

1851, 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

wisdom of the wisest, and the civil virtues of the best, he was distinguished among the most eminent men of the State for careful attention to all the duties of his trust, for moderation, for prudence, for fidelity to the principles of that party connection to which he was attached, for fidelity, still more conspicuous, and still more admirable, to the higher obligations of a thoughtful and enlarged patriotism.

This is the character of Mr. Needham, as recorded by the keen eye and discriminating judgment of public sentiment.

Of his early history I am not well informed, but know that he was most honored and trusted by those who knew him best. His example is worthy of imitation and to his labor and influence are we greatly indebted for the present proud position, and the bright prospective future of our young and thrifty State.

In relation to Senator Matthies, I can only reiterate the sentiments already so ably expressed. His memory will always be cherished by those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and his name should be recorded high on the roll of fame of Iowa's distinguished citizens.

Senator Fellows addressed the Senate as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT—My only acquaintance with Mr. Needham was formed during the last session of the Legislature, while we were both members of this Senate. That acquaintance, though not intimate, was sufficient to convince me of the high moral and generous character of the man, and I now do but simple justice to my feelings by offering a brief, it may be an unworthy, tribute to his memory.

Of his private and domestic virtues, sufficiently indexed as I think by his public life, a lack of personal knowledge can cause no hesitancy in believing all that has already been awarded to him by one of long and intimate acquaintance, and whose words are prompted by those noble impulses of the human heart which link men together by the mysterious ties of personal friendship.

For many years occupying important public position, acting a prominent part and exerting a powerful influence in organizing and building up our public institutions, moulding the character of our municipal Government, and developing the material resources of our noble, vigorous and rapidly growing young State, he established a reputation for honesty, integrity, and devotion to the public interests, that neither the jealousies engendered by disappointed ambition, nor the rancor of partisan strife, in which the actors are too often more zealous for the attainment of power than for the promotion of the public good—has ever succeeded in fastening a stain. Morality, temperance, unbending integrity and personal honor, that so adorn, and by which we estimate personal character, are in no less degree honorable and ornamental when carried into and made the governing principles of public life and political action. Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the correctness of any particular theory of public policy, there is a plane, high above the arena of partisan politics, where the possessors of those public and private

virtues, so well illustrated in the public life of him whose memory we commemorate to-day, may meet, and with a common object in view, concentrate their efforts for its attainment.

He had the moral courage to resist the subtle and debasing influences that always surround the occupants of public institutions, the will to go straight forward in the discharge of his duties as he understood them, the ability to comprehend the true interests of the people, and the heart to labor earnestly for the promotion of those interests. Thoroughly unselfish, he exerted an influence, the power of which was more truly and highly estimated by others than by himself. With a clear and correct apprehension of the true basis of the strength and safety of a government of the people, by the people, his best efforts were directed to the promotion of our educational interests. Recognizing the justice of the claim of the unfortunate for care, education, and support at the expense of the State, our benevolent institutions ever found in him an earnest friend and generous supporter. His public career was alike honorable to himself and beneficial to the State. Many of us here to-day can bear witness to the faithfulness with which he stood at his post of duty during the last session, when his rapidly declining health so clearly indicated that those were the closing labors of his life. Always dignified and courteous, he commanded the respect, and won the confidence and friendship of all. While beneath the soil of his adopted State he rests from his labors, the records of his official acts, and the lasting impress of his moral influence, remain as enduring monuments to his fame.

Senator Donnan spoke as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT—I cannot refrain from adding a few remarks to the just and fitting words which have been already uttered, upon the resolutions offered by the Senator from Des Moines.

Yes, "man is born to die." Already two of those who occupied honored places in this Senate Chamber during the last session, are now no more. We turn aside to-day, from the usual routine of business, to pay a deserved tribute of respect to the cherished memory of those to whom Iowa looks up as to her honored sons, and as to her benefactors; to whom we to-day, and with us, the people of the State, acknowledge the merit and the debt of valuable service.

The one, Governor Needham, although for years past weak and diseased of body, was strong of mind, true of heart, and noble of soul. As an educator of the people, by means of the press, his was a bold and able advocacy of enlightenment for the masses, of honest, liberal government, of freedom and enfranchisement for all, of firmest, immovable faith in, and truest loyalty, to the Republic, throughout its long and terrible night of peril from treason.

As President of the Senate, his equanimity, his unquestioned fairness, his unbiased judgment, his calm and manly bearing, lent dignity

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. Matthias. 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.

By reason of our close proximity we early became very intimate, and in an occasional moment of confidence, (and we all have such moments, sir,) he would relate to me some incident of his life that would give me a far deeper insight into his real character than any public act could possibly do; and it was thus that I came to regard him as one of the most noble characters of this generation. At a time when most men would have chosen to remain at home, surrounded by family and friends; at a time when a disease which he well knew must in a brief period terminate fatally, and which was surely and rapidly bringing him to the grave, he evinced the same indomitable will, the same unconquerable perseverance that had characterized his whole life. Upon one occasion, after assisting him to ascend the stairway leading to this chamber, and while halting a moment at the landing to enable him to recover from his exhaustion, I expressed my surprise that he in his condition, and knowing, as he did, that his time in this world was but short at the longest, should voluntarily deprive himself of all the comforts of home and come up here to resume the duties, the responsibilities and the labors of a legislator. His reply was that "a man had better wear out than rust out; that he abhorred inaction and preferred to die laboring for the extension and perpetuation of the principles of right and justice." This, sir, was the character of the man. At the same time that he was firm in his convictions and unmovable in his position, he freely allowed to all the utmost limit in their views, and was never disposed to assume a superiority of mind or more broad and extended views than were possessed by others. And now, sir, after having paid this tribute to the memory of one whom we honored while living, and whose death we now mourn, let us turn our thoughts inward to our own lives and examine carefully our past actions, that we know whether, in the event of death overtaking us unawares, it could be said of each and all as our honored friend, "An honest man and a Christian has gone to his reward."

Senator Beardsley said:

MR. PRESIDENT:—It was my fortune—my good fortune, as I esteemed it—to be associated in business for six or seven years with Senator Needham, and I can sincerely and heartily endorse everything that has been said in his praise to-day. I summered and wintered with him, met him daily, and knew him as thoroughly perhaps as it is permitted for one man to know another; and I think it may be said of him, as truthfully as of any other man I ever knew, that he was without guile. He was honest, and true, and trustworthy under all circumstances.

I remember an incident of his life, which will illustrate the fine sense of honor that always characterized his public as well as his private life. In the Republican Convention of Mahaska county, called to nominate a candidate for the Constitutional Convention, which was held in 1857, another name beside that of Mr. Needham



was presented. An informal ballot was taken, with the usual understanding that it would require a formal one to nominate. On the informal ballot the other candidate received a majority of the votes cast. A formal ballot was then taken. Mr. Needham receiving a majority, he was duly declared the nominee of the Convention. A few hours after the Convention adjourned, Mr. Needham was so impressed with the thought that there might be a possible doubt as to his fair nomination that he declined it, and another gentleman was taken up and elected. I remember that he told me at the time, that he would rather forego an election to any office, than there should be even a shadow of a doubt as to his fair and honorable nomination.

Mr. Needham possessed talents and acquirements in such a degree that he might have reasonably aspired to any office in the gift of the people of the State, had he been blessed with ordinary health. For fifteen years he battled with disease, and by careful attention to his diet and his habits of life, by his unconquerable will, and his faith in God, prolonged his stay among us several years. As has been justly said of him here to-day, he was honest and true and faithful in discharging the duties of life. He was highly honored by the citizens of his county and of the State, and the memory of his grand and noble life is a precious inheritance to his family, his friends, and to the State which he honored and loved so well.

At 11 o'clock and 45 minutes, Senator Beardsley offered the following:

*Resolved*, That as a further testimonial of respect for the remains of Senators Matthies and Needham, the Senate do now adjourn.

Which was unanimously adopted.

---

SENATE CHAMBER, DES MOINES, IOWA,  
FEBRUARY 1, 1870.

Senate convened at ten o'clock, A. M.

The President in the Chair.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Rice.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

The following message was received from the House.

MR. PRESIDENT—I herewith return Senate File No. 25, A bill for an act to legalize the sale of indemnity swamp lands and scrip in certain counties, the same having passed the House without amendment.