

Daniel F. Miller

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been commonly disposed of by American writers." "Hardly have we known, seldom have we been reminded, that the side of the Loyalists, as they called themselves, of the Tories as they were scornfully nicknamed by their opponents, was even in argument not a weak one, and in motive and sentiment not a base one, and in devotion and self-sacrifice not an unheroic one." The article, which is an elaboration of these facts, is a very able one and has been the subject of wide and favorable comment.

Since the foregoing was written we have received the January number of this admirable work, which bears out all that has been said in its praise by the American press. In its broad and beautiful pages are appearing articles of the highest merit and importance, and its survey of the field of History gives its readers the amplest information touching everything that is transpiring in the direction of news, investigations and publications. It takes its place at once as the highest current and standard authority in this country.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

The veteran lawmaker, DANIEL F. MILLER, of Lee County, who died December 9th at the home of his daughter in Omaha, had long been known as one of the most notable of our pioneers. Tall and commanding in figure, with white hair falling nearly to his shoulders, a massive forehead and eagle eye, walking erect as in his youthful days, his keen intellect well preserved at eighty years of age, he was a stalwart representative of the founders of this great State. He was born in Maryland, October 4th, 1814. At an early age he began the study of law, and in April, 1839, came to the newly organized Territory of Iowa. In politics he was a Whig, and soon made his mark as a lawyer and public speaker. In 1840 he was elected representative in the third territorial Legislature, and fifty-four years later was again chosen to represent his county in the House. He was nominated in 1848 by the Whigs of the first district for Member of Congress. His Democratic competitor was Col. Wm. Thompson, familiarly known as "Black Bill Thompson." He entered into the contest with great vigor, reducing Thompson's majority from 544 of the year before to 386. Mr Miller contested the election, and upon investigation Congress decided that Thompson was not elected, but refused to award the seat to Mr. Miller, whereupon a special election was held to fill the vacancy. Thompson and Miller were again nominated by their respective parties, and after an exciting contest Miller was elected by a majority of 632, and became the first Whig Congressman from Iowa. He had done an act of charity to an old and destitute Mormon which so pleased that people that they voted for him to a man. Although born and raised in a slave state, he was an anti-slavery man, and when the Republican party was organized was chosen by its first State Convention held at Iowa City in 1856, as one of the candidates for presidential elector. He was one of those who cast the vote of Iowa for Fremont for President. In 1860 he became an independent candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, receiving the support of the Democrats, but was defeated by Judge Wright, the Republican candidate. From this time to the close of his life he acted with the Democratic party. He was always an able and independent advocate of most of the reform measures of his times. He had in early life worked for the abolition of slavery and imprisonment for debt, and later for prohibition of the liquor traffic, the granting of suffrage to women, and pensions to all Union soldiers who served through the war. He

was actively engaged in the practice of law for more than half a century, and a lawyer of unusual ability. It is stated that he was employed as counsel in no less than forty-five murder trials, winning all but two of them. He found time to write a work on rhetoric which became a school text book, and did a large amount of literary work at various times. Daniel F. Miller was among the last of our pioneer statesmen whose residence and services dated back to early territorial days. The work of a long and useful life was given to the up-building of the State which he loved so well. He was in public life with Webster, Clay, Calhoun and Benton, with Jones and Dodge of our own State, and lived in Iowa from the administration of its first territorial Governor, Robert Lucas, up to that of the present Governor, Frank D. Jackson. During his life within its borders Iowa grew from a frontier wilderness to one of the most progressive, productive, and influential members of the Union, and it owes not a little of its wonderful development to the untiring labor, wisdom, and influence for good of such honored pioneers as Daniel F. Miller and his co-workers.

GENERAL ED WRIGHT died in Des Moines, Dec. 6th. He was born near Salem, Ohio, June 27, 1827. He received a common school education, and in 1848 married Miss Martha Thompson. The young couple moved to Cedar County, Iowa, in 1852, making their home in a Quaker settlement of John Brown fame, not far from Springdale. When a convention was called by the anti-slavery people of the State to organize a new party in 1856, Ed Wright was one of the delegates from Cedar county. That convention put the first Republican ticket in the field, and chose delegates to the first National Republican Convention, which nominated Fremont for President. The next fall he was elected representative from Cedar County in the last Legislature which met in Iowa City. He was re-elected in 1857, and served in the first Legislature which convened in Des Moines. When the war of the rebellion broke out, he assisted in organizing the 24th regiment, of which he was commissioned Major. He made an excellent officer, taking part in some of the bloodiest battles around Vicksburg. He was also in General Banks' disastrous Red River Expedition, and with Sheridan in his brilliant campaign through the Shenandoah Valley. He was several times wounded in battle, and was promoted successively to Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, and brevet Brigadier General. At the close of the war he returned to his Cedar county farm, and at the next election was again sent to the Legislature, and chosen speaker of the House. In 1866 he was elected Secretary of State, twice re-elected, serving six years with great efficiency. In 1873, when work was begun on the new State House, he was chosen secretary of the commissioners charged with its construction, and soon after became assistant superintendent of the work. He proved to be the right man for the place, carefully guarding the interests of the State in all the details for the erection of the new capitol. After its completion he was made custodian of the building, holding that position until 1890. No public official served the State with more fidelity than General Wright. His work was done intelligently and with a scrupulous care for the public interest. He won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Few men in public life have made so many friends, or so few enemies.

Mrs. CAROLINE V. CLARKE, an old-time resident of Iowa City, died at her home in Washington, August 22nd. She was the wife of Hon. William Penn Clarke, a prominent pioneer of Iowa, one of the framers of the present constitution of our State, and many years reporter of the Supreme Court.

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