

*Jan 22, 1898 Del 10000 to Hon. E. C. Burleigh
H. F. R.*

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MEMORIAL ADDRESS
ON THE
LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES
OF
SETH L. MILLIKEN
(Late a Representative from Maine),
DELIVERED IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
BY
HON. EDWIN C. BURLEIGH,
OF MAINE,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1898.



WASHINGTON.
1898.
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ADDRESS
OF
HON. EDWIN C. BURLEIGH.

EULOGIES ON HON. SETH L. MILLIKEN.

Mr. BURLEIGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the present consideration of the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of HON. SETH L. MILLIKEN, late a Representative from the State of Maine.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant the House, at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings, shall stand adjourned.

L. of C. *Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The question being taken, the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. BURLEIGH. Mr. Speaker, in attempting to give some expression to the affectionate regard entertained for our late friend by the people of the district he so long and so ably represented in this House, I am fully conscious of the inadequacy of mere words, in times of deep bereavement, to voice the sentiments of the heart and speak the language of sorrow.

One who for nearly fifteen years was a familiar figure in this Capitol, whose potent and eloquent voice was often heard within these walls, and whose warm sympathies and generous social qualities endeared him to his associates, irrespective of political affiliations, has passed out through the dark shadows of evening, and entered

That undiscover'd country, from whose bourn
No traveler returns.

It is eminently fitting that these memorial services of national character should be held in his honor, for though ever loyal to his district and his State, Mr. MILLIKEN long ago outgrew their confines. His mind was broad enough to consider what he believed to be the welfare of the whole country, and his sphere of usefulness was not confined to the service of any special interest or section, but embraced, in its comprehensive scope, all interests and all sections.

The career of SETH L. MILLIKEN vividly and forcibly illustrates the possibilities of American citizenship. The honored position he attained in the councils of the nation was due in no degree to the accident of birth or fortuitous circumstances. From the early age of 14 years, when he left his country home to secure an education, with \$3 which his grandmother had given him from her Revolutionary war pension, the only contribution for this purpose he ever had, and walked 40 miles to save stage fare, he was wholly the architect of his own fortunes.

To a youth of less resolute mold and tenacity of purpose the obstacles in his way would have seemed insurmountable; but though his financial resources were meager, he was not without capital. He had inherited a vigorous constitution, and hard work in the open air, amid the rugged hills of his native town, had given him the buoyancy of good health, and taught him habits of industry that he retained through life. When scarcely emerged from childhood he took up the burdens of life without experience in worldly affairs, and with no resources save his own untiring industry. He had his own way to make in the world, and the detailed story of his struggles and his triumphs might well serve as a source of inspiration to the youth of America.

In 1856 Mr. MILLIKEN graduated from Union College, in New York, after having taken a three years' course at what is now Colby University, in his own State. Six weeks later he was elected to the Maine house of representatives, and was returned the following year. Thus in early life he acquired a knowledge of legislative procedure which proved of great assistance and value to him in later years.

In 1858 Mr. MILLIKEN was elected clerk of the supreme judicial court for his native county. While serving in this capacity he

pursued the study of law with Hon. Nehemiah Abbott and Judge Dickerson, of Belfast, two of the most eminent lawyers of Maine, and was admitted to the bar in 1871. He early acquired a wide reputation as a ready and effective political speaker, and his services were in great demand in times of political emergency, both in and out of his own State. Prior to his election to Congress he had traveled nearly 30,000 miles in presenting the principles of his party to popular audiences. The intimate acquaintance he thus secured with public men and measures furnished an excellent equipment for his subsequent duties as a member of this House.

During his long and distinguished service here he was a painstaking and conscientious Representative, thoroughly devoted to the interests of his constituents; and that they fully appreciated his labors in their behalf is evidenced by eight consecutive elections with constantly increasing majorities.

MR. MILLIKEN came of good stock. On the paternal side he was of Scotch descent; his maternal ancestors were the Counts of Perrigaux, who were prominently identified with the early history of France. He thus inherited the best characteristics of two strong races—from his father, a strong will, tenacity of purpose, and marked power of analysis; from his mother, a poetical temperament, innate courtesy, and a ready wit. It is to the combination of these qualities that we may trace his notable success as a public speaker and his happy faculty of making and retaining strong friendships.

During the later years of his life my relations with him were close and intimate, and I had opportunity to know and appreciate those indefinable attributes, that attractive charm of personality, which make up the subtle quality we call magnetism.

He was a gifted and pleasing speaker. With a fine presence he combined a strong, well-modulated voice and grace of diction. He had an extensive vocabulary and spoke with fluency and ease. He possessed the power of clear and cogent statement, and carried his arguments home to his hearers with trenchant force. While he clothed his thoughts, for the most part, in plain, strong words of Anglo-Saxon origin, his broad culture enabled him upon occasion to embellish them with the beauties of classical literature and the graces of poetry.

His manner at all times was courteous and affable, and he was never placed at a disadvantage in public discussion by irritability of temper. He had a keen sense of humor and an apparently inexhaustible fund of anecdote, upon which he could always draw to illustrate his points with happy effect in gaining the good will and holding the attention of his audience. He was quick in repartee and yet one—

Whose wit in the combat, as gentle as bright,
Ne'er carried a heart-stain away on its blade.

Mr. MILLIKEN was a natural scholar. He was impatient, it is true, of the more laborious processes of intellectual acquisition. He apparently had the power of absorbing knowledge. His mind was enriched with stores of information gleaned from a wide and varied reading, especially in lines of historical research, for which he had a strong liking. He had a faculty of mentally classifying the facts he assimilated in their relations to other facts. He was a close observer of events, and his wonderfully retentive memory rendered constantly available for any emergency his stores of information.

All who knew SETH L. MILLIKEN can bear truthful testimony that he was a man of catholic spirit. His sympathies were broad. He loved the society of his fellow-men and was tolerant in all things. There was in his nature no trace of snobbery or affectation. He was always accessible, genial, and loyal. While he was all his life a strong partisan, with a firm belief in the necessity of party organization and discipline as a factor in republican government, he was singularly free from political rancor and never permitted the intensity of his political convictions to affect the amenities of his social relations with men of opposing views. While strongly tenacious of his own opinions and ever ready to champion them upon all proper occasions, he was never lacking in respect for the honest convictions of those who differed with him on questions of public policy.

Few men in public life have ever possessed a finer tact in dealing with others or a more thorough mastery of the art of conciliation. It was not in his nature to treasure resentments. Intensely American in all his views, he blended prudence with patriotism

Accustomed always to look upon the bright side of life, he had an abiding love for his country and profound faith in its future.

He died, as he had lived, in the harness. In the meridian of his powers, and in the unimpaired possession of all his faculties, he was called suddenly from the activities of a busy life, from its duties, its hopes, its aspirations, to

The lone couch of his everlasting sleep.

The sorrow at his untimely death was shared by all classes. The pulpit and the press have united in giving expression to the popular sense of bereavement and in paying eloquent tribute to his memory. I was present at his funeral and followed his body to its last resting place in the beautiful city by the sea, where he lived during so many of the best years of his life, and which had a deep and abiding place in his affections. It was a sad and solemn occasion, the memory of which will always remain with me. The whole city was in mourning. All classes of its people, the rich, the poor, the old, the young, were moved with a common grief. To one and all the death of their distinguished and warm-hearted friend and fellow-citizen had come with the force of a personal loss. Amid such sincere and loyal tributes to the qualities that enshrine men in the hearts of their fellows his mortal remains were laid to rest.

The death change comes.

Death is another life. We bow our heads
At going out, we think, and enter straight
Another golden chamber of the King's
Larger than this we leave, and lovelier.
And then in shadowy glimpses, disconnect,
The story, flower-like, closes thus its leaves.
The will of God is all in all. He makes,
Destroys, remakes, for His own pleasure all.

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