

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

1861, and again a Senator in 1867—all of which positions he filled with signal credit to himself, and substantial benefit to the people whom he represented, has been removed by death during his term of service; therefore,

*Resolved by the Senate,* That it hereby expresses its sense of the public loss—its sorrow at the death of one of its most honored and trusted members—and its sympathy with those more immediately bereaved, by ordering this preamble and resolution to be spread upon the journal, and a copy thereof engrossed and sent to the family of the deceased.

MR. PRESIDENT—I feel conscious, indeed, that a mantle of the lamented Needham has fallen one quite too humble, and that at best I can but imitate and commend his virtues. After an acquaintance of twelve years, I can truly say, it has been my fortune to know but few such men. Affable and easy in his address, mild and unassuming in his manners, conscientious in everything he did and said, with a heart as tender as that of a child, to know him was but to love and respect. Honesty was his policy; but policy was not his honesty. To those of you who knew him there is nothing strange that he occupied so high a place in the affections and confidence of the people of his county and State. His constituents never had any fears about their interests while entrusted to his care.

Senator Needham was a moral hero—he overcame evil with good. The pathway of life he strewed with those jewels that do most adorn the human heart; he was God's noblest work—an honest man. Nothing I could say would add to the lustre of his fame or the endearment of his memory. His monuments are planted deeply in the hearts of those who knew him.

Senator Larrabee spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—I second the resolution, and will improve the opportunity to give a brief and feeble expression of my high appreciation of the noble character of our departed brother Senator, John R. Needham. Having observed for many years the character and genius that he showed in guiding and supplying the wants of a young and growing State, I felt that I knew him well when I met him for the first time in this Chamber at the commencement of the last session of this body.

His public character and faithful services demand prominent commendation. Throughout his life, whether public or private, he cherished a deep interest in public affairs, and the common welfare of the human family; and by his practical wisdom and sagacity, the fruit of more than ordinary intellectual endowment, matured thought, and general observation, and by the soundness of his opinions and the comprehensiveness and elevated tone of his politics he exerted at all times a great and most salutary influence upon the sentiment and policy of the community and State, and as a public officer during a period of many years, and in a crisis of affairs which demanded the