

The nays were Messrs. Ballinger, Barnes, Barker, Bereman, Bennett, Boomer, Burnett, Carbee, Dashiell, DeForest, Dudley, Emery, Fellows, Finkbine, Flanders, Garber, Glasgow, Godfrey, Holmes, Holden, Landes, Leffingwell, McNutt, McCullough, McKean, Mills, Olmstead, Rohlf, Russell, Safely, Tracy, Travis, Thomson, Wilson of Jackson—32.

Absent or not voting, Messrs. Bahl, Belt, Boomer, Brown of Winneshiek, Conway, Hale, Holmes, Huggins, McLaughlin, Palmer, Poindexter, Rogers, Serrin, Sipple, Van Leuven, Walden, Wilson of Dubuque, Mr. Speaker—19.

So the bill was lost for want of a constitutional majority.

Mr. McNutt announced the decease of Hon. N. T. Brown of Louisa, and spoke as follows :

MR. SPEAKER:—The melancholy duty devolves upon me of announcing to this House the decease of one of our number, Hon. N. T. Brown, Representative from the county of Louisa. The seat which he has occupied on this floor, until within a few days ago, has been vacated by him forever. Less than two weeks have elapsed since a stranger looking at this body of men would have pointed him out as one likely to outlive the majority of us. But the ways of Providence are mysterious, and the stern messenger, death, singled him out from among us all. His spirit has returned to God who gave it, and yesterday his remains were consigned to the cold and silent tomb.

Some ten days previous to his death, while sitting at his desk, now vacant before you, he felt so sick and chilly, of what he supposed to be only a bad cold, that he was compelled to leave this Hall and repair to his room at his boarding house; from that room he never returned. It was soon discovered that he was laboring under a severe attack of pneumonia. A telegram of the fact was dispatched to his family, and in the meantime he was carefully nursed by fellow members of this House and friends he had made here, and was attended by the best medical skill. His wife and son arrived several days before his death, and watched by his bedside till the last sad hour. A widowed wife and a large family of children now mourn his loss.

At the time of his death he was but a little over forty-six years of age. Born in Kentucky, his boyhood was spent in Ohio, he emigrated to Iowa in his twenty-second year, and during the past twenty-four years has resided alternately in Muscatine and Louisa counties, only a few miles from my own home. And I state but the simple truth in saying, that as a husband, a father, a devoted Christian, and an estimable neighbor, no man stood higher among those who knew him. He never had the faculty of gathering together much of this world's wealth; but he was known as that noblest work of God, "*an honest man*," and long since learned to lay up treasures for himself where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, nor thieves break through nor steal.

Last year, when the people of Louisa county sought a proper man to represent them in this branch of the General Assembly, they passed by the able lawyers, the ambitious politicians, the wealthy owners of princely mansions, in their rich county, and sought the humble cottage of "Squire Brown," a plain farmer who earned his bread by the sweat of his face. They loved him for his goodness, they honored him for his virtues, and they trusted him for his integrity; and their love, their honor, and their trust were all well placed.

During nearly three months he has shared in our deliberations; and we can all bear testimony to the gentlemanly bearing of the quiet, unobtrusive, yet faithful and attentive member from Louisa. His candid, open countenance bespoke a manly spirit and an honest heart.

But he has gone to the land beyond the river—to where the Tree of Life is blooming and bearing fruits celestial. There, on the happy fields of light, whither his hopes had flown before, the good man's soul hath found its home, free from sickness, care, and toil. Let us who remain, learn so to live, that, when we come to die, we may be able to look back upon a life well spent, and with an unflinching hope in a happy immortality, meet our end in peace.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.

**MR. SPEAKER:**—I am directed to return herewith House Joint Resolution asking Congress to pass an act declaring and establishing the bridge and railroad track across the Mississippi river at Clinton, Iowa, a mail route, which has passed the Senate without amendment.

JAMES M. WEART,  
Assistant Secretary.

**Mr. McNutt** offered the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, The hand of an all wise Providence has taken from among us one of our Members, Hon. N. T. Brown, Member from Louisa county, in the prime of life and in the midst of usefulness, and

**WHEREAS**, by his unwavering integrity, his unblemished moral character, and his patriotic and Christian devotion in the cause of humanity he has embalmed his memory in the hearts of all with whom he had intercourse, therefore

*Resolved*, That the Members of this House recognize the hand of God in this deeply afflicted dispensation of his Providence, and humbly bow in submission to his will.

*Resolved*, That we not only cherish the highest regard for the deceased, but we do most cordially extend to his bereaved wife and family the devout sympathy of our hearts, and commend them to the kind protection of Him who has ever been the widow's shield and orphan's help.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be directed to have these resolutions printed in the "Iowa State Register," and a copy thereof forwarded to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That this House do now adjourn.

In seconding the motion to adopt the resolutions Mr. Burnett said :

MR. SPEAKER:—Permit me to add a few words to what has been already so well said about the lamented death of the Member from Louisa.

His vacant chair, clad in the habiliments of mourning, speaks to us in silent yet solemn warning. Our chairs will soon be vacant and we know not who will fill them for us. Other members—other husbands and fathers will soon be called to follow our brother to the grave. Other households will be left desolate and the shadow that now hangs so heavily upon this bereaved family may soon rest upon our households.

This is the last day of the session and we soon part to meet no more on earth. Our brother has but gone before us. "Brown of Louisa" will not again answer to the roll call of this General Assembly. *He has gone up higher* to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem and the innumerable company of angels. To the *General Assembly* and church of the first-born which are written in Heaven and to God, the Judge of all, and he is with the hundred and forty-four thousand who are on Mount Zion, in the presence of the Lamb.

Let us heed the solemn lesson of his death. It speaks to us impressively—" *be ye also ready* " for we know not the day nor the hour when we shall be summoned from our work here on earth to the bar of the ruler of the universe. While we are as legislators, making laws for this State, let us not forget that we are the subjects of the *great Law giver* and that He has power at any hour to call us into His presence to give an account for the deeds done in the body. Then earthly honors will avail us nothing. The gold of California or the wealth of the Indies can not then redeem our souls. When we descend into the dark valley of the shadow of death there will be no stay nor support for us unless we lean upon the arm of our blessed Redeemer who *died* that we might *live*. He is ever willing to stretch out to us his strong arm. He will meet us at the rolling river and bear us up so that the waters will not come over us.

But to receive this support in the trying hour of death we must like our brother from Louisa *believe* on the Lord Jesus and *serve* Him. He will not then desert us. God grant that we may so live that we may die the death of the righteous, and that our last end may be like his.

We can offer no words of comfort or consolation to the bereaved widow and the afflicted children.

The Lord has broken and he alone can heal. The Lord has af-

flicted and he alone can pour the oil of consolation into their crushed hearts. God alone can give them grace to say "the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away and blessed be His holy name." But we can tender to them our heartfelt sympathy. We can mingle our tears with theirs. Those of us who have been like afflicted know full well how comforting these acts of kindness are and how consoling it is to feel that we are not forgotten in our deep sorrow.

May the good Lord bless and comfort them.

May the good Lord go with this stricken family to their desolate home.

May God in His providence enable us to give heed to this solemn warning and induce us to set our houses in order for His coming.

Mr. Holden spoke as follows :

MR. SPEAKER:—In respect to the memory of the departed Representative, and in regard for the county which formed his constituency, I second the motion for the adoption of the resolutions.

MR. SPEAKER:—When the Executive of our State addresses his messages to us, we listen with respectful consideration. When the Chief Magistrate of the Nation speaks to us, we give to his words our deliberate reflection. But in this event, a voice, higher and more serious, addresses us in solemn tones, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Once before, during this session, has the Dark Angel spoken to us; and to me his voice is peculiarly solemn. In the death of Mr. Stockman, of Keokuk county, he bereaved the county adjoining my own, upon the west; and now, my colleague. Passing over us, he visits the county upon our eastern borders. When, in his flights, he may descend and take us, instead of passing over us, is a question for our most solemn consideration. With a large portion of the people of both these counties, I am personally acquainted; and these bereavements are home matters to me.

MR. SPEAKER:—God has many ways of speaking to us as a nation and as individuals. Sometimes in the fearful destructions of the storm; sometimes in terrible war; sometimes in overwhelming calamity, or in sweeping pestilence, and often in the visitations of His Dark Angel, Death. Let not His voice be unheeded, but let us learn the lesson of mortality which these bereavements teach.

It is, indeed, a satisfaction that the memory of Mr. Brown is that of a good man and a Christian, and that no shadows of evil rest upon his name.

"As, mid the ever changing sea, the eternal isles established be;  
And all the billows of the main fret, rage, and break themselves in vain;  
As, in the Heavens, those orbs divine of golden light, forever shine,  
Though clouds may darken, storms may rage, they still shine on from age to age.

So, mid the ocean tide of years, the memory of the just appears,  
So, mid the darkness and the gloom, the good man's virtues light the tomb."

We part to-day, Mr. Speaker, and our paths will widely and continually diverge. But let us hold before us the great purposes and ends of life; make duty our guiding star, and write over the portals of our hearts, as the changeless motto of our lives, "To our Country, to Truth, and to God." Then, when we, too, shall have gone, the same undying fragrance shall conserve our memories.

Mr. Tracy moved that the resolutions be adopted by a rising vote, which motion prevailed, and the resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the House adjourned.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. Leffingwell moved that the House now proceed to the consideration of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, which motion was lost.

Mr. Dashiell moved a call of the House, which motion prevailed. The roll was then called, and absentees reported.

The Sergeant-at-Arms *pro tem.*, Mr. Connell, was directed to bring in the absentees.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.

The following message was received from the Senate:

MR. SPEAKER:—I am directed to inform your honorable body that the Senate has passed the following resolution, in which the concurrence of the House is asked:

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That the Secretary of State be, and he is hereby requested to take charge of and forward to the officers and members of the Eleventh General Assembly, all letter mail matter coming to the Des Moines post-office for them after the adjournment of this General Assembly.*

JAMES M. WEART, Ass't Secretary.

Mr. Holden moved that further proceedings under the call be dispensed with. Lost.

Mr. Maxwell moved that the House do now adjourn. Lost.

Mr. Bennett moved that further proceedings under the call be dispensed with. Carried.

The House resuming the consideration of bills as arranged by the Sifting Committee, House File 148, "A bill for an act to amend Chap. 54, Sec. 1276, Code of Iowa, Revision of 1860, relating to mill-dams," was taken up and considered.

Ordered, that the bill be read a third time now.

The bill was read a third time.

On the question "shall the bill pass?" the yeas and nays were as follows: