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KLOMAN EULOGY.

From proceedings of the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Within the year 1880, but lately closed, the people of this country have been called on to mourn the death of an unusual number of useful men, illustrious by their services, their talents and their worth.

At the December meeting the death of Mr. Andrew Kloman, a valuable, useful and esteemed member of this association, was announced, and brief resolutions referring to his demise and tendering expressions of sympathy to his bereaved family were adopted, and a committee appointed to prepare some suitable memorial and sketch of his life to be entered on our minutes.

It is wise and proper to make mention of useful men, whose lives have closed, in the records of associations to which they belonged, that in future years the ambitious may be incited to emulate them, and that when others occupy our places they may know the memory of such men was esteemed and not forgotten. Without some mention of the subject of this sketch, of the high appreciation of the excellence of his character, the purity of his life and his devotion to the interests of manufacture, our records would be manifestly imperfect, and were no reference made of his many virtues and noble traits, would fail properly to reflect the sentiments of his fellow members who so long knew him in various relations of life.

Mr. Andrew Kloman was born at Treves, Prussia, August 25th, 1827, and received, early in life, the education afforded by the free schools of Prussia, and at the age of twelve went to work under his father in a rolling mill, where he remained until he emigrated to this country in his nineteenth year. He landed in New Orleans on Christmas day, 1845, penniless and almost friendless.

Learning that Pittsburgh offered superior advantages for mechanical skill, he removed here in the spring of 1846, and after undergoing considerable hardship from his want of acquaintance with the English language, he at last obtained employment at the old Novelty Works making scales. This not proving congenial, as he felt within him the fitness for a higher occupation, he obtained a situation at the steel works of Messrs. Singer, Hartman & Co., where his mechanical skill and industrious habits soon gained him favorable recognition, and he was entrusted with the responsible work of finishing and testing steel springs, soon winning the esteem of his employers, and being recognized as the foremost workman of the establishment.

By working early and late and practising the strictest economy he accumulated money enough to start in business for himself, and in 1853, in partnership with his elder brother Anthony, and Mr. Helmbacher, he erected a small forge at Girty's run, where his inventive genius and progressive spirit began to assert themselves, discarding the mere traditions of his trade, and devising original methods and machinery for doing everything required in his business.

The outbreak of the war creating a great demand for axles, he devised a new method of making the pile by bundling one inch square, alternately reversing the direction of their fibres, thereby making so superior an article that the "Kloman" axle was soon widely known and in universal demand.

About 1862 he dissolved this partnership, abandoned this forge, and built the Lower Union Mill. Up to this time he had given personal attention to the mechanical, manufacturing and financial departments of his business, but he now devoted himself especially to the rolling of shapes, and made many improvements in the process, and he here invented the machine for upsetting the ends of eye bars, which had previously been made by forging or welding.

Here he also put up one of the first universal mills operated in this country. In about 1864 the Union Mill was consolidated with the Cyclops Mill, which became known as the Upper Union Mill, where he put up a twenty inch beam mill, this being the first mill built in Pittsburgh that was planned and fitted complete, the rough casting style having been the rule, and here were rolled the first beams made in Pittsburgh.

Here he also erected the first Siemen's regenerative gas heating furnace used in this city, if not the first in the country. He

also invented his machine for straightening and bending beams, channels, etc., cold, and also his reversing universal rolling mill and the disc saw for cutting beams, etc., cold, this being the first practical application of the cold saw, and for all practical purposes he was the inventor of it. He had a wonderful genius for designing rolls adapted for rolling unusual shapes, a conspicuous instance being his rolling the couplings for the arches of the Illinois and St. Louis bridge.

In 1871 he built the No. 1 Lucy Furnace, which at that time and for some considerable time after its erection was the best furnace in the country, making the largest output of any in the United States. Here the system of blowing by volume instead of by pressure was first introduced in Pittsburgh.

In 1872, in connection with others, he formed the Cascade Iron Company for mining ore in the Lake Superior district. This venture resulted most disastrously. If his associates had been able to carry their share of the burden, he would have escaped with a trifling loss, but as he had to bear an excessive share of it, he was left almost penniless. Directly and indirectly this unfortunate venture must have cost him a million of dollars. The delays and complications of this bankruptcy kept him tied down so he could not embark in business again for nearly four years. In this interval he invented the eye bar rolling mill for forming an eye bar direct from the solid pile of iron, or ingot of cast steel, avoiding both the upsetting and welding operations, and having relieved himself of his financial troubles in a way most satisfactory to all concerned, he leased the Superior Mill in Allegheny City and commenced the manufacture of eye bars and structural material, largely devoting himself to steel as a material.

The success of these operations induced him to associate himself in a company for the erection of a Bessemer steel plant at Homestead, and he commenced the building of a large finishing mill for the manufacture of eye bars and other shapes in steel. This he expected to have in operation next fall, when he would have had the best mill in this country. Many other valuable machines, but little known, were either largely or entirely his invention, a self-feeding machine for the manufacture of railroad spikes being one of them. This he took when in a very imperfect shape and developed into a great success.

As an evidence of his good judgment and practical business ability, it may be noted that, with all these mishaps and adverses, he still left his family in good and comfortable circumstances.

The death of Mr. Andrew Kloman occurred at ten o'clock on Sabbath night, December 19th, 1880, at the family residence, Penn avenue. Before the close of a life of unusual activity and energy, he was permitted to witness the rise and wonderful increase of a material industrial interest which has become the distinguishing feature of this country, he having done much by his own mechanical skill and inventive genius to contribute to its development. Mr. Kloman was possessed of a sound judgment and of progressive ideas. The manifold services of this distinguished citizen, artisan and manufacturer, gave him high rank among all engaged in the manufacture of iron and steel, and made his death a loss to the country. He was a man of singular purity, modesty, and simplicity of character. Those who were associated with him during the latter years of his life, and knew of his unremitting devotion to the development of the manufacture of iron and steel, and of his inventive genius in surmounting all difficulties which presented themselves, can best appreciate his worth and noble, manly traits.

There is no department of productive business in which a larger proportion of active brain work is employed than in the invention, building and working of machinery.

The mechanic deals with material substances and mechanical processes that are continually presenting new problems for solution, and are capable of being solved by more than one method, and there is no class of our useful men who, through modesty, offer so little of their experimental and practical knowledge and observant wisdom to the world in printed form.

Mr. Kloman enjoyed a constant and overflowing attachment, a tender and unremitting devotion to his workmen, and they, while at their work and in their homes, entertained warm friendship for him. On the day of the funeral, all work at some of our largest establishments was suspended, and thousands of workmen—who had made the atmosphere of the room in which the casket containing the lifeless body was placed, fragrant with the perfume of flowers—in company with many prominent citizens, followed the remains to the church where the funeral services were performed, and then to their last resting place.

Had the life of Mr. Kloman been spared a few more years, the full triumph of the class of machinery to which he gave so much attention, and to the full and complete development of which he was so greatly devoted, would have been attained. But the fiat of death is inexorable, the silver cord had to be loosed, and the golden bowl broken, and now, when we recall his gentle expression and loving attachments, and hold his memory in respect, and his death in sorrow, we are led to exclaim, "Shall we ever meet him again?"

Ion, the death devoted Greek, when about to yield his life a sacrifice to fate, his Clemanthe asks: "And shall we never see each other?" to which he responds, "I have asked that dreadful question of the hills that look eternal; of the clear streams that flow forever; of the stars, among whose fields of azure my raised spirit hath walked in glory. All were dumb. But now while I gaze upon thy living face I feel that there is something in love that mantles through its beauty, that cannot wholly perish:—we *shall* meet again, Clemanthe."

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES PARK, JR., }
JAMES HEMPHILL, } *Committee.*