

Absent or not voting—

Messrs. Arnold, Bell, Bundy, Butler, Conner, Day, Dudley, Dunne, Durham, Faville, Green, Harper, Lee, McCoun, Miles of Wayne, Murdock, Newbold, Pratt, Rogers, Satterthwaite, Snow, Swan, Warner, Wasson—24.

So the bill passed and the title was agreed to.

Leave of absence was granted Frank Swan, a messenger boy, on account of sickness.

Senate file No. 111, a bill for an act to amend section 40 of chapter 138 of the acts of the Twelfth General Assembly, to regulate insurance companies. Read a first and second time and referred to Committee on Incorporation.

Mr. Miles, of Washington, offered the following resolutions which were adopted:

WHEREAS, Intelligence has been received by this House of the death of the Hon. Abijah Conner, representative elect from the twenty-sixth district; therefore

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That with deep sorrow we deplore the event that has deprived this General Assembly of a wise counsellor and a noble, earnest, and talented representative.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the widow and family of our deceased brother in their great affliction, and hope that their wounded hearts may be soothed by the consolations of Him who doeth all things well."

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the *Iowa State Register*, the *Des Moines Bulletin*, the *Washington Press* and the *Washington Gazette*, and that the Secretary of State be instructed to forward a copy thereof to the widow of the deceased.

Resolved, That these resolutions be transmitted to the Senate.

Resolved, That as a token of respect to deceased this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Miles, of Washington, made the following remarks in support of the motion to adopt the resolutions:

MR. SPEAKER:—In rising to move the adoption of these resolutions, the painful duty seems to devolve on me to say a few words in relation to him to whom they refer, and to the sad event that has brought mourning to the hearts of a family, that has taken from the church one of its most gifted ministers, and has deprived this General Assembly of one who would have been one of its most able and useful members.

It has been but a few days since official intelligence was received from the Senate that one of its members had been stricken down, and we here spent a sad hour in contemplation of that dispensation of Providence which had sorrowed our hearts. Now, if possible, the Destroyer has come *nearer* to us. One of our own number has gone. Often have I been asked during the session, when I expected my colleague

here—when Mr. Conner would take his seat in this hall. At first I hoped it might be soon; but when intelligence reached me from time to time of his declining health, and when, at length, I learned directly from his physician of the true nature of the disease, which I had too much reason to fear has long been fastened upon him, I abandoned all hope of meeting him here. Now his spirit has gone to the God who gave it. All that was mortal of the good, the talented, the true man, as he was, lies low in the grave—but our loss is his eternal gain. I am not very familiar with the history of Mr. C.'s life before he came to our county about five years ago, and my personal acquaintance since that time has been somewhat limited; but his influence was known and felt all around. All who knew him could but bear testimony to the zeal and earnestness with which he engaged in every work calculated to elevate and advance the intellectual, social, and moral condition of man.

Mr. Conner was graduated at Athens College in Ohio; received his theological education at the Seminary, at Monmouth, Illinois, where he graduated in 1858 and entered the ministry. In response to a call from one of the U. P. churches in Washington, he came there in 1865 and became its pastor. He continued in charge of this until the summer of 1868, when his health having become so much impaired he felt compelled to leave his work, hoping that by a little rest he might be restored. At times during the following year strong hopes were entertained of his recovery, but the fatal disease, consumption, was doing its sure work. He spent a part of the last summer in Colorado, and, by aid of that invigorating climate, he recovered so materially, that his friends hoped he might soon resume his duties. With great unanimity he was chosen by the people of his county to represent them in this General Assembly. I expected to meet him here on the first day of its session, but about that time he began and continued rapidly to fail, until last Monday night he breathed his last. The Saviour who redeemed him, and whose gospel he had proclaimed, sent an angel down to earth and took his spirit home.

One striking point in his character was his earnestness. Whatever he believed to be right, he contended for with that kind of zeal that rarely fails to accomplish its purpose. Schools and education found in him a hearty supporter, and the Sabbath school, in particular, owes much of its late success to the efforts of this good man.

Mr. Speaker, strange to us, sometimes, are the dispensations of Providence. Very mysterious, sometimes, are the ways of Him whom we know "doeth all things well." As I cast my eyes across this Hall I see some whose wrinkled brow and grey hairs indicate that the time is not far distant when we shall no longer have the benefit of their experience, that the time is not far distant when they will no longer contend in the battle of life; and should one of them at any time be thrown on a bed of sickness

where he would terminate his long and useful life, our hearts would be sorrowed by the event, yet we would not be surprised; we would mourn his loss but would not be astonished. This would be the natural course of events. But when one so young, in the prime of life, with such bright prospects of a happy future and of accomplishing so much good in the world, as were his whose loss we deplore, and to whose memory we devote this solemn hour, we are led to look upward and say, "How mysterious are Thy ways."

Mr. Brown, of Van Buren, on seconding the motion to adopt the resolutions, made the following remarks:

MR. SPEAKER—I rise to second the motion to adopt the resolutions just offered by my friend from Washington, and in doing so, I feel that want of preparation will prevent me from expressing in a manner satisfactory to myself, the feelings that struggle for utterance on this occasion.

It was not my good fortune to have been personally acquainted with the deceased in common with many others of the members upon this floor. I had only become familiar with the name of the Honorable Abijah Connor, of Washington, from its association with the list of members elected to this General Assembly, and from often hearing of when we might have the pleasure of making his acquaintance.

But, Mr. Speaker, it affords me great pleasure to know that he belonged to a class with whose history we are all familiar, for we knew that, although possessed of rare natural ability, to which was added the advantages of a fine education, fitting him alike for the lucrative and popular vocations of life, he chose to select for his calling that laborious and often onerous calling in which his work was to alleviate the social, moral, and religious standard of his race—to strengthen the weak, to comfort the broken-hearted, and to let the oppressed go free, and I rejoice to have the assurance that his life has been a success, and that now when he is called from his labor to his reward, the unmistakable evidence is ours of a work well done, of a life which was a success, and the effects of which will grow and blossom to his eternal glory, when perhaps the record and the memory of our labors upon this floor shall pass away.

Fellow members, I am aware that no eulogy I can pronounce can add to the solemn grandeur of a life like this or add to the imposing example of such a death. But allow me to add, that in this solemn dispensation of Providence, we are admonished that we, too, are passing away—that the edict from which there is no appeal has gone forth, that all that is mortal is doomed to dissolution—that during the brief moments which we are pleased to spend in commemoration of our departed associate, the die may be cast that calls another of our number to leave the busy cares of life and go to that country beyond the fatal river.

Let us, then, while we formally execute this tribute of public mourning, cause the brief history of our friend, to which we have just listened, to sink deeper into our hearts—to admonish us of the uncertainty of man's designs and hopes, and the blessings which crown a well spent life.

On motion of Mr. Applegate, the resolutions were unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

On motion of Mr. Irish the House adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
DES MOINES, IOWA, March 15, 1870. }

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Speaker in the chair.

Prayer by Rev. A. M. Geiger.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

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 bills in which the concurrence of the House is asked.

Senate File No. 82, A bill for an act to legalize the action of the board of supervisors of Story county, Iowa, in relation to the issuance of bonds to the amount of 7,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing land for a "poor farm" for the use of said county and the erection of buildings thereon.

Senate File No. 65, A bill to legalize the plat of the town of Auburn, in Fayette county, Iowa, and to legalize all conveyances of lots heretofore made by the number of lots and blocks as now specified in said plat.

Senate File No. 126, A bill for an act authorizing the conveying of certain property in Iowa City, by Register of State Land Office.

I am also directed to return herewith House File No. 214, A bill for an act to legalize the election of corporation officers in the town of Le Clair, county of Scott, and State of Iowa, on the 1st Monday of March, 1869, and Joint Resolution, relating to the civil contest in the Island of Cuba. The same having passed the Senate without amendment.

J. A. T. HULL, *First Asst. Secretary.*