Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association—A harmless rural custom has crystallized into an invariable usage, that whenever a representative assemblage convenes to inquire as to the better processes of advancing public interest, by instituting further inquiry as to the better modes of promoting research into the unexplored fields of thought, and by public discussion and comparing of results or experiments, and spreading these results before an inquiring public, inviting a spirit of inquiry in regard to the better ways of promoting the welfare of any industrial pursuits, or by confining their inquiries to some special or specific industrial vocation, some one is selected to accord to, or voice to them a cordial welcome. This post of compliment has fallen to my lot, not from any adaption to the position, but probably in view of a long residence in our unpretentious rural village, and a slight recognition of regard for gray locks. First, then, gentlemen, permit me to greet you and accord to you a most cordial welcome as harbingers of advanced and advancing thinkers. A body of men who are doing the public as well as yourselves a positive good by promoting a greatly increased interest in a skilled industry. Yes, gentlemen, I am warranted in saying that whoever fosters or promotes in any of the varied fields of industrial pursuits skilled labor, promotes the public as well as their own private interests, and adds liberal deposits to the exchequer of the community. For I regard it as a fact demonstrated, that pioneer thinkers constitute the most potent factors of public progress, and should be recognized as constituting a most useful class of citizens. For I regard it as true as a problem demonstrated, that pioneer thought precedes skilled labor; for however wise and useful the problems of a practical brain power, the thoughts, the problems of these advanced thinkers, need further the utilizing, patient experiments of skilled labor, to demonstrate their utility. And when they accord in effort, useful results are sure to follow.

Gentlemen, there can be no question that the problems evolved from patient inquiry by the Dairymen's Association of Wisconsin has resulted in adding many thousands to the wealth of our Commonwealth, and these thousands will in
the near future be augmented to millions. You have not only greatly raised the standard of dairy products and stimulated a spirit of emulation, but you have also created a largely increased demand for the gilt-edged, on the part of the public, and this increased demand for the best on the part of the public, has effected the jingle of many increased dollars in your own plethoric pockets. And, further, gentlemen, we greet and welcome you for having given to the dairy products of Wisconsin a fame which every citizen, not a misanthrope, is proud of. The clarion of fame which attaches to the dairy products of Wisconsin has been heard not only through the length and breadth of our own land, but its notes of praise have reached foreign nations, and recognition of the merits of Wisconsin dairy products adorn the side boards of many Walworth county dairymen, and it is a pleasure to advert to the fact that the fame achieved by one of the fair daughters of the state, has placed upon her name a coro\textit{net}, which the friends of Miss Marley hold as more lasting, more to be coveted, because more useful, than the ephemeral applause which attaches to the beauty of Mrs. Langtry, the Jersey Lily.

And gentlemen, there are other chaplets to garland the names of distinguished Wisconsin Dairymen. And here we will take a license, the prerogative which poets sometimes avail themselves of, and this germ to a supposition will assume the form of inquiry. If the alleged beautiful Indian maiden Pocahontas, daughter of Powhatton, did not look into the kaleidoscope of time and forecast in the roll of coming years in the far off Northwest, a land subsequently called Wisconsin, a capital dairy belt, peopled, honored, and utilized by Smiths, and in consideration of what she forecast, instead of an amorous maidenly impulse, was it not that which prompted her to heroic efforts to spare the life of the Ancestral Smith?

And there are many others I would name would time permit, but being a citizen and proud of honors which attach to Walworth county, I will here note the fact that the side boards of the Flacks and Lytles, are decorated with tankards and goblets (dairy prizes), which would raise the inquiry
with a stranger as to the probability that their names could with propriety be enrolled as advocates of prohibition.

Again, gentlemen, it is only the stupid that fail to note that the car of progress moves on with accelerated speed in our favored state. And it is equally potent that the Wisconsin Dairymen’s Association are worthy of bearing aloft the banner inscribed with those inspiring words forward and excelsior, and it is only here and there that can be found a person so wedded to inherent despondency as to still insist that you “crazy fellows” are bound to glut the market and cause the dairy interest to go down in one everlasting “ker-flummax,” whatever that may mean. So then, gentlemen, as you are enterprising and brave, so be forbearing and kindly towards these weaker vessels of humanity; take them by a little strategy; induce them to survey the real situation; show them that the dairy belt, which is really fitted to advantageous dairying, constitutes but a fraction of our own widespread country, and that in our own country the demand for first-class products is not retrograding, but that diversified interests are constantly opening new marts of trade, and that the old world has, by the inevitable law of supply and demand and cost of production, given the outlook for further advance of price; provided, if skilled laborers and advanced thinkers work in harmony and work out the problem of greater excellence, which is most likely attainable not only in dairy products, but whatever the live man resolves is attainable; for none, I think, will insist that the acme of the attainable is yet reached. Gentlemen, in my musing moments I sometimes regret that the results of yours and kindred associations, such as agricultural societies, with all their prompting influence to excel, can not be placed in a demonstrated form so as to be studied in its financial effects. How soon it would silence the cavil of those who carp and sneer at what they are pleased to call “impractical theories.” A word for the cow, the prime factor of all your exultation. Quietly, steadily she adds to the value of Wisconsin’s broad acres; she erects and adorns the rural homes which are found upon the hillsides and grassy slopes of the state. And the practical eye of sagacity would hardly mistake these homes in traveling over the state.
Generally embowered amidst the foliage of the evergreen and maple; the roadways and the walks fragrant with the aroma of flowers which greet the eye and please the senses. Generally these mansions of architectural taste as well as comfort are the abodes of refinement, where the children speak the words father and mother reverently. Books, magazines and papers are found upon the center table; sisters receive polite and kindly attention of brothers, which betoken the general fact that refinement is usually found amidst pleasant surroundings. And it is from such homes that we look for the future men and women, who will give character and lead in giving refining influences to society. As light differs from darkness, and day from night, so will the graduates of such homes differ from those young men who spend their evenings in the saloons and billiard rooms; from such homes hoodlums seldom graduate.

To close, all honor to the Cow, and all who appreciate her capabilities, when utilized by the members of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association.

RESPONSE TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

By Hon. R. D. Torrey, Milwaukee.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of this Convention and its Friends: I regret exceedingly that our friend Mr. Smith is not present to respond to this warm address of welcome. I regret it the more for fear that I cannot represent even one branch of the numerous Smith family. I regret it because I know that from Hiram Smith's lips never fell a word but that it was profitable to listen to; but, however, your irrepressible secretary has pressed me into this position.

Welcomes are always pleasant. It is true they are sometimes without heart, they are sometimes without merit, and we feel that we had rather not be welcomed; but when, as now, a welcome comes from a citizen of the best county in the State of Wisconsin, from a citizen who for more than two score years has been one of your energetic, active, prosperous, honored and worthy men; when, as now, a welcome