

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE LAW ORDER
SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF
PHILADELPHIA, FOR THE YEAR
ENDING FEBRUARY 15TH, 1887**

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Report of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Law Order Society of the City of Philadelphia, for the Year Ending February 15th, 1887 by Various

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PHILADELPHIA, FOR THE YEAR
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☼ REPORT ☼ c#

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

LAW & ORDER SOCIETY

OF THE

City of Philadelphia,

For the Year ending February 15th, 1887.

Organized September 12th, 1881.

Issued from the Office of the Society, 1513 Chestnut St.

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Officers of the Society, 1887-8

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ARTHUR M. BURTON, 504 Walnut St.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

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HORACE GEIGER, 1410 North Broad St.

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PROCEEDINGS.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Law and Order Society of the city of Philadelphia, was held in the American Academy of Music, corner of Broad and Locust Streets, on Tuesday Evening, February 15th, 1887, at 8 o'clock.

The building, spacious as it is, was thronged from top to bottom, and the aisles were filled. The public interest evinced was such that nearly as many more were turned away from the entrance, unable to gain admittance.

The exercises were opened with a voluntary on the organ, followed by a chorus from "The Creation," entitled "Awake the Harp," rendered by the Memorial Choral Society.

The Bradbury Vocal Quartette then sang "Wine is a Mocker," and received a hearty encore.

Ex-Governor James Pollock called the meeting to order and introduced Governor Beaver as Chairman for the evening, saying:

Ladies and Gentlemen:—I am about to introduce a man who, in the defence of his country, lost a limb, and in honor of his services to his country and his countrymen the people have elevated him to one of the highest offices in their power to bestow. I myself have filled the office, and knowing its responsibilities say that you could not have selected a man who would fill the office with greater dignity.

Governor Beaver took the Chair, and, when the applause following his introduction had subsided, said, "In the further orderly conduct of this meeting, we will be led in prayer by the Right Reverend Bishop Whitaker, D. D., of the Diocese of Pennsylvania."

The following prayer was then offered by Bishop Whitaker:

Almighty and ever living God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we adore thee for what thou art, we bless thee for the great things thou hast done for us. We thank thee, O Lord, for the precious heritage which thou hast bestowed upon us; we thank thee for all the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and we beseech thee, O God, to give us grace to show forth our thankfulness by living in reverence of thy authority, by humble dependence upon thy gracious favor and goodness, and by a hearty obedience to thy righteous laws. We thank thee for the blessings of peace prevailing throughout our land. We beseech thee to bestow these blessings upon the nations deprived of them, and to grant that throughout the world peace and quietness may prevail. Give, we beseech thee, O God, thy blessing to all who are called to exercise any legislative, executive or judicial authority. Grant that they may all rightly understand by whose permission they exercise the authority entrusted to them, and that they may be led to devise such things as shall be for the welfare of the people; to execute the laws with fidelity, in all things to be obedient to thy commands. Give thy blessing, O Lord, to this Society whose anniversary we celebrate to-night. Grant that every member of it may perceive and know what things he ought to do and that he may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same. Grant, we beseech thee, that the blessings of peace, good order and righteous obedience may prevail throughout our nation, throughout this State and in this City; and wilt thou now direct us in all the doings of this evening with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, so that all we do may be begun, continued and ended in thee to thy honor and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to say: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name: thy kingdom come: thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation: but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The officers of the meeting were then announced by Samuel C. Brown, Esq., as follows:

PRESIDENT.

GOV. JAMES A. BEAVER.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

CHIEF JUSTICE MERCUR,	HENRY C. PATTERSON,
EX-GOV. JAMES POLLOCK,	WILLIAM BROCKIE,
EX-GOV. JOHN F. HARTRANFT,	JOHN B. GARRETT,
EX-GOV. HENRY M. HOYT,	S. S. KEELEY,
EX-GOV. ROBERT E. PATTISON,	THOMAS DOLAN,
HON. WILLIAM N. ASHMAN,	JOHN LUCAS,
DR. D. HAYES AGNEW,	ABRAHAM BARKER,
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FREDERICK G. ELLIOTT,	P. BLAKISTON,
THOMAS MAY PEIRCE,	DR. C. R. BLACKHALL,
GEORGE I. MCKELWAY,	THOMAS C. ELSE.

ARTHUR M. BURTON, Esq., President of the society then said:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:—On behalf of the Society I have the pleasure of presenting the Sixth Annual Report of the Law and Order Society to the citizens of Philadelphia, a copy of which will be found on the seats, and it will not, therefore, be necessary for me to read it, as you can all do so for yourselves.

ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR BEAVER.

Ladies and Gentlemen:—The authorities representing the Law and Order Society of Philadelphia have greatly honored me by inviting me to preside on this occasion. I supposed when I

came here that my duties were to be limited and prescribed, and that they would be confined exclusively to the services which I might render as presiding officer. I find upon this programme, however, that an address is expected of me.

Seeing the names of such eminent gentlemen upon the programme as are to follow, I do not deem it either expedient or desirable to occupy your time with any extended remarks. I do realize, however, what every good citizen must realize, that the supremacy of law is the safety of the Commonwealth, and that the dethronement of law is not only the destruction of social order but it saps the prosperity of the state and of every individual citizen of the state. It is becoming to us, therefore, by all the means in our power, by all the efforts which we can make, by all the encouragement which we can extend to any organized society looking to the enforcement of the law, to assist in making the law supreme.

There are laws which, in our view, may antagonize our individual liberty; there are laws which may abridge our selfish propensities; there are laws which, in our judgment, ought to be repealed, but so long as they remain law they are to be respected, they are to be enforced.

It is said that order is the first law of heaven. I do not suppose there is any legislative enactment on the subject; there certainly can be no necessity for positive enactment. The reason, it occurs to me, why order is the first law of heaven is that the inhabitants of heaven are in entire harmony with their surroundings and that, therefore, there is no necessity for law to enforce order.

If we were sketching an ideal commonwealth it seems to me we should sketch a commonwealth whose citizens were each and all a law unto themselves; citizens who required no law because they would be in entire harmony with their surroundings, and each in entire and absolute harmony with all his fellow-citizens. If that were the case, if we were each one moved and governed by the law of love, there would be no necessity for any other law. Failing such a commonwealth as this our next ideal, perhaps, would be a commonwealth in which every citizen had love and reverence for law, and if this were the case all laws would be respected and executive officers and societies for the enforcement of law would be unnecessary and unknown. It is because of our

imperfect humanity that laws are made and laws must be executed, and it seems to me that we cannot but lend to any organization which fairly attempts to assist in the execution of the law our countenance and our encouragement.

In coming into this presence to-night at the invitation of this Society I confess that I am moved as much by curiosity as by any other motive. I have heard of the Law and Order Society of Philadelphia. We hear much of it through the public prints in one way and another. We should suppose as we read of it sometimes that it is a Society determined to do good, bent on the enforcement of wholesome laws and bent on commending the law to the public; we should infer, as we read other accounts of it, that it is a society which ought not to be encouraged, that it is a society oppressive in its aims and its tendencies, and I confess that one of my objects in coming here was to learn from this Society itself what its aims were, what its objects are, how it attempts to enforce the law, and endeavors to uphold the hands of the executive officers of the Commonwealth and of your City. I have long ago learned that the best way to learn is to come to the fountain of knowledge. The best way to learn is to come to those who can give you information, and so I am here to-night, as doubtless many of you are, to learn from the officers of this Society just what its aims and purposes are and how it proposes to make Philadelphia a better city than it is and to make its inhabitants more obedient to the law. If this is their aim every good citizen must say to the Law and Order Society of Philadelphia, we wish you God speed, we wish you success, and in wishing that we will furnish you all the means that are necessary to bring success to your efforts.

In the further exercises of the evening, as you will see, upon the programme, the congregation is invited to join in the hymn which will be found upon the second page of the slip, beginning: "Hark, ten-thousand harps and voices."

After the singing of the hymn the next speaker was introduced by Governor Beaver, as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen:—We esteem it a great honor to have with us on this occasion a citizen of a sister state, emi-