

A Sketch of Col. D. S. Wilson, of the Sixth Reg't. of Iowa Vol. Cavalry

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A SKETCH OF COL. D. S. WILSON, OF THE SIXTH REG'T. OF IOWA VOL. CAVALRY.

BY THE EDITOR.

[The following brief account of Col. Wilson has been delayed, with the hope of securing an engraving to accompany it. No doubt the officers and privates of his fine regiment would be glad to contribute to have a steel-plate likeness of their distinguished commanding officer.]

Col. D. S. WILSON was born at Steubenville, Jefferson County, Ohio, in 1823, and emigrated to Du Buque, in the Territory of Iowa, while a boy. Before the age of twenty-one, he was the editor of the *Miner's Express*, one of the earliest papers published in Iowa. Just after arriving to his majority, he was elected to the House of Representatives of the Territorial Legislature. He served several sessions while the Capital was at Iowa City, always being placed as chairman on important standing committees, and acting a prominent part in the legislation of the State.

In 1846, in connection with others, he raised a company of volunteers and tendered their services to go to Mexico. Being unable to get this company into service for the Mexican war, it was sent to Fort Atkinson in Iowa, where they relieved the late lamented Gen. Sumner, who then went with the Regulars under his command to Mexico. Col. Wilson and his company remained at Fort Atkinson, in charge of the Winnebago Indians, for two years and several months, and removed these Indians to Long Prairie, Minnesota. Several of our respected citizens were soldiers, at Fort Atkinson, with him, then Lieutenant D. S. Wilson.

Latterly, Col. Wilson has devoted himself to the practice of law at Du Buque. And the law firm, with which he has been connected as senior partner, has done as large a business as any in the State.

From 1860 to 1862, Col. Wilson represented Du Buque county in the Senate of the State. And in the Revision of the Code in 1860, he took an active and important part. The writer of this sketch being present during this session, speaks understandingly of the prominent part which Col. Wilson acted in the Revision and other Acts of that year.

In the Extra Session of 1861, after the Southern Rebellion

broke out, Col. Wilson, with other Democrats, rose above party, and patriotically voted for all supplies deemed necessary to carry on the war against Secession. And during this session, at the earnest request of the citizens of Des Moines, he delivered a public speech against the right of secession by the South, which so pleased the members of the General Assembly, that thousands of copies of it were bought and scattered broadcast over the State.

Col. Wilson's family having been intimate friends of the present Secretary of War, Hon. E. M. Stanton commissioned him to raise a Regiment of Cavalry in Iowa. Coming, as did his commission, after so many men had volunteered from Iowa, it was no easy task to accomplish. But his great personal popularity and untiring energy secured a full and splendid regiment of mounted men. To the warfare with the hostile Indians, on the Western frontier, to which they are sent, Col. Wilson has been well fitted by his acquaintance with Indian character and military experience. Already has he distinguished himself in the late battle with the Indians, and is rising to military eminence.

Col. Wilson is rotund and erect in stature, of middle height, and of pleasing countenance and address. Genial and companionable in his character, he is a general favorite in society. And, besides his editorial experience, he has given himself somewhat to general literature. His public addresses are lively and spirited, and his delivery earnest and popular. May he long survive the Secession War, in which hostile Indians have participated, and return home to adorn the community at Du Buque with every grace and virtue of which he is possessed.

THE SEASONS OF 1863.

The seasons in Iowa, for the past year of 1863, have been most remarkable and surprising to the "oldest inhabitants." Showers fell in January, February and March, accompanied with thunder and lightning. Frosts, in some parts of the State, were observed every month in the warm season. And, from drouth continued, in some places, through June and July, or from frosts in August and September, all vegetation of corn and potatoe crops was stopped; and the buckwheat crop was entirely cut off, a thing unknown before.

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