





GIFT OF  
Robert E. Wilbur



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NEW YORK  
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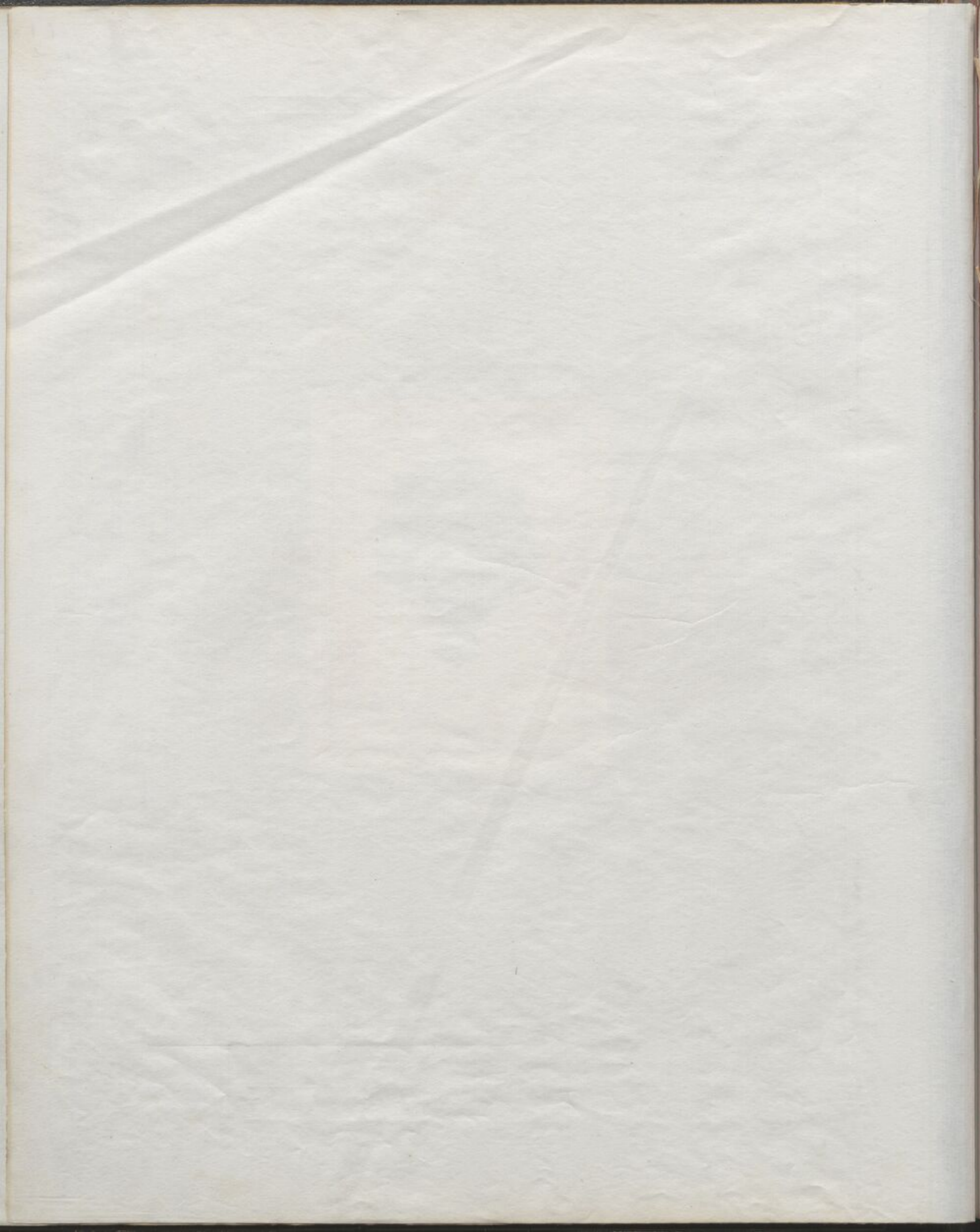
ROBERT R. HILLMAN



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WEDNESDAY



1828 JANUARY 1878





*No Presents.*

1828  1878

*A reception will be held at the residence of the  
Hon. & Mrs. Asa Packer,  
Wednesday afternoon & evening, January twenty third,  
from three until five, & seven until ten o'clock,  
in honor of the  
Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage  
We request the pleasure of your company.*

COMMITTEE.

*James T. Blaklee, Harry E. Packer, G. B. Linderman, Robert Lockhart,  
Robert A. Packer, Charles C. Sherr, E. P. Wilbur, Robert H. Sayre.*





© 1875  
W. P. H. & C. N. Y.

Conductors of the LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD will pass  
the party named hereon.



Philadelphia, June 21<sup>st</sup> 1848.

Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Bowie, are in receipt of the  
polite invitation of your committee to be present at a  
reception to be held at the residence of the Hon. & Mrs.  
Asa Tacker on Wednesday afternoon and evening, in  
honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage.

Mr. & Mrs. Bowie regret extremely that it  
will not be in their power to be present on the occa-  
sion, but desire to present to the Hon. & Mrs. Tacker their  
sincere congratulations and their best wishes for their  
future happiness.

To Jas. J. Mahoney  
and others.  
Committee.



COAL WHARF,

R. H. RATHBUN,  
Agent.

South Amboy, N. J., Jan'y 22<sup>nd</sup> 1878

Dear Uncle

Louise and myself regret exceedingly that we shall be unable to be present at the celebration of the fiftieth Anniversary of your marriage. I expect to sail tomorrow for Havana to be absent two weeks on a short trip of recreation & Louise has so much to do in getting me ready, that she feels she cannot possibly leave home.

We both offer our heartiest congratulations and hope that many years of life and health are yet in store for you both.

With kindest regards to yourself and family, I am

Very truly Yours  
R. H. Rathbun



Philadelphia June 24<sup>th</sup> 1875.

Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Frier regret extremely that they cannot accept your polite invitation for Wednesday, and wish you to present to the Hon. & Mrs. Asa Parker their congratulations and best wishes on the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage.

To Jas. J. Blakeslee  
and others.  
Committee.



How Asa & Mrs Packer

Dear Friends

I exceedingly  
regret my inability to attend the celebration  
of the fiftieth anniversary of your  
marriage. I however avail myself  
of the opportunity of expressing my  
heartly congratulations upon your  
long continued and happy married  
life — That the kind Providence  
which has hitherto blessed you, and  
prolonged your useful lives, may  
continue to preserve and bless you,  
is the sincere wish of

Your Friend

Bloomington Jan 22 1878.

Wm Ellwell



Baltimore July 28<sup>th</sup>

Robt. H. Dayn Esq

My dear Sir

I beg through you  
to acknowledge the invitation of the  
Comdte. to attend the reception to be  
held at the residence of Judge Packer  
on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. on the occasion of  
the fiftieth Anniversary of the Marriage  
of his Mrs Packer. I am to express regrets  
that my engagements, as such as to  
prevent my attending myself of the pleasure  
of being present.

You will also convey to  
the Judge and Mrs Packer my hearty  
congratulations, with the wish and  
hope, that their happiness may increase  
with their years, and that the seventy  
fifth Anniversary of their Marriage  
may find them in the enjoyment  
of good health.

Very truly Yours

Wm. Dickson



The Philadelphia National Bank

Philadelphia, Aug. 22 1878.

Mrs. Asa Packer,

Dr. Sir:

I have the pleasure  
to acknowledge the receipt of your polite  
invitation for to morrow, and very greatly  
regret my inability to be present on the  
occasion.

Accept for yourself and for your  
esteemed lady, my most hearty congratulations  
upon your accession to the golden era, in the  
matrimonial estate, and my sincere wishes  
for your continued health and happiness.

With sincere respect,

I am truly &c.

R. F. Chatham.



New York

July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878

Hon. Mrs. Anna Paetler

Dear Cousin Sarah

We hoped to have had the great pleasure of joining ours with the warmest congratulations you will receive on this the Fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of your Wedding day.

Circumstances beyond our control render this impossible and we can only offer our warmest love and wishes for your future good health and happiness.

Yours Affectionately  
Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Paetler



Mauch Chunk, Penna.

Wednesday Morning, Jan. 23<sup>d</sup> 1878

Hon. Asa Packer

Dear Sir:

To-day, your friends and neighbors will gather around you, and join in most hearty congratulations, on this, the fiftieth anniversary of your marriage-day. They will call up many an incident of the past half-century, and will dwell with especial interest on the events of your own life, and the deeds which have won the honored place which you have long held in their esteem. To find the crowning glory of a long and useful career, they need but turn to that grand tribute of generous wealth to science - the Lehigh University.

It seems fitting that we, who look upon that institution as our Alma Mater,



who have passed through its portals to the  
busy world beyond, should to-day be among  
the first of your many friends, in expressions  
of genuine admiration and sincere regard.

Therefore, with that respect and esteem  
which every graduate of the University must  
feel for its founder, we present to you, dear  
sir, and to your devoted wife, our most  
hearty congratulations; and to our  
well-wishes we add the earnest hope that  
you may long be spared to enjoy the  
blessings of a well-spent life, and that  
as in the past, so in the future, God's  
favor may be with you and yours  
throughout all the years yet to come.

We are, dear sir, with great respect,

The Graduates of the Lehigh University.

Committee:

A. B. Yates    W. R. Butler    F. H. Clerc, Jr.    L. Edm. Klotz.  
M. D. Dismick    H. R. Price, Jr.    H. S. Drinker    H. Houskeeper, Jr.



New York  
January 22. 1848.

How + Mrs Asa Packer  
Mauch Chunk.

Dear Friends,

I regret  
Exceedingly that the absence of Mrs  
Reed and a prior engagement of my  
own will prevent us from uniting with  
you many friends tomorrow to honor  
the fiftieth anniversary of your marriage.

Please accept our congratulations  
upon the happy event. I first had the  
pleasure of meeting you and of dining  
at your house on Christmas 1837; forty  
years ago. How many changes since  
then; how many have gone, & of those  
who remain the lives of none have been  
so rounded and complete as yours.  
Trusting that many years of health & happiness  
may yet be in store for you





RECEPTION AT MAUCH CHUNK, PA., LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING.  
THE GOLDEN WEDDING OF MR. ASA PACKER.

[SKETCHED BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.]



*The Golden Wedding.*  
*1828. 1878.*



L.

The Golden Wedding.

A Golden Wedding, measured by the flight  
Of rolling years, we celebrate to-night:

A Golden Wedding, measured by the hearts  
Of home and friends, and all that love in parts.

Full fifty years ago, a sunny ray  
Marked the bright morn of this auspicious day:

A youthful pair were standing side by side,  
Before God's altar, bridegroom with his bride:

The priest has spoken, and the rite is o'er;

They enter, as they leave the sacred door,

The pilgrimage of life, from morn till even,

With naught to help them but their trust in Heaven.



Behold her, friend and comfort of his life  
The greatest boon of Heaven, a loyal wife;  
A loving mother, to her children true,  
And by them cherished, with affection due.

The husband just, and strong to play his part,  
In purpose and in act, with hand and heart:  
In plan judicious, in achievement bold,  
Like Midas, all he touched was turned to gold;  
And, from the moment his success began,  
He used the gold to bless his fellow-man;  
Freely receiving from his Father's hand,  
Freely he scattered o'er a smiling land.

First let the Muse, with truth and pleasure sing,  
The wondrous exploits of the Rail-Road king,



And show how Packer of the ready hand,  
Could bind the sea and lakes with iron bands;  
Kill space and time with steam's resistless flow,  
And make the wilderness with beauty grow.  
Where the tired traveller, fifty years ago,  
Journeyed for weary days through ice and snow;  
Where once, on broken paths, the loaded wains  
Floundered along, lo! now the lightning trains,  
Through mountain caverns and through sunny dales,  
Thread the light net-work of the iron rails.  
From Amboy's placid bay their course they run,  
To where the Selkirk's wave reflects the sun,  
And over-hanging mountains see themselves,  
In the broad mirror of the water-clues.  
They pierce the rocks through Musconetcong's cave,  
Whose deep recess might be a Titan's grave,



And speed in thunder through the Valley's gem,  
Which bears the sacred name of Bethlehem.

Hence, as the Steam-Kings run their wild career,  
A hundred beauties on the scene appear:

From Pisgah's top the promised land they greet,  
And see the world stretched out beneath their feet;  
Pass where Onoko flings his waters down,  
In tenfold beauty from the mountain's crown.

Swiftly they fly, like swallows on the wing,  
By "Susquehanna's side, fair Wyoming,"  
Where "wild flowers" get bedeck "the ruined wall,"  
And fairer flowers the heart of man enthrall;  
With restless rush they leave the haunts of men,  
To pass the charms of Watkins' fairy glen.



Where shot the light canoe of Indian brave,  
See Seneca disclose her silvery wave:  
Still onward to fair Ithaca they come,  
Where proudly rises Learning's splendid dome,  
The work of one who loved his mission well,  
A kindred spirit - generous Cornell.

But not alone does beauty greet our eyes;  
The useful arts in quick succession rise;  
Great coal-fields open, with black diamonds bright,  
To bless the shivering world with warmth and light:  
And iron, rising from the dingy soil,  
With gold and silver pays the miners' toil.

As through the land the meteor engine flies,  
See villages spring forth, and steeples rise,



And homes and schools, and knowledge, by his hand,  
Are scattered as by magic through the land.  
Sages may teach, but he as wise as they,  
Who sends their teachings on his iron way;  
An iron way, created by his art,  
An iron man, but with a golden heart!

And higher yet his proud pretensions rise;  
His gift to learning gains the unrivalled prize.  
On yonder slope, the tower that points on high,  
Speaks volumes to the hungry scholar's eye;-  
Free gift of knowledge, God-like in its plan,  
The best of bounties man can give to man.  
The flowing Delight lends its Indian name,  
But Packer Hall perpetuates his fame.



Kingdoms may fall, and nations may decay,  
 Wealth disappear, and art be swept away;  
 Science, at fault, re-write her faulty page,  
 To match the marvels of the coming age;  
 But, with the envious years' disturbing flow,  
 The record of such worth shall brighter glow,  
 As student-generations loud proclaim,  
 With filial reverence their Founder's name.

Another memory too is planted there,  
 A memory of the virtuous and fair; -  
 See where the noble Library uprears  
 Its peaceful towers for all coming years;  
 It tells us of a cherished daughter's life,  
 A tender mother, and a loving wife; -  
 Richer than gold, a father's tribute given,



To gentle Lucy Linderman in heaven.

Hail, Asa Packer! By the good old rule,  
 We give thee bumpers, hearts and glasses full!  
 All hail; upon this holy happy tide,  
 To thee, Old bridegroom, and thy honored bride!  
 Gold of the mine we may not bring thee now,  
 But fairer gold to crown thy worthy brow:-

The gold of filial love, so true and bright  
 Children and Children's children bring to-night;  
 Brothers' and sisters' children with them come,  
 With votive offerings to this central home.

See gold of loyal friendship, tried and true,  
 Perennial pleasure, old, but ever new.

The golden tributes, in thy pathway strewed,



Give token of a people's gratitude.

Nor, in this joyous season be forgot,  
The reverend priest who tied the nuptial knot,  
Once more he stands beside the happy pair,  
To breathe again a fervent marriage prayer.

Thus laden with the gold which Heaven commends,  
Of "honor, love, obedience, troops of friends,"  
One brighter, better gift remains to speak,  
To tell of which our words are all too weak;—  
The gold of Faith, by which we may descry  
Another Golden Wedding, in the sky,  
Of which the human heart can only dream,—  
O Light ineffable, O joy supreme;  
Our God the Host, our Lord the great High Priest;—  
Oh, may we all partake that Wedding Feast.

January 23, 1878

Henry Coppée



To  
Jas. D. Blakeley Harry E. Packard  
and Others Committee

Mr. Gatzmer appreciates highly your invitation to a Reception at the residence of the Hon. and Mrs. A. Peter on Wednesday twenty third of January in honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage, at which he would be glad to be present, but regrets that not having sufficiently recovered from his late illness to France, is obliged to deny himself the pleasure of paying his respects to his esteemed friends on so interesting an occasion

Philadelphia  
January 22<sup>d</sup> 1878





Philad 22 Jan 1877

Dear Sir

Allow me to  
congratulate you on the  
fiftieth anniversary of your  
marriage and may you  
both live many years in  
good health

I regret exceedingly  
that I cannot be  
present at the reception  
but I am obliged to  
leave for Boston in the  
morning

With the kindest  
regards to Mrs Parker and  
yourself I remain

Yours Very Truly  
S. Cardwell

To  
Hon Asa Parker



H. N. BURROUGHS, President.

E. PEROT, Cashier.

C. B. SLOAN, Asst Cashier.

The Commonwealth National Bank.

Philadelphia, *Sept 22* 1878

Messrs James J. Blakely  
Henry C. Packer and Others  
Committee

Gentlemen

I regret not being able  
to accept your kind invitation  
for Wednesday evening

Yours with great respect  
H. N. Burroughs



Bethlehem, Penn<sup>a</sup>.

January 21. 1878.

My dear Judge Packer; -

Permit me to join  
your friends in hearty congrat-  
ulations to Mrs Packer and your-  
self, on the unusual and auspici-  
ous occasion of your golden wed-  
ding. I am called away to the  
annual meeting of the Smithso-  
nian Institution at Washington,  
which occurs on the same night,  
and which I cannot set aside,  
as my College duties last year  
prevented my attendance.

Let me take this oppor-  
tunity to thank you for your  
unvarying kindness and con-  
sideration in the past, and to  
wish you the best bounties of heaven



in the coming years.

When fifty years shall again  
roll by, may we all meet in  
that happy rest provided for  
those who serve God and their  
fellow men during their life on  
Earth.

Mr. Coppée presents his  
sincere regards and good  
wishes to Mr. Packer and your-  
self, and I am,

Very faithfully your  
friend & servant,

Henry Coppée

Hon. Asa Packer.





Will Judge & Mrs Parker.  
Please accept thanks  
for kind remembrance  
& polite invitations to their  
Golden Wedding with  
kindest congratulations  
upon this rare & happy  
occasion with our best wishes  
- that you may be crowned  
with life & happiness  
even to the Port of the Hill  
We remain yours most truly

M & Mrs G. Lawrence  
Kingston  
Monday Ev. June 22, 78



Trinity Church,

Toledo,

January 19<sup>th</sup> 1848.

My dear Judge and Mrs. Baker;

I can't begin to tell you how grievously disappointed my wife and self are in not getting on to your Golden Wedding. For months I have been keeping myself from making any engagement for the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and had fondly hoped that nothing would prevent our joining the happy circle which I then will surround you on that day. But as I have already written to Fanny, I have now two parishioners to whom I am especially bound by the ties of death, and I feel as tho' I



could <sup>not</sup> consistently leave home  
just now, and I think if  
you were to put yourselves in  
my place you would agree  
with me.

In addition to this,  
the affairs of Grace Church  
in this city are in a critical  
condition, and I expect that  
before the week is out I shall  
have to assume the charge of  
it in addition to my other  
duties. It is a matter that  
at present needs daily watching  
and management on my part.

I feel confident that  
you both are so well assured  
of our great affection for you  
that you will not doubt for  
a moment that were there  
no such obstacles in the way,  
we should be only too glad to  
present in person those hearty  
congratulations which we are

now constrained to send by  
letter.

Yours most sincerely  
with you in thanking our  
Father in Heaven for the  
many blessings which He  
has vouchsafed you, and pray  
that He may still continue  
them to you in your bodies  
and souls, crowning your de-  
clining years with more and  
more abundant tokens of His  
presence and favour.

Believe me, there  
will be none outside of your  
own immediate family who  
will be more earnest in their  
words and thoughts of love  
and good-will.

There is no  
more distinct impression on  
our minds as they constantly



convergent to dear Mauch's  
feeling than that of your own happiness  
you together and of your uniform  
kindness in causing happiness  
to others.

Oh yes would, if I let it,  
run on almost interminably in  
writing to you for this joyous occasion.

Once more, let me say what  
a real trial it is to be unable to  
go on to your anniversary and  
assure you of our esteem and love.

The accompanying trifles will, I hope  
be accepted by you as our representation  
and speak to you of what is, and  
always will be, in our hearts con-  
cerning you.

With Mrs. Coleman's feelings  
love and best wishes, and invoking  
upon <sup>you</sup> the benediction of Almighty  
God, I am

Your friend and old pastor  
Lighter Penn



Philada. June 23/78.  
C. P. Milbur. Esq.

Dear Chas.

I am disgusted  
and disappointed that I am  
unable to get to the Reception  
this evening. Both Mrs. G.  
and myself were prepared  
to go, but at the latest moment  
I am prevented from doing so,  
and have had to send word  
to Mrs. G. not to go to the depot.

Please express my regrets  
to the Committee.

Obliged,

Yours truly,

H. J. Sedgwick



Allentown Jan<sup>y</sup> 23/78

Gentlemen

Your card inviting us to the celebration of the Golden Wedding of our friend Gov. Sacker was duly received.

We thank you for your courtesy, we thank you heartily for numbering us among the "list of his friends," deeming it the very highest compliment that can be paid to any one.

It was our hope to mingle our congratulations with those of the true, warm-hearted friends who will fill his pleasant home, on this occasion.



but, our Courts are now in session, and some thing or another may be neglected by absence.

If we can reach Mauch Chunk the evening, with others who may be compelled to postpone this pleasant visit, we will do so. If not, please present to the Gov. and his good wife our warm congratulations on the happy return of this day.

We do not say that we wish them many happy returns of this one, for that would put them in the category with Methuselah which, as this world is now managed, is hardly desirable.

But, we do wish them

a long and happy life, surrounded to the last by "troops of friends" as warm hearted and as true as those who are now gathered around them; happy in the fact that a glorious future is before them, and that the path of life, on which they entered half a century ago is filled with so many good and useful deeds, that glitter brightly now in the calm, pure light of their setting sun.

Truly  
Yours  
for self and wife



Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> / 78.

Dear Uncle & Aunt -

We rec'd your cards of invitation last eve. We should be very much pleased to be present on this important & very interesting occasion you & mine celebrate. Accept our united congratulations and best wishes for the future.

With love to all I am affectionately  
your niece, Hattie.



Diocese of Pennsylvania,

EPISCOPAL ROOMS,

708 WALNUT STREET.

Philadelphia, July 21 1878

My Dear Judge & Mrs Packer.

Your invitation  
to Mrs Stevens & me to the  
Fiftieth Anniversary of your  
Marriage finds us in  
deep affliction

Just before its reception  
we received a telegram  
stating that my dear sister  
Mrs Perry, the mother of the  
Bishop of Iowa died in  
McKean Co last night &  
that she is to be buried in  
Mount Auburn near Boston  
on Wednesday next.

While thus prevented by  
this sad bereavement from



tendering to you in person  
my sincere congratulations on  
this auspicious anniversary  
permit me in this  
day to assure you of  
the sincere esteem & re-  
gard which I have enter-  
tained for both of you  
ever since I had the  
pleasure of forming your  
acquaintance & enjoying  
your delightful hospitality  
& our earnest prayer is,  
that as you both approach  
life's sunset, it may be a  
cloudless one; or, if clouds  
do gather around the hori-  
zon, that they may be  
so gilded & transfigured into  
forms of beauty, that they  
shall form an arch way  
of glory under which you  
shall walk "land in hand"  
& the Paradise of J.D.

With sincere regards to Mrs  
Packer & yourself in which  
my dear wife cordially joins  
I remain

Very truly Yours  
Wm. Bacon Stevens

Yours

Asa & Mrs Ann Packer.





Welles Barre 21 Jan'y. 1878.

Gentlemen;

I regret that unavoidable engagements will prevent me from attending the reception to be held at the residence of Hon. Mr. Asa Packer 23<sup>d</sup> inst in honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage -

It would afford Mr. McClintock & myself great pleasure to be present on such an interesting occasion, & to offer our congratulations to those who have lived so long and so well together -

As we cannot be there in person, we beg you to present our most cordial congratulations & our sincere wishes for the continued health & happiness of the groom & bride of 1828 to 1878 -

Yours Very truly,

Andw. T. McClintock  
Messrs. J. & Blaker Co.,  
Robert Packer  
& others, Committee -



2109 Walnut Street.

My dear Judge, I have  
just received the card of  
invitation for Mr. Coleman  
& myself, to be present at  
your Golden Wedding -  
Mr. Coleman's health is  
such, as to prevent her  
acceptance of the kind  
invitation, - & unfortunately  
my engagements will  
keep me here -

Wishing Mrs. Packer,  
& yourself, all the happiness  
you so truly deserve, I  
trust.



trusting that during the  
next Fifty years, you  
will be able to do as  
much good, as you have  
done during the past  
Fifty. I remain,

truly Yr. Friend,

Edinson Colman

Phil<sup>a</sup>  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> - 1878.

To / Hon. Ass. Packer -



Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Hunt

Most cordially congratulate  
their friends Mr. & Mrs. Asa Packer on  
the happy event which fifty years ago  
made them one; and on that kind  
Providence which spares them to still  
"walk side by side down the hill of  
life together"; May it smile on them  
for many more years and lead them  
at last side by side at the Great Wedding  
Feast Above.

The undersigned regrets that  
because of the sickness of Mrs. Hunt  
she and he cannot be present to offer  
their congratulations in person

Joshua Hunt

Catawunga Pa

Jan'y. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878.



Phila. Dec: 22 / 78

My dear Lady:

I shall not be  
able to present my  
congratulations at  
your Golden Wedding  
in person; but I want  
the love should in this  
affair



Prosperity of both of you.

Very truly  
Yours,

Walter L. Burleigh

Am. - Area Fisheries

Good wishes which  
will be uttered for  
you & your excellent  
wife on that happy  
occasion.

On Thursday I  
will take care that  
the "Farrars" Club  
shall devote to the  
continued health &  
prosperity



Phila—  
Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 1878

Mr & Mrs Asa Packer

My dear Friends

With my regrets that  
I cannot be with you on the  
"fiftieth anniversary of your  
marriage," accept my hearty  
congratulations, and my sincere  
wishes that in health and  
prosperity you may enjoy  
many an annual anniversary  
of the same —

Very truly yours

Hurley Baldy



Chamby Jan'y 21/78

Dear J. Blakesley Esq. & al

Gentlemen

My wife  
has gone to Bellefonte to visit the  
family of my son with the ex-  
pectation of remaining for some days  
Nothing could afford both of us more  
genuine pleasure than to be present  
on the anniversary to which you  
invite or refer, but it will be im-  
possible. Standing at the fiftieth  
anniversary of this marriage  
how full of remarkable incidents  
these two lives have been, and yet  
how calm and beautiful. With all  
the anxieties and engrossing cares of  
a busy life, a quiet orderly and  
happy home has never been neglected



After all around it clusters all the charms  
of success in life, we possess of the  
sympathies and kindly relations of  
a well ordered household, and though  
we possess wealth or secure the ends of  
ambition, yet there still remains an  
aching void, which makes us restless  
and unhappy. How gratifying it will  
be to all of you to meet Mrs. Park  
on this occasion. There are two persons  
who have all the means necessary to live  
in all the pomp, extravagance and folly  
of the fashionable world, yet choose  
to live in a plain and unostentatious  
manner using intelligently what  
God has given them, trying through  
charity and sympathy to shower  
lasting blessings on the world  
around them. These are truly to be  
admired and worthy of all imitation

Yours Truly  
G. M. W. Selman





Towanda  
Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 1878

Mr & Mrs M. C.  
Mercur's congratulations  
& regrets for Wed.  
January 23<sup>d</sup> -



No 1500 Pine St

Jan'y 22<sup>d</sup> -

My dear Mr Parker

I am much  
gladified at your  
remembering me  
upon such a happy  
occasion as the 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of  
your marriage,  
and under other  
circumstances it  
would give us great  
pleasure to accept  
your kind invitation,  
but in consequence  
of our deep snow-  
ing we are going  
no where at present.



In 1800 Pine St  
Jan 22  
My dear Mr Packer  
I am much  
pleas'd to hear  
of your success in  
your business  
and hope you will  
continue to prosper  
in every way  
possible. I am  
very truly  
yours  
George Wright

Mr Wright joins  
me in kindest re-  
gard to Mrs Packer  
and yourself and  
with our best  
wishes for an early  
return of the  
Anniversary.

I remain  
very truly yours  
George Wright





Mr & Mrs Ellis Clark offer  
their congratulations to  
Hon Asa and Mrs Factor,  
and regret they can not be  
present at the reception of their  
"Golden Wedding"  
on 23<sup>rd</sup> Inst.

Phila. Jan'y 22 1878



Bethlehem, Pa, January 24  
18

My dear sir,

I very much regret  
that an engagement, tomorrow  
evening, will prevent Mrs. de  
Schweinitz and myself from  
accepting the invitation we have  
received to be present at the



reception in honor of the  
fiftieth anniversary of your  
marriage.

Permit me, however, by  
these lines to send my warmest  
congratulations and those of my  
wife. We hope and pray that  
our Lord may bless you and  
Mrs. Packer abundantly.

Among the many good  
wishes which you will receive,  
those that I send are certainly

not the least sincere. They come  
from the representative and descendant  
of those earliest settlers in the Lehigh  
Valley that founded the town whose  
fame and prosperity you have so  
greatly enhanced. No enterprise  
could be more in harmony with  
their aims than a seat of learning  
free to all and governed by  
Christian principles.

May it ever continue to  
do its work to God's glory!



Believe me, my dear Judge  
to be yours most faithfully

Edmund G. Schweinitz

To the  
Hon. Asa Packer.



To Judge & Mrs Packer.

My congratulations  
upon this anniversary of their wedding,  
also my regrets that I am unable  
to be present at the time stated.

Mrs Jesse Miller  
Towanda Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 78



50

A Golden Wedding Day.

Guided and guarded by our God,  
Two pilgrims have together trod,  
Ain bright with smiles, now wet with tears,  
Lives checkered path, for fifty years.

This is their Golden Wedding day,  
Ring out, O Bells! your sweetest lay!  
And you dear friends, give loving cheer,  
To crown their march of fifty years.

Their fates were woven into one,  
Ere the first threads of life were spun,  
And rich and rare the woof appears  
With golden warp of fifty years.



55

There's frost upon their honored heads,  
The silvery rime that nature spreads,  
But from their hearts the tide comes,  
Unchecked, unchilled for fifty years.

This is their "Golden Wedding day"  
Now let us hush our song, and pray  
That He whose love their lot endears,  
Whose grace has filled their fifty years.

May guide them still, and still ordain  
Each cup of bliss, or chastening pain:  
May sooth their griefs, or wipe their tears,  
Through many more than fifty years.

And when life's pilgrimage is done,  
And life's last goal is bravely won,  
Take them to dwell in those bright spheres,  
Where time is measured not by years.



Mr & Mrs W M Malloy regret  
that they cannot accept Mr & Mrs  
& Mrs Asa Jackson's invitation to  
their Golden Wedding and beg to  
tender their congratulations with  
the most sincere wish for a long  
continued life of happiness.

Travada January 29<sup>th</sup> 1878.



Philad<sup>a</sup> July 23. 1878

My dear Sir

I postponed a visit to New York today that I might be present at the reception this evening. But unluckily I was caught at the last moment in an engagement from which I could not get off in time for the last train. This is a disappointment to me. I wished to see you in your own home on such an occasion. I have lived long enough and seen enough of life to appreciate the man of action and execution far beyond those of show and

My Auntie's name to express her regrets also.



picture. You have led a  
long a useful and a fruit-  
ful life. Your works will  
survive you. You have the  
satisfaction of knowing that  
you have been a builder  
not a destroyer. You have  
the gratification of seeing  
prosperity & growth springing  
up and developing under  
your fostering care. Your  
family and immediate  
friends have reason to  
be justly proud of your  
honorable and useful  
record and hundreds &  
thousands of your fellow  
citizens are daily reaping  
the benefits of your

enterprise and wise and skillful  
energy. It stands to the source of very great  
pleasure to you that you can look back upon  
such a record and stand upon such  
results of your labors. I can imagine some-  
what the feelings you must have tonight  
as you go back in memory fifty years ago.  
Do stand there on memory's threshold that  
you live to live have long your  
brotherly and ties of service must have  
been kept behind by such unhappy events  
as will necessarily attend the crises of all  
of us when long and varied life. Still  
surrounded by your family & friends and



JOHN B. SMITH, Gen. Sup't

Dunmore, Pa., January 23 1878

Colt H Taylor Esq

My Dear Sir

I am just  
in receipt of a telegram from  
Mr. S. M. Carpenter, stating that he  
had an invitation from you for  
myself and wife to attend the  
Golden wedding of our old friend  
and Patron Judge Packer and  
I can assure you that nothing could  
give me more pleasure and satisfac-  
tion <sup>than</sup> to meet him and his many  
worthy friends upon that occasion  
but circumstances may prevent my  
attendance; hoping that you may  
all live long and enjoy the fruits  
of your labors

with kindest regards

I am very respectfully yours

John B. Smith



Easton Aug 23. 1878

Hon A. S. and Mrs. Sarah Packe

My dear good old friends

Your invitation, to attend the fiftyeth  
Anniversary of our wedding day  
Came duly to hand, and for Mrs  
P. and myself, please accept our  
sincere thanks, for the thoughtfulness  
of ourselves, and the Committee  
who represent you.

I am sorry to say that I am  
not very well, and Mrs P. declines  
to go without me, and hence, we  
will not be present, but will say,

that you have both been greatly  
blessed with health, and prosperity,  
which has been mainly brought  
about, by a steady adherence, and  
close application to the rules of health,  
and always confining yourselves to



to a strict Course of Steady Integrity  
"integrity" integrity". Should be  
the watch word of all of us, without  
which, we do not deserve any  
of the blessings, which are ready for  
us, if we pursue a Course to deserve  
them.

I will not wish, that you may live  
to see another fiftieth Anniversary  
of your wedding day, as you would  
both be a burden to yourselves, and  
in stead of many others.

May God continue to bless, and  
prosper you both, is the sincere  
wish of

Most truly and sincerely yours  
John Brown



Mr & Mrs. Sheldon Reynolds  
send kindest congratulations to  
Hon & Mrs. Asa Foster, and regret  
their inability to accept the invi-  
tation for Wednesday, January  
twenty-third.

Wm. Barre,





My dear Judge

I am prompted  
by every consideration to  
accept your very thoughtful  
& kind invitation to be present  
at your golden wedding  
in London, but a very se-  
vere cold forbids me to  
undertake the journey  
Very few persons are permit-  
ted to celebrate this event  
and I congratulate you  
both that you have lived



be shared in health and that it  
will be again said of you as it was  
of David & Jonathan, "they were  
pleasant in their lives and in death  
they were not divided."

Sincerely Yours

Edward L. Carter

412 Quincy St.  
Jan 22/48.

to see this very happy day  
You have been spared to  
accomplish many & great  
works in your day and  
generation which will  
last longer than bronze  
or marble. I can only  
lay my little tribute of  
kindest wishes on your  
household altar to day  
among those which are to  
be brought by your many  
friends far and near  
I trust my dear Judge  
that your life and that  
of Mrs. Packer will long



C. & H. BORIE.

P. O. BOX 2059

131 South Third Street.

Philadelphia Jan. 21. 1877

Dr. Wilson

I have received an invitation to be present with Mrs. Ford on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Mrs. Ford's marriage - I wish it were only too glad to contribute our share of congratulation in so auspicious an occasion if wind & weather and ruddy health permitted - but it is out of the question just now & much as we regret it, we are compelled to decline - Please present our best regards to



C. & H. BORIE.

P. O. BOX 2059.

131 South Third Street.

Philadelphia

187

My friend  
I have in a way

Yours friend

C. H. Borie

Ed. W. Burton  
Bethlehem  
Pa.



Mrs Baldwin and family  
present their compliments and  
regrets to Mr and Mrs Packer  
and wish them many happy  
returns of the day.

Upper Lehigh,  
Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1861



Dushore  
Sullivan Co Pa  
Jan'y 23: 1878,

Hon. Asa Packer

My Dear Sir

Mrs Jackson and  
myself fully expected to be  
with you to day in celebrating  
the 50th anniversary of your  
marriage, and regret spec-  
-dingly that serious illness  
in our family prevents.

Nothing would have afforded  
us greater pleasure than to  
have had the opportunity  
of meeting upon this happy  
occasion Mrs Packer and  
yourself both of whom my  
parents when living  
esteemed so highly

Wishing yourself and



good wife a long life and  
continued happiness and  
prosperity I am

Your Friend  
Geo. D. Jackson



Philadelphia June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878

Dear Madam

Unavoidable engagements  
have deprived me of the pleasure  
of paying my respects in person,  
to Mrs. Packer and yourself,  
on this the fiftieth anniversary  
of your marriage.

Permit me, however, to  
offer my warmest congratula-  
tions upon such an interesting  
occasion, and to express the  
hope that many succeeding  
anniversaries of your wedding  
day may find the young  
bride and bridegroom of  
fifty years ago still hus-  
band and wife and in  
health and peace.

Very sincerely yours  
James C. Grover

Mrs. Asa Packer



Legation of the United States  
London

July 4 1878

My dear Judge Parker

The last mail brought to me an invitation to your "Golden Wedding," and altho' it is passed, I cannot deny myself the gratification of saying to you how much enjoyment it would have afforded me to have mingled my congratulations with those of the joyous throng by whom you were surrounded. There are very few to whom such occasions occur, and much fewer to whom they present such a retrospect as to you and to your beloved, starting out in life with all its vicissitudes before <sup>you</sup>, you can both look back



and to you only, who both look to the Author  
of all Good as your guides, that your pathy  
have been so advantageously directed, and  
I trust that it may be His good Pleasure to  
allow to you many years for the enjoyment  
of the Well earned respect of which you are  
so widely possessed, and when your  
course, shall have been run on Earth,  
that He will call you to that Home  
where perpetual pleasures are alone  
known.

You will know from this that my thoughts  
turn homeward <sup>often</sup>, and I can assure you  
they are much with those from whom  
I am separated, may I not hope that  
I am not forgotten & that ~~Mr~~ Mr Packer

& ~~my~~ yourself will ever continue to bear me  
in kindly remembrance.

You will be glad to know that my reception  
here has been very cordial & that I find my  
position most agreeable. Already I have  
met with very many of those whose names are  
familiar to you as distinguished in the various  
pursuits of life and with whom it is not only  
a pleasure but an honor to be permitted to as-  
sociate. I find them simple and accessible, & in  
their families very agreeable, and as the pleasure on  
one here is very great, the constant change of address  
abates from day to day, whilst it is unfavorable  
to close intimacy, has the advantage of a suc-  
cession of varied novelties which are most plea-  
suring. I have thought, and continue to think,  
that Great Britain will not involve herself  
in the Eastern War.

Very sincerely  
Yrs. Wiled



Philadelphia Jan 23. 1878

E. P. Willard Esq

My dear Sir

Will you present to the  
Committee as invitations my sincere  
regret that I cannot be present  
to join the many friends in their  
congratulations upon the golden anni-  
versary of Mr & Mrs Packer's wedding;  
and also to express the hope that  
they may both have many years  
of health and usefulness still before  
them

Yours truly  
C. Scholmer



My dear Judge Parker

Nothing but absolute necessity  
Compels Mrs. Morgan & myself to decline  
the invitation given in honor of the fiftieth  
anniversary of the marriage of Mrs. Parker  
& yourself - an event that has not occur-  
ed twice in the life of the oldest inha-  
bitant" - Great the land of rocks  
has been distinguished for its enterprising  
Citizens - rare indeed is an instance  
where one of her poor boys has dashed  
into the wilderness & erected monuments to  
honor alle. & enduring - as that of my  
esteemed friend whom I name above -

I am grieved that I cannot  
write with yourself & family the great  
circle of attached friends on so delight-  
ful an occasion

I returned from my Duke ten  
days <sup>since</sup> & have been in the agreeable hands  
of my doctor - confined to my house  
if ailments are spared a



little more than one year I hope  
he may have the pleasure of repeating  
the Compliment & having Mrs. Packer  
& yours self with us on a similar  
occasion -

Many pleasant years. I most  
earnestly pray are yet in store for  
you

Sincerely yours friend

Edwin B. Morgan

Cum gratia July 19. 1878



New York Jan<sup>y</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 1878.

J. Robert H. Sayre Esq. and other  
Gentlemen of the Committee.

Your kind favor is received, inviting me  
to be present at the residence of Mr. and Mrs.  
Asa Sackett on the fiftieth anniversary of  
their marriage.

With great regret I find it impossible to give  
impulse of the honor and the pleasure of attending,  
to make my respects to them whom I have  
held in high esteem, since finding them in  
Pennsylvania for half a century, practicing  
the old principles of New England which  
have made them conspicuous as successful  
citizens, firmest in honor and duty,  
a pride and encouragement to others from  
their native State.

I shall be gratified if such a word can be  
said to them in my behalf.

With thanks and much respect  
Yours very sincerely  
B. C. Webster



Washington Jan<sup>y</sup> 31/  
71

Dear Mr. Sayre

I have just received the card of invitation which the Committee have been thoughtful enough to send to Mrs. Hewitt & myself to attend the celebration of the Golden Wedding of my old & valued friend Judge Packer, and his estimable wife - You may be



sure that it would be  
regarded by Mrs. Hewitt  
and myself as alike  
an honor and a pleasure  
to be permitted to join  
our congratulations with  
those which will wish  
a long life of continued  
usefulness, & happiness  
to our venerable  
friends. Few men  
have done as much  
for the world and

the happiness of his  
fellow men as Judge  
Packer, & in his  
noble & laboring work  
I have no doubt that  
he has been abundantly  
strengthened and  
comforted by the  
advice & the sacrifices  
and the cooperation  
of his devoted wife.  
In fact I have never <sup>known</sup>  
a truly successful



man, who had not been  
blessed with a good  
and prudent helpmate

But my duties here  
& Mrs. Hewitt's duties to  
her father in New-York,  
will determine us of the

fraternalism you propose  
bro, & we can only  
send congratulations,  
respect, and good  
wishes, to Judge &  
Mrs. Peckee.

faithfully yours

Wm. S. Hewitt



New York  
19 July 1878

S

21 WEST 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET.

My Dear Judge

I am indebted  
for an invitation to a  
reception given in honor of  
the Fiftieth anniversary of  
your marriage!

Such an invitation  
is a pleasure and privilege  
seldom enjoyed!

I very much regret  
my engagements prevent  
my being with you and the  
happy company to mingle  
congratulations on so delight-  
ful an occasion to you  
and yours very truly,

Yours  
Ara Parker

Yours truly  
Sam Sloan



Washington DC  
July. 23. 1878

The Honorable

Asa Packard

My Dear Sir

I regret that  
my absence from home  
delayed the receipt of the  
kind invitation to be  
present at the Reception  
in honor of the Fiftieth  
Anniversary of your  
marriage, so as to put  
it beyond my power to be



present -

Permit me to add my  
quota, even at this late  
hour, to the golden  
shower of congratulations  
which is being poured  
upon your heads of silver

May your days be  
many yet & all golden

Yours Sincerely  
J. C. Platt

Orange N.Y.



New York July 23, 1878

Dear Mr. Cooper

Yrs

our kind

remembrance has this day been  
sent from New York - to  
be to respond in person

I trust that at your  
Diamond Anniversary I may  
be with you

I have accepted the con-  
gratulations of Mrs. May and  
myself

Very truly yours

Henry May





Auburn, N. J.  
Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1878.

Mr. Asa Parker.

My dear sir:

Yesterday,  
an invitation reached  
me, to attend the  
fiftieth celebration of  
your wedding, to-morrow,  
and I much thank  
Mother right very



Much that she can  
not be present to  
express in person her  
good wishes, and has  
requested me to con-  
vey to Mrs Parker and  
yourself, her heartiest  
congratulations, and  
best wishes for the  
future: to which I  
desire to add my own  
Yours very truly  
John A. Miller





309 Lexington Avenue.

Jan 23/8.

My Dear Judge.

Mrs Jewett and myself  
have been hoping to, personally,  
congratulate you and Mrs. Packer  
on the fiftieth anniversary of your  
marriage. But a severe cold  
confines me to my room.

I therefore can only  
in this form tender my congratulations,  
and assure you of my prayers  
that you may enjoy many years  
of health and happiness.

Respectfully,  
Yours,

H. Jewett

Hon. Isaac Packer,  
Philadelphia  
City.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred. W. Parice, regret exceedingly  
that imperative business engagements of Mrs.  
Parice prevent their attendance at the "Golden  
Anniversary" of the Hon. Asa + Mrs. Packes.

The more so, that when to the  
rarity of these events, is added the record of  
lives so beneficial to the race, by public  
spirit, enterprise and generous beneficence,  
it is a source of Regret, that a  
personal congratulation could not be  
attended.

Please accept the most hearty  
congratulations on this event, and the  
hope that you may long be spared to  
enjoy the Evening of Life, and the recollections  
of the good which have  
been added.

Yours &c.  
January 22. 1876.



Mr. W<sup>m</sup> C. Kent regretting  
that having just recovered,  
from a severe illness he is unable  
to accept the very kind invitation  
of the Hon<sup>r</sup> & Mrs. Asa Dicker to  
their marriage anniversary, wishes  
to express to them his hearty con-  
gratulations, and assure them  
of his sincere wishes for their  
welfare in the future —

108 South 13<sup>th</sup> St.



Mr and Mrs Gregg present their  
compliments to Mr and Mrs Asa Baker  
with congratulations, and deeply regret  
their inability to be present at the  
fiftieth Anniversary of this United  
Township, N.Y. Jan'y 22, 1878.



New York  
July 24/78

My dear Sir

Absence from  
New York & a return  
too late to avail of  
your kind invitation  
to be present at your  
Golden Wedding is  
my excuse for not  
being present

Permit me to  
offer you for myself  
& wife my warmest  
congratulations

Yours as a Father & friend  
Wm. Frank F. a. Pollock



Philad<sup>a</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878

E. P. Wilbur Esq.

My dear Sir.

Please  
express to the Judge and Mrs.  
Packer my compliments and  
regrets at not being able to be  
present today to congratulate  
them in person on this Golden  
Occasion.

Yours Very Truly,  
W. D. Carter.

Please drop the enclosed card  
in the basket.



Philada. Sunday 23. 1878.

Wednesday A. M.

Gov. & Mrs. Asa Packer.

At the very  
latest moment we find ourselves  
unable to accept the invitation  
for your reception on the Golden  
anniversary of your wedding.

The disappointment to us is  
great, and we can but express  
in writing what we would be  
glad to say personally, that we  
heartily join in the general  
congratulations, and trust you  
will continue in vigorous health  
for many succeeding years.

With great respect,

Wm. & Mrs. G. Goddard



Chicago July 18, 1878.

Mr. A. Packard Esq.

My dear Sir,

On my return home I find  
you pay over G. J. H. M. Co. for which  
accept my thanks -

I also regret to find an accumulation  
of business matters which will  
prevent me being in Phil<sup>a</sup> on Monday.  
It would have given me very great  
pleasure to have been present on the  
occasion to which you alluded last  
evening. Do me the favour to present  
my high regards to your mother & father,  
and my warmest congratulations on  
the great blessing of being permitted  
to enjoy together the fiftieth an-  
niversary of their marriage.

Very truly

John J. Taylor



Gentlemen;

Mr Hoyt begs to acknowledge  
the polite invitation extended to Mrs  
Hoyt and himself, by your Committee,  
to be present at the reception to be held  
at the residence of the Hon. and Mrs.  
Asa Parker, upon the fiftieth anni-  
versary of their marriage; and regrets  
that engagements will deprive Mrs.  
Hoyt and himself of that pleasure.

To Messrs J. A. Blakely,

Robt. A. Parker and others }  
Committee. }

New York Jan. 22. 1878.



Scranton Jan'y 21- 1878.

My dear Mr R W Lays -

We are in receipt of  
card of which you are a  
committee - to participate  
at the celebration of Mrs  
Mrs Jackson's Golden Wedding  
& are sorry it will be out  
of our power to be present  
upon that so interesting an  
occasion - We congratulate  
them & hope they may live  
see many happy years  
together

Very sincerely yrs

Mr & Mrs J. H. Albright



4205 Walnut St  
Philadelphia

Mr. and Mrs. Comgys being  
unable to offer in person their con-  
gratulations to Hon. and Mrs. Asa Packer  
on the occasion of the Fiftieth anniversary  
of their marriage, beg leave to express  
in this note their best wishes for the  
continued health and happiness of Mr.  
and Mrs. Packer.



Newark N. J.  
Jan 23. 1878

Mr Asa Parker

My Dear Sir

I was exceedingly disappointed that I found myself unable to attend the reception to be held this day on the fiftieth anniversary of your wedding, and to which I was kindly invited by your Committee. As I was unable to be there in person, I take this method of thanking you and Mrs Parker my warmest congratulations on the interesting occasion, and to express the wish that you may be spared many years



to enjoy the well earned  
fruit of a long, honorable,  
and useful life -

Very Respectfully

Your Friend

Thomas A. McGehee



Hartford, Jan 22. 1878.

To the

Hon & Mrs. Asa Packer

Dear Sir & Madam

I regret that I am  
unable to accept your kind in-  
vitation to be present on the  
fiftieth anniversary of your  
marriage.

With sincere wishes for  
your long continued health and  
happiness, I remain

Yours very resp<sup>ly</sup>

J. J. Poole





The Rectory,  
Richfield Springs, N.Y.  
Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, A.D. 1878

The Hon Asa & Mrs. Packer,  
My dear friends,

I greatly regret that I cannot be with you in person to mingle my congratulations with those of the multitude of your other friends on the occasion of the approaching anniversary.

Only on Saturday last my oldest sister and her husband's sister were buried at one service having died of pneumonia within a day of each other in the same house in Brooklyn, N.Y.

I have accepted a call to the Rectorship of S. Augustin's Church,



Ilion, Herkimer Co., N.Y. and enter  
upon my duties there next week.

With best wishes for your  
future both here and hereafter,  
and with heartiest congratula-  
tions upon your completing a  
half century of married life, and  
with most loving greetings to each  
member of your family, I am,

As ever,

Faithfully yours

E. M. Pecke



Mr + Mrs L. P. Simpson's  
Congratulations and  
Compliments to the  
Hon. Judge, and Mrs  
Ann Parker, on their  
fiftieth Anniversary  
and Regret not being  
present on the occasion

Montclair N. J.  
1.22.78



H

614 Race Street

Phila. January 24/18.

Hon. A. A. Parker -

My dear friend -

I return you  
my last-year's pass, which  
you so kindly sent me -

I can assure you, it has  
been a very great service  
to me - in visiting our  
Soldiers' Orphan Schools -

I shall be under renewed  
obligations, if you will  
send me a pass for this  
year -

I see by the morning  
papers - that you celebrated





Mr Samuel Knowl's compliments to  
Mr & Mrs Asa Packer, and regrets his  
inability to tender in person, his  
congratulations on the occasion of their  
Golden Wedding  
January 23. 1878.



Mrs Henry Dinkens regrets  
her inability to be with her friends  
on this joyous occasion, but they  
have her best wishes for a continuance  
of the blessings, vouchsafed to them  
thus far, on their journey.

Philad<sup>a</sup>  
Jan 22. 1878



Mr & Mrs John Brislin  
Regret their inability to be present  
at the reception given upon the  
Fiftieth Anniversary of the Mar-  
riage of the Hon. & Mrs. Asa Packer  
whose virtues and good deeds, dur-  
ing all the past, are worthy of the  
remembrance and imitation of all.

71 BROADWAY.

Mr. and Mrs. Clement R. Polto  
present their sincere congratula-  
tions to Hon. and Mrs. Asa Packer  
on the celebration of their fif-  
tieth anniversary, and regret  
their inability to offer them in  
person.

New York Jan 22<sup>d</sup>.



Mr. & Mrs. John W. Rahm's  
Compliments and regrets  
for Wednesday, Afternoon  
and evening - Jan. 23. 1878.  
Towanda.

Mr. & Mrs. David Rahm's  
Compliments and regrets  
for Wednesday afternoon  
and evening - Jan. 23. 1878.  
Towanda.



THEN AND NOW.

1828 1878.

AIR:—"Auld Lang Syne."

With hearts alight, we meet to-night,  
Old memories to enshrine;  
Here's to the Golden Wedding, and—  
The days of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;  
Here's to the Golden Wedding, and—  
The days of auld lang syne.

Come friends, with busy fingers now,  
The rose and myrtle twine;  
To weave a fillet for the bride  
Of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;  
To weave a fillet for the bride  
Of auld lang syne.

Another crown to bind his brow,  
Of laurel and the vine;  
In honor of his matchless worth,  
Syn auld lang syne;  
Syn auld lang syne, my dear,  
Syn auld lang syne;  
In honor of his matchless worth,  
Syn auld lang syne.



TO THE HON. ASA PACKER.

"MY WISH."

When threads of silver tell the age,  
As dark'ning clouds fortell the storm,  
Our hearts have little to assuage  
The older cares that must be borne.

But in thy wife so kind and true,  
Thou hast a balm possessed by few;  
A solace for thy age and tears,  
Thy wedded life for fifty years.

Take all the gems beneath the sea,  
More than India's wealth could be!  
Thou hast retained through care and strife,  
A pearl more precious in thy wife.

I would the twilight longer grow,  
I would each hour new life bestow;  
Until thy soul shall gain the prize,  
Thy *deeds* have laid up in the skies.

And may the ages still unsung  
Repeat thy name in every tongue;  
And emulate by noble mien  
Thy life, through golden wedding seen.

GEORGE P. CHESTER.



To  
HON. ASA PACKER AND HIS LADY.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR

Fiftieth Married Year.

JANUARY 23D, 1878.

THIS HUMBLE TRIBUTE OF RESPECT IS DEVOTED

By An Old and Early Friend.

Millions of books were written ere a type was cast,  
Books with each minute's history of the past,  
Of every type of earthly being, and each page fraught  
With every pulse-beat, with its mastering thought;  
And when we pause in life's matured career,  
And all oblivious to the future close the ear,  
Against the whispering themes that audience ask  
To win us from the ever varying task,  
To usher in the coming page with mysteries rife,  
And folding back the spirit script of life,  
Turn to the earliest record of the days "lang syne,"  
The blessed home, parental love, almost divine,  
To nestling infancy, th' untutor'd fond embrace,  
The father's sheltering arms, the mother's radiant face,  
Clasp once again that throbbing, artless breast  
In transport joy, and name those parents blest.  
Hope is the seer that lifts the future's mystic veil,  
But memory reads,—O list her dim remembered tale.

There was a youth, his boyhood years were passed  
As days of childhood fit, uncounted fast,  
Science had trained him with its discipline  
Not lavishly, as if his lot was cast to win  
The common heritage of laboring hand,  
Unknown to fame, among life's serfs to stand;



He bade farewell to Mystic, Connecticut's domain,  
And on the lands of Penn became a toiling swain,  
At intervals 'twixt seed and harvest time,  
The plough laid up in Winter's leisure clime,  
The Chisel, Auger, Plane, File, Saw, and Square  
He plied, content his morn or evening hours to share;  
The meadows' dairy wealth, the fields' return  
Had charms for him, the beech-woods game  
Enticed to bolder paths; adventurous he became  
Where the dark Lehigh through its steep defiles  
Delves among rocky boulders, shapes its sandy isles  
Where the Algonquin's footmarks lingered still;  
Thither he sped to search a higher will.  
The conquered Wilderness, redeemed, explored,  
Its Carbon wealth, once scouted, now adored,  
Burned in her thousand hearths, and borne  
On creaking wains abroad on arks forlorn,  
Wrecked oft on treacherous shoal or rock  
Ere rescued, and insured by safe Canal and Lock,  
Often in peril, bolder thoughts inspired,  
New projects rose, and new ambitions fired  
His forward hopes, the dull routine of trade  
Upon its level pathway must be made  
To change to Rapid Transit. Firm, patient, keen,  
Visions he saw, to other eyes unseen,  
He watched the prospering destiny that shone  
On other's fortunes, yet scarce on his own;  
The Shaft's dark shadowy walls he trod,  
Where the full vein upheaves the crumbling sod;  
In the deep caverns of the rifled mine  
He saw the diamonds of the future shine;  
He bought, he sold, and none too soon,  
Upon his Golden dreams uprose the bridal moon;  
That page I fain would have you read again,  
For fifty years have sped, and in their train  
How many clustering joys, and sunlit cares  
That precious Wedlock, recollection shares,  
When side by side, with clasped hand and heart,  
Ye vowed marital fealty till death should part,—  
The ring undimmed, the festal wreath aglow—  
With love's sweet pledges as it is e'en now—  
And priceless Portraits of that wedded love,  
Look from these walls—but One looks from Above;  
But memory waves her hand, and leaf by leaf  
The shifting scenes start fresh in bold relief,  
The Iron Track, on which Room Run has sent  
Her countless freightage, and her tribute lent  
To speed the volumes, history to later times  
And blend with St. Marks holier, loftier chimes,  
What daring ventures stubborn Will achieved,  
None but the eagle sighted pioneer believed;  
And old Mauch Chunk through thee is led  
Forth, where her weeds of widowhood were shed,  
Upon ambitions stately altar, and youthed again,  
She sang the song of her Commercial reign,  
Undazzled, calm, in Legislative halls  
Where highest intellect the soul enthralis

The Country's welfare, near'st to thy heart;  
That Country honored thee, and scarce would part  
Thee from her Councils. Not the loud acclaim  
Of boisterous changelings heralded thy name;  
But virtue's claim, and patriotism's breath  
That made that name the object of its faith;  
A pure religion, without cloak or stain,  
A life in Christ, with death itself a gain—  
From the Atlantic to the clustering Lakes  
Thy engines scream across the wakes  
Of iron thoroughfares, where once the path  
Of solitary traveler scarce discerned the swath;  
Patron of Learning from the fields of toil  
To reap the nobler quest of cultured soil,  
And cast the willing tithes at Science, classic shrine,  
And lay the offering at her feet divine.  
For earthly lore is God's own precious gift,  
From humbler paths to lead to heavenly drift:  
Did loving hands and votive lips declare  
The stainless Ermine thou unstained should'st wear  
Upright and just, from teeming plans of trade  
They bade thee walk where Presidents are made,  
A shadow fell upon the Commonwealth  
When honor fairly wox was robbed by stealth,  
And the dark ebicane of a greedy Ring  
Filched the true Name, and bade the ballot sting  
As doth the viper him that in his breast  
Chafes the cold ingrate; it is often best  
That Fraud should triumph, and aloft and seen  
Filthy and spotted, wear its garb obscene;  
Thou hast revered and honored God, and he  
Hath blessed thee with prosperity.

To-day, amid thy early friends', salute and cheer  
Amid the thronging hearts to memory dear,  
Clasp as in days of fondest love and truth,  
The aged hand that sought thine own in youth;  
Forget that age, that weary steps are thine,  
Once and again the Nuptial wreath entwine  
Around the silvered temples, fold once more  
That noble Matron to thy breast of yore,  
The same, with truth unbroken; hide the tears  
That start to mind thee of the many years  
Of checkered joy and grief, that far between  
The meads of honor, trust and power I ween,  
May on that lordly record writ, be seen  
God bless you Both, your scions, kith and kin  
That bear your name and lineage, may they win  
By noble, virtuous effort, that high plane  
Where Merit builds for aye her sacred fane;  
Loved, honored, trusted, to your latest breath,  
May you all meet where partings are not death.



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# THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message.  
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages.  
This message is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above.

A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

24 Dated Philadelphia, 11/23 1878

Received at Mechanics Bldg

To Amanda Paetker

Father & I dismissed  
to come on with parents  
by professional  
engagements, so join  
in our sincere wishes  
to you on this auspicious  
day, the hearty Congratulations  
to Mrs Paetker  
& yourself and  
best wishes for  
many more  
happy years.

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Wm H. Parrott  
3809 9



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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

X Dated New York 1/23/88  
Received at Mehus 3 P.M.  
To Hon Asa Packer

while regretting  
my absence permit  
me to extend to  
you my sincere  
congratulations

F. Robinson  
13 paid

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.



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2<sup>nd</sup> R. BREWER, Sec'y.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

Dated Scranton Pa 4 23 1878

Received at Mechanic 3 00 P

To H. H. Jayre

*A separation from one who parted  
here.*  
You must accept  
the will for the deed  
I put all my  
nice things on and  
arriving at depot  
missed the train  
you will have to  
get along but you  
can without me

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP

J. J. Albright

33 D H



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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

22 Dated *Phila* / 23 187*8*

Received at *Mechunk* 7:40 P.

To *Henry Purcell Pack*

*Please accept  
congratulations  
also regrets, sickness  
prevents our attendance*

*T. J. Maloney*

*TJ*

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.



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11 A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. *Philadelphia* WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

Dated *Germantown* *1/23*, 1878

Received of *Mechunk* *1130*  
*Hon & Mrs Asa Paeker*

Compliments & regrets  
of  
*Mr & Mrs A. C. Harmer*

*A. Paeker*

*2 x adol*  
*2 x sig*

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.



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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

X  
Date *Schneetoby Ny 1/23 1878*  
Received at *McHunk 1080*  
To *The Hon Judge & Mrs Coe*

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

*The trustees & governors of Union University assembled at the capitol of the state in semi annual meeting present to you both warmest congratulations and best wishes,*

*E. M. Patter.  
Pres't Union  
University*

*300 J J*



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## THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

X  
Dated New York 1/23 1878

Received at McHenry 1070

To Hon Asa Packer

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on this happy anniversary may you and Mrs Packer long be spared to one another I regret my inability to be present.

John Taylor Johnston  
31 DN JG



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This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE** and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above.

15 A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

Dated Capitol Washington DC 1/23 1878

Received at Mechum 143 P

The Honorable Asa Packer

Please accept for yourself  
and wife my sincere

Congratulations on this  
the fiftieth anniversary

of your marriage eventful  
fifty years, may you

live long, and continue  
to enjoy the domestic

happiness, honor, wealth,  
and renown, that you

have so well earned.

Mrs Dwight joins with  
me in regrets that

we cannot be present  
with you.

J. M. Dwight

56 D.H. C9  
X in ads.

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.



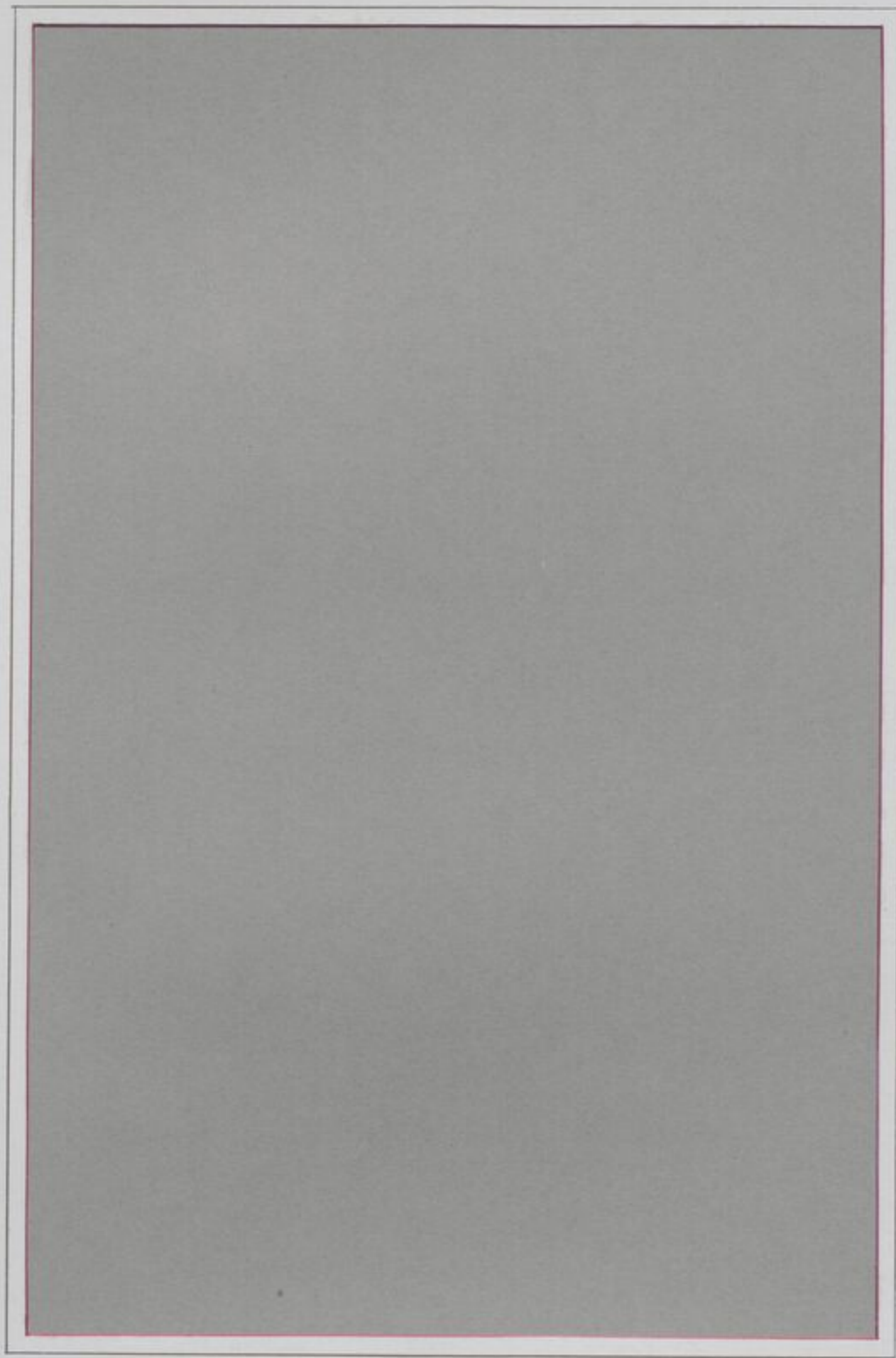
Widow Moore.  
Hon. & Mrs. Lisa Packer

Many thanks  
for your kind invitation;  
and regrets that I can  
not accept it.

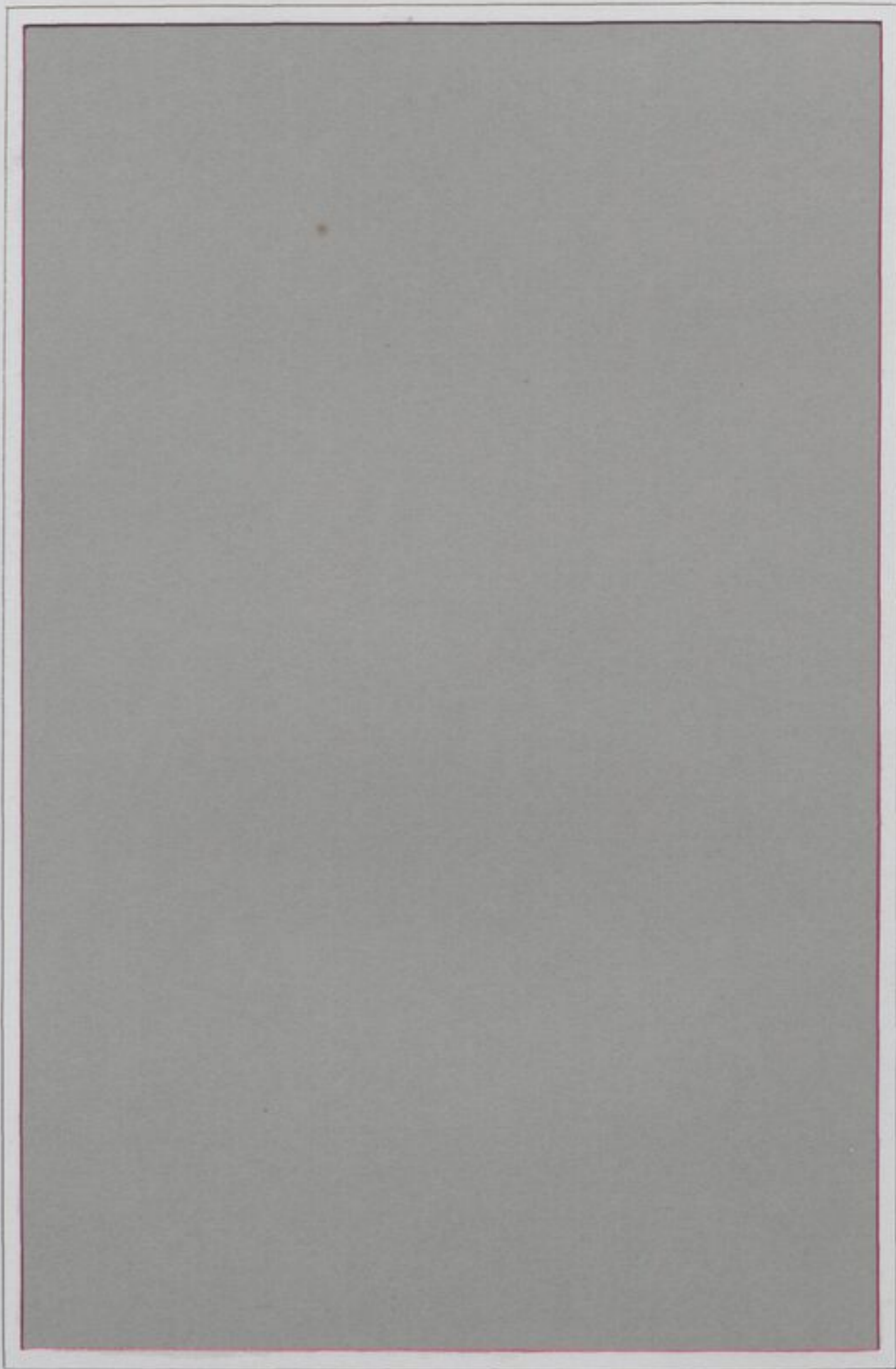
I sincerely wish you  
many happy returns of  
the Anniversary of your  
Marriage

Ms Lucius Blakeslee











General Patterson.

*11<sup>th</sup> & Locust.*

*Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Richey.*

*Trenton, N. J.*

*Regards & best wishes*

*Mr. & Mrs. A. Morris Herkness.*

*Mr. & Mrs. John Longlie*

*1602 Wallace Street*

*Mr. & Mrs. Franklin B. Bowen.*

*Mad. Ave.*

Mr. & Mrs. Tinsley Jeter.



Compliments of,

Mr. & Mrs. James P. Kimball.

Wednesday Jan. 23. /878

Mr. & Mrs. Fisher Howe, Jr.

Compliments of

Mr. Geo. B. Newton

Mr. Geo. C. Swenson

Mr. Geo. C. Demarest

Mr. Chas. W. Thomas

Mr. J. C. Crane

Mr. & Mrs. G. Lee Stout.

Mr. H. W. Stearns.



J. A. Helshorn

Ernest Morris Sr.

Mrs Taylor

Hon & Mrs Asa Packer.  
Congratulations & Regards.  
January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

1828

1878

Compliments of  
Mr & Mrs John Hoop.

616 Fifth Avenue.



Mrs. Cha<sup>s</sup> B. Knevals.

*Congratulations*

Mr. Charles B. Knevals.

*Congratulations*

*Mr. & Mrs. Wm. L. Dunlison*

*Mrs. A. R. Colwell*

*Bethlehem, Pa.*

*Mrs. John Biddle*

*1844 Penn. St.*

*Mr. John Biddle*



Mr. & Mrs. G. Dawson Coleman -

G. Dawson Coleman

Mr. Joseph Patterson's  
sincerely & gratefully regret, that he cannot  
have the pleasure of his on ally offering  
his congratulations to Judge & Mrs. Packer,  
& assuring them of his great respect & regard,  
with best wishes for a long & happy future.



*Mr. Henry Morgan*

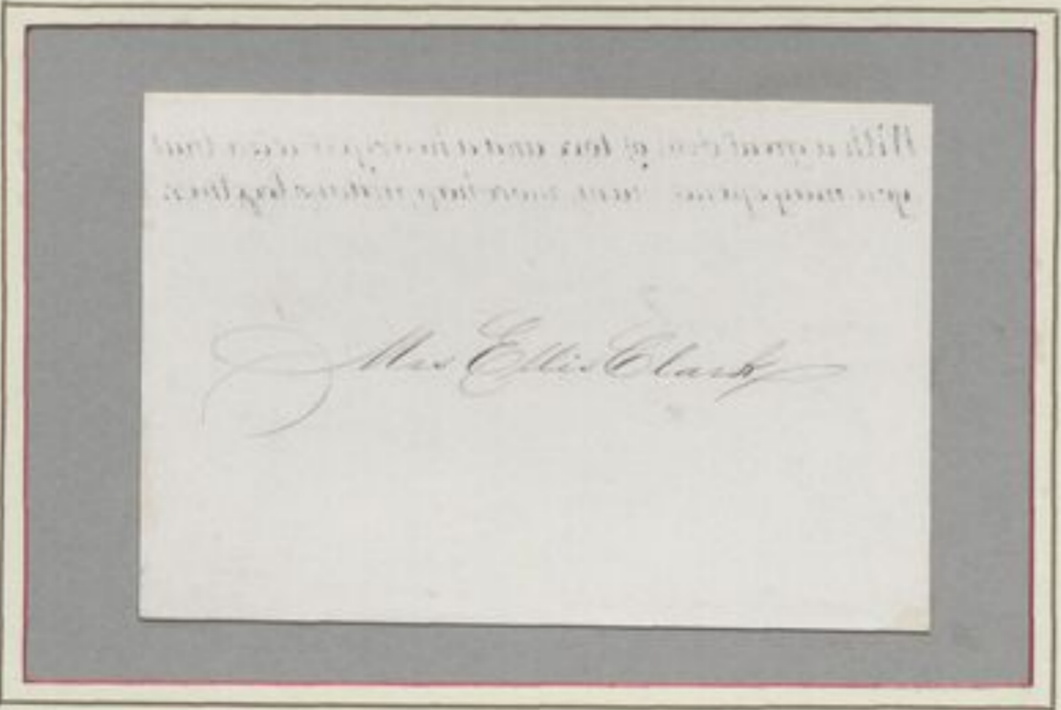
*Henry Morgan*

*Aurora, N.Y.*

*With a great deal of love and a heartfelt wish that  
you may spend many more happy days together.*

*Wm. H. Payne Jr.*







*Mrs. John Biddle.*  
*1846 Nov 16*

*Mr. John Biddle.*

*Chas. F. Shornell*







Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Lathrop.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Elliott  
with their congratulations  
1623 Chestnut

Miss S. E. Abercrombie.



*Mrs. Charles Cronkhite.*

*95 Willow St.*

*Charles Cronkhite.*

*Mr. Franklin B. Gowen.*



Mr. & Mrs. John A. Braman,  
Regrets

Compliments  
&  
Regrets  
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. G. Schenck.  
Huntington 54 West 40th St.

Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Goddard



Augustus Jay Du Bois

Mr. & Mrs. Clement R. Potts

Chas. H. Cummings.



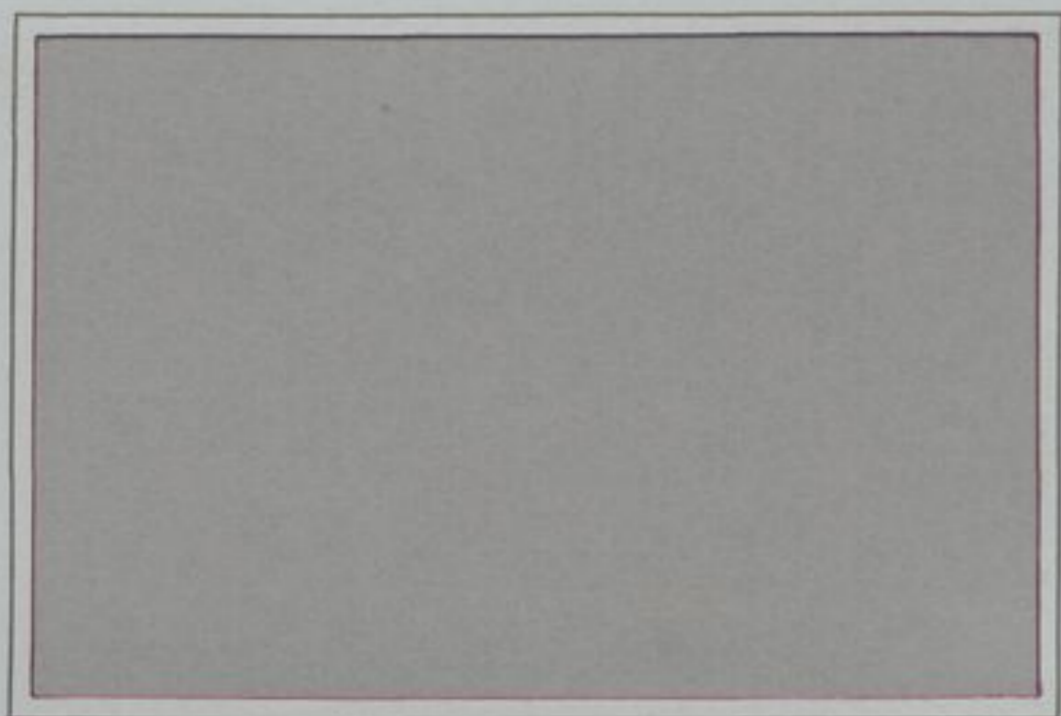
*Ellis Clark*

*W. J. Carter*

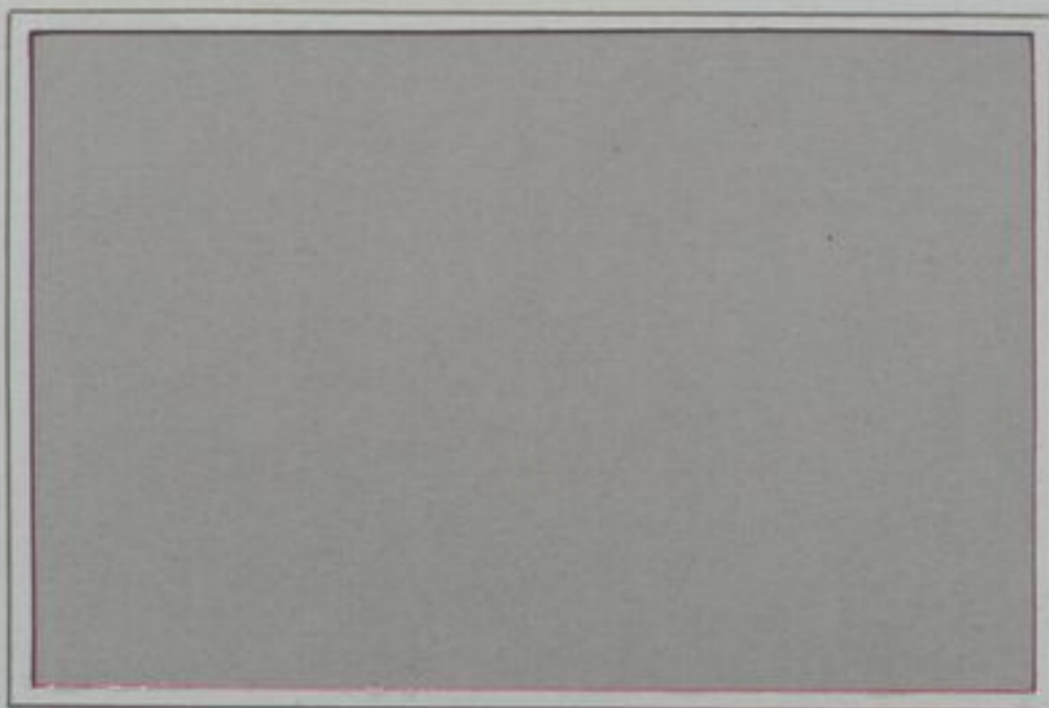
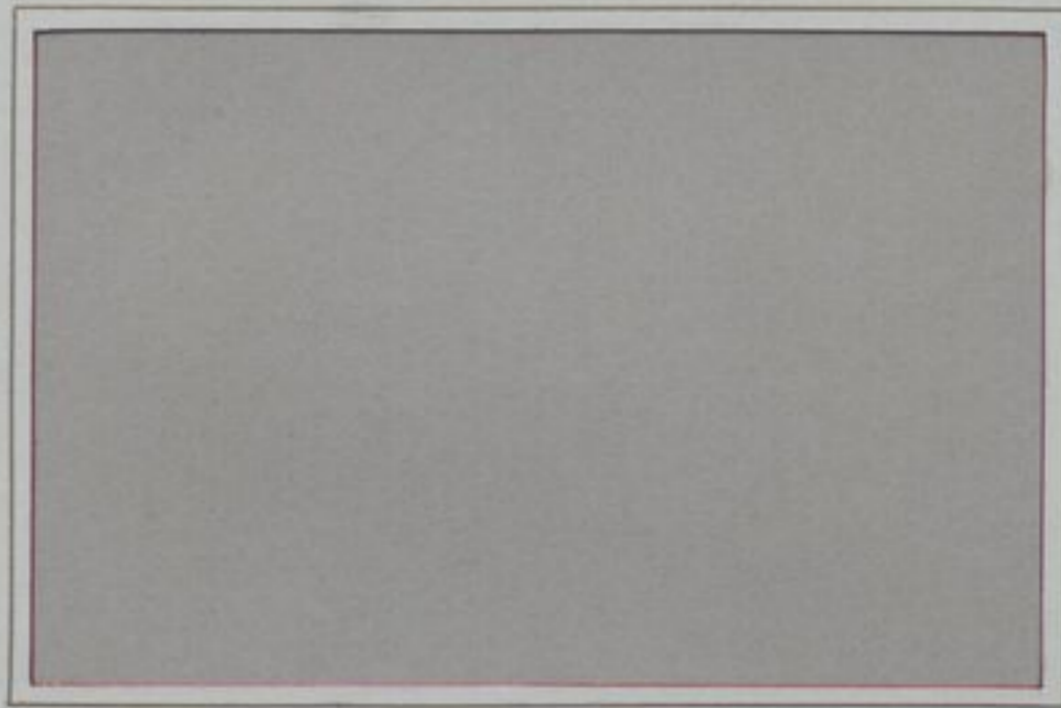
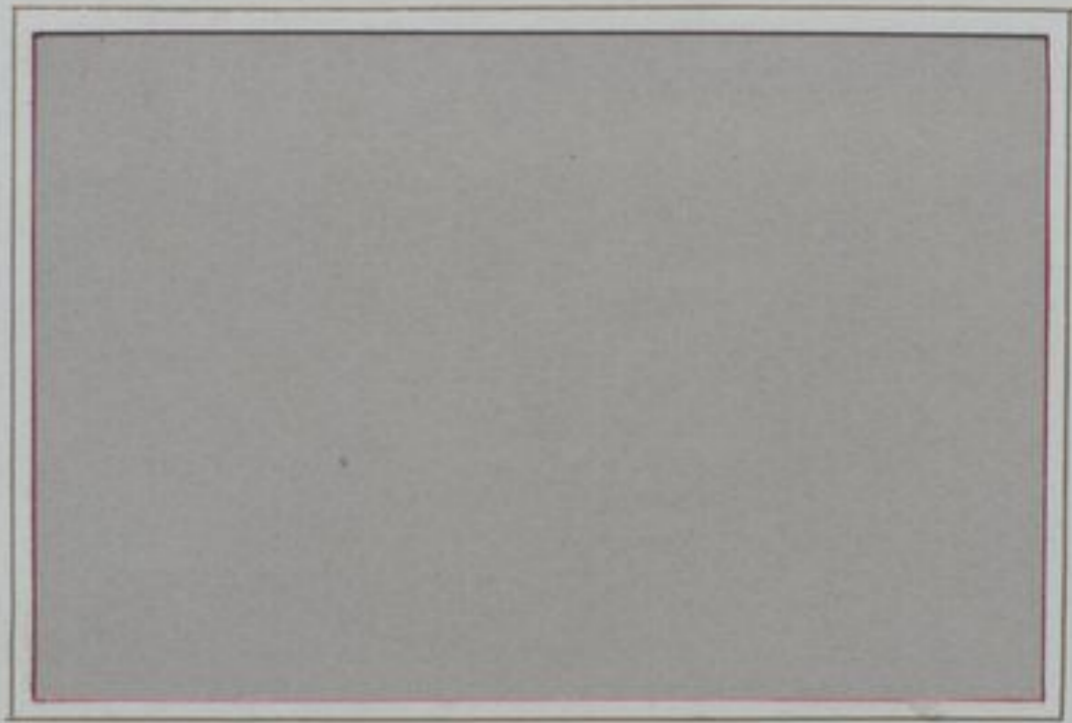
*Mr. J. F. Wright*  
*Congratulations*



*Congratulations of*  
*W. B. Dinsmore.*  
*New York.*









## A GOLDEN WEDDING!

JUDGE AND MRS. ASA PACKER  
CELEBRATE THE FIFTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR  
MARRIAGE.

An Immense Throng Presents Its Con-  
gratulations to an Honored Couple.

The greatest social event that has ever occurred in the Lehigh Valley, and the greatest and most important likely to occur within the present century—considering all its features and the wonderful career of the two central figures of the festival, their influence towards the moral and educational advancement of their fellow men, their work in the development of the Lehigh Valley, which, when they entered it was almost a howling wilderness, but which, through their efforts, is now dotted with flourishing towns, teeming with commerce, and is populated with an active, industrious, and generally prosperous people—was the celebration by Judge and Mrs. Asa Packer, of their Golden Wedding, on Wednesday last, in the family mansion, which nestles among our rugged and romantic cliffs and overlooks the rippling Lehigh. Without abating a jot of the praise due to Judge Packer for the tireless energy, indomitable pluck, ceaseless vigilance, wise forecast and enlightened philanthropy, which enabled him to carry out to successful issue his great enterprises, it is safe to say that his prodigious success is in no small degree due to the sympathy and moral support of the gentle, wise, unassuming lady, who for fifty years has shared his eventful life, and is the mother of his children.

### THE COUNTRY WEDDING

In striking contrast to the brilliant festival of Wednesday, was the wedding of Asa Packer, a poor young mechanic, and Sarah M. Blakalee, the daughter of a farmer in humble circumstances, which took place fifty years ago, at Dimock Four Corners, Susquehanna County, this state. On that occasion the sons and daughters of the neighboring farmers to the number of about thirty, dressed in their smartest home-made Sunday attire, assembled in the evening at the little country inn, kept by Mrs. Barnes, the bride's sister, at the "Corners." What the guests lacked in "style" and the polish of cities they made up in hearty cordiality, and honest good wishes for the bride and bridegroom. The only fortune of the young couple was their mutual affection, their brave and honest hearts, and their cheerful determination to make for themselves a home, and meet the vicissitudes of fortune with a bold front, and an unflinching trust in themselves, based upon a trustful confidence in the good-

ness of God. When all the guests were assembled the young couple, attended by the bridesmaid and groomsmen, stood up in the parlor of the house and were joined in holy wedlock according to the beautiful and impressive rites of the Episcopal Church. Rev. Samuel Marks, then a young man, and the first Episcopal clergyman ever established in that section, performing the ceremony. The country gallants kissed the blushing bride according to the good old fashion, and congratulated the happy bridegroom. The neighborhood fiddler reined his bow, and away went the youths and maidens heel and toe, toe and heel, in the merry country dances. When the proper time came, the maidens conducted the bride to her chamber in due and ancient form, and the young gentlemen performed a like service for the bridegroom. But the festivities continued, and an hour later the young braves aroused the new-made husband. He was brought down and forced to partake of all the refreshments the house afforded. The traditional practical jokes were played, and thus the young couple were launched upon the sea of married life.

### EARLY STRUGGLES.

Mr. Packer was born in Mystic, Connecticut, on the 29th day of December, 1805. His early education was very limited, being only such as was taught in the primitive district schools of those days. When he had reached the age of seventeen years, he packed all his worldly possessions, consisting of a few simple articles of clothing, shouldered his small bundle, and started out on foot to seek his fortune in the great world. Trudging along the rugged roads of that early time the plucky boy walked the entire distance between his birth place, in the land of Blue Laws and Wooden Nutmegs, to Brooklyn, Susquehanna County, in this State. That achievement was a fair index of Mr. Packer's future. The boy was father of the man. Once determined upon a course of action no obstacle staid him, no discouragements shook his purpose, no work was too great to be undertaken. After weeks of weary marching, climbing rocky hills, and toiling through dusty valleys, through sunshine and rain, hungry, tired, footsore, the lad arrived at the house of his cousin Mr. Edward Packer, in Brooklyn. He was a house carpenter, and under his tutelage young Asa determined to learn that trade. He went to work with a will, and with his characteristic thoroughness he became a first-class workman. No man in the country round about could shove a plane truer or hit a nail on the head with more precision than young Asa Packer. When the years of his apprenticeship expired, he went to New York where he worked a year at his trade. But the life of the city was distasteful to him, and he returned to Susquehanna county, settling in Springville township. There he worked at his trade, and wood and won his honored wife, and was married on the 23d of January, 1826. When the first happy days of the honey-moon were over, the young couple took a farm, which had formerly been worked by Mrs. Packer's father. Here the young wife proved herself a helpmeet indeed. While the husband plowed his fields, gathered his crops, or plied his trade at such dequitary work as the neighbors needed, the wife milked the cows, administered her household affairs with cheerfulness, energy, neatness and economy, and made their home a model of humble comfort and happiness. But nature yielded her crops scantily, markets were distant, and the returns small. At the end of four years they found themselves nearly as poor as when they began.



#### TURNING HIS BACK TOWARD THE LEHIGH.

Hearing that men were wanted to run coal boats on the Lehigh Canal, which had just been opened, in the winter of 1833 Mr. Packer hitched up his horse to a primitive sled, known as a "jamper," and drove to this place with the view of making arrangements to engage in that work. After making a satisfactory engagement he went home, where he remained closing up his affairs until the opening of navigation. Then he came back, walking to Tonkhanock, on the Susquehanna river. There he boarded a raft, rode to Scrwick, walked the rest of the distance to this place, and became the commander of a canal boat. Not long afterward he contracted for an additional boat, and placed it in charge of his brother-in-law, James I. Blakelee, who still lives, an honored citizen of this place. During the summer he brought his family here. The boating business paid—so much so, that at the end of two years he was able to retire, with some capital, from active participation therein, though retaining an interest. He bought out the store of E. W. Kimball, situated on the banks of the Lehigh, and made Mr. Blakelee its manager, while he himself established a boat yard, building canal boats, his early training as a carpenter standing him in good stead. At this time he lived with his family in the house now occupied by Mr. Ass Beers, on Broadway. Prosperity still attended him. In a few years he placed in his stores at one time, a stock of goods which cost him \$25,000. He also took extensive contracts for building locks on the upper Lehigh, which he finished in 1839, coming out with handsome profits. Mr. Packer was then a rich man for those days. The following year he and his brother Robert took large contracts from Stockton & Stevens of New Jersey, for building boats at Pottsville, Schuylkill County, to be constructed for the direct shipping of coal to New York. He continued in business at Pottsville 3 years. At the end of that time the partnership of the brothers was dissolved, Ass returning to this place, and Robert remaining in Reading.

#### GREAT ENTERPRISES AND GREAT SUCCESS.

He next engaged in mining and shipping coal from the Nesquehoning and other mines. The coal from the Nesquehoning mines was loaded into Mr. Packer's boats at a point a little above where the East Manoh Chunk bridge now stands. Thenceforward his career is marked by an unbroken chain of prosperity,—the result of his own endeavors. In 1852, unaided and alone, he began the gigantic undertaking of building the Lehigh Valley Railroad. With rare foresight he foresaw the grand results that would accrue therefrom, and with unflinching courage he tackled his great work. He finished the road in 1855. The enterprise came near costing him his entire fortune, but he lifted over his temporary embarrassment, and is now probably the richest man in Pennsylvania. While he has accumulated vast wealth, he has administered it with a liberal and enlightened judgment, and while benefitting his own family, he has benefited his race, and has been a great power in the development of his State and the advancement of civilization. The founder of a University, the event of Wednesday when scholars, poets, statesmen, men of letters, and men distinguished in all the walks of life assembled to do him honor, was a fitting epoch in a long and well-spent life. His political career—his service as judge, and member of Congress, his candidature before the National Democratic Convention in 1868, and his nomination as a candidate for Governor the following year, are too fresh in the public mind to need an extended notice here.

#### THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

For the festival on Wednesday the handsome parlors of Judge Packer's residence and of those of his son, Mr. H. E. Packer, into which the great company overflowed, were tastefully decorated with rare flowers, evergreens and autumn leaves. The reception was planned by Judge Packer's two sons and his son-in-law, Dr. G. B. Linderman, and the other gentlemen of the reception committee, and was intended as a surprise to the father and mother. The invitation cards, of which about one thousand were sent, read as follows:

DEAR (Monogram P. E. J.) 1873  
A reception will be held at the residence of the  
Hon. and Mrs. ASA PACKER,  
Wednesday afternoon and evening, Jan. 25d, from  
3 until 6 and 7 until 10 o'clock, in honor of the  
Fiftieth Anniversary of their  
Marriage.

We request the pleasure of your company.  
Committee—James I. Blakelee, Harry E. Packer,  
G. B. Linderman, Robert Luckhart, Robert A. Pack-  
er, Charles O. Skeer, E. P. Wilbur, Robert H.  
Seyre.

The invitations were accompanied by a card bearing the words "No presents." Shortly before 3 o'clock the guests began to arrive at the family mansion, and were welcomed with the sweet strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, many having reached this place on a special train a little before two o'clock. During the afternoon the parlors were comfortably filled, the guests being principally the older and more intimate friends. The Judge and his wife, still in the vigor of a happy old age, received the congratulations of their friends in the west parlor. An ceremony was dispensed with, and every one was made to feel at home. Messrs. Robert and Harry Packer, and their young and accomplished wives, were everywhere receiving their guests and dispensing a princely hospitality with rare and cordial grace and courtesy, and the members of the reception committee, already named, performed their arduous duties with tireless urbanity and excellent judgment. At 3 o'clock the ladies of the family presented the mother with a beautiful gold chain, and the reception committee gave to the Judge a gold watch of antique design, inscribed with their names, and to Mrs. Packer a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles. A feeling address was made by Mr. James I. Blakelee, who, when a lad of thirteen witnessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Packer, and was responded to in a few brief and touching sentences by the Judge. These scenes over, the rest of the afternoon was spent by the distinguished company in easy social intercourse, the younger members, and in fact some of the older ones, joining in a dance, to music furnished by a detachment of Grafius's Seventh Regiment Band, of New York.

#### IN THE EVENING.

The evening festivities were intended more especially for the young folks, and train after train brought large numbers from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pottsville, Bethlehem, Easton, Allentown, Wilkesbarre, Scranton, Hazleton, Towanda, and many other towns in this state, and also from the principal cities of New Jersey. A large number of the aged couple's neighbors, old residents of Manoh Chunk, who have known them and respected them since the days of their comparative poverty, also those of the present generation, vied with each other in expressions of hearty good-will. It is the happy lot of few persons to enjoy such a cordial friendship and unqualified esteem of their neighbors as exists in this community for Judge Packer and his wife.



By nine o'clock Judge Packer's mansion was literally packed, and the throng overflowed in great numbers into Mr. H. E. Packer's residence adjoining. The grounds were illuminated with calcium lights, the brilliancy extending even to craggy hills, and lighting up the grounds, trees, fountains, statuary and shrubbery. The effect was beautiful and romantic. Within the mansion the scene was indescribable, gray haired men and matrons, dazzling young beauties, whose eyes rivalled in brilliancy the jewels they wore, gallant young blades in the exuberant spirits of early manhood, inextricably mixed in an ever shifting scene, like the figures in a kaleidoscope, all smiling, all happy, full of wit, mirth and merriment, made up such a picture as was never seen before in the Lehigh Valley. But not all who came there were rich; many a humble but faithful employee was present, and received the same courtly attention as the men who count their dollars by the million.

A VENERABLE CLERGYMAN.

Next to the venerable couple, the most conspicuous person present was Rev. Samuel Marks, who fifty years ago performed the marriage ceremony. He is a hale and hearty man of eighty-one. He was present, and signified the event by presenting the venerable couple with the following address:

Who of us thought of this celebration on the night of the 22d of January, 1828. I, as well as yourselves, have been spared these 50 years, since the wedding day, while nearly every other one of that joyous throng have gone to their great account. Yes, the generation to which we belonged, has run away and left us. We all come to-night to congratulate you, upon your arrival at an honor which very few attain to, viz: that of a Golden Wedding. God, the author of all good, has been very gracious to you. He has permitted you to become aged together. He has blessed you, in every sense of the word, in your basket and in your store, in the happiness you enjoy in your family, and the honor you have received from men. May the smiles of our gracious God continue to rest upon you. May your valuable lives be prolonged for years to come, and when you are summoned by the great Architect of the Universe from labor to refreshment, may you be found in order. May your last days, friends of my younger years, and formerly under my pastoral care, be your best days, and your sun set without a cloud; and through the redeeming merits of our blessed Saviour, may your souls ascend to glory, and there hear the psalmist, of "well done good and faithful servants," enter into the joy of your Lord. Receive our heart-felt congratulations upon your advancement to the state and degree of a Golden Wedding.

Mr. Marks was accompanied by Mrs. Marks, and her sister, Mrs. McClure. He resides in Haron, Ohio, where he is still earnestly engaged in the ministry, notwithstanding that he is in his eighty-first year and has served his Master for nearly fifty-four years.

The bridesmaid, Mrs. Amos Williams, now a venerable lady, was also present, and was the recipient of much kindly attention, and many graceful compliments. She, with the Rev. Mr. Marks and James I. Blaklee and Mrs. Wm. Baker, of Springville, Susquehanna Co., Pa., (the two latter brother and sister of the bride) all present on Wednesday, are believed to be the only living witnesses of the marriage ceremony, which took place in Mrs. Barnes' public house fifty years ago.

OTHER SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

Throughout the afternoon and evening, elegant collations, for every one to help themselves at will, were served in both mansions. In the Judge's dining room, to which an addition had been built for the occasion, on a handsomely decorated table were the ices, confections and lighter wines, constantly replenished, and never ending in abundance. The centre piece of this table was a magnificent stand of choice flowers, a present from the officers of the Lehigh Valley

Coal Company. The salads and heavier comestibles were served in the dining room of Mr. H. E. Packer's residence. The gentlemen more generally patronized this table, while that in the Judge's house was the favorite of the ladies.

The window casements, and massive frames of the plate glass mirrors in both mansions, were tastefully festooned with evergreens, the picture frames and their cords were hung with beautifully shaded and graduated autumn leaves, while from every nook and corner, vases of rare flowers shed a soft perfume through the elegantly furnished apartments.

During the evening the March Chunk Cornet Band, of their own accord serenaded Judge Packer, playing several airs, and acquitted themselves very creditably.

Quite a large number of the guests made their adieu in time to take a special train which left here at eleven o'clock. Most of the others, together with Grafals' Band, adjourned to Mr. H. E. Packer's residence, where until morning they "chased the flying hours with glancing feet." Not an unpleasant incident, not an event to mar the happiness of any one present occurred. When the final words of parting were said, every one, old and young, rich or poor, departed for their homes feeling that this had been one of the happiest occasions of their lives, and bearing in their hearts the most cordial wishes, that many more years may be added to the lives of Judge Packer and his wife, and that prosperity and happiness may continue to attend them and all their children.

At 10 o'clock in the morning, a Committee of the Alumni of Lehigh University, called at the residence of Judge Packer, and presented him with the following:

MARCH CHUNK, PA.  
Wednesday Morning, Jan. 23, 1878.

Hon. ASA PACKER—

Dear Sir:—To-day your friends and neighbors will gather around you, and join in most hearty congratulations, on this, the fiftieth anniversary of your marriage-day. They will call up many an incident of the past half century, and will dwell with special interest on the events of your own life, and the deeds which have won the honored place which you have long held in their esteem. To find the crowning glory of a long and useful career, they need but turn to that grand tribute of generous wealth to science—the LEHIGH UNIVERSITY.

It seems fitting that we, who look upon that institution as our Alma Mater, who have passed through its portals to the busy world beyond, should to-day be among the first of your many friends in expressions of genuine admiration and sincere regard.

Therefore, with that respect and esteem which every graduate of the University must feel for its founder, we present to you, dear sir, and to your devoted wife, our most hearty congratulations; and to our well-wishes we add the earnest hope that you may long be spared to enjoy the blessings of a well-spent life, and that as in the past, so in the future, God's favor may be with you and yours throughout all the years yet to come.

We are, dear sir, with great respect THE GRADUATES OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY.

R. B. YATES, W. R. BUTLER,  
M. DIMICK, H. S. PRICE,  
F. L. CLERC, H. S. DRINKER,  
L. EDM. KLOTA, H. S. HOUSEKEEPER.  
Committee.



At nine o'clock, the following beautiful hymn, composed for the occasion, by Dr. Henry Coppee, ex-President of Lehigh University, was sung with fine effect, the entire company joining in the refrain.

THEY AND NOW: A SONG FOR THE GOLDEN WEDDING OF ASA PACKER AND SARAH M. BLANKLEY 1828-JANUARY 23-1878 "Auld Lang Syne."

With hearts slight, we meet to-night,  
Old memories to cherish:  
Here's to the Golden Wedding, and  
The days of auld lang syne,  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne.

Here's to the Golden Wedding, and  
The days of auld lang syne.  
Gone friends, with heavy sengers sow,  
The rose and myrtle twine:  
To weave a shawl for the bride,  
Of auld lang syne,  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;

To weave a shawl for the bride  
Of auld lang syne.  
Another crown to bind his brow,  
Of laurel and the vine,  
In honor of his matchless worth,  
Sye auld lang syne;  
Sye auld lang syne, my dear,  
Sye auld lang syne;

In honor of his matchless worth,  
Sye auld lang syne.  
Health to the daughter of their house,  
Whose character beauteous,  
Gives joy and comfort to the hearth  
Of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;

Gives joy and comfort to the hearth  
Of auld lang syne.  
Health to the loyal sons, in whom  
Their parents' virtues shine;  
No prouder legacy is theirs  
Than days of auld lang syne:  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;

No prouder legacy is theirs  
Than days of auld lang syne.  
Here's to the priest, who led the knot  
With holy rite divine;  
He did good work for them and us,  
In days of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;

He did good work for them and us,  
In days of auld lang syne.  
Wealth to the Valley Road, and may  
Its fortune ne'er decline:  
Not ead he stock to eighty-five,  
As in the auld lang syne;  
In auld lang syne,  
Not ead he stock to eighty-five,  
As in the auld lang syne.

Health to his Collage, may it be  
Fair learning's breast shrine;  
And many a student proudly point  
To auld lang syne;  
To auld lang syne, my dear,  
To auld lang syne;  
And many a student proudly point  
To auld lang syne.

Keep them, O Lord, in perfect peace;  
Through all their life's decline:  
Then take them to thy happy rest,  
With friends of auld lang syne:  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;  
Then take them to thy happy rest,  
With friends of auld lang syne.

H. C.

COMMEMORATIVE POEM.

The Song was followed by the presentation of the following poem, also composed by Dr. Coppee:

THE GOLDEN WEDDING,  
1828-1878.  
By HENRY COPPEE, L.L.D.

A Golden Wedding, measured by the flight  
Of rolling years, we celebrate to-night:  
A Golden Wedding, measured by the hearts  
Of home and friends, and all that love imparts,  
Full fifty years ago, a sunny ray  
Marked the bright morn of this auspicious day:  
A youthful pair were standing side by side,  
Before God's altar, bridegroom with his bride:  
The priest has spoken, and the rite is o'er;  
They enter, as they leave the sacred door,  
The pilgrimage of life, from morn till eve,  
With naught to help them but their trust in Heaven,  
Behold her, friend and comfort of his life,  
The greatest boon of Heaven, a loyal wife,  
A loving mother, to her children true,  
And by them cherished, with affection due,  
The husband just, and strong to play his part,  
In purpose and in act, with head and heart:  
In plan judicious, in achievement bold,  
Like Moses, all he touched was turned to gold:

And, from the moment his success began,  
He used the gold to bless his fellow man:  
Freely receiving from his Father's hand,  
Freely he scattered o'er a smiling land,  
First let the mass, with truth and pleasure staid,  
The woodrums exploits of the Railroad King,  
And show how PACKER, of the ready hand,  
Could bind the sea and lakes with iron band:

Kill space and time with steam's restless flow,  
And make the wilderness with beauty grow,  
Where the tired traveler, fifty years ago,  
Journeyed for weary days through ice and snow:  
Where once, on broken paths, the loaded wains  
Floundered along, lo! now the lightning trains,  
Through mountain caverns and through sunny dales  
Thread the lightest-work of the iron rails.

From Amboy's placid bay their course they run,  
To where the Lehigh's waves reflect the sun,  
And over hanging mountains see themselves,  
In the broad mirror of the water-elves,  
They pierce the rocks through Musconetcong's cove,  
Whose deep recess might be a Titan's grave,  
And speed in thunder through the Valley's gash,  
Which bears the sacred name of Bethlehem.

There, as the steam-kings run their wild career,  
A hundred locations on the scene appear:  
From Flag's top the promised land they greet,  
And see the world stretched out beneath their feet:  
Pass where Onoko flings his waters down,  
In tenfold beauty from the mountain's crown,  
Swiftly they fly, like swallows on the wing,  
By "Squashanna's side, fair Wyoming."

Where "wild-flowers" yet beset "the ruined wall,"  
And fairer flowers the heart of man enthral;  
With restless rush they leave the haunts of men,  
To pass the charms of Watkin's fairy glen,  
Where shot the light canoe of Indian brave,  
See Seneca disclose her silvery wave,  
Still onward to fair Libect they come,  
Where proudly rises Learning's splendid dome.

The work of one who loved his mission well,  
A kindred spirit—generous Cornell,  
But not alone does beauty greet our eyes;  
The useful arts in quick succession rise:  
Great coal-fields open, with black diamonds bright,  
To bless the shivering world with warmth and light:  
And iron, rising from the dinky soil,  
With gold and silver pays the miners' toil.

As through the land the meteor engine flies,  
See villages spring forth, and steeples rise,  
And homes and schools, and knowledge, by his  
hand,  
Are scattered as by magic through the land,  
Nages may teach, but he as wise as they,  
Who sends their teachings on his iron way:  
An iron way, created by his art,  
An iron man, but with a golden heart!

And higher yet his proud pretensions rise;  
His gift to learning gains the unrivalled prize:  
On ponder slope, the tower that points on high,  
Speaks volumes to the hungry scholar's eye:  
Free gift of knowledge, God-like in its plan,  
The best of honours man can give to man,  
The Sowing Lehigh leads its Indian name,  
But PACKER HALL perpetuates his fame.

Kingdoms may fall, and nations may decay,  
Wealth disappear, and art be swept away;  
Science, at last, ye write her faulty page,  
To match the marvels of the coming age.



Not, with the anxious years, disturbing flow,  
 The record of such worth shall brighter glow.  
 As student-generations loud proclaim,  
 With filial reverence their *FATHER'S* name  
 Another memory too is planned there,  
 A memory of the virtuous and fair—  
 See where the noble *LIBRARY* appears  
 Its peaceful terraces for all coming years:  
 It tells us of a cherished daughter's life,  
 A tender mother, and a loving wife—  
 Richer than gold, a father's tribute gives,  
 To gentle *LUCY LINDSEY* in heaven.  
 Hail, *ASA PACKER*! By the good old rule,  
 We give thee bumpers, hearts and glasses full:  
 All hail, upon this holy happy day,  
 To thee, old bridegroom, and thy honored bride!  
 Gold of the mine we may not bring thee now,  
 But fairer gold to crown thy worthy brow—  
 The gold of filial love, so true and bright  
 Children and children's children bring to-night:  
 Brothers' and sisters' children with them come,  
 With votive offerings to this central home,  
 See gold of loyal friendship, tried and true,  
 Personal pleasure, old, but ever new.  
 The golden tributes, in thy pathway strewed,  
 Give tokens of a people's gratitude,  
 Not, in this joyous season we forget,  
 The reverend priest who tied the nuptial knot:  
 Once more he stands beside the happy pair,  
 To breathe again a fervent marriage prayer,  
 Thus laden with the gold which heaven commands,  
 Of "honor, love, obedience, troops of friends."  
 One brighter, better gift remains to speak  
 To tell of which our words are all too weak—  
 The gold of Faith, by which we may deserve  
 Another Golden Wedding in the sky.  
 Of which the human heart can only dream—  
 O Light ineffable, O joy supreme,  
 Our God the Host, our Lord the great High Priest—  
 Oh, may we all partake that Wedding Feast.  
 January 23, 1878. HENRY COPPER.

HON. ASA PACKER AND HIS LADY,  
 ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR  
 FIFTIETH MARRIED YEAR.

JANUARY 23, 1878. 10

THIS HUMBLE TRIBUTE OF RESPECT IS DEVOTED  
 By An Old and Early Friend.

Millions of books were written as a type was cast,  
 Books with each minute's history of the past,  
 Of every type of earthly being, and each page  
 fraught  
 With every pulse-beat, with its mastering  
 thought;  
 And when we pause in life's unsteady career,  
 And all oblivious to the future close the ear,  
 Against the whispering themes that audience ask  
 To win us from the ever-varying task,  
 To usher in the coming page with mysterious rife,  
 And folding back the spirit script of life,  
 Turn to the earliest record of the days "Lang  
 Syne,"  
 The blessed home, parental love, almost divine,  
 To nestling infancy, to untutored fond embraces,  
 The father's sheltering arms, the mother's radi-  
 ant face,  
 Clasp once again that throbbing, artless breast  
 In transport joy, and name those parents blest.  
 Hope is the seer that lifts the future's mystic  
 veil,  
 But memory reads,—O list her dim remembered  
 tale.

There was a youth, his boyhood years were  
 passed  
 As days of childhood flit, uncounted fast;  
 Science had trained him with its discipline:  
 Not lavishly, as if his lot was cast to win  
 The common heritage of laboring hand,  
 Unknown to fame, among life's *serfs* to stand;

He bade farewell to Mystic, Connecticut's do-  
 main,  
 And on the lands of Penn. became a toiling  
 swain;

At intervals 'twixt seed and harvest time,  
 The plough laid up in Winter's leisure clime,  
 The chisel, auger, plane, file, saw, and square  
 He wielded, content his morn or evening hours to  
 share;

The meadows' dairy wealth, the fields' return,  
 Had charms for him; the beech-woods game  
 Enticed to bolder paths. Adventurous he became  
 Where the dark Lehigh through its steep defiles  
 Delves among rocky boulders, shapes its sandy  
 isles,

Where the Algonquin's footmarks lingered still:  
 Thither he sped to search a higher will,  
 The conquered Wilderness, recessed, explored,  
 Its Carbon wealth, once scorned, now adored,  
 Burned in her thousand hearths, and borne  
 On creaking wains abroad on arks forlorn,  
 Wrecked oft on treacherous shoal or rock  
 Ere rescued, and insured by safe Canal and  
 Lock.

Often in peril, bolder thoughts inspired,  
 New projects rose, and new ambitions fired.  
 His forward hopes; the dull routine of trade  
 Upon its level pathway must be made  
 To change to Rapid Transit. Firm, patient,  
 keen.



Visions he saw, to other eyes unseen,  
 He watched the prospering destiny that shone  
 On other's fortunes, yet scarce on his own:  
 The shaft's dark shadowy walls he trod,  
 Where the full vein upheaves the crumbling sand;  
 In the deep caverns of the rifed mine  
 He saw the diamonds of the future shine. //  
 He bought, he sold, and none too soon,  
 Upon his Golden dreams arose the bridal moon:  
 That page I thin would have you read again,  
 For fifty years have sped, and in their train  
 How many clustering joys, and sunlit cares  
 That precious wedlock-recollection shares,  
 When side by side, with clasped hand and heart,  
 Ye vowed marital fealty till death should part,  
 The ring undimmed, the festal wreath aglow—  
 With love's sweet pledges as it is a'n now—  
 And priceless portraits of that wedded love,  
 Look from these walls—but One looks from  
 Above:

But memory waves her hand, and leaf by leaf,  
 The shifting scenes start fresh in bold relief:  
 The iron track, on which Reeve's Run has sent  
 Her countless freightage, and her tribute lent  
 To speed the volumes of history to later times,  
 And blend with St. Mark's hollar, loRrier chimas,  
 What daring ventures stubborn will achieved,  
 None but the eagle-sighted pioneer believed;  
 And old Mauch Chunk through thee is led  
 Forth, where, her weeds of widowhood were shed,  
 Upon ambitious stately altar, and youthful again,  
 She sang the song of her commercial reign,  
 Undashed, calm, in legislative halls  
 Where highest intellect the soul enthralle  
 The Country's welfare, near't to thy heart;  
 That Country honored thee, and scarce would  
 part

Thee from her Councils. Not the loud acclaim  
 Of boisterous changelings heralded thy name:  
 But virtue's claim, and patriotism's breath  
 That made that name the object of its faith:  
 A pure religion, without cloak or stain,  
 A life in Christ, with death itself a gain.  
 From the Atlantic to the clustering lakes  
 Thy engines scream across the wakes  
 Of iron thoroughfares, where once the path  
 Of solitary traveler scarce discerned the swath.  
 Patron of Learning from the fields of toil  
 To reap the nobler quest of cultured soil,  
 And cast the willing tithes at Science's classic  
 shrine,

And lay the offering at her feet divine.  
 For earthly love is God's own precious gift,  
 From humber paths to lead to heavenly drift:  
 Did loving hands and votive lips declare  
 The stainless ermine thou unstained should'st  
 wear

Upright and just, from teeming plans of trade:  
 They bade thee walk where Presidents are made,  
 A shadow fell upon the Commonwealth  
 When honor, fairly won, was robbed by stealth,  
 And the dark chisane of a greedy Ring  
 Flashed the true name, and bade the ballot  
 sting

As doth the viper him that in his breast  
 Chafes the cold ingrate: it is often best  
 That Fraud should triumph, and aloft and seen,  
 Filthy and spotted, wear its garb obscene;  
 Thou hast revered and honored God, and he  
 Hath blessed thee with prosperity.

To-day, amid thy early friends' salute and cheer,  
 Amid the thronging hearts to memory dear,  
 Clasp as in days of fondest love and truth,  
 The aged hand that sought thine own in youth:  
 Forget that age, that weary steps are thine,  
 Once and again the nuptial wreath entwine  
 Around the silvered temples; fold once more  
 That noble matron to thy breast of yore.

The same, with truth unbroken; hide the tears  
 That start to mind thee of the many years  
 Of checkered joy and grief, that far between  
 The meads of honor, trust and power I ween,  
 May on that lordly record writ, be seen,  
 God bless you both, your solons, kith and kin  
 That bear your name and lineage; may they win  
 By noble, virtuous effort, that high plane  
 Where merit builds for aye her sacred fane;  
 Loved, honored, trusted, to your latest breath,  
 May you all meet where partings are not death.

The following, printed in gold on white satin,  
 was received on Wednesday:

TO THE HON. ASA PACKER.

"MY WIFE."

When threads of silver tell the age,  
 As dark'ning clouds foretell the storm,  
 Our hearts have little to assuage  
 The older cares that must be borne  
 But in thy wife so kind and true,  
 Thou hast a balm possessed by few:  
 A solace for thy age and tears,  
 Thy wedded life for fifty years.  
 Take all the gems beneath the sea,  
 More than India's wealth could be:  
 Thou hast retained through care and strife,  
 A pearl more precious in thy wife.  
 I would the twilight longer grow,  
 I would each hour new life bestow:  
 Until thy soul shall gain the prize,  
 Thy deeds have laid up in the skies.  
 And may the ages still unceasing  
 Repeat thy name in every tongue;  
 And emulate by noble men  
 Thy life, through golden wedding years.

THE GUESTS.

Among the guests present we will endeavor  
 to note some of the names of those from abroad:

*Allentown*—Charles W. Cooper; R. E. Wright  
 and wife; Chas. Nixon; Judge Longaker and  
 wife; Hon. J. D. Siles and wife; Christian  
 Preitz.

*Easton*—Col. Wm. H. Hutter and wife;  
 Hon. Henry Green, wife and daughter; Dr.  
 Henry Detweiler; Mrs. Dr. John Detweiler, Mc-  
 E. Forman and wife; B. W. Knight and wife;  
 Richard Brodhead; W. C. Cattell, L.L.D.; Miss  
 Mary Forman; Mrs. S. Bixler; Mrs. Atwood;  
 Rev. E. Ferrier and wife, Wm. Cummings, Ed-  
 win Lockhart.

*White Haven*—Fred. Mercur; Alexander  
 Mitchell and wife; W. L. Cunningham and  
 wife; Hon. Stanley Woodward and wife; Chas.  
 Parrish and wife; Maj. C. M. Cunningham;  
 H. B. Hillman and wife; A. J. Davis and wife;  
 Col. Chas. Derrance and wife; Judge Edmund  
 Taylor and wife, who celebrate their golden  
 wedding next December; Col. H. B. Hillman,  
 Sr.; Gen. E. W. Sturdevant; R. R. Morgan;  
 C. W. Knapp.

*Towanda*—Hon. Jos. Powell and wife; Col.  
 John F. Means and wife; Col. James M. Ward  
 and wife; John D. Montanye and wife; Judge  
 Russell and wife; Hon. G. S. Russel and wife;  
 C. F. Goodman and wife, Judge Morrow and  
 wife.

*White Haven*—Edwin Shortz and wife;  
 Isaac Ripple; J. W. Crellin and wife; J. T. Ely.  
*Hickory Run*—Albert Lewis and wife; A. J.  
 Brodhead and wife; Calvin Brodhead.

*Montrose, Pa.*—W. H. Cooper, Sec'y and  
 Treas. Montrose R. R.; Mrs. W. H. Cooper;  
 Miss Bessie Cooper; H. J. Webb and wife;  
 C. M. Gere and wife; Dr. W. L. Richardson  
 and wife; Mrs. Wm. Baker; Mrs. Anos Wil-  
 liams; Mr. and Mrs. Riley.

*Pittston, Pa.*—W. H. Cool and wife; J. W.  
 Everhart and wife; Daniel Searle; C. M. Sau-  
 dersson; Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Heilman.



*Tuckers*—Alvin Day, Editor *Democrat*.  
*Bethlehem*—Mrs. E. N. Rathbun, niece of Judge Packer, daughter and two sons; Dr. Leavitt and wife; Prof. H. W. Harding; Prof. E. W. Frazier; Prof. C. L. Doolittle; Prof. W. A. Lambertson; Prof. W. H. Chandler; W. L. Dunsion and wife; Mrs. Caldwell; R. M. Gurnee and wife; H. S. Goodwin and wife; Dr. G. B. Linderman, daughter and two sons; Hon. Chas. Brodhead, wife and daughter; Chas. Dodson; Weston Dodson and wife; E. P. Wilbur, wife, two sons and daughter; Robt. Lockart; R. H. Sayre and daughter; Miss Annie Sayre; A. N. Clearer and wife; W. H. Sayre; W. T. Roepper; H. P. Hammann and wife; Prof. S. Ringer; Geo. H. Meyers and wife; Dr. A. Stout and wife; Geo. Whitaker and wife; Capt. Robt. Abbott and wife; M. E. Abbott; Chas. Anthony and wife; Walter E. Cox; D. J. Godthalk; Hon. Jos. Laubach and wife; W. A. Wilbur; W. W. Wilbur, wife and daughter; Hon. Albert Brodhead; R. A. Grider.  
*Philadelphia*—Gen. Robt. Patterson; Samuel R. Brown; Jos. Wharton; A. H. Fracker and wife; Chas. Hartshorne; J. McKibben; Chambers McKibben; Israel W. Morris and wife; Miss Strocker; John R. Fanshaw; Ashbel Welsh and daughter; John B. Garrett; G. E. Newton and wife; D. G. Fenko, *Philadelphia Times*; Hon. H. Hamberger; Jas. Gilchrist; L. E. Pappy; W. V. McKean, Editor in chief *Phila. Ledger*, and wife; Joe. Sailer, Financial Editor *Ledger*; Chas. McFadden; A. Hutton and wife; Frank H. Taylor, special artist *N. Y. Graphic*; Jas. W. Nagle; Thos. Collins; A. Pardee, Jr., and wife; Wm. A. Ingham; E. W. Clark and wife; Wm. Montellus and wife; J. M. Prevost and wife; A. R. Roberts; J. S. Wise; J. S. Butler.

*Catawissa*—David Thomas and wife, who have celebrated their 61st anniversary. Mr. Samuel Thomas and wife, Mr. Chas. W. Chapman and wife; Mr. and Mrs. John Hudders, who were married by Rev. Mr. Marks at Springville, several years after the marriage of Judge and Mrs. Packer; Edmund Randall, Editor *Despatch*.

*New York*—E. A. Packer and wife; Daniel Packer and wife; A. T. Stout; E. D. Beach; E. B. Ely; John R. Kennedy; Wm. H. Davis and wife; G. C. Murry; Geo. C. Swesmer.

*Delaware*—D. Ashley and wife; A. P. Blakeloe and wife; John Campbell and wife; R. A. Ashley and wife.

*Danville*—Peter Baldy, Jr.; Peter Baldy and wife, who have celebrated their golden wedding.

*Hazleton*—Jabez Altover; S. B. McQuade.

*From Abroad*—Bishop A. de Wolfe Howe and wife, Reading, Pa.; Thos. Johns, Yorktown, Pa.; John H. Lyon, Lyons, N. J.; John McGovern, Lancaster, Pa.; Jos. H. Harris, Pottsville, Pa.; E. A. Oberlander, Drifton, Pa.; Geo. F. Hips, Elizabeth, N. J.; Hon. John J. Taylor, Oswego, N. Y.; John Rathbun, Mt. Carmel; L. A. Riley, Ashland; Mr. and Mrs. Randolph, N. J.; B. Pickle, Trenton, N. J.; E. E. Cox, Drifton; Col. and Mrs. V. Piollet, and Jos. Piollet, Wysox; R. A. Elmer, Waverly; James Murray, Waverly; William Stevenson, Sayre; R. F. Goodman, Sayre; M. Maurice, Athens; John Ramsey, Ithaca, N. Y.; Robt. McDowell and wife, Slatington; Hon. Geo. Maynard and wife, Williamsport; Dr. and Mrs. Wentz, Eckley; D. Bradford, Weatherly; E. B. Yates, Rochester, N. Y.; J. E. Piollet and wife, Wysox; H. L. Reed and wife, Newark, N. J.; H. B. Linderman, Washington, D. C.; Conrad Koehler, Metuchen, N. J.; J. W. Embury, G. L. Houser, Pittston; W. H. Heaton, and wife, Raven Run, Pa.; Hon. David Laury, Laury's Station, Pa.

CONGRATULATIONS AND REGRETS.  
 Letters of congratulation on the happy event, and expressing regret at the necessity which compelled their absence, were received from many prominent gentlemen. We give a few letters, which will be read with interest:—

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21, 1875.  
 DEAR MR. SAYRE:—I have just received the card of invitation which the Committee have been thoughtful enough to send to Mrs. Hewitt and myself, to attend the celebration of the Golden Wedding of my old and valued friend Judge Packer and his estimable wife. You may be sure it would be regarded by Mrs. Hewitt and myself as alike an honor and a pleasure to be permitted to join our congratulations with those which will wish a long life of continued usefulness and happiness to our venerable friends. Few men have done as much for the world and the happiness of his fellow men as Judge Packer, and in his noble and laborious work I have no doubt that he has been aided, strengthened and comforted by the advice, the sacrifices and the cooperation of his devoted wife. In fact I have never known a truly successful man, who has not been blessed with a good and prudent helpmate.  
 But my duties here, and Mrs. Hewitt's duties to her father in New York, will deprive us of the gratification you propose to us, and we can only send congratulations, respect, and good wishes to Judge and Mrs. Packer.  
 Faithfully yours,  
 ABRAHAM S. HEWITT.

HUNTSVILLE, Pa., Jan. 20, 1875.  
 HON. ASA AND MRS. PACKER:—Dear Friends,—I exceedingly regret my inability to attend the celebration of the 50th anniversary of your marriage. It is, however, a tall myself of the opportunity of expressing my hearty congratulations upon your long continued and happy wedded life. That the kind Providence which has hitherto blessed you and prolonged your useful lives, may continue to preserve and bless you, is the sincerest wish of  
 Your Friend,  
 WILLIAM EDWELL.

BETHLEHEM, Jan. 22, 1875.  
 TO THE HON. ASA PACKER:—My Dear Sir,—I very much regret that an engagement, to-morrow evening, will prevent Mrs. de Schweinitz and myself from accepting the invitation we have received to be present at the reception in honor of the 50th anniversary of your marriage.  
 Permit me, however, by these lines to send my warmest congratulations and those of my wife. We hope and pray that our Lord may bless you and Mrs. Packer abundantly.  
 Among the many good wishes which you will receive, those that I send are certainly not the least sincere. They come from the representative and descendant of those earliest settlers in the Lehigh Valley that founded the town whose fame and prosperity you have so greatly advanced. No enterprise could be more in harmony with their aims than a seat of learning, free to all, and governed by Christian principles. May it ever continue to do its work to God's glory!  
 Believe me, my dear Judge, to be yours most faithfully,  
 EDWARD DE SCHWEINITZ.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 21, 1875.  
 HON. ASA PACKER:—My Dear Sir,—I postponed a visit to New York to-day that I might be present at the reception this evening. But unluckily I was caught at the last moment in an engagement from which I could not get off in time for the last train. This is a disappointment to me. I wished to see you in your own home on such an occasion. I have lived long enough and seen enough of life to appreciate the men of action and execution far beyond those of show and pretense. You have led a long, useful and a fruitful life. Your works will survive you. You have the satisfaction of knowing that you have been a builder, not a destroyer. You have the gratification of seeing prosperity and growth springing up and developing under your fostering care. Your family and immediate friends have reason to be justly proud of your honorable and useful record, and hundreds and thousands of your fellow-citizens are daily reaping the benefits of your enterprise and wise and well directed energy. It should be the source of very great pleasure to you that you can look back upon such a retrospect and around upon such results of your labors. I can imagine somewhat the feelings you must have to-night as you go back to memory fifty years ago. No doubt there are many dark shadows that from time to time have hung over your pathway, and traces of sadness must have been left behind by such unhappy events as will necessarily attend the course of all of us who pass beyond middle life. Still surrounded by your family and friends and with such a life to look back upon, you have the right to take to yourself as much self-satisfaction as is allowed to one of our race. Numbering myself among those who cater



take for you, sincere and unaffected regard and esteem. I regret I cannot be with you and join with those who have assembled to pay you that respect which you have so well merited. Mrs. Schmitt wishes me to express her regrets also. With kind regards to Mrs. Packer and best wishes for the prolonged life and health of both of you, I am very truly,  
Your sincere friend,  
JOHN G. SULLIVAN.

PHILADELPHIA, JAN. 21, 1882.  
MY DEAR JAMES AND MRS. Packer:—Your invitation to Mrs. Harvey and myself to the fiftieth anniversary of your marriage finds us in deep affliction. Just before the reception we received a telegram stating that my dear sister, Mrs. Perry, the mother of the Bishop of Iowa, died in McKean county, last night, and that she is to be buried in Mount Auburn next Monday, by Wednesday next. While thus prevented by this sad bereavement from attending to you in person, my sincere congratulations on this auspicious anniversary, permit me in this day to assure you of the sincere esteem and regard which I have entertained for both of you ever since I had the pleasure of forming your acquaintance and enjoying your delightful hospitality; and our earnest prayer is, that as you both approach life's sunset, it may be a cloudless one; or, if clouds do gather around the horizon, that they may be so gilded and transfigured into forms of beauty, that they shall form an arch-way of glory under which you shall walk "hand in hand" to the Paradise of God.

With sincere regards to Mrs. Packer and yourself, in which my dear wife cordially joins, I remain  
Very truly yours,  
WM. SACEN STRAYER.

REGRETS:

Philadelphia—Hon. Marton McMichael, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Harner, Mr. and Mrs. Elliot, Rev. Hurley Baldy, Mr. and Mrs. G. Dawson Coleman, E. S. Clarke, Jos. Patterson, Wm. H. Gatzmer, Mr. and Mrs. John Rice, Wm. C. Kent, Mrs. Henry Drinker, Seth Caldwell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John Enyille, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Doris, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Borie, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Gowen, Mr. and Mrs. Comegys, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Maloney, B. F. Chatham, Mr. and Mrs. John Biddle, Mr. and Mrs. George Blight, H. N. Burroughs, Jas. E. Gowen, Dr. Wm. H. Pancoast, Hon. A. E. and Mrs. Borie, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Clark, W. T. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Godshall, Chas. F. Shoener.

New York—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Schenck, John Taylor Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Potts, John C. Demarest, Chas. W. Thomas, J. C. Crane, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt, B. C. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lee Stout, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Knevals, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher Howe, Jr., F. Robinson, W. B. Dinmore, Mr. and Mrs. John Hoey, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Brannan, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Packer, Samuel Sloan, Samuel Knox.

Washington, D. C.—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dwight, H. B. Linderman.

Easton, Pa.—Mr. and Mrs. John Brown.

Bethlehem, Pa.—Mr. and Mrs. Tinsley Jeter, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Kimball.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McCintock, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Reynolds.

Catasauqua, Pa.—Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Hunt.

Other Places.—E. N. Potter, Pres't Union University, Schenectady, N. Y.; J. J. Poole, Hartford, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. John Brisbin; Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Mercat, Towanda; Rev. E. M. Pecke, Richfield Springs, N. Y.; Mrs. S. E. Abercrombie; Wm. McClelland, Chambersburg, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Dorrance, Kingston, Pa.; John J. Taylor, Owego, N. Y.; Mrs. John C. Welles; Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Rathbun; Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Prince, Geneva, N. Y.; Mrs. Jesse Miller, Towanda, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Richey, Trenton, N. J.; Augustus Jay DuBois, New Haven, Conn.; Judge and Mrs. F. S. Lathrop, N. J.; Mrs. Lucius Blakslee, White Haven; Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Mallory, Towanda; Mr. and Mrs. Gregg, Trumansburg, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Simpson, Mt. Clair, N. J.; Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman, Toledo, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morgan, Aurora, N. Y.; Thos. N. McCarter, Newark, N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. John E. Bahn; Hon. Geo. D. Jackson, Dushore, Pa.; John B. Smith, Danmore, Pa.; W. W. Stearns, Elizabeth, N. J.; Hon. T. C. Platt, Owego, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Cronkhite, Brooklyn.



#### LESSONS OF A HALF CENTURY.

The celebration of the golden wedding of our honored townsman and venerable fellow-citizen, Judge Packer and his estimable wife, on Wednesday last was not only one of the most brilliant local events of this generation for the Lehigh Valley, but when we reflect that the occasion was in honor of one who has achieved such marvelous results during the last half century, when we contrast the subject of these remarks of 1828 with him of 1878, and inquire into the elements that have wrought such a mighty change, we are satisfied that a life so fraught with interest and usefulness may afford us some profitable lessons. Our reminiscences and reflections carry us back to the days of 1834, when old Mauch Chunk was young, and our now busy, humming, teeming valley was comparatively dead and undeveloped. We find the present venerable President of the Lehigh Valley Railroad an humble man in the lower walks of life, unostentatious then and now alike. Step by step we follow his upward career, passing his period as carpenter, contractor, coal operator, &c. Then follows his railroad career, with the date of the commencement of which began his rapid strides of progress as a business and moneyed man, and now he stands before us having achieved results almost incredible. But what are the lessons we are to learn from these crude facts? We may learn that energy, perseverance and self-reliance combined with an unswerving honesty of purpose, can accomplish wonders and that small beginnings often terminate in great magnitude. And when we reflect that all this eminence, wealth and distinction has been won in an honorable way; when so great a fortune has been amassed without resort to the common process of "grinding" the poor, the possessor is rendered thrice happy. And when we take into account the well-known benevolence of Judge Packer—who has distributed in various channels enough to make many men rich—his plain and unassuming manners and unostentatious life and his firm devotion to principles, we find in him an example worthy of imitation and a person well deserving the honor conferred upon him on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his wedded life.

We join most heartily in the sincere congratulations so universally bestowed by rich and poor alike to the Judge and his excellent companion, and, though well advanced in years, we hope they may be spared to enjoy many more anniversaries, of the felicitous life so humbly begun, so happily and successfully pursued, and, in its decline, so ripe with honor, so crowned with goodness and so eventful and useful.

JUDGE PACKER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.—  
Judge and Mrs. Ann Packer will celebrate to-day their golden wedding. The sensible and kindly rule of "no presents" will be enforced, and the affair, which enlists the cordial sympathy of the whole region round about the home of Judge Packer, will be supervised by a committee consisting of the following gentlemen: Mr. James I. Blaklee, Mr. Harry E. Packer, Mr. G. B. Linderman, Mr. Robert Lockhart, Mr. Robert A. Packer, Mr. Charles O. Skeer, Mr. E. P. Wilbur and Mr. Robert H. Sayre. Far beyond the limits of his home however, good wishes will attend this crowning anniversary of a wellspent life, and all who know how nobly and wisely this most estimable citizen has used and uses the trust of his great wealth will cordially hope that he and "the prudent partner of his blood" may live to keep a diamond wedding also with the opening of the twentieth century.—*N. Y. World, Tuesday.*



### JUDGE PACKER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

A GRACEFUL TRIBUTE FROM THE MANY FRIENDS OF THAT DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN.

(SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE WORLD.)

MAUCH CHUNK, Pa., January 23.—All trains coming into Mauch Chunk to-day were crowded, and the Mauston House is overflowing to that extent that many will be puzzled to know how to sleep to-night. The reception in honor of the golden wedding of Judge and Mrs. Asa Packer, which lasted from 3 to 5 in the afternoon and from 7 to 10 in the evening, was of a simple but thoroughly generous and enjoyable character. The houses of Judge Packer and of his son, Mr. Harry E. Packer, which stand side by side on the hill above the town, were devoted to the entertainment of the invited guests. The reception was entirely in the houses of a committee of friends, and until Saturday those in whose honor it was given knew nothing about it. Nearly one thousand invitations were issued and 500 guests at least were here to-day. Mr. G. W. Childs, A. J. Drexel and Governor Hartranft sent regrets. Among those present were General Robert Patterson, of Philadelphia; ex-Secretary Boris, David Thomas and wife, who recently celebrated the sixty-second anniversary of their wedding; Mr. Thomas King, eighty-four years old, and celebrated as one of the pioneers of the iron interest in the Lehigh Valley; E. W. Clark, President of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company; Bishop Howe, of Reading; Charles Parrish Hulman, of Wilkes-Barre; Colonel Victor Poellet of Bradford County; Messrs. McKane and Saylor, of the Philadelphia Ledger; Rev. Samuel Morke, the clergyman who married Mr. and Mrs. Packer; Dr. Leavitt, President of the Lehigh University, which was endowed by Mr. Packer; General Starbuck, of Harrisburg; E. A. Packer and wife, of New York; Daniel Packer and wife, of Brooklyn; G. P. Newton and wife, of Philadelphia; Arto Pardee, of Hazelton and Wm. Cunningham, of Wilkes-Barre. Four of the five persons present at the wedding half a century ago were also present to-day. On the cards of invitation the words "No gifts" were engraved, and this rule was strictly enforced, though Mr. Packer was earnestly pressed to forego his objections in this regard. The only presents were three from members of his own family—an old-fashioned watch for Mr. Packer, a pair gold-bowed spectacles for his wife, and a gold and onyx necklace. The house was richly decorated with flowers from the conservatory, and the music was furnished by the Seventh Regiment Band of New York. There were no formalities, and the ceremony of a remarriage, quite usual on such occasions, was not observed. In the afternoon there was dancing among the younger people, of whom there were many, but in the evening the throng was so great that dancing was found impossible. Food and wine were served in the house of Mr. Packer, sr., but the supper and all other refreshments were spread in his son's house. A song printed in golden type and written by Dr. Henry Coppes, Professor of Belles-Lettres in Lehigh University, was distributed among the guests. It began with the verse:

With hearts alight, we meet to-night, old memories to embrace;  
Here's to the golden wedding and the days of "Auld Lang Syne."

This tribute has, altogether, been a most pleasant and deserved compliment to one of the most valued citizens of the State, whose long services in behalf of its material interests and as one of its representatives in the national legislative body were recognized by the warm and earnest advocacy with which his name was pressed for the Presidential nomination in the Democratic Convention of 1868. To-day congratulatory telegrams in great number were received from all parts of the country from distinguished men of both political parties and leading professional and business men of every section.

### A GOLDEN WEDDING.

Judge Packer's Jubilee—A Notable Day in the Lehigh Valley.

Special Correspondence of THE TIMES.

MAUCH CHUNK, January 23.

Fifty years ago to-day Asa Packer, a young carpenter, with scarcely money enough to see the minister, was married in the humble home of Mrs. Barnes, the bride's sister, at Dimock Cross Roads, in Susquehanna county, to Sarah M. Blaklee, the handsome daughter of a poor farmer of Springfield township. To-day Asa Packer—ex-Associate Judge, ex-member of Congress, founder of Lehigh University, financier, millionaire, railroad king—and his venerable wife are celebrating their golden wedding in their beautiful home, on the rugged banks of the Lehigh, surrounded by two generations of their children and social stars, philosophers, men of letters, money kings and merchant princes. Mr. Packer's prodigious success was foreshadowed when, a lad of seventeen, he shouldered his knapsack at his birthplace, Mystic, Connecticut, and traveled on foot to Brooklyn, Susquehanna county, this State, where he learned the trade of a house carpenter with his uncle, the father of ex-Sheriff Charles Packer, of Carbon county. After finishing his apprenticeship he went to New York, where he worked a year at his trade. Returning to Susquehanna county, he married, and for about four years made a scanty subsistence in carrying on a farm, which had formerly been worked by his father-in-law, at the same time doing such odd jobs of carpenter-work as presented themselves.

HIS ROAD TO WEALTH.

In the winter of 1833, when the Lehigh Canal had just been opened, hearing that men were wanted to run canal boats loaded with coal to tide-water, Mr. Packer geared his one bony horse to a dilapidated "jumper" and drove to Mauch Chunk on a prospecting tour. The result was that in the following spring he came to Mauch Chunk, walking most of the distance, and took charge of a canal boat. He soon contracted for an additional boat, which he placed in charge of his brother-in-law, James I. Blaklee, the present superintendent of the Mahanoy division of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. He prospered. In the fall of 1834 he bought out E. W. Kimball's store, a small establishment standing on the banks of the Lehigh. He gave up active operations as a boatman, but retained an interest therein. He kept a boat yard, built boats and took contracts for building locks on the upper Lehigh, which he completed in 1837. As a contractor on the Lehigh he was a rival of George Law, to whom James I. Blaklee relates with some glee he once refused credit for a barrel of flour. In 1838 Mr. Packer, with his brother Robert, took an extensive contract from Stockton & Stevens, of New Jersey, to build boats at Pottsville for the transportation of coal to New York direct. At the end of three years the partnership was dissolved, Robert remaining in Schuylkill county and Asa returning to this place. Thenceforward for many years he was engaged in mining and shipping coal from the Nesquehoning and other mines with great success. In 1852 he undertook, single-handed,



the huge task of building the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which he completed in 1853. This enterprise came near swamping him, but with the aid of Commodore Stockton he tided over his temporary embarrassments, and now counts his dollars by the million and is reputed the richest man in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Packer's residence here is a handsome two-story-and-a-half brick structure, painted a light straw color, with ornamental cornices and fronted by broad verandahs. It stands on the slope of a steep bluff and is surrounded by grounds tastefully laid out and intersected with serpentine walks. In the rear are extensive conservatories, filled with rare plants and flowers. The parlors of the mansion are handsomely frescoed and furnished in chaste elegance. The only pictures on the walls are portraits. Within the same inclosure stands the red brick mansion of Mr. H. E. Packer.

#### YESTERDAY'S FESTIVITIES.

To-day's festival was arranged largely by the sons—Robert A., superintendent of the Pennsylvania and New York Canal and Railroad, and Harry E., superintendent of the Easton and Amboy division of the Lehigh Valley Railroad—and was intended as in some respects a surprise to the old folks. The cards of invitation, of which about seven hundred were issued, are signed by James I. Blaklee, Harry E. Packer, G. B. Liederman, the husband of the eldest daughter, now deceased, Robert Lockhart, Robert A. Packer, Charles O. Skost, E. P. Wilbur and Robert H. Sayre. A neat card, on which was printed "No Presents," accompanied each invitation. Besides those who came on the regular trains, special trains with guests arrived at 1.30 and 6.40 P. M. Two receptions, from 3 to 5 and from 7 to 9, took place. At the first a gold watch, inscribed with the names of the reception committee, was presented to Mr. Packer and a pair of spectacles to Mrs. Packer. The festival was entirely informal. No ceremonies of any kind were performed. After paying their respects to the venerable couple the guests spent the time in social enjoyment and dancing, the music being furnished by a detachment of the Seventh Regiment Band, of New York. Three children, three grandchildren and a large number of nephews and nieces of Mr. and Mrs. Packer were present. Also Rev. Samuel Marks, of the Episcopal Church, who performed the ceremony fifty years ago, and Mrs. Amos Williams, who was bridesmaid on that interesting occasion. The two latter, with Mr. James I. Blaklee, are believed to be the only living witnesses of the marriage.

Among the guests present were the following Philadelphians: General Robert Patterson, daughter and two granddaughters, A. E. Borie, General Pardee and wife, E. W. Clark and wife, John B. Garrett, Joseph Wharton, Mr. McKibben and son, of the Girard House; L. Chamberlain, F. C. Yarnall, Wm. V. McKean, Joseph Sailer, J. R. Fanshawe, Thomas Collins, Charles Hartshorne and Charles McFadden; also, David Thomas and wife, of Catasauqua (this couple recently celebrated the sixty-first anniversary of their marriage); Peter Baldy, of Danville; Bishop Howe, of Reading; General Sturtevant, of Harrisburg; Professor Cattell, of Easton; Victor E. Mollet and wife, Hon. Joseph Powell and wife, Ezekiel Patterson, of New Brunswick, N. J. Letters of congratulation on the happy event and of regret for unavoidable absence were received from W. H. Harburt, of New York; Bishop Stevens, George W. Childs, A. J. Drexel, Rev. Leighton Coleman, of Toledo; Dr. Henry Coppee, of Lehigh University, and others.

#### THE EVENING SCENE.

In the evening the scene was very brilliant. Without, calcium lights shed a weird illumination over houses and grounds, trees, statuary and fountains; within, a hundred argand burners cast their soft rays over such a throng of rich and learned men and lovely women as were never before gathered together in the Lehigh Valley. Every incoming train, regular and special, brought large numbers of guests from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and the interior cities of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This was the young people's part of the festival, and the mansion of Judge Packer was thronged with beauty, dressed in the richest costumes and flashing with diamonds. The festivities were kept up till a late hour. A pleasant incident was the reading of a poem in honor of Judge Packer and his wife, written by Dr. Henry Coppee, ex-president of Lehigh University, and a humorous one was the presentation to Robert H. Sayre, General Superintendent of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, an incorrigible practical joker, of a caricature portrait of himself, drawn by William B. Smith, a New York Journalist. The Mauch Chunk Cornet Band furnished a voluntary serenade. Judge Packer is seventy-three years old. His wife is two years younger. Both are in good health and were throughout the happiest and jolliest of the happy and jolly company.



**The Golden Wedding Reception of  
Hon. and Mrs. Asa Packer.**

MAUCH CHUNK'S LATEST GREAT EVENT.

Yesterday all the trains on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, regular and special, brought an uncounted number of distinguished, well-dressed and well-to-do people to the town with the romantic and pretty location, and the romantic and homely name, Mauch Chunk. The moving cause of this was the issuing of the following invitation, which had been sent to 800 or 1,000 people, before the Judge or his good lady knew of it—and then it was too late to countermand:

1878. [Monogram P. B.] 1828.  
A reception will be held at the residence of the

HON. AND MRS. ASA PACKER,  
Wednesday afternoon and evening, Jan.  
23d, from 3 until 5 and 5 until 10 o'clock, in  
honor of the

Fiftieth Anniversary of their  
Marriage.

We request the pleasure of your com-  
pany.

Committee—James I. Blaklee, Harry E.  
Packer, G. B. Linderman, Robert Lockhart,  
Robert A. Packer, Charles O. Skeer, K. P.  
Wilbur, Robert H. Sayre.

Among the large number who received the handsomely printed summons to the golden anniversary was the DAILY TIMES, and not to be behind the metropolitan dailies, who had their scribes present—in the shape of the ubiquitous Associated Press, the Philadelphia Times, N. Y. World, and the Mauch Chunk Democrat reporters—our representative left here at 4:20 yesterday afternoon to be in ample time for the evening reception. On this train were a large number of our best people, and more followed on the special train, which left here at 6:30 P. M.

Arrived at Judge Packer's elegant and commodious home mansion, perched in the side of the hill above the town and above the river on the Lehigh like a castle of the olden time on the flowing Rhine, we found that at the early hour at which we arrived there was already a very large company present, who were one by one and in couples and small parties being presented to the venerable though active and well preserved couple. We observed that there was a great deal of genuine feeling and respect toward the Judge and his good lady by old and young among the immense throng of people, all of whom knew the Judge and his wife personally and intimately, and who now surrounded and pressed forward to extend to them as friends, acquaintances and neighbors, the sincerest congratulations on their good health and great prosperity, and wishing for them a long lease of the life which has done so much to make this great Lehigh Valley what it is and what it is destined to become.

Having first availed myself of the kind offices of a member of the committee, our townsman Mr. Robt. Lockhart, to be presented to the distinguished hosts, true to the scribe's duty and instincts, we thereafter sought to find something of the particulars which should garnish the generalities of the happy occasion. The reader need not now shrink with the idea that we are going to give a list of the distinguished and undistinguished neighbors from near and far—from all up and down the valley, from New York and Philadelphia from all along all the lines of railroads to all the towns and cities; we are going to spare them that infliction. The great dailies may do this, and if they don't the Mauch Chunk Democrat will.

While we moved about our feet tried to keep time to the delicious harmony sent forth from instruments in the hands and mouths of the members of the New York Seventh Regiment Band. And supplementing this music came that of the Mauch Chunk Cornet Band, the members of which gave a voluntary serenade as a personal tribute of honor and respect.

In the capacious dining room was spread a delicate repast of ices, cakes and confections, and in the midst thereof was set a perfect bank of fragrant flowers from the conservatory. (Those who came late and had not had their meals were invited to the hospitable adjoining mansion of Mr. Harry E. Packer, the youngest son, whose substantial and boards were served in elegant profusion.) The only pictures on the walls are portraits. The parlors are handsomely frescoed and furnished elegantly but chastely, and with regard to home comfort.

Sitting quietly in one of the parlors we found, or rather Mr. Joe Lynn found for us, a distinguished guest on this occasion, in the person of Rev. Samuel Marks, now of Huron, Erie county, Ohio, the Episcopal minister who just 50 years ago this night tied the lives of Asa Packer and Sarah M. Blaklee together in bonds of matrimony. The ceremony, which has proved a very happy one, and one on which has been showered an abundance of worldly blessing, was performed on the 23d day of January, A. D. 1828, at Springville, now Dimmick's Four Corners, in Susquehanna county, Pa., in an ordinary country house of that period. Rev. Mr. Marks, who is now in the 81st year of his age and the 51st year of his ministry, was then a young man, and a missionary of his church, and the wide field of his labors was in Susquehanna and Bradford counties. He was the pioneer of Episcopalianism in those parts.



We gathered from Mr. Marks that that wedding of 50 years ago was a very plain, though a very pleasant and happy one. The reverend gentleman during the day had taken occasion to read to the Judge a very short but very eloquent address of congratulation and reminiscence, contrasting the fulness of the present with the scant beginning, and praying to the Heavenly Father for continued blessing here and salvation in the great hereafter. A number of the witnesses of Mr. and Mrs. Packet's marriage, including the single bridesmaid on the occasion, whose name we have lost, were also present, honored guests of the occasion. 3.

During the evening the following song, written by Dr. Henry Coppee, Professor of Belles-Lettres and English Literature in the Lehigh University founded and sustained by Judge Packer, was sung by the company, the instrumental music by the Seventh Regiment Band. The effect was extremely fine, there being more than the usual amount of genuine feeling in the voices:

THEN AND NOW.—1828-1878.

Air:—"Auld Lang Syne."

With hearts alight, we meet to-night,  
Old memories to enshrine;  
Here's to the Golden Wedding, and—  
The days of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;  
Here's to the Golden Wedding, and—  
The days of auld lang syne.

Come friends, with busy fingers now,  
The rose and myrtle twine;  
To weave a fillet for the bride  
Of auld lang syne,  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;  
To weave a fillet for the bride  
Of auld lang syne.

Another crown to bind his brow,  
Of laurel and the vine;  
In honor of his matchless worth,  
Syn auld lang syne;  
Syn auld lang syne, my dear,  
Syn auld lang syne;  
In honor of his matchless worth,  
Syn auld lang syne.

Health to the daughter of their house,  
Whose character benign  
Gives joy and comfort to the hearth  
Of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;  
Gives joy and comfort to the hearth  
Of auld lang syne.

Health to the loyal sons, in whom  
Their parents' virtues shine;  
No prouder legacy is theirs  
Than days of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;  
No prouder legacy is theirs  
Than days of auld lang syne.

Here's to the priest, who tied the knot,  
\* With holy rite divine;  
He did good work for them and us,  
In days of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;

He did good work for them and us,  
In days of auld lang syne.  
Wealth to the Valley Road, and may  
Its fortunes ne'er decline;  
But send its stock to eighty-five,  
As in the auld lang syne;  
In auld lang syne, my dear,  
In auld lang syne;

But send its stock to eighty-five,  
As in the auld lang syne.  
Health to his College, may it be  
Fair learning's fairest shrine;  
And many a student proudly point  
To auld lang syne;  
To auld lang syne, my dear,  
To auld lang syne;  
And many a student proudly point  
To auld lang syne.

Keep them, O Lord, in perfect peace,  
Through all their life's decline;  
Then take them to Thy happy rest,  
With friends of auld lang syne;  
Of auld lang syne, my dear,  
Of auld lang syne;  
Then take them to Thy happy rest,  
With friends of auld lang syne.



During the progress of the festivities another poem written by Dr. Coppen, and which was intended to have been read to the Judge, but which was not read on account of the great throng present, was shown to a few intimate friends. We understand that it is to be published.

The above is something of a sketch of what went on in the Judge's mansion. Without, calcium lights shed a weird illumination over houses and grounds, trees, statuary and fountains. People were continually passing to and fro between the houses of Judge Packer and his son Harry, and all was life and animation. The scenes within were such as will long dwell in the minds of all and in the hearts of very many who were present.

What we have above written is concerning the evening reception. As to the afternoon reception, it did not partake so much of the character of a public ovation to Judge Packer and wife, the guests principally coming from a distance and near by in the morning and returning in the evening trains. At the afternoon reception the gentlemen named on the card of invitation, all of whom are engaged variously in the immense interests of Judge Packer, presented to the Judge a gold watch bearing their names, and a pair of spectacles to Mrs. Packer. (We must not forget a very tasteful present of Mr. R. A. Grider, a little water color painting allegory of the early and the later wedding contrasted, and which was handed to the Judge by Mr. Charles Brodhead of this place.) Though "no presents" was conspicuous on a separate card with the invitations, the Judge consented in these two instances to break his own rule. One of the pleasant humors of the occasion was the presenting to Mr. Robert H. Sayre, Superintendent of the Lehigh Valley road, who is known as an incorrigible practical joker, of a caricature portrait of himself drawn by Mr. Smith, a New York journalist.

At about 11:30 P. M. the special train down the valley, with Supt. Sayre and Asst. Supt. Goodwin on board for special safety and concentration of power and authority, and a good deal of fun for the former, left, and the Times scribe left with it. The festivities were not yet at an end, and there seemed to be a very great disposition to transfer the scene altogether, after the reception was over, to the residence of Mr. Harry Packer, where it was thought probably dancing, which was indulged by the young people in the afternoon, but was impossible

owing to the great numbers present in the evening, might be indulged in way into the short hours of early morn. We all arrived home safely, much delighted with the trip to Judge Packer's golden wedding.

We do not think a mere description of the above festivities would be satisfactory unless accompanied by some account of the career which gave it its importance. We copy the following from this morning's Philadelphia *Times* account of the Judge's golden wedding:

Mr. Packer's prodigious success was foreshadowed when, a lad of seventeen, he shouldered his knapsack at his birth-place, Mystic, Connecticut, and traveled on foot to Brocklyn, Susquehanna county, this State, where he learned the trade of a house carpenter with his uncle, the father of ex-Sheriff Charles Packer of Carbon county. After finishing his apprenticeship he went to New York, where he worked a year at his trade. Returning to Susquehanna county, he married, and for about four years made a scanty subsistence in carrying on a farm, which had formerly been worked by his father-in-law, at the same time doing such odd jobs of carpenter work as presented themselves. In the winter of 1833, when the Lehigh Canal had just been opened, hearing that men were wanted to run canal boats loaded with coal to tide-water, Mr. Packer geared his one bony horse to a dilapidated "jumper" and drove to Manch Chunk on a prospecting tour. The result was that in the following spring he came to Manch Chunk, walking most of the distance, and took charge of a canal boat. He soon contracted for an additional boat, which he placed in charge of his brother-in-law, James I. Blaklee, the present superintendent of the Mahanoy Division of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. He prospered. In the Fall of 1834 he bought out E. W. Kimball's store, a small establishment standing on the banks of the Lehigh. He gave up active operations as a boatman, but retained an interest therein. He kept a boat yard, built boats and took contracts for building locks on the upper Lehigh, which he completed in 1837. As a contractor on the Lehigh he was a rival of George Law, to whom James I. Blaklee relates with some glee he once refused credit for a barrel of flour. In 1837 Mr. Packer, with his brother Robert, took an extensive contract from Stockton & Stevens of New Jersey to build boats at Pottsville for the transportation of coal to New York direct. At the end of three years the partnership was dissolved, Robert remaining in Bohykill county and Asa returned to this place. Thereafter for many years he was engaged in mining and shipping coal from the Nequehoming and other mines with great success. In 1852 he undertook, single-handed, the huge task of building the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which he completed in 1855. This enterprise came near swamping him, but with the



aid of Commodore Stockton he tided over his temporary embarrassments, and now counts his dollars by the millions and is reputed the richest man in Pennsylvania.

The following is from the New York World, whose editor, William Henry Hariburt, sent his regrets at not being present, and congratulations on the golden wedding, and may fitly close this necessarily imperfect account of an important social event in our valley:

This tribute, altogether, has been a most pleasant and deserved compliment to one of the most valued citizens of the State, whose long services in behalf of its material interests and as one of its representatives in the National Legislative body were recognized by the warm and earnest advocacy with which his name was pressed for the Presidential nomination in the Democratic Convention of 1868. To-day congratulatory telegrams in great number were received from all parts of the country from distinguished men of both political parties and leading professional and business men in every section.

#### MARRIED FIFTY YEARS.

##### JUDGE PACKER CELEBRATES HIS GOLDEN WEDDING.

Wednesday last was the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Hon. Asa Packer and the day was grandly celebrated. The arrangements were all made by a number of friends of the Judge, most of them being relatives, almost without his knowledge. Invitations were issued to nearly a thousand of the Judge's friends in all parts of the United States and very many were present on Wednesday to wish him and his wife health and happiness and many returns of the day.

All the arrangements were made on the most liberal scale. The Lehigh Valley Railroad ran two special trains from Philadelphia from which place a large number of guests, including the Farmer's Club, of which Judge Packer is a leading member, Wm. V. McKean, the editor of the Ledger, and other notable men. The celebrated 7th Regiment band, led by Graffula, of New York were present and made merry music for the joyous occasion. The magnificent lunch was furnished by one of New York's famous caterers, and served by an army of waiters. The decorations and the flowers were rich and lovely. Indeed nothing that care in attention to details, and lavish expenditure could obtain, was wanting to make the affair grand and impressive.

Two receptions were given, the first in the afternoon between 3 and 5 o'clock, and from 7 till 10 in the evening. The first was largely attended by the older people and strangers who were compelled to return home in the evening.

##### SKETCH OF ASA PACKER.

As the guests entered, Judge and Mrs. Packer were seen standing before them. The Judge is a tall man, whose form is a little bent with age. He is seventy-two years old. His wife, a rather large lady, somewhat younger than himself, was attired in a plain black silk dress and wore no ornaments. Everyone was greeted with old fashioned cordiality. As the hundreds passed in and out, or chatted together in merry groups, it was impossible to throw off a feeling of awe of a certain kind in the presence of the man who controls so many millions. His life and its work came into the mind most forcibly. This wonderful man, who overtops every one in the accumulation of wealth, was born in a low station in life in Connecticut in 1805. His father set him to work at tanning, and it was not long until the young man had made himself so useful to his employer that he became his most trusted employe. The sudden death of the tanner alone prevented a partnership, in which case Asa Packer would have lived and died a respectable Connecticut tanner. After trying his hand at farming, Mr. Packer emigrated to Pennsylvania. He chose for his future home a tract of land in the forests, and just about fifty-six years ago he first swung his axe into the giant trees of the valley of the Susquehanna. He built



with his own hands the house he was to live in for the first eleven years of his married life, and shortly after finishing it he married a Miss Blaklee, daughter of Zopher Blaklee, who was the head of a family well-known there, and now in that region. This lady stands with the Judge to-day receiving the homage of the hundreds of friends who crowd the parlors of her spacious mansion. For years the young couple struggled along as young couples always do in the back woods. They were poor, but they had an immense amount of energy, and they were gradually succeeding in making their home comfortable. But the task was a hard one, and in his effort to accomplish this object, Judge Packer discovered the field which he at once entered, and which has made one of the leading capitalists of the country. When work was not plenty Mr. Packer was in the habit of going away from home and working as a carpenter, a trade he had taken up during his residence in this State. By lucky chance in one of his journeys, his inclination took him over the hundred miles of wilderness into the Lehigh Valley. Here the pioneers of the Lehigh Coal and Nav. Co. were just getting ready to revolutionize trade by the introduction of Anthracite coal. There was plenty of work to do, and young Packer found things so much to his liking that at the age of 27 he removed to this place. His entire capital was far less than a thousand dollars. He built houses and boats, went into the store business, and soon became one of the leading men in the community. The greatest event in the life of this wonderful man was the building of the Lehigh Valley railroad, a corporation worth probably one hundred millions of dollars which, it may be said, he created. All the business men looked upon his scheme as chimerical. The old Lehigh Coal & Navigation men were sure it would fail and could not be induced to go into it. (If they had, the L. C. & N. Co. would be probably the richest corporation in the United States). But in the life of Asa Packer there is no such thing as fail. With comparatively little acquaintance with the great capitalists of the times, he went to work to build a fifty mile railroad through a most difficult mountain region. After years of such work and anxiety as few men see, the road was completed. It is said the Judge put every cent he was worth and all he could borrow in the enterprise. In a few years the Lehigh Valley road was paying millions in profits each year, and its stock was away above par, and Judge Packer was one of the richest men in the United States.

This is a brief sketch of the man who so pleasantly meets his friends to-day in his parlor. His home is an elegant one, but it is plain like the man who rules there. He has no extravagant pleasures. He attends to the great business he has built up with the diligence of an energetic young man. His neighbors respect him, but they see little of him, for he is hid from them in the busy world of the great cities, where he spends most of his time. This unassuming gentleman will be ranked in the history of

Pennsylvania as truly great. We have not space to attempt to analyze his character, but we may say he is a man of strong will, great determination, untiring industry; bold in the conception of business enterprises, and sure in the execution of all his plans. He is, eminently, one of those men who are sure they are right and who then go ahead like an avalanche. In all his business career, Judge Packer has never made a mistake or a failure. When other men faltered the occasion brought out his strong points. When his friends advised a retreat, the Judge ordered an advance. This confidence in his own judgment and power is one of his chief characteristics. It served him when he went out a mere boy to rear himself a home in the back woods; when he held the rudder of a canal boat; it brought him to the halls of Congress from one of the most important districts of Pennsylvania; it urged him on when he was almost borne down by the great weight of a doubtful railroad enterprise; it is always his refuge now. The conqueror of millions, the monarch of an immense industry, the founder of a University, Judge Packer is one of the plainest of men. We doubt if his personal expenses exceed those of many a man with an income of \$5,000. He does not need the luxuries of life and he never indulges in any of them. He seeks no trivial pleasures, and he is contented and happy. The study of such a man's life is a lesson which will teach many a young man the way he should go. His name and fame will live long after he is gone. We will never appreciate fully his greatness until he is with us no more. Then we will rank him with Girard and other men of fortune who lived honorable, upright lives, and who used their wealth to improve the condition of the young men who lived after them.

#### A CENTENNIAL JAM.

The scene in the parlors at 7½ was a most lively one. A perfect jam of guests had arrived, many in carriages and more on foot. Old gentlemen with their matronly-looking wives, younger gentlemen with beautiful young ladies on their arms, boys and charming little maidens crowded around the aged couple and poured forth hearty congratulations, and the stream of good feeling was filled to overflowing. The crowd continued to come in and it was found necessary to open Mr. Harry E. Packer's house which adjoins his father's. Both mansions were most brilliantly illuminated and the grounds were well lighted with a calcium light. At this time at least eight hundred people were present. The band stationed in the hall played constantly the grandest music, and the jam of handsome women and men under the flashing gas jets made a scene unequalled in fairy-land.

The collation was served late in the evening. The dining-rooms of both houses were filled with tables loaded with every delicacy that could be obtained or cuisine art could produce. The wines were old and good and the elder portion of the guests greatly enjoyed the cigars and liqueurs.



At 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock the reception ended and shortly after the Judge and Mrs. Packer, who had been on their feet for nearly seven hours, retired. The younger portion of the assembly went to Mr. Harry Packer's and danced until a late hour.

#### THE ONLY PRESENTS.

One of the pleasant features of the day was the presentation of a handsome gold watch to the Judge and a pair of spectacles to Mrs. Packer. These came from personal friends and hardly violated the command "no presents" which was sent with the invitations.

#### SOME OF THE GUESTS.

Among the guests were General Robert Patterson, E. W. Clark, Hon. A. E. Borie, Geo. B. Newton, of Philadelphia, Hon. Arlo Pardee, of Hazleton; David Thomas of Catawago; W. L. Coynghan, of Wilkes-Barre; Bishop Howe, Reading; Professors Leavitt and Coppee, of the Lehigh University; Prof. Cattel, of Lafayette; Victor E. Piollet, of Bradford county; Gen. Sturdevant, of Harrisburg; E. A. Packer, of New York. A large number of railroad officials including all those connected with the Lehigh Valley Railroad and hundreds of other prominent gentlemen whose names would fill columns. All the leading citizens of Mauch Chunk were present.

Regrets were received from George W. Childs, A. J. Drexel, Gov. Hartranft, and many other prominent men. A large number of telegrams were received from distinguished men in all parts of the country.

#### THE POEMS.

The occasion seemed to inspire a number of gentlemen, and they gave vent to their feelings in verse. Professor Henry Coppee wrote quite a long and elaborate poem, and also a song "Then and Now," which was sung with great heartiness by the whole company to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne." Mr. J. H. Stewers of this place, an old and valued friend of the Judge's, also wrote a number of verses which were printed. Mr. R. H. Sayre presented some humorous verses which were received with great laughter by the company.

#### THE CLERGYMAN WHO MARRIED JUDGE PACKER.

The Rev. Samuel Marks, the gentleman who married Judge Packer, was present with his wife. He is a venerable gentleman of 85, and he resides in Huron, Ohio. Mrs. Amos Williams and Mr. James I. Blakeloo, the only living witnesses of the marriage, were also present.

#### THE LEHIGH GRADUATES.

The graduates of Lehigh University, of whom several live in town, called on the Judge and presented him with an address on behalf of themselves and their fellows. The Judge seemed highly pleased and expressed his satisfaction in terms quite pleasing to the young gentlemen.

#### THE JOURNALISTS.

Among the journalists from abroad were Mr. W. V. McKean, of the Philadelphia Ledger; Mr. Joseph Sailor, financial editor of the Ledger; Mr. F. H. Taylor, of the Press and New York Graphic; Mr. Jas. W. Nagle, of the Miners' Journal; Mr. Darwin G. Fenne, of the Phila. Times; Mr. S. B. McQuade, of the Shenandoah Herald; Mr. D. J. Godshalk, of the Bethlehem Times, and Mr. Alvin Day, of the Tunkhannock Democrat.

#### NOTES.

The Lehigh Valley clerks enjoyed a half holiday. They all attended the reception.

The Phoenix Band, of this place, serenaded the Judge in the evening. Their music was good and was appreciated by all who heard it.

Some confusion was created by a wag, who went to the trouble to put the hats and coats of gentlemen in different places from where they had left them. It was not until yesterday morning that some of this kind of property got into its real owner's hands.

Two handsome floral decorations were presented by the officers of the Mauch Chunk office L. V. R. E., and the New York office.



