

earnestly enlisted in improving our country, in opening our great thoroughfares by which cultivation, commerce, civilization, and Christianization shall pervade all parts of our common country. [Applause.]

“ But little more than one week has elapsed since the ladies and gentlemen, that are here, as your guests, left Chicago for the Far West by railway. Since that time they have been in the midst of the lodges of the Pawnee Indians who are scattered on the boundless and fertile, but uncultivated prairies of our country. This party is called a party of excursionists, but they are really a party of men of energy and ability, with minds to conceive and genius and talent to execute this great national work which is to connect this city of Chicago with the Pacific Ocean. [Applause.] Where could they expect or where will they receive a more heartfelt welcome than they will in Chicago? [Great applause.] Not for the pecuniary gain alone to commerce and to agriculture, but for those higher qualities by which our whole race is to be benefited in mind as well as in body, and which only wait the completion of the work which they have undertaken and are carrying on so successfully. It is no part of mine, being entirely ignorant of what has been done, to explain to you the occurrences and the results of this excursion, this formal opening of so large a portion of the eastern end of the great railway line now completed, I believe, two hundred and seventy-five miles beyond Omaha. Not many of us know even what Omaha is. We will hear. In the first place I will announce to you some resolutions that have been passed, after due consideration, by many of our most eminent citizens, some of whom were in the company. These will be read to you. After these have been read, I will introduce to you some of the men who have been there to see, and who will tell you what has been done and what is going to be done, and when it will be done. I call on Mr. Rountree to read the resolutions.”