

Account of speeches
at the presentation
to James Backhouse
Walker at the
Working Men's Club.

15th July - 1872.

committee of the Club's members in that practical manner characteristic of these "horny-handed sons of toil" when they engage in a work which merits their attention. Among the many friends of Mr. Walker present were the Hon. W.R. Giblin (Attorney-General), President of the Club; Hon. P. O. Fysh, Vice-President; Henry Dobson, Esq., Treasurer; and Charles Crosby, Esq., first Vice-President, and promoter of the late successful Industrial Bazaar. On the entrance of Mr. Walker the company evinced their goodwill towards him by prolonged and hearty applause. After the tea and viands had been discussed, the President of the Club ascended and took a seat on the platform, where he was supported on his right by the Hon. P. O. Fysh, on his left by the guest of the evening.

The President said he would not long detain them—to advocate Mr. Walker's merits no long speeches were required. The familiar faces he now saw around him carried him back to the first days of the Club, when no person would have prophesied that the weakly plant it then was would expand into the vigorous tree they saw it now. Much of this success was due to Mr. Walker, but he would not take the wind out of the sails of their "old member," Mr. G. Brown, who would read the address.

The members of the Committee then advanced to the platform, and

Mr. G. Brown said it would only be presumption on his part, after such an eloquent speaker as the President had addressed them, if he were to detain them by a long speech. He felt honored at presenting this address, and it was scarcely possible for him to express the amount of good feeling evinced by the members to Mr. Walker, who had set an example of zeal and assiduity to the other officers. He hoped Mr. Walker would still remain with them, and trusted the ~~fraternal~~ ^{fraternal} ~~relations~~ ^{relations} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~whom~~ ^{whom} he had worked on such pleasant terms for a long time. He concluded by reading the following reply:—

To the Committee and Members of the Working Men's Club.

Gentlemen,—I hardly know how to thank you duly for the expressions of regard which your address contains, and for the generous and substantial manner in which you have this evening

further shown that regard by the handsome present you have just made me.

It is very pleasing for me to know that you value so highly—though, indeed, at a value far above their real worth—the endeavours I have made as Secretary to be of service to the Club. Whatever I have done has, as you know, only been done through the hearty and willing co-operation of many others. Your kind expressions are therefore even more welcome, as I look upon them not only as personal to myself, but as evidencing your attachment to our Working Men's Club.

It is still more gratifying to me to be assured that during my eight years close connection with you in the work of the institution, I have been fortunate enough to win your good opinion and goodwill. Your gift will often serve to remind me of your kindly feeling—it, indeed, a reminder were necessary of that—to which all your behaviour towards me during my term of office has borne constant witness.

I thank you very sincerely for your good wishes for my success in my new profession; the change in my life will make no change in my warm interest in the Working Men's Club, for which, I hope, I may be able to work with you, and can heartily assure that any labour in that cause will always be to me a pleasure and a delight.

Believe me to remain,

Yours very sincerely,
JAMES WALKER.

Hobart Town,
15th July, 1872.

The President then said they they had a pleasant practice in the Club of presenting testimonials to their officers when they entered the nuptial state. Unfortunately, however, in the case of Mr. Walker they were denied that gratification. (Laughter.) They all knew that Mr. Walker had for years efficiently filled an important post in the Savings Bank. That position he had resigned, and he was now studying law in the office of Mr. Dobson—in fact entering a new apprenticeship—and unless Mr. Dobson gave him permission to marry, the testimonial must remain wrapped up in tissue paper for an indefinite period in one of Mr. Walker's strong boxes. (Laughter.) Even though he said he was eight years younger, it would be some time before the tea service was put to its proper use by Mrs. James Backhouse Walker unless Mr. Dobson's heart was moved.

Mr. Charles Crosby spoke of the assi-

J. B. WALKER, ESQ.

A complimentary tea meeting was given to the above-named gentleman on Monday evening last, by the members of the Working Men's Club, as a token of their appreciation of the zeal and ability which he has shown in forwarding their interests during his 8 years' hon.-secretaryship of the Club. The tea meeting took place in the reading-room of the Club, which was crowded almost to excess by the members, their wives, and friends. The refectation was provided by Messrs. Haywood & Sons in their usual satisfactory way, and the other arrangements were carried out by a

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testimonial would often remind him of the eight years he had spent with the members of the Club as their honorary Secretary. Mr. Brown then read the address, which was neatly framed by one of the members. It acknowledged the obligations the members were under to Mr. Walker, for the unpeevish attention he had paid to the interests of the Club, and it contained kindly expressions for the success of Mr. Walker in the new profession which he had entered upon. The address was signed by W. R. Giblin, President, P. O. Fysh, Vice-President, H. Dobson, Treasurer, and the twelve members of committee. On the conclusion of his reading the address, Mr. Brown uncovered a handsome silver tea service, on the centre piece of which was this inscription:—"Presented by the members of the Working Men's Club to James Backhouse Walker, Esq., July 15th, 1872."

Mr. Walker said that he was deeply obliged to them all for the kind reception they had given him, and especially he very heartily thanked the members of the Club for their present and for their address. The present was valuable in itself, but when he looked upon it as a sort of embodiment of so much kind feeling towards him on the part of the members, he could assure them he would prize it very much and value it very highly. They had spoken in their address of the work he had done for the Club. He had been thinking he had

and was entirely taken by surprise when his friend, Mr. Brown, and some others had called upon him a few days back, asking him to attend the meeting that night to receive such a handsome present. After all he had only been one of many whose united work had made the Club what it was, and what he had done had been a labour of love, a labour made pleasant by the uniform courtesy and consideration he had met with at the hands of every member. When he looked round the room and saw the faces of so many old members, faces which were now not often seen in those rooms, but which he hoped to see there oftener in the future, it made him feel eight years younger, and took him back to those first meetings held in the Berea school-room when they had started the Club, and to their first small beginnings in the old house in Barrack-street. It was then prophesied by many that a few months would see the end of the Club, but they had stuck together and worked together and falsified the prophecies, and now were one of the established institutions of the town. They had done a good deal, had showed the power there is in combined effort, but there was more to be done yet, a little more energy, a more hearty spirit of co-operation amongst the members, and they would achieve greater things in the future. He thanked them very sincerely for their good wishes for his success, and was touched by their expressions of personal regard for him. They had often before, and in many ways, shown their kind feeling towards him, and he assured them that the regard was mutual, not only as to the Club as a body, but personally, as to many individual members with whom he had worked on such pleasant terms for a long time. He concluded by reading the following reply:—

To the Committee and Members of the Working Men's Club.

Gentlemen,—I hardly know how to thank you duly for the expressions of regard which your address contains, and for the generous and substantial manner in which you have this evening

given to his work, not through a desire to court the favour of men, but from a sincere love of it.

Hon. P. O. Fysh said the Working Men's Club was that which every one must wish to see it—an exemplification of self-help. It was also a popular institution in the homes of the members, evidence of which they had in the presence of their wives and children there that evening. Mr Fysh then alluded to the Penny Savings Bank of the Club, and said such an institution was calculated to make a child less of a spendthrift than he might otherwise be. Many of these good results had been achieved through the exertions of Mr Walker, who was a splendid fellow, a thorough chip off the old block. One could not turn over the records of this colony without finding some mention of Mr. Walker's father, and so it would be with their guest, who would yet shine among them. Mr Fysh also bore testimony to the worth of Mr Brown, who was the perfection of self-reliance, and worked for the Club not only with his hands but his head also. There were, too, many kindred spirits of Mr Brown's in the Club, who were always doing good, instead of frittering away their time. (Applause.)

Mr. Henry Dobson said with Englishmen two words were associated—"tea" and "talk"; and acting upon that practice, he was glad to take that oppor-

Mr Walker had done for the Club, and of wishing him success in his new career. Though lawyers did not, as a rule, bear a good name for charity, yet he was quite certain—knowing Mr Walker's kind heart—that he would do more good for his fellow man than he would for himself. The company must not suppose he would be so unkind as to refuse him permission to marry. Mr Dobson then paid a compliment to Rev. Mr. Bromby, who had organised a Benefit Society while they had been talking about one, and made a practical suggestion as to the desirability of amalgamating the Benefit Society with the Club.

The above addresses were interspersed with popular songs and duets by Mr J. J. Woods and lady amateurs, to the accompaniment of Mr J. R. McCann. Several of the pieces were vociferously encored, and on the motion of Mr J. B. Walker, seconded by Hon P. O. Fysh, a vote of thanks was passed to the performers for the pleasing entertainment they had provided.

The chorus of "Auld Lang'Syne," led by Mr Dobson, followed by three enthusiastic cheers for Mr Walker, brought to a conclusion this truly social and successful gathering.