

REMARKS BY MR. MCNIE.

Hon. Joseph E. Cobbey was born October 13th, 1824, in Miami County, Ohio. In 1838 his parents removed to near Pittsfield, Illinois, which at that time was considered to be little else than a wilderness. Here, he attended school and obtained such an education as was possible by those of moderate means, working upon his father's farm in the summer, and attending the District **School** in the winter. Early in life he had a great desire to obtain an education and by hard work and close application he succeeded in gaining a fair education, much better than was usual for young men of his station in life; so that he afterwards became a teacher, a minister, and finally principal of an academy.

In August 1848 he was married to Miss Harriett J. Webb, who resided near Springfield, Illinois. After engaging several years in educational and ministerial work, he located at Sterling, Ill., where he engaged in business enterprises.

In the early part of the War of the Rebellion, he responded to his Country's call, assisted in organizing Company D, 75th Illinois Infantry Volunteers, was elected its First Lieutenant, and soon after going to the front he was given command of the Company, which position he occupied until he was mustered out of the service. His company saw active and vigorous service, immediately, from the date of its mustering in. A few of the engagements in which it took part were the hotly contested battles of Stone River, Perryville, and Murfreesborough.

The exposure and hardships of army life were a severe strain upon his health and his system never recovered, although he lived out the full span of life allotted to man.

In November 1863 he started westward and settled upon a farm in Benton County, and there resided until 1884, at which time he removed to Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska, where he continued to reside until the day of his death, January 18, 1905.

He was a Republican and always stood high in the councils of his party, and he held many offices of trust and confidence in Benton County, and in 1879 was elected a member of the Eighteenth General Assembly. His labors of this life are ended; and it is modest eulogy to say that all his days were days of usefulness, and all his paths were paths of honor.

HON. THOS. HARRIS.

MR. SPEAKER: Your special committee appointed to prepare resolutions concerning the life and character of Thomas Harris a member of the Thirty-first General Assembly, respectfully report as follows: