



THOMAS TALBOT.

A Memorial.



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1886.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

THOMAS TALBOT.

THOMAS TALBOT was the son of Charles and Phebe White Talbot, and was born in Cambridge, N. Y., Sept. 7, 1818. His ancestry was English, although his grandfather and others of his family were long settled in Ireland. He was a lineal descendant of John Talbot, the first Earl of Shrewsbury, who distinguished himself by valiant deeds in the days of Henry V. and VI., and who died in battle at Chatillon in 1458, at the age of eighty.

John Talbot owned estates in Ireland and left many descendants there, -- among them, at Templemore, the immediate ancestor of Charles, the father of Thomas.

In 1807 William Talbot, Thomas Talbot's grandfather, came to America with a large family of sons and daughters, who settled in various parts of New York and Canada. William and his son Charles established themselves at Cambridge, N. Y., where they soon became engaged in the manufacture of broadcloth.

Charles Talbot appears to have had ample means for the comfortable support of his family; and that he was an educated man is shown by the fact that he brought with him to America a large library, including Shakspeare in several editions.

William Talbot died in 1817, about one year before the birth of his grandson Thomas.

Charles carried on the business at Cambridge until 1819, when he removed to Danby, Vt., continuing there the manufacture of broadcloth. He seems to have met with reverses, for his sudden death in 1823 left his wife, Phoebe, without means,

and with a family of seven sons and one daughter, Thomas being at that time four years old. Mrs. Talbot was the great granddaughter, on her mother's side, of John Walpole, of North Grove, Queen's County, Ireland, of the Surrey family, and daughter of Joseph White, of Templemore, her family on both sides being Quakers. She was a woman of great energy and good judgment, possessing the sterling qualities which she transmitted to her sons. Up to the death of her husband all her children had been kept at school; but she was now obliged to take her older sons, John and Charles, from the academy, and put them at work. By the greatest effort she kept her other children with her until they had acquired sufficient education to fit them to go out into the world.

In 1825, two years after her husband's death, she removed to Northampton, Mass., with the hope of finding employment for her older sons in the woollen-mills of that

town, and of securing better facilities for the education of the younger children. We now come to the early life of Thomas Talbot. From the slight sketch which precedes, it appears that the energy, ability, and integrity which he displayed in later life were in part an inheritance.

In 1830, at the age of twelve, the necessities of the family compelled his mother to find him employment in the woollen-mill of James Shepherd, and his regular attendance at school ceased at that time.

He was not, however, a boy to be satisfied with such an education as the district schools could afford him, and he added much to it by reading the many good books remaining in his father's library, and such others as he could obtain. By hard work and severe economy he had saved money enough before 1839 to enable him to attend two terms at the Cummington Academy, near Northampton, then under the charge of Rev. Dr. Stockbridge.

This gentleman writes of Mr. Talbot as follows:—

“Among my scholars was a youth of about my own age, who had evidently come to the academy with a sincere desire to make the most of his time and opportunities. He was not ashamed to confess his deficiencies, and I could not fail to take an interest in one so eager to learn all he could in the brief time which he could devote to an education. His studies were what we usually call the common branches,—arithmetic, grammar, and geography, with the usual accompaniments of composition and spelling. Possibly he carried his mathematics as far as algebra and geometry. Though I cannot recall what his studies were, I can say that my young friend was conscientiously faithful in the discharge of his duties. He has grown to manhood without a stain on his character.”

About 1835 Charles Talbot, Thomas Talbot's elder brother, had established a woollen-mill in Williamsburg, Mass., and he employed young Thomas in various capacities, rapidly promoting him until he became a broadcloth

finisher ; but the financial troubles of 1837 ruined the business and scattered the family.

Thomas found employment in the Pontoo-suc Mill at Pittsfield, Mass., and in 1839, after his two terms at Cummington Academy, he followed his brother Charles to Billerica, Mass., — a town with which his life was ever after identified. Billerica was settled in 1650, and up to this time, 1839, had remained one of the quietest of country towns, its people being chiefly farmers. The enterprise of the Talbot brothers has gradually transformed the portion known as North Billerica into a thriving manufacturing village. In 1840 Charles and Thomas formed a partnership under the style of C. P. Talbot & Co., which continued until the death of Charles in 1884.

The first venture of the new firm was to take a lease of an old grist-mill on the banks of the Concord River, and there begin the business of grinding dye-woods ; to which was added, in 1849, the manufacture of

chemicals. They had little capital, small credit, and no influential friends ; but they had courage, skill, habits of industry, and sterling integrity. The business was successful from the start, — so much so that in 1851 the firm was able to purchase the water power of the Middlesex Canal Company in Billerica, the control of which enabled them to enlarge their operations. This investment proving to be a very advantageous one, the brothers increased their business in 1857 by the erection of a new mill for the manufacture of woollen flannels. This business also proved successful, and many additions have since been made to the mill, which have increased its original capacity fourfold, and the number of persons employed to nearly three hundred.

Charles early took up his residence in Lowell ; but Thomas remained to his death a citizen of Billerica, and always took the most active interest in town affairs, and also in the welfare of those whom he employed.

He was a warm supporter of all social, educational, and religious enterprises, and although attending the Unitarian Church, assisted all denominations. He aided the Catholic Society, and in 1870 built at his own expense a fine church edifice and presented it to the Baptist Society, — that denomination having the most representatives among his employés and the people of North Billerica. During his life he was a generous contributor to its yearly expenses, and he left it a legacy sufficient to yield an income equal to his former annual contributions. Mr. Talbot never forgot the almost ceaseless toil required of himself and fellow mill-hands in his early days, and as a manufacturer he was an earnest, liberal, and consistent friend of those he employed. He gave them continuous work in dull times as well as in good, paid them a rate of wages higher than the average, and provided for them comfortable homes at moderate expense.

A library for their use was established at the mill, and he held himself ever ready to meet them with his counsel, and, if need be, with his purse.

In 1848 Mr. Talbot married Mary H. Rogers, of Billerica, who died in 1851.

In 1855 he married Isabella W., daughter of Joel Hayden, of Williamsburg, by whom he had seven children. The widow and four children survive.

Shortly after the purchase of the Middlesex Canal property, a controversy arose which for many years threatened the business enterprise of the firm with ruin. The farmers of Sudbury and neighboring towns, believing that the flooding of their meadows was caused by the dam at Billerica, used every exertion to secure legislation which should compel the Talbots to lower it. The work of defending their rights and proving that the farmers were mistaken, devolved upon Thomas. Previous to this time, in 1851, Mr. Talbot had been elected to the

Legislature, and in 1852 he was a member of the Convention chosen to revise the Constitution; but his real introduction to public life resulted from the acquaintances he made with prominent men from all sections of the State while defending his property at Billerica from hostile legislation. From that time his fellow-citizens did not lose sight of him.

Mr. Hazen, in his *History of Billerica*, says:—

“From 1864 to 1869 he was a member of the Executive Council, and made his mark as a practical and wise counsellor on public matters. In 1872 he was elected Lieutenant-Governor, and was re-elected in 1873. On the death of Senator Sumner in March, 1874, Governor Washburn was elected to the vacancy in the United States Senate, and Mr. Talbot became acting Governor. To the duties of this position he came with broad views and firm convictions, but no partisan or personal narrowness. This was illustrated by his action on two important public measures. The Legislature passed a bill repealing the law prohibiting

the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and great pressure was brought to bear upon the Governor to give the bill his approval. The leaders of the Republican party urged that it would be impolitic to commit the Executive to the prohibitory platform against the action of the Legislature, and would endanger their chances of success at the polls. But Mr. Talbot had always been the foe of the rum traffic, and a prohibitionist on principle before he was Governor, and such motives of policy did not move him. His ringing veto message was the utterance of a straightforward man, and became at once an important contribution to the literature of the temperance cause. On the other hand, when a bill enacting the ten-hour law was presented to him for signature, the manufacturing interests of the State, with which he was so intimately allied, urged and counted confidently upon his veto; and his approval exposed him to an active opposition.”

In the fall of 1874 Mr. Talbot received the almost unanimous nomination of his party for the office of Governor; but the prejudices aroused by his special acts, just

referred to, combined with the general change of sentiment in national politics which cost the Republican party its majority in the national House of Representatives, were strong enough to deprive him of his election by a few votes. In 1875 he declined, though strongly urged, to be a candidate.

In 1878 Mr. Talbot again received the unanimous nomination of the Republican Convention for the office of Governor. The campaign of that year took an unusual and exciting cast, but on a very full vote Mr. Talbot was elected.

His administration commended itself to the popular judgment by its manly and business qualities, and he would without doubt have been renominated and re-elected if he had not early announced that he would not be a candidate.

The duties of Mr. Talbot's business and of his public life, although demanding much time and thought, did not in the least

diminish his interest in his home life, and no husband or father could have been more loving or devoted. Always cheerful and hopeful, looking on the bright side of life, his presence was a very flood of sunshine, delightful to all. No man ever lived a more completely unselfish life. His constant thought was for the happiness and welfare of those who were dear to him, and he was ever planning for their pleasure and profit.

The summer of 1885 had been one of especial happiness and rest to him; for after several years of anxiety caused by the long illness of his brother Charles, and the fear that his own health would not be spared sufficiently long for the accomplishment of his plans, he had in the early spring so arranged all his business affairs that no complications were likely afterwards to arise.

But he was not permitted long to enjoy this sense of aims and hopes fulfilled, of security and repose. On Friday, September 18, while walking from the mill, he was almost

prostrated by a sudden attack of severe pain in the head, and with great difficulty reached his home. The illness proved to be an inflammation of the membranes at the base of the brain. From the first his condition was critical; but there was occasional slight improvement, when the hopes of the anxious ones around him revived. All effort and care, however, were in vain, and after a painful illness of eighteen days he passed away on Tuesday, October 6, at noon.

The funeral services were held at the family residence in North Billerica on the afternoon of Friday, October 9, and were conducted by the Rev. C. C. Hussey, of Billerica, and the Rev. E. A. Horton, of the Second Church, Boston. They were brief and simple, and were opened by Mr. Hussey with selections from the Scriptures and prayer, as follows:—

I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, write, From henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Even so, saith the Spirit; for

they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor pain: for the former things are passed away.

Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Holy Father! be thou blessed both now and evermore; for all that thou doest is good. Thou hast seen fit to take away one who is very dear to us. Give us, we beseech thee, the spirit of filial submission. Enable us to say, It is well, for the Lord hath done it. May we feel that thy will is better than anything we can desire for ourselves,

and may we find comfort in holy and happy thoughts of the unseen world.

O Lord, teach us how to live so as to please thee. May nothing cause us to forget that we are pilgrims and sojourners here, as all our fathers were; and may we set our chief affections on those things which are above.

O Lord God, fill our hearts with gratitude for thy great loving-kindness to us. When thou takest away, we see how much thou hast given. We thank thee for the sweet memory of blessings which are for a season withdrawn from us, and for the many blessings which yet remain, and for hopes which no earthly troubles can overshadow.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, for the assurance of eternal life; for the faith that, when the night of the grave is past, a glorious morning will come, when thou shalt wipe away all tears from our eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. Let this immortal hope sustain us in our bereavement. May we embrace thy promises, and be thankful; may we know that thou art God, and be still.

The quartette from the First Unitarian Church of Lowell sang "Come, ye disconso-

late," one of Mr. Talbot's favorite hymns; after which Mr. Hussey said,—

"How fitting it is that we should thus pause and sit together; how solemn and how sweet the influence that comes over our spirit in these rooms! A visible company here, and another all over the land, remember the hour and join in our prayer. Undoubtedly they help to bear the burden of sorrow that rests upon this family and upon us. This burden is so heavy that we should fall and sink under it but for that grace which is always ready for afflicted hearts. Of what he was in public life, fitting words will be spoken in many places; we come to think what he was here. Everywhere hereabouts there are signs of his nobility of character, his generosity, his deep human sympathy, that looked into the corners of being. I know of no sorrow, no calamity, in this community for which I did not turn to our friend, knowing that he would alleviate it. He sought out those who needed spiritual consolation, those who needed physical aid. A great light dawns upon us. We see the leaves falling around us, but we know that the trees are not dead. We look upon the form

in the casket, but we know that that which we loved is not dead. There is no death ; what seems so is only transition. We will all keep that thought, that dear remembrance, and gather up rays from the light that was ours, and that is ours, to help us carry our burden, to keep our hearts from being borne down by the waves of sorrow. We ask ourselves what was the root of this life, and we find that it was in Christian principle. Early in life he felt he was a steward of the grace of God ; he did not belong to himself ; he belonged to the world, to this town, to this family, to these children for whom he had a watchfulness, a tenderness never dropped. What he did in his home is too sacred for utterance, but it magnifies our joys and our hopes. We will go away thankful for such a life, — a life that came from the Divine Source, was sustained by that Source, and has gone to it again. This is a service of thanksgiving as well as of tears. His way is open to us ; his God is our God ; his religion of character and experience remains to us. He would say to us, Take up your life-cross, be patient, be trustful ; for I am waiting for you to come. I would say one word in behalf of the afflicted family. I know that they are upheld by

the deep consciousness that others are feeling for them. He whom they loved and honored has gone on. So our prayers are answered, — for life for him, for strength and support for his family.”

Mr. Horton then read the following Scripture selections : —

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

We will call upon his name, and he shall lift us up ; we will pray unto him, and he shall bless us.

Though he take away the strong man from among us, yet will he not forsake us in our trouble.

Though we be bowed down with mourning, yet hath the Lord been gracious unto us and blessed us.

The memory of the just is blessed : I have seen the good man in power, and my heart was glad within me when he went out of the gate through the city, when he prepared his seat in the street.

When the ear heard him, then it blessed him, and when the eye saw him, it gave witness to him :

Because he delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him : and he caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

He put on righteousness, and it clothed him : his judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

He was eyes to the blind, and feet was he to the lame.

He was a father to the poor ; and the cause which he knew not, he searched out.

Unto him man gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at his counsel.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright : for the end of that man is peace.

Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.

The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away ; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Mr. Horton said, —

“Scant need is there for me to say anything when minds are busy with thoughts which tongues cannot express, and true and tender things have been so well said ; and yet, reviewing his life, it

is fitting that we should say a word or two concerning that wide sphere in which he was a power. Why was he such a power ? The answer comes out of that better life that shall never die. In him was that serenity which did not seem to be that of the American of to-day. His face was in life as it is now,—clothed with a beautiful placidity. He seemed to say, ‘Let us get on a hill-top and look over the agitating waves until they seem calm.’ This was because he was a man of the people, for whom he was ever giving of his wealth ; he loved to come close to humanity in its workaday phases, and this gave him an insight which he wisely used. Alive with the spirit of progress, he yet held fast to the things that endure. He knew that we could only be made strong by some of the bygone things that the fathers liked. The old ways seemed new ones when blessed by his loyalty and presence. Unselfish he was. No doubt he had ambition ; but it was curbed and tempered and modified so that the good of all might prosper : his unselfishness always pointed to duty. I am here to pay a tribute to the courage of the man. What is wanted to-day is adherence to principle, no matter what comes ; and we can see that adherence all through

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society, Hon. JOHN D. LONG spoke as follows:—

“I am glad to join in paying tribute, not to the memory, for it is not a memory, but to the life, for such a life still lives, of Thomas Talbot. I was at his funeral on Friday last,—a rare October day, the sun shining, the air an inspiration, and the Middlesex landscape rich and beautiful with the glorious coloring of the autumn foliage. He lay in his coffin, white with the pallor of death, but with the same expression on his face,—a blending of kindness and of resolution,—which we have all seen a thousand times. A great company of friends gathered in the room with him to do him honor. The land he was ditching into better farms lay bare to the sun. The great mills which he had built stood idle that day, but were eloquent of industry and happy homes. As was fit, there was in all the scene not one suggestion of sadness, of pain, or of regret. As well might there be grief when the full corn ripens in the ear and is gathered in the joyous harvest. It was the consummation of sixty-seven years of good life,—nearly threescore and ten; mature to poetic

fruitage; a life full rounded out; a life which no spot tarnished, which no regret embittered, which no grievance soured, and in which no shame or weakness pleaded for excuse.

“It is easy to say nothing but good of such a man dead, because there was nothing but good to say of him living. I was associated with him one year in the executive service of the Commonwealth, and yet I know nothing of him that everybody who knew him does not know. For he was not one thing in one place and another in another, but everywhere he was the same,—a man of straightforward purpose, of transparent integrity, of single-minded loyalty to duty, and of courageous conviction. He was a type of a distinct phase of New England career and character. There are a good many good and true men like him, thank God! A poor boy, working in a mill, he became a prosperous manufacturer by honest industry and sagacious brain. An employer of labor, he dignified and helped and raised it,—always one with it. A man of wealth, he was charitable with hand and sympathy. Chief magistrate of a Commonwealth, he gave his energies also to the welfare of the little village in which he lived. Respected and sought by the leaders of Massachu-

setts, his own townsmen loved him and were loved by him. The body of the people, with that instinct which, in the long run, is never deceived, trusted him, whatever their several creeds or politics, and, whether they agreed with his judgment and action or not, meant it when they called him 'Honest Tom Talbot.' There was no nonsense about him. He made no affectation of plain manners, but he had the plainness of true character. He knew his own mind and spoke it. He saw his duty and did it. He had his convictions and was loyal to them. In private life and in public station he aimed straight at the mark of what seemed to him to be right, and did not swerve from it. He went for his own, and for what was his party's or his State's, with all his might. He did not hesitate at shrewd and forceful use of means to an end; but the end was honest, and the means were fair. Charged with official power, he regarded and used it as a trust, and made no loud profession of it. Governor of the Commonwealth, he was for its good every time, and made a mark, lasting in itself and in its precedent and influence, when he put a check to the tendency to excess in expenditure and turned the tide in the direction of retrenchment and reform.

"Governor Talbot was a man of convictions and actions. Not a master of speech or pen, he had what lies back of both, — the soundest common sense. Especially is he entitled to respect as a consistent and unflinching temperance man. Without a trace of fanaticism, he recognized the evils of intemperance and fought it, — no man more illustriously or effectively, or with more self-sacrifice. He was not one of those who spend their energies more in fighting the methods of other equally honest opponents of the evil than in fighting the evil itself, — as is sometimes, unfortunately, the case. Whether by the exercise of the veto power, by joining in organizations for enforcing the law, by practical local efforts, or by the splendid force of his own word, practice, and example, he put the courage of his conviction, the wisdom of his experience, the strength of his citizenship into the cause. All honor to Thomas Talbot for the life he lived, the good work he did, the example he has set and left us."

In a letter to the "Springfield Republican," Mr. FRANK B. SANBORN wrote: —

"The tributes paid to the memory of Thomas Talbot in the journals of all parties are full and

sincere, they present the facts of his life with as much completeness as can be expected in such brief summaries, and always to his honor. This might have been anticipated; for no public man had less reason to dread the closest scrutiny into all the circumstances of his career, which was as honorable to him in its details as in its result. He rose to success in business and in public affairs without trenching on any right or interest of others, and he made use of his well-earned position constantly for the good of others, and with little regard to his own immediate interest, which he postponed again and again, rather than fall short of the high standard of duty which stood naturally before his mind. He accepted and held office as a trust, and incurred ill-will, if at all, by the fidelity with which he discharged every trust to him committed. He knew instinctively the nice limits of propriety in a public office; he rendered to every man his due,—preferring, however, to err on the generous side by estimating men above their value rather than to do them injustice, even in thought. Few men read human nature more clearly or more kindly; his own unselfishness freed his mind from that mist of ambition and self-love which obscures the

judgment of most men; while his shrewd, quiet observation took in the measure of capacity and purpose with a swift certainty that would have startled those around him if it had been uttered as sharply as it was conceived. He brought to the service of the State an experience in men and affairs that none of our later governors have surpassed, and few have equalled; and he directed the course of events with an unobtrusive but seasonable energy that was generally irresistible.

“I have happened to see many wise men, but few wiser than Thomas Talbot; and this led me often to reflect how great a part of wisdom consists in equity. Justice is the great teacher, and few mortals are better instructed than those whom God has endowed with good-nature and added fairness of mind thereto. We read that the laborious youth had little schooling at the desk and the blackboard. If he had needed more he would have had more; but that happy gift of nature which the French call *droiture d'esprit*,—mental directness,—served him instead of many schoolmasters and college professors. A straight line is the shortest distance between two points of knowledge as well as of space; and it was upon these short lines, and

not by rhetorical circuits, that our friend's mind moved. When we have uttered that word 'friend, we have said all, for he was the friendliest of men. None could be more loyal to all that friendship signifies. Those whom he accepted in that relation need not fear that anything short of their own disloyalty could deprive them of this friend. He was the most generous, the least exacting of men; forgiving everything but falsehood, and overlooking even that up to the scriptural limit. Hundreds and thousands in every station of life know how true this has been, their own experience will recall it to them; yet he befriended many who never knew from what source their comfort came, and if anything could have been irksome to him in conferring benefits, it was to be known and thanked. His pathway was that of the stream,—it whirls the shaft of industry, carries the burdens of trade, and spreads verdure along its course; but it never looks back to count up its charities, pressing onward to the ocean whence its waters were drawn."

From notices of Mr. Talbot's death which appeared in the "Boston Journal," the "Boston Daily Advertiser," the "Providence

Journal," and the "Springfield Republican," the following extracts are taken:—

"Ex-Governor Talbot was a conspicuous representative of a class of men who, having availed themselves of the opportunities and the privileges which Massachusetts has presented to young men of energy and brains, have in turn been the benefactors of the Commonwealth. In character, usefulness, influence, and enterprise Governor Talbot may be said to have been a model citizen. His associates in business relied upon his integrity and trusted in his judgment. The men he employed respected him as a fair-minded, considerate, and liberal man. The community which knew him, knew him only as a public-spirited citizen. Whatever enterprise he took hold of prospered, and where he built mills prosperous communities grew up. The school and the church in the town where he lived had a friend. There might be a doubt as to the action of other men, but Thomas Talbot could always be counted on the side of sound morals and of whatever was clean and healthy. He had convictions, and for these he had a reason. Coming to Massachusetts a boy of thirteen, without friends or money, fifty

odd years ago, just as the State was entering upon its career of wonderful development, he became a part of her growth, and his career is one of those the history of which constitutes the history of Massachusetts. He achieved success, not by wild speculation, but by patient and persistent industry. Without the advantages of early education, he became a man of broad intelligence, ripe experience and executive capacity, which led those who knew him to respect his judgment, his party to trust his leadership, his church to ask his advice, and business men to seek his counsel. He was faithful to every trust; and so long had this been a distinguishing trait of his character that confidence in him was as wide as his acquaintance. Massachusetts has honored him, but in turn he has served and honored Massachusetts. His death is a serious loss to Massachusetts, — as great as the death of any one man could be, because few men have been more useful and influential in all honorable directions than has Thomas Talbot. . . .”

“Disappointment did not sour him, nor did success make him haughty. He knew his power, and he knew its limitations. He could resign an

office as cheerfully as he assumed it. He will be missed and mourned in a wide circle, embracing all conditions of life; and especially will the poor and unfortunate feel that they have lost a sincere friend and counsellor.”

“Massachusetts has had many brilliant executives; in Thomas Talbot she had one whose life is a lesson to be read for the instruction and guidance of the youth unaided, save by their own energy and honor.”

“His life shows how honorable and noble may be a political career, though limited to a State; how much a business man of moderate scholastic attainments can achieve for his fellow-citizens; how sound economies and methods and sagacious policies may originate with a plain man of affairs, a woollen manufacturer, and may find in him their readiest agency of execution and application to the practical needs of the people; how such a man, busy though he be, may yet find time to administer with untiring devotion those public humanities which embody the gospel in Christian statecraft, and how the mill-boy may become the strong anchor and reliance of popular government.”

In private letters two friends wrote : —

“I well knew the nobility of his character and the wisdom which he possessed, and I had grown not only to respect him deeply, but to feel what I can only describe as a real affection for him. There was a simplicity, a sweet unselfishness about him which is rare even in the best men. He seemed to live to serve others, and to care little for praise or censure, but to act always rightly. I have seen him worried, fatigued, and tried to the extreme; yet always patient, gentle, courteous, though firm as a rock.”

“His interest in me and my welfare was always, like himself, hearty, sincere, and helpful. The personal relations I for a brief period sustained towards him some eleven years ago are among the happiest experiences and memories of my life, and revealed to me a character which commanded my highest respect and won my love. I prized his good opinion and approval next to that of my own conscience. Such lives as his demonstrate the nobility of a true manhood.”
