

The Vice-President: Such words of welcome certainly demand a word from our president, Mr. Scott.

President Scott: Mr. Secretary, it becomes my pleasant duty to respond to your cordial words of welcome, and in the name of the Ohio Hardware Association to accept the hospitality that comes from the enterprising and useful body you are privileged to represent.

No city in the state is so well equipped for the enter-



Ex-Pres. O. M. Scott, Marysville.

tainment of the citizens of the state at large, as is this capital city. Famed as you are for the entertainment of commercial, political, religious and other organizations, you have besides a unique welcome for the individual.

Here is located what is known as one of the best managed institutions for the blind. We, by our presence in your city, admit that we are afflicted with more or less commercial astigmatism. We hope this convention will do for us what you are so well able to do should any of us be stricken with physical blindness. It is supposed that the members of this association have come with ears open to take in the deliberations of this convention and tongues ready to add to the wisdom thereof. But if the business ear of any member of this association should wax dull of hearing, and his commercial tongue slow of speech, we shall consider him a fit subject for your institution for the treatment of such unfortunates.

You have another wonderfully prepared mansion, with efficient management and capable attendants. Though its hospitality is forced upon its guests, we are sure that if one of our members should make a wareroom of his head and fill it with wheels we can leave him with you, knowing that his entertainment in the insane asylum will be free, generous and beneficial.

There may be better men than some of us behind the massive grating of your most extensively patronized hostelry

keeps up and the less it does, the better Columbus seems to like it and the longer you want them to stay. If any of us get into trouble while in your city and need care, put us into any of your institutions, even the police court, but don't put us in the legislature.

I will stop here and tell you a little army story. Every-body who has lived in the city of Dayton since the war knows Charley Gorman. Baker knows him well. There came into camp of the 113th Ohio, as we were approaching Savannah, Ga., a great big, tall contraband. Gorman says to him—Gorman is one of your big fellows whose laugh would shake the Union Depot—he says, "Sam, do you fellows down here know what the war is going to do for you?" "Why, Massy, it looks as though it was going to make us all free." "Yes, that is what it is going to do. We are going to take your children and make them read; take them up North, and if you want to we are going to let you marry white women." "That is all right, Massy, that is all right." "We will take you up there and the first thing you know we will put you in the legislature." "That is all right, Massy, that is all right, if this darkie does anything wrong he is willing to be punished."

It is said man can be judged by his appearance. Is it the appearance of these men that elicits such a hearty welcome? You may change your minds when you pass up on us by our disappearance.

Again I thank you with the assurance that Columbus will never regret having this body of the oldest, choicest business fraternity of the state as your guests.

The secretary then called the roll.

The minutes of the previous session were read.

The vice-president said the next in order would be the president's annual report.

President Scott made the following report:

PRESIDENT SCOTT'S ADDRESS.

BREVITY AND BUSINESS.

I do not propose to preface this business session with a formal address. Had I so desired, the secretary's letter, sent



Secretary Dwight Burr, Piqua.

throughout the state, would have barred me; for in it he says: "This convention is to be one of business from start to