

## SONS OF BARNICOAT.

### Reunion of the Association Bearing His Name.

### Brave Old Firemen Celebrate His Cen- tury Birthday.

### Appropriate Toasts Eloquenty Re- sponded to at Young's Hotel.

The famous Barnicoat Fire Association responded to anything but a "still alarm" last evening. They are brave old veterans, these loyal Barnicoats, every one of them, and when they run with the ropes, the "mashoen" has got to move. Last night, for five full hours, they sat around the largest banquet hall at Young's.

The occasion was at once the ninth annual reunion of the association and the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of its patron chief of the Boston fire department.

The gathering began at 6 o'clock, and by 6.30 the annual business session was under way. Half an hour sufficed to call the roll and record the grateful fact that no member of the association had dropped from the ranks of the living in the past year. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Fred W. Barry; vice president, John S. Goodell; secretary and treasurer, Alvah H. Peters; assistant secretary, A. O. Heath; trustees, John S. Damrell, William T. Cheswell, Samuel Abbott, Jr.; committee on annual reunion, G. E. Jenkins, George T. Demary, Henry M. Foristall, Ossian P. Adams, M. J. Dunne; investigating committee, Captains Thomas P. Bagley, Christopher C. Tracey, Joseph R. Grose.

There was a solid hour of informal reunion and a jolly time of it the boys had, telling over again their deeds of old and congratulating each other on

#### The Easy Lapse of Time.

It was 7.45 when the banquet opened.

Vice-President Henry Woodbury, Secretary B. McNellis, Treasurer J. J. McCarthy, Corresponding Secretary J. F. King, and the board of directors, headed by Chairman Beck of the Charlestown Veteran Volunteer Association, ex-Chief Engineer Barney Dennis, call chief, Captain William Delano, Captain A. J. McDonough, Captain Horace Pope of Hook and Ladder, No. 3, Captain A. L. Bullock, all of Charlestown; Underwriter James Swords, Chief Webber and Fire Commissioner Tobin were present as guests. President Barry, of course, sat at the head of the table and close beside him was ex-Chief Damrell.

The dinner was but partly ended when, in response to the call of James Swords, the entire company rose and drank the health of President-elect Fred W. Barry. Three rousing cheers followed, in response to which the president gave the signal for a round in honor of the veterans. "The same old squirt" was given with a will.

During the dinner an elaborate program of entertainment was rendered by the Boston Ideal Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club, and Miss Flora Averill, dramatic reader.

At the conclusion of the banquet President Barry read a letter from Nat Taylor, the Mayor's private secretary, regretting his honor's enforced absence. Then Alvah Peters called for three cheers for Hugh O'Brien, and he got them. Before all this, however, every one rose and drank in silence to the

#### Memory of William Barnicoat.

This impressive ceremony over, the speech-making began. Joseph R. Grose was introduced as toastmaster, and read the following:

The City of Boston—foremost among the great cities of the Union; we admire her institutions, honor her fair fame and rejoice in her prosperous city.

The letter of Mayor O'Brien was read in response to the above.

#### The next toast was:

The Charlestown Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association—loyal to the call of duty in the hour of need; they are entitled to the well-earned rest, and we give them all honor tonight.

Vice President Henry Woodbury of the Charlestown Veterans responded.

The Charlestown Veterans' toast was accompanied by a beautifully engrossed series of resolutions, in pen and ink, and heavily framed in oak. This was in testimony of the Barnicoats' appreciation of the veterans' hospitality on June 17.

#### The third toast was:

The Boston fire department—the city's pride the citizens' safety; we recognize the ability with which it is governed and the bravery of its men. It has no superior and few equals.

Past President William T. Cheswell made the response as well as his emotion would allow. He contented himself with thanking the boys for their evidence of regard.

#### Toastmaster Grace next announced:

The insurance companies—they supplement the "fire laddies'" efforts

#### And Amend Their Failures.

They are the reliance of the incendiary and the hope of the insolvent.

Underwriter James Swords answered with brief eloquence, after which Chief Samuel Abbott was called to his feet on the toast: Boston Protective Association—it is the firemen's rival in efforts to save, but each is the true friend of the other. May the friendship never cease.

It was Captain Thomas B. Bagley who next spoke. His toast was:

Ex-firemen—having earned the gratitude of the people by faithful service in a dangerous calling, we give them full measure of honor and hold them in lasting remembrance.

John E. S. Damrell, son of the veteran ex-chief, responded for:

Barnicoat—we strive to be worthy of the honored name we bear, and remember with pride the faithful life whose virtues we are glad to cherish.

The enthusiasm increased with each toast, and reached its climax at the reading of the following letter:

SUNDAY, Dec. 2, 1888.

Captain J. S. Damrell:

MY ESTEEMED FRIEND.—One hundred years ago today William Barnicoat, my dear grandfather, was born. I never forget the anniversary of his birth, and through you I wish to express my regard for the association which honors his memory and celebrates the anniversary of his hundredth birthday tomorrow (Monday). The life of a fireman is full of peril, and as one after another sacrifices health and life in their heroic work I trust the citizens of our Commonwealth will more and more highly estimate their calling and value.

My grandfather honored the "B. F. D." as its chief, and of the several gentlemen who have so nobly filled the same office

#### I Consider Him Not the Least.

It affords me pleasure to know there is a Barnicoat Association, and will you kindly present my highest expression of respect to its president and members?

May the reputation of the Barnicoat associates be an example unto all firemen is the desire of

LUCY BARNICOAT.

P. S.—His birthday was Dec. 2, 1788; his death, Jan. 21, 1867.

Robert T. Gill, secretary of the Philadelphia Veteran Firemen's Association, and Congressman-elect Joseph H. O'Neill sent letters of regretted absence.

All through the evening at the rear of the hall hung an entwined life-size portrait of the historic veteran, William Barnicoat, and near by it was suspended an engraving of the original Barnicoat machine.

An elaborate basket of flowers was presented to Captain Barry toward the close of the exercises, which concluded with a graceful address by ex-Chief Damrell. The sturdy hero of Boston's old department always is eloquently dignified, and his words never received a heartier welcome.