

“How sleep the brave who sink to rest,
By all their country wishes blest!”

Our departed associate has passed on to join that innumerable company of heroes and martyr's, whose

——“Silent tent are spread
On fame's eternal camping ground.”

Evermore their countrymen will honor them. Evermore the friends of liberty will build monuments to their memory. But though we visit all quarries, and search out the fairest marble, fresh and pure as it came from the hand of the creator, and fashion it with all the deft and cunning skill of the sculptor, until their monuments gleam white in every cemetery of the land, and on every battle-field of the Union—still the greatest honor of all is the shrine we make for them in our own hearts.

“When the brave and good go down,
Then statues do arise
Within these temples of our own,
Our fadeless memories.
And when the sculptured marble falls,
And art goes on to die,
Their forms shall dwell in holier halls
The pantheon of the sky!”

If, in the far future, there shall be marshalled on some celestial plain all those who have fought, or labored, or suffered, or died in defense of human liberty, or for the preservation of good government, there will not be one in all that shining host whose devotion to his country was more unselfish, whose love for his kind was more sincere, or whose loyalty to the lofty principles of justice and humanity was more simple and true, than that of Charles L. Matthies.

Honest man, pure patriot, brave soldier, upright legislator, hail and farewell!

Senator Beardsley then sent to the Secretary's desk the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with sincere sorrow of the death of Hon. Charles L. Matthies, a Senator from Des Moines county.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect due to the memory of Senator Matthies, these resolutions and accompanying proceedings be spread upon the journal of the Senate.

Senator Bennett seconded the resolutions in the following remarks:

MR. PRESIDENT:—I arise for the purpose of seconding the resolutions, but feel incompetent to add anything to what has been so eloquently said by the Senator from Des Moines (Mr. Beardsley), or that can give new lustre to his name, fame, and memory of the

departed Senator. It was my good fortune to be intimately acquainted with General Matthies. I met him first in the military rendezvous at Burlington—our temporary resting place on the way to the front—on that memorable Sabbath—when the tidings of the reverses from Manassas fell like a funeral pall over the land. We parted there, going to the different parts of the field of conflict—and I met him no more until we took our seats together on this floor after the cloud of war had rolled away—and the battle-scarred soldier had returned to home and peace, and bruised arms were hung up for monuments. Brave and devoted to his adopted country in war, he was no less true and unswerving in her counsels of peace in the maintenance of the principles in the defence of which he drew his sword. His enthusiastic nature—his love of justice—his kindness of heart—and his unchanging friendship, won for him a place in the hearts and affections of all.

A stranger to the narrow confines of party ties, or the prejudices of nationality, his broad charity and universal philanthropy took in all mankind—and his sympathies were with the struggling and oppressed of all lands.

Well might we expect, Mr. President, a man born under the folds of our starry flag; who has been cradled in this land of liberty, whose whole life has been blessed with our country's glorious freedom, who has reaped the benefits of our enlightened land—to spring to her defense, and peril all for the Government that has given him all. But the man whose childhood's memories, and recollections of early manhood, are intertwined with a dear old Fatherland, on another continent, a land that claimed its first allegiance and love, and of which he could ever say—"If I forget thee let my right hand forget her cunning." Such a man we could scarce expect would be among the first to answer to the first call for 75,000 men, and then again when the Government called for "300,000 more."

But recognizing the duty of every citizen, whether naturalized or "to the manner born," to aid the preservation of the Government that guaranteed to him the blessings of freedom, holding dearer to his heart than life the principles in liberty in which this Union is cemented, and hating the system of slavery that gave birth to the rebellion, he sprang with alacrity to the front, and through decimating campaigns and bloody battles, proved the sincerity of his love for the land of his adoption, and never abandoned his part until the seed of disease and death implanted in his system, compelled him to turn his back to the field and his face toward home.

We to-day pay tribute to the worth and excellence of one more of God's noblemen, laid on the altar of our common country—another soldier gone to his long home. It was not his lot to go down amid the roar of battle and the crash of arms on the "field of glory"—but after the conflict had passed and victory

perched on our banners, and peace reigned over all the land. In the quiet of his home, surrounded by friends, he breathed his last, and his soul returned to God who gave it.

" On fame's eternal camping ground
His silent tent is spread,
While glory marks, with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead."

An occasion of this kind brings vividly to our recollections the price we paid for the preservation of our country—the hecatombs of the best and bravest we offered that the nation might live. If the Peri waiting at the gate of Paradise plead the last drop of blood shed in the defense of his country, and on its merits hoped to enter, what might we not ask or expect with every hill and valley from the sad plains of Manassas—from the swamps of the Chickahominy, and the graveyards on the James—by terrible Antietam and glorious Gettysburg—over the red heights of the Cumberland and the battle-ment crowned hills of the Tennessee to the occidental fields of victorious strife, are red with fresh baptismal blood, and the air still hangs heavy with the last and latest orisons of the unreturning brave.

If the young men of our land could be taught to appreciate the blessings of our free institutions—if they but cherish that love of country and devotion to principles which was implanted in the heart of Gen. Mathies, we would then have no fear of her in the future, when all could exclaim—

" Land of the forest and the rock,
Of dark blue lake and mighty river,
Of mountains reared aloft to mock
The storm's career and lightning shock—
My own green land forever!"

What more should I say! Let us hope the laurel that decked the brow of Gen. Mathies in life has but changed to a wreath fadeless beauty "in the land o' the leal."

Senator Hamilton said:

MR. PRESIDENT—It can hardly be expected that I should add much to what has been so well and ably said. Yet I feel it my duty which I cheerfully perform to pay a brief tribute of respect to the deceased.

Though my first acquaintance with Gen. Matthies was made several years since, yet I did not become so intimately acquainted with him as to learn the real character of the man until I met him in the session of this body two years ago. During that session we were, most agreeably to myself, thrown much together. We met daily around the same table, and frequently whiled away the long winter evenings around the same fireside, for we resided under the same roof. I very naturally learned to love the man and to seek

his society. His genial nature could not easily be resisted, and exerted a strong influence upon all who came into his presence. He was emphatically a social man in his disposition, and enjoyed with infinite zest free and frequent intercourse with his friends. I think of all the acquaintances I ever made there were few if any more companionable than he was. He was large-hearted, generous and sympathetic, studied assiduously to please, and never by word or deed, sought to injure the feelings of any one, nor to say anything in disparagement of another, unless indeed his sense of duty, sustained by his strong probity of character and love of the right, seemed to demand it. As an officer of the late war, none were braver, and no one was more devoted to his command and his country. His ripe experience in the profession of arms acquired in his Fatherland before his emigration to this country made him very efficient, and contributed largely to the success of the Union forces on many hotly contested fields. I venture the opinion which I should by no means like to make general in this favored State of ours, that under no circumstances could he have been induced to espouse the cause of the rebellion, not even though he had upon his emigration here taken up his abode upon Southern soil, and consequently been bound to the South by all the endearing ties which cluster around one's home. I speak thus because of my personal knowledge of his innate love of freedom and hatred of the oppressor. His cast of mind was such, his philanthropy so unbounded, that he never appeared to better advantage, nor was never more aroused than when pleading the cause of humanity everywhere.

Gen. Matthies exercised a strong influence over the German population of the State. Especially was this so in the First Congressional District and in the counties contiguous thereto. He was highly esteemed I know in my county by them. They regarded him as a man of honesty and integrity, and hence placed most implicit confidence in him, feeling that he would not lead them astray.

As a Senator, he was watchful and prudent, diligently guarding the interests of his constituents; and while he was affable, kind, and through his extreme courtesy very obliging, he was still firm in his convictions and stood earnestly by the right as he saw it. His adopted State and county owed him much which would doubtless have been in a measure paid, at least had he not been cut down in the prime of his life. As I honored and respected him while he lived, so now that he is gone I gladly bear this brief testimony to his high character as a friend, a citizen, a legislator, and a soldier.

By unanimous consent Senator Dixon offered the following:

WHEREAS, Hon John R. Needham, a member of this body from the county of Mahaska, a man honored by his fellow citizens by his election to the office of Senator in 1852, Lieutenant-Governor in

to the Senate, and won, as it deserved to win, unqualified and universal respect and esteem.

And who of us, enjoying the honor to sit with him here in legislative council, in the last year of his life, will ever forget his firm adherence to constitutional authority, and to all that was good and true, and for the public weal in legislative enactment? Or ever forget the quiet words of practical wisdom that fell from his thin, pale lips, prompted by that true heart, and issuing from that experienced and cultivated mind.

The other, General Matthies, although an adopted citizen, was earliest found among those "who went at their country's call." If he had the honor to command the brave and resolute ranks of Iowa soldiery, look and ever find him in the front of those brave and resolute ranks, in the battles of our country. If Iowa boasts her regiments second to none in the Nation's defense, look where you will among her living warriors, or fallen heroes, and where among them all shall we find a better or braver soldier than he. Fortunate man! By how much more fortunate than many of his gallant men! He lived through dangers unnumbered and untold, to see victory perch upon the standard of his loved and adopted country. He lived, to see the darkness of treason folded bank, and to behold the dawn, aye, the glorious daylight of renewed Peace. He lived to know that the sacred remains of those who paid the highest tribute that patriot can pay to his country—their heart's blood—that the sacred remains of those should repose in a redeemed soil which never more should be pressed by the foot of a slave. He lived, to accept honorable office, to which a grateful people elected him. Yet, he lived not to complete the term of civil office for which he had been chosen. While he lived, he had friends here, and elsewhere—only friends—friends all. Who that knew him, did not esteem and love General Matthies?

Yes, our friends and associates have been called from earnest labor, and the public station of honor and responsibility, to the dark chambers of death. They have gone, but not into forgetfulness, for the record of their wise counsels are a part of the history of free, happy, prosperous Iowa; and the earnest devotion of the one, and the heroic action of the other, have helped to save the life of an imperilled Republic. No, not to forgetfulness, for their cherished memory remains with the living, and will remain.

I hope the resolutions will be adopted by the Senate, standing, in token of respect; and in silence, as those voices which so recently mingled with our own within these walls, are now hushed in the stillness of the tomb.

Senator Fairall addressed the Senate as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—The occasion of the hour reminds us that in the battlefield of life, the captains of the host, as well as the footmen, must fall before the shaft of the insatiate archer—death. His ruthless hand strips the laurel alike from the brow of the warrior and

the civilian. The monarch and the peasant, the legislator and the governed, the strong and the weak, must all obey that dread summons to fall into the line of that innumerable caravan which leads to the silent halls of death.

In the midst of the exciting labor of life it is well to pause and contemplate those emblems of mortality surrounding us on all sides. The fading violet of early spring, the murmurs of the rivulet as they become less musical by the evaporation of midsummer, the falling leaf of autumn and icy breath of winter, chilling the heart of animated nature—all teach us that life is but a vapor, that our stay here is but temporary, and that we, too, must soon wrap the drapery of the couch about us and lie down in the sleep which has no awakening.

Such were the thoughts that possessed me when a few minutes before the introduction of the resolution, I was informed that the morning hour would be devoted to paying tributes of respect to the memory of the lamented Needham and the gallant Matthies.

Eight years ago, when I was honored by a generous constituency with a seat in the House of Representatives, it was my fortune to first meet the Lieutenant-Governor, and to form an acquaintance with him by me highly prized. On my appearance on this floor, two years ago, I found him here at his post, quietly but ably representing a people who ever loved to honor him. As a presiding officer he was just, efficient, dignified and courteous; as a legislator, able, industrious and faithful; as a citizen useful; as a neighbor, kind, and as a friend true. Now that he has left us, we feel like repeating the words of a favorite American poet:

“Green be the turf above thee,
Friend of my better days:
None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but to praise.”

The late Senator from Des Moines, it was not my fortune to have met until on this floor at the opening of the Twelfth General Assembly. By reputation I knew him well, long before that. His fame was incorporated with the glory and bravery of our citizen soldiery in the late conflict for the preservation of the inheritance bequeathed us by a noble ancestry.

As a legislator, he was broad and charitable in his views, faithful to his constituents, and true to the trusts confided to his care.

It was on the tented field where his talents shone brightest. In the dark hour of our nation's peril, when the ungrateful sons of a generous country sought to tear down the fabric of our fathers, none were more ready to stay the tide of rebellion than this adopted son of the Republic. His indomitable bravery, heroic devotion and thorough knowledge of military science, early marked him as one competent to lead, and worthy to command where the danger was greatest and peril most imminent.

But after the able eulogies by the distinguished Senators who have preceded me, I feel incompetent to add anything to the interest of the occasion, or to the memory of the deceased. Of him it may be truly said :

“Thou art Freedom's now, and Fame's;
One of the few the immortal names
That were not born to die.”

Senator Newell addressed the Senate as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT:—My acquaintance with General Matthies dated back only to the commencement of the session of the Twelfth General Assembly, although long before this I was familiar with his heroic deeds, his valiant and intrepid conduct on the theatre of our late war. A foreigner by birth, he was educated thoroughly in the school of the soldier. There are others who will speak of the glory which he won on the bloody field of battle. It is my purpose only to advert to those honest, manly traits which he exhibited as a legislator. Actuated always by the purest of motives, his vote was cast on all occasions in accordance with the dictations of an honest heart. I remember on one occasion, during the session of the Twelfth General Assembly, he called me to his seat to consult in relation to a measure then pending, in which we had a mutual interest. After having carefully canvassed the prospects of the bill, he said to me, in the most earnest and emphatic manner, “Whatever may be its fate, we will not compromise our honor as Senators, our dignity as men, by entangling these measures with others which might give it strength; but let it rise or fall on its merits.” Such, sir, I apprehend was the keen sense of his honor, his manly purpose, that he could not stoop to the commission of an act which would in any way cast a reflection upon his character. Socially, (like the nation of which he was a bright representative) he had few equals. Courteous, kind, ever mindful of the sensitive nature of those with whom he was thrown in contact, by no ungentlemanly remark would he wound the feelings of the most humble. To him it is the last of earth. As a soldier, he won a national reputation. As a legislator, the respect and confidence of his associates. As a man, his social and affable character was worthy of our imitation. Senator, patriot, soldier, rest in peace !

Senator Rice made the following remarks :

MR. PRESIDENT:—I cannot afford to let an occasion of this kind pass without adding my testimony to that which has already been given by the Senator from Des Moines to Charles L. Matthies. I had the good fortune to be well acquainted with him while Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fifth Iowa Infantry. I held a subordinate position under him while he was acting in that capacity. He was well beloved by all the soldiers of his regiment, and respected by all of his officers. I am certain that all of the officers and soldiers of the Fifth Iowa Infantry will respond to the sentiments so well uttered

by Senator Beardsley in his eulogy on the late Gen. Matthies. I am only sorry that I am not able to say all I feel on this occasion.

Senator Wolf rose and said :

MR. PRESIDENT—As my constituency includes that small remnant of Company A, of the Fifth Iowa, yet surviving the sanguinary conflicts to which they were led by the brave and departed General, I feel that I must endorse the encomiums pronounced upon his memory by the Senator from Des Moines. Inspired by his example, and the love of the cause which he so devoutly cherished, they, with their regiment, formed the keystone of victory at Luka, by returning and sustaining without flinching the concentrated fire of the enemy, which made sad havoc in their heroic ranks. I am unable to add anything to that eulogium, and could not take one word from it. He has gone to mingle with those of his command who were swept down by the ruthless hand of treason, and whose remains now occupy silent dwelling places on many a field secured to freedom by their struggles, hallowed by their heroism and sanctified by their burial. He will rejoice with them over other glorious services. Let the memory of his actions and fidelity of his character improve us all. If I were even to use the utmost thought and preparation, no word of mine could add anything to the lustre of his fame. No word uttered by any man can detract therefrom.

Concerning the resolution in memory of the lamented Senator Needham, I also feel the utmost futility of frail human language. I have, therefore, since the introduction of the latter resolution, tried to embody what I have to say in one sentence, every word of which is more than true.

The unswerving fidelity and high sense of moral responsibility which characterized the public life of the departed Senator; the heartfelt cordiality, the unbounded sympathy and affection, and exemplary social character, which made him a confidante and favorite in private life, together with the quiet patience with which he long viewed the certain approach of death, and the smiling confidence with which he walked into the inevitable river, furnish an ever fresh and profitable page in the great book of human life, to which his acquaintances will delight often to refer.

Senator Bulis spoke as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT—After the eloquent eulogies that have been pronounced here this morning, it may appear like presumption in me to attempt any remarks, but the intimate relations which I sustained to Senator Needham during the session of 1868, forbid that I should permit this occasion to pass without paying my tribute of respect, slight though it may be, to one honored and beloved by all with whom he was associated. My acquaintance with the Hon. John R. Needham began with the opening of the last session of the General Assembly—we occupying the same desk, and he then occupying the chair which I now fill.