

MINISTER WU IN PRAISE OF LINCOLN

Also Speaks in Brooklyn of Burlingame and His Work in China.

Words of Mr. Wu in Part Are Interpreted as a Defense of His Attitude Toward Gen. Otis.

Wu Ting-Fan was the guest of honor and principal speaker at the twelfth annual Lincoln dinner of the Union League Club of Brooklyn, at the clubhouse in Bedford Avenue, last night, and in the course of his remarks, after an eloquent eulogy of the martyr President, quoted freely from the Burlingame treaty, words that led his hearers to believe that he was defending his position in recently refusing to sit at table with Gen. Otis, although he made no direct reference to the controversy. This part of his address was received with deep silence, his great audience all seeming to feel the bitter irony of his remarks.

It was the largest dinner ever held in the spacious clubhouse, there being about 360 present. Among those at the guest table were Assistant Secretary of State Thomas W. Cridler, Gen. John R. Brooke, Gen. Paul Van der Voort, Chow Tsz-Chi, Chinese Consul at New York, and the Rev. Dr. Madison C. Peters. Many women occupied the galleries, but dimly seen through the Havana haze after the speaking began. The repast was a sumptuous one, and ice cream boxes in the form of miniature busts of Lincoln mounted on flag-draped pedestals were the appropriate souvenirs of the occasion.

Wu Ting-Fan was the central figure of a reception held in the club parlors for an hour before the banquet was served.

When at last the dinner was over and regrets from President McKinley and others had been read, President Hibbert B. Masters referred briefly to the occasion of the celebration and then introduced Minister Wu as "the ablest statesman of China, with the possible exception of that good statesman Li-Hung-Chang." The old Viceroy's name, however, provoked no enthusiasm. There was one shout of "No!" and a long-drawn, derisive "Ah-h-h!" and that was all.

Wu Ting-Fan spoke in part as follows: "America has won two great victories—one resulting in the independence of the United States, the other in the emancipation of the negro race. The central figure of the first was Washington; the moving spirit of the other was Lincoln. The names of Washington and Lincoln seem thus to have been linked together in America's noble achievements.

"It is a strange coincidence that both these men were born in the month of February, and, if my calculation is correct, our own statesman, Li Hung Chang, was born in the same month." [A voice: "Were you born in February?"]

"I am coming to that point now—the gentleman is a little impatient. It doesn't follow that because a man is born in one of the other months he is necessarily bad. I was born in one of the other months.

"We are assembled here to-night to commemorate the day of Lincoln's birth. The occasion recalls many stirring events of the past, arouses a feeling of gratitude for the present, and inspires hope for the future. It may be doubted by some whether on an occasion like this it is proper for a representative of a foreign nation to join in the celebration. But I have no misgivings in this respect. I do not look on Lincoln as belonging to America alone. America has good reason, indeed, to be proud of giving birth to such a son.

"But the world claims him as a benefactor of mankind and his noble deeds as the achievements of the human race. His greatness cannot be confined within the narrow limits of the United States. Therefore, I took pleasure in accepting the courteous invitation of this club, and I am here now, like the King of the East, laying gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh at the feet of the infant Christ, to pay a tribute of veneration and gratitude to the name and memory of Lincoln.

"To the world at large he will ever be known and honored as the vindicator of human rights, who, by a stroke of the pen, carried into effect the fundamental principle of government—that all men are created equal.

"But the one event of that stirring period which transcends all others in importance and in human interest is doubtless the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation. This was the crowning act of Lincoln's life, one for which the peoples of the earth, irrespective of race, nationality, and religion, will honor him and revere his name to the end of time. It may now seem strange that in his day and generation many good and honest men questioned the wisdom of his policy.

"Nothing shows more conclusively the greatness of Lincoln than his selection of men for the important posts of the Government.

"The appointment of Anson Burlingame to be United States Minister to China was a signal instance of this. For seven years this eminent man resided in the Chinese capital as the American representative, discharging the duties of his important post with consummate ability and tact.

"He not only looked after the interests of his country during that long period to the entire satisfaction of the Government and people he represented, but he did more than this—he succeeded in winning at the same time the respect and confidence of the Chinese officials with whom he came in contact, by his invariable fairness and courtesy. Consequently, when he was about to return to the United States the Chinese Government intrusted him with a diplomatic mission to the powers of Europe and America.

"Thus he went to China as America's representative and came back to America as China's spokesman. One of the most important results of his mission was the signing of a treaty between China and America, which has since borne his name. This treaty has done more than anything else to leave in the Chinese mind an ineffaceable impression of the just and fair attitude of the United States toward China. Let me quote one or two clauses from this important and interesting document:

"The Emperor of China and the United States of America officially recognize the inherent and inalienable right of man to change his home and allegiance, and also the mutual advantage of the free immigration and emigration of their subjects and citizens, respectively from the one country to the other for the purpose of curiosity or trade, or as permanent residents. The high contracting parties therefore join in reprobating any other than an entirely voluntary emigration for these purposes.

"They consequently agree to pass laws making it a penal offense for a Chinese subject or a citizen of the United States to take citizens of the United States either to China or any other foreign country, or for a citizen of the United States or a Chinese subject to take Chinese subjects to the United States or any other foreign country without their free and voluntary consent respectively.

"Chinese subjects visiting or residing in the United States shall enjoy the same privileges, immunities, or exceptions in regard to travel or residence as may there be enjoyed by the subjects or citizens of the most favored nation. And, reciprocally, citizens of the United States visiting or residing in China shall enjoy the same privileges, immunities, or exceptions in respect to travel or residence as may be enjoyed by the most favored nation.

"Such was the friendly spirit which animated the two nations at that time. The signing of the Burlingame treaty was the first attempt on the part of a Western power to apply the principles of reciprocity in dealing with the Government and people of China.

"Missionaries are reported to have said that the name American has often proved to be a veritable aegis to them in time of popular excitement. Though the Burlingame treaty was enacted three years after Lincoln's death, every line of it is in perfect accord with his enlightened and humane policy.

"To Lincoln may be applied the words the Chinese historian applies to the incomparable Yao, greatest of the early rulers of China. Thus it is written: 'His benevolence was boundless, his wisdom was profound. To any one approaching him he had the genial warmth of the sun—when viewed at a distance he seemed to have the mysterious ways of the clouds.'

"Though occupying the highest station he was not haughty, though controlling the whole resources of the Nation he was not lavish. Justice was the guiding principle of his action. Nobleness was written on every lineament of his face. Of Lincoln as well as of Yao, it may truly be said the world has seldom produced his equal."

Other speakers announced to follow him were Dr. Peters, on "Lincoln's Wit and Wisdom"; Gen. Van der Voort, "Lincoln from the Soldier's Point of View," and

Assistant Secretary Cridler on "Lincoln, the Typical American."

MR. WU REVIEWS THE 23D.

At least 4,000 persons joined in the celebration of Lincoln's Birthday by the Twenty-third Regiment yesterday afternoon, and for an hour before the doors were opened an enormous crowd besieged the gates of the great armory in Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. The event of the afternoon was a review of the command by Wu Ting-Fan.

Minister Wu was escorted to the stand by Lieut. Col. Jasper Ewing Brady, the commanding officer of the regiment, Col. Alfred S. Barnes being at present in Europe on a leave of absence. Behind them marched Chow Tsz-Chi, Chinese Consul at New York, and Gen. Theodore L. Frothingham and the staff officers. As the guests appeared the whole audience burst into frantic applause, which the Minister acknowledged with nervous little bows. A huge Chinese flag was stretched over the heads of the reviewing party.

When the regiment was in formation the Chinese statesman marched around the room, returning the salutes of the company commanders with a quick motion of his small right hand toward his gem-embroidered cap. He was clad in a gorgeous costume of yellow figured silk, with a small pink jacket, and his features fairly beamed as he walked by the soldiers.

Minister Wu and Col. Brady sat a little apart from the other occupants of the stand, and it was seen, though none could hear what passed, that the guest of the day was keeping up a constant fire of questions, though missing nothing of what was going on. Dress parade followed immediately after the review, and the guests remained in their places until this ceremony was over, rising with all others when the band played "The Star Spangled Banner." The twilight was fast waning as the companies were dismissed to prepare for the evening festivities, which included a baseball game and dancing.

Before leaving Minister Wu went up to the Colonel's rooms on the second floor and a brief reception was held in his honor.

"This is a great honor done me by the Colonel," he said, "and I highly appreciate it. It was done in such a systematic and uniform way. I was agreeably surprised. It was something that I had never seen before.

"The marching was admirable and the drill, if I am not mistaken in this, my opinion, was perfect. I am told this is the crack regiment of Brooklyn. It is a great credit to the Colonel and the officers and men. If this is one regiment, I have no doubt that the others are similar. Therefore I can see that if the Nation possesses regiments like this it must be a strong Nation and it must be a world power."