

The Chairman then presented a cordial invitation, —in which the Hon. Wm. E. Dodge was joined by Genl. Grenville M. Dodge, Mrs. Rebecca W. Sire (Dodge), of St. Louis, Mo., and Robert Dodge, of New York City—to all the Assembly, to partake of a generous luncheon at the famed Essex House (late the mansion of Salem's "Merchant Prince," William Gray): and six hundred and fifty-five gentlemen and ladies of the large assembly, enjoyed the genial hospitality of a cordial meeting at a substantial and elegant luncheon, provided through this liberality (in default of local committee) at very brief notice by the accomplished and efficient Host, Col. Palmer. After which an informal and very crowded social gathering and reception most agreeably, at a late hour, closed the delightful and memorable day.

The following letters were received at the opening and presented to the meeting, and a few arrived too late therefor, but are appropriately added.

ELIZA DODGE GLASS, of Iowa, sends greeting to the Dodge family, now convened in Salem, Mass. :—

CEDAR RAPIDS, July 3, 1879.

DEAR BRETHREN :

When I say Brethren, I include all. Since arriving at maturity, I have ever been dreaming of the event that is now transpiring, but the infirmities of age will prevent me from availing myself of its happy results. Whither we are tending—or in other words, where strays the immortal mind when coldness wraps this suffering clay—seems to be the all-absorbing topic of most persons, but I have ever entertained the most ardent desire to know from whence I came. Pride of ancestry has ever filled my heart with a longing desire to know if the strain of blood that permeates my being had its rise in a race