the cowardly surrender of our principles.

"We welcome the co-operation of all men who will join us in restoring this beloved country from the perilous situation into which it has been led, but will bow in deepest humiliation if we We will tell them now that we will go into the next canvass with no apologies on the last one we made.

"As certainly as the years go by and the great national convention assembles we will bring up the platform made in 1896 and in his quoting to Mr. Bryan's unsullied name will give the banner as stainless as his life (great applause) and the great commanders will give the signal for forward march, and it will be a march to victory.

"Let us here and now renew our pledge and renew our faith and when we have fought the battle in its behalf, and won the victory we shall receive as our reward the confidence of a grateful people by revitalizing those great and essential principles of human freedom which it is the mission of our party to perpetuate and defend."

Hon. Elliot Danforth of New York responded to the toast "The State of New York." He declared that the Democrats of the entire Union were anxious to give their votes to the next Democratic nominee for President, and to have restored the standard bearer of the party was present.

Hon. D. A. De Armond of Missouri responded to the toast, "The Democratic Party: It Cannot Die While the Republic Lives." When he had concluded the speaker introduced Hon. William J. Bryan, who responded to the toast "America's Mission."

MR. BRYAN'S SPEECH.

When the advocates of imperialism find it impossible to secure for their policy with the principles of our government, they seek to cast the blame upon the Democratic party, which they attempt to defend it upon the ground of religious duty or patriotism. They say, "Your party has no cause upon the assertion that it is destiny. Suppose it does violate the Constitution, they say, "suppose it does break all the commandments, suppose it does entail upon the nation an incalculable expenditure of blood and money; it is destiny and we must submit."

The people have not voted for imperialism; no national convention has declared for it; no Congress has passed a law to authorize it; no, has the Office been revealed? Whence this voice of authority? We can all prophesy, but only prophets are more than human; governed by our hopes and our surroundings. Man's opinion of what is to be is but a child of his environments. Avarice is a poor destiny with a dollar mark before its militarism equine it with a sword. It is the best people who, recognizing the omnipotence of truth, recognize also and clearly the great forces which are working out the progress, not of one country but of nations, but of all the human race.

HISTORY'S TEACHER.

History is replete with predictions which once were the line of destiny but which failed of fulfillment because Divine Providence had put into an small an end of the circle of events.

When Pharaoh pursued the Retting Israelites to the edge of the Red Sea he was confident that their bondage would be renewed and that they would again make bricks without straw, but destiny was not revealed until Moses and his followers reached the farther shore dry shod and the waves overwhelmed the legions and chariots of the Egyptians.

When Belshazzar, on the last night of his reign, had his thousand lords into the Babylonian banquet hall and sat down to a table glittering with vessels of silver and gold, he felt sure of his kingdom for many years to come, but destiny was not revealed until the hand appeared and wrote the fateful warning words, "Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsin."

When Alexander swept northward with his conquering hosts his imagination saw the Crescent triumphant throughout the world, but destiny was not revealed until Charles Martel raised the cross above the battlefield of Tours and saved Christendom from the sword of Mohammedanism.

When Napoleon emerged victorious from Marengo, from Ulm and from Austerlitz he thought himself the child of destiny, but destiny was not revealed until Belcher's forces joined the army of Wellington and the vanquished Corsican began his melancholy march to St. Helena.

When the red-coats of George the Third routed the New Englanders at Lexington and Bunker Hill there came before the British sovereign visions of empire broad without representation and drained of their wealth by foreign trade laws, but destiny was not revealed until the sword surrendered at Yorktown completed the work begun at Independence hall and ushered into existence a government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed.

DEMOCRACY CHALLENGED.

We have reached another crisis. The ancient doctrine of imperialism, banished from our land more than a century ago, has reappeared among the Atlantic and challenged democracy to mortal combat upon American soil. Whether the issue now joined shall be known in history as a war for liberty or as a war of conquest, whether the principles of self-government shall be strengthened or abandoned, whether a lateral means empire—these questions must be answered by the American people—which they speak and not until then will destiny be revealed.

Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved. No one can see the end from the beginning, but every one can make his course an honorable one from beginning to end, by adhering to the right under all circumstances. Whether a man made much or little may depend upon his opportunity, but whether he stands at all depends upon his own nerve.

As with our nation. If we embark upon a career of conquest, no one can tell how many islands we may be able to seize or how many races we may be able to subjugate; neither can anyone estimate the cost, treasure and treasure. In the Nation's purse and to the Nation's character, but whether we shall enter upon such a career is a question which the people has a right to decide for themselves.

THE NATION'S PURPOSE.

Two hundred years may retard or advance the hour of destiny, but the Nation's purpose determine its destiny. What is the Nation's purpose? That purpose is set forth clearly and unmistakably in the first sentence of the Constitution:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for a common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

It will be seen that one of the main purposes of the founders of our government was to secure to themselves and their posterity the blessings of liberty. That purpose has been faithfully followed up by the Nation in our statesmen have opposed each other upon economic questions, but they have agreed in the confidence of this generation, in controlling national ideas. They have quarrelled among themselves over tariff and finance, but they have been united in their opposition to any entangling alliance with any European power.

INFLUENCE CIRCLES THE GLOBE.

Under this policy this Nation has grown in numbers and in strength. Under this policy its benevolent influence has reached all the globe. Under this policy the taxpayers have been spared the burden of the maintenance of a large military establishment and the young men have been taught the arts of peace instead of the science of war. On each returning Fourth of July our people have met to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our independence, their hearts have renewed their vows to free institutions and their pledges to the principle of self-government, whose wisdom and courage and patriotism made it possible, for each succeeding generation to repeat the words "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing."

This sentiment has been universal with a rare ease. It was to this sentiment that the Cuban insurgents appealed in their struggle for freedom. It pelled our people to enter into war with Spain. Have the sentiments changed in a few short months that they are now willing to apologize for the acts of the President and force upon the Filipinos the same system of government against which the colonies protested with the sword?

CRIMINAL AGGRESSION.

The hour of temptation has come, but temptations do not destroy other with the strength of individuals and nations. Our ancestors, starting from the stepping stones, they had to infinite or fame, accepted the sacrifices made for them. Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen served together in the Continental army and both made offered first on gold. Arnold yielded to the temptation and made his name a synonym for treason; Allen resisted and live in the affections of his countrymen. The nation is tempted to depart from its "mission of morality" and adopt a policy of "criminal aggression." But, will it yield?

"It is a mistake not the sentiment of the American people, they will spurn the bribe of imperialism, and, by rebuking imperialism, will make a victory as lasting as the victory we won since the battle of Yorktown. Let it be written of the Democratic party that it was its duty