

and public activities of a former senator from my county, whose earthly career was terminated since last we met here.

The first was the gallant Col. Crawford. For eight years preceding his death we occupied adjoining offices. While differing on many questions of policy, our personal relations were always of a most cordial nature. Everything contained in either office was mutually considered as our common property. I visited his bedside a few days before his demise. That parting I shall always cherish as a sacred memory.

Then followed the death of the talented and genteel B. B. Richards, who was known far and wide as the silver-tongued orator from Dubuque. He and I lived in the same block during the last twenty-four years of his life, and I served as a pall bearer at his funeral. His life was one worthy of the emulation of any public spirited and patriotic American.

The third ex-senator to depart during my incumbency of this position was my constant and intimate friend, James H. Shields, the "little giant" of northeastern Iowa, as he was familiarly called. For twenty-two years we occupied adjoining offices, and during all this time the doors between our rooms were never locked. Our relations were always of the most intimate and cordial nature.

And now during the last closing hours of the last public office I ever expect to occupy, I offer the obituary of my boyhood friend out on the farm, where we attended the same old primitive schools, the same church, and will in due course repose in the same churchyard.

And let me now express the hope that when one of my successors shall be called upon to present my obituary, he may feel warranted in commending my record as honestly and sincerely as I have felt justified in doing in regard to the former senators mentioned.

#### ELI C. PERKINS.

MR. PRESIDENT—Your committee appointed to draft resolutions commemorative of the life, character and services of Eli C. Perkins beg leave to submit the following report:

Hon. Eli C. Perkins, a member of the Senate of Iowa in the thirty-sixth general assembly, passed away October 10, 1915. In the death of Senator Perkins, the state of Iowa, Delaware county, and particularly the Delhi community, suffer an irreparable loss. During the many years of his residence and activities he had endeared himself to the community in a relation that is seldom given to a man to acquire. As a lawyer he commanded the utmost confidence, esteem and friendship of the members of the bar; as a citizen he was known as a loyal supporter of every worthy enterprise looking to the advancement of his town or community; and as a philanthropist, no one is capable of summarizing his many acts of benevolence, so quietly and unassumingly were they dispensed.

Eli Perkins was one of God's noblemen. His obsession, if it may be called such, was to do things that would benefit mankind. His legal knowledge was not used as an instrument for the accumulation of a fortune, but rather as a talent loaned to him, and which he must return with a good report and with usury. His benefactions were many, his

chief recompense was in the love and esteem of all who came in touch with him. As a politician he may not have been as astute as most who engage in the game, but his honesty of purpose was so manifest that he was frequently chosen to responsible official positions without opposition worthy of the name. He was a dispenser of clean politics, a promoter of high ideals, clean morals and a true citizenship.

Mr. Perkins was a native of Bethel, Maine, where he was born August 30, 1850, a son of Rev. Charles Perkins. He came to Iowa in his youth, secured his primary education in the public schools of that time and later graduated from Lenox college with the class of 1875. He attended the state university for his law course and after graduation in 1879 located at Delhi for the practice of his profession. He grew in favor and popularity and was elected to the office of county attorney, serving the county ably in that capacity from 1887 until 1893.

When the republicans were casting about for a candidate for the legislature in 1908, Mr. Perkins was at once recognized as the logical candidate and he was put forward without opposition. He served two terms in the House of Representatives and then was promoted by the people to the office of state senator. He took hold of the problems of state with his customary conscientious devotion to every charge laid upon him and was early recognized as one of the substantial, hard-working members of the legislature. In his capacity as senator added responsibilities were laid upon him and he stood at the head of some of the leading committees. There is no question that the arduous duties of the last session, a strenuous one from the political standpoint, were partially responsible for the breakdown in health which resulted in his untimely death. Toward the close of the session he kept steadily at work upon the mass of legislation piled upon his desk, notwithstanding the premonitory warnings that announced a weakened physical condition.

Mr. Perkins was never a shirker, and therefore he was less concerned for his own condition than for the welfare of his district and the state which he was serving. His friends know now that he sacrificed himself upon the altar of duty. He returned from Des Moines with the disease—pernicious anaemia—fastened upon him and his hosts of friends sorrowfully watched the end approaching.

Mr. Perkins was married on September 13, 1882, to Miss Kate Galpin who has been an inspiration and helpmate during the happy years of their married life. There are two daughters, Mrs. Gwendolyn Bentz and Hazel E., who with their mother survive to mourn the loss of a devoted husband and father, and to cherish in memory his ideal character. There is wide sorrow because of the passing, really in the prime of life, of a useful man and at a time when he was planning to accomplish much more for the benefit of humanity.

In due time there will be a marble monument at his grave to commemorate his life, but on the statute books of Iowa, and along the way of his lifework, he has left invisible monuments that will perpetuate his memory with the generations to come.

One of the last accomplishments of his life and a fitting and enduring monument to his memory was the passage by the thirty-sixth general assembly of what will always be known as the Perkins law for the relief and cure of crippled children. Although the law has been in operation less than two years, yet nearly every community in the state can point with pride to the fact that some little child in that community has been relieved of some physical handicap in life's work. This work has become so popular that the thirty-seventh general assembly has endorsed this most important work by making an appropriation for a children's hospital to accommodate the children which are being sent to Iowa City for treatment.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be printed in the journal of the Senate and that the secretary of the Senate be directed to forward an engrossed copy to the family of the deceased.

T. E. TAYLOR,  
G. L. CASWELL,  
BYRON W. NEWBERRY,  
*Committee.*

The resolutions were adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

Senator Taylor, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke as follows:

Senator Perkins was one of God's true noblemen. He was a real commoner. He came up from among the common people, and though he arose to a high position among his fellowmen, one of the greatest things I can say to his memory is that he never lost the common touch. His was the real sympathetic life. Wherever he saw the people, particularly those who were struggling against the troubles of life, his heart went out to them in sympathy. If I had time I could tell of many instances of the way in which he has benefited those in distress. One of the significant things that happened when his death was announced was that the people who had been in trouble and whom he had helped most wept silent tears as they thought of the blessing this good man had been to their lives. The Perkins law was simply the outgrowth of the feeling in his heart to be helpful to others who were unfortunate. He never looked upon any one suffering from a malady or trouble but what his thought was: What can I do to relieve this distress. The Perkins law was simply an outgrowth of his feelings for others and the children's hospital at Iowa City will always be a monument to his memory. I have hoped that the buildings to be erected for which he is so largely responsible might be named Perkins Hospital.

Senator Newberry spoke as follows:

I have known Senator Perkins for many years. He was a fine lawyer. For many years he was county attorney of Delaware county. For four years he served as a representative from his county and for four years was a member of the state Senate. He has left a monument to his memory on the statute books of this state, and the greatest monument