
A BRIEF MEMOIR

OF THE

LIFE AND SERVICES

OF THE LATE

NATHANIEL BRADLEY BAKER,

ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF IOWA,

FROM

JULY 25, 1861, TO SEPTEMBER 13, 1876.

WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF HIS DEATH AND OBSEQUIES.

NATHANIEL BRADLEY BAKER.

There is no Iowa soldier, or friend of the Iowa "boy in blue" but to whom came the news of the death of General N. B. Baker, on that September day, with keen sorrow and mournful regret. No man in Iowa so thoroughly, so unselfishly, and so kindly devoted himself to the interests and the honor of the brave men who carried the banners of the Union and of the State so proudly and victoriously on the field of battle, as General Baker. He was pre-eminently the trusty and trusted friend of the soldier. The high respect that his great qualities of head and heart won for him from all, was an homage honestly and justly his due, nor was it ever withheld.

NATHANIEL BRADLEY BAKER was born in Henniker, Merrimack county, New Hampshire, September 29, 1818. He prepared himself for entering college at the Phillips Academy, at Exeter, New Hampshire, and entered Harvard University in 1835, graduating from that institution—the *alma mater* of a large percentage of the men distinguished in America in all the higher literary and professional walks—in the year 1839, with very creditable standing in his class. After his graduation, young Baker took up the study of law in the office of Ex-President Franklin Pierce, and later in that of Asa Fowler and Charles H. Peaslee. He was admitted to the bar in 1842, in Merrimack county, but did not enter practice at that time.

On the 10th of May, 1840, General Baker was married at Concord, New Hampshire, to Miss Lucretia M. Ten Broeck, by Rev. P. S. Ten Broeck. The union was blessed with seven children, four of whom are yet living.

Having a natural inclination for editorial work, Gen. Baker purchased a half interest in the New Hampshire *Patriot*, of which he became Editor. He brought that paper to the very front rank of able, dignified journalism, being a terse, forcible writer, thoroughly versed in the principles of parties and the heated discussions of that day. In 1845 he sold out his newspaper interests, and accepted the appointment of Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Merrimack Co. In 1850 he was chosen Representative in the New Hampshire Legislature, from the city of Concord, and chosen Speaker of the House. He was re-elected in 1851, and again chosen Speaker—these honors crowning him when he was but thirty-three years of age. The elements of personal popularity that marked him in his later years, were with him naturally, and no man was more popular, or counted more earnest friends than he, among the hills of the Granite State.

In 1854 he received the almost unanimous Democratic nomination for Governor of New Hampshire. He made a splendid fight, and surprised all by being triumphantly elected over two competitors,—the law at that time requiring a majority vote, and not a plurality, to elect. His success was sweeping, and when it is considered that the National Administration of his party had rendered it obnoxious to many within its own ranks, and that the campaign was one of unusual bitterness and storm, his unbounded popularity among the people may be realized.

As Governor of New Hampshire, his administration was successful and marked by his characteristic promptness and "push." At that time—1855—the Know-Nothing Party took its growth, and General Baker's name became mixed up with it in some manner—not of his own doing, however. General Baker was again re-nominated unanimously by the Democratic party for Governor, but the great political revolution that soon swept over the country and over that party, broke over that State, and the whole ticket was defeated,

though General Baker polled a heavy vote above his party strength, and lacked but a few votes of an election. The Know-Nothing taint that had attached unjustly to his name was the matter that defeated him. His term expired in this year—1855—and he went out of office with the honorable mention and approval of all men. In 1856 he took the "Western fever," and removed to Clinton, this State, where he practiced his profession until the fall of 1860. At this time the frightful clouds of disunion and rebellion were hovering close over the Nation, and the future, even to the most hopeful, was dark and cheerless. Gen. Baker was solicited to stand as a candidate for the Iowa Legislature, from Clinton county, and was elected as a Democrat. He took an active interest in all legislative affairs, and was justly accounted as one of the ablest members. While General Baker was a Democrat at that time, he was a patriot with unquestioned faith in the perpetuity of the free institutions of our common country, and with a firm belief in the declaration of President Jackson—"The Union—it *must* and *shall* be preserved,"—he took his stand with thousands of others of his party friends, by the side of those whose lives, and wealth, and honor, and all, were pledged to the maintenance of one flag and one country.

The events of the earlier months of 1861 are fresh in the minds of all. The State was called on for troops; it needed the best executive ability to be found in the State in the Adjutant-General's Office, and on the 25th of July, 1861, Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood appointed General Baker as Adjutant-General of the State of Iowa. His peculiar fitness for the place was soon made manifest, and as the years of the long, bloody war rolled on, his real greatness as an executive officer became grandly apparent, not only to the State, but to the Nation at large. Iowa and Indiana led in the race among Western and Northwestern States, in prompt organization and response to all calls of the Nation for troops, and in the correctness of detail and record,

none surpassed the work of General Baker, if, indeed, any equalled it. The work performed by him, from 1861 to 1866, was enormous, and proved a great tax even upon his wonderful endurance. General Baker was found everywhere that the interests of "his boys" demanded, and with the courage of a lion-hearted man, he carried the tenderness of heart so befitting and blessed of woman.

One of the grandest, lasting monument's of General Baker's work and ability, is the complete record of the Iowa soldiers, at the Arsenal. Here, everything of interest concerning the career of the eighty thousand and more of Iowa soldiers, can readily be found. Over these invaluable records float in silent glory the battle-stained banners carried by the Iowa battalions—the same banners that were borne through the flame of battle on a hundred hotly contested fields!—tattered and torn by shot and shell—but none the less eloquent emblems of the undying patriotism and valor of Iowa's brave and honored sons, whose lives were yielded up in all forms—in the hot brunt of battle, starved in prison hells, mangled by blood hounds, murdered by cowards, or burned out by the poison of slow fevers!

"Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,
Dear as the blood ye gave!
No impious footsteps here shall tread,
The herbage of your grave;
Nor shall your glory be forgot
While Fame her record keeps,
Or Honor paints the hallowed spot,
Where Valor proudly sleeps."

The greatest re-union of Loyal soldiers that has occurred since the grand review in Washington in 1865, occurred at Des Moines August 31, and September 1, 1870. It was intended as a re-union of the Iowa soldiers. It was the scheme of General Baker, aided very largely by Governor Merrill, and a large and influential representation of other Iowa soldiers. Upon General Baker there fell the great burden of labor in detail, and it is needless to add that it was well done. The railroads gave free transportation; the army gathered

at Des Moines numbered at least sixty thousand men; General Sherman, the Secretary of War, and the many Iowa Generals who had given the State distinction, were present, and in all ways the re-union was completely successful. General Baker was deservedly happy over event—another proof of his great executive ability and untiring energy.

In 1872 the Northwestern portion of Iowa was devastated by the visitation of immense swarms of grasshoppers, completely destroying the crops, and bringing a great majority of the settlers to a sad degree of impoverishment and want. With the oncoming of cold weather, the want of the people became generally known, and General Baker at once, and, by common and universal consent, took charge of the relief movement. General Baker made known the wants of "his people," and public confidence in him being thoroughly hearty, his demands were all met, and more than met. To the prompt and efficient labors of General Baker thousands of worthy men, women and children owe very, very much, for he organized the charity that brought to many of them not only the necessaries of life, but saved them from actual starvation. The people of Iowa gave a grand proof of their humanity and charity by their most liberal out-pouring of gifts for the needy, and among the workers, and above all, appeared the organizing, executive mind of General Baker.

General Baker was appointed Adjutant-General, as has been before stated, by Governor Kirkwood, in July, 1861; he was re-appointed in 1862, by the same; again, by Governor William M. Stone, in 1864 and 1866; by Governor Samuel Merrill, in 1868 and 1870; by Governor Cyrus C. Carpenter, in 1872 and 1874; again by Samuel J. Kirkwood, who was for the third time chosen Governor of the State, for 1876, serving the State acceptably and always ably, for over fifteen years, until Death, after long suffering, came and ended an

honorable career.* General Baker died on the morning of September 13, 1876, and it is deemed fitting to this memorial sketch that all concerning his suffering, sickness, death and burial should be incorporated in the records of this office, therefore, he upon whom falls the sad task of preparation cannot do better than to re-produce from the columns of the *Iowa Daily State Register*, of September 14, 1876, the following touching narrative of the sickness and death of General Baker:

THE FATAL TROUBLE.

About two years ago the iron constitution of Gen. Baker—a constitution which, perhaps, was unexcelled in its strength, vitality and elasticity,—began to rack, and debilitation rapidly and all too surely followed. Those who knew the ceaseless activity of the man, his restlessness both of body and mind, his carelessness about overwork and indifference about exposure, always wondered that so great and so constant a strain could be borne by any constitution. But the perfect physical man, when he did begin to weaken, broke rapidly. Disease once effecting an inroad upon him, its ravages were quickly made. A year ago last spring or winter, while in Northwestern Iowa, looking after the grasshopper sufferers, he exposed himself in storm and snow, being out all one day in the rain or sleet, which day's exposure seemed to fasten upon him the fatal results which now have followed. But the lion strength of the General bore it without apparent great injury till last fall, when a cough set in, which from the first had in it the sound of death. This quietly and insidiously wrought upon him through the winter, and when spring had come, the man of such former great strength was worn to a man of weakness—and glorious "Nat Baker," as his friends always called him in their hearts, had little left of him and his pride of strength but his heart; that grew larger to the last, and constantly tenderer. The hot weather added force to his enemy, and left him more in its power, and early in the summer inflammation of the mucous membrane set in. This debilitated him so much that he was obliged to turn from his office duties, how reluctantly everybody knows, to go to Spirit

* General Baker was also appointed and served during all his terms as Inspector, Quartermaster, Tax Master and Commissary General, his accounts at all times being found correct.

Lake, in hope of finding strength. He was there during the hot mid summer months, and although he was among grateful people whose distress he had so recently succored, and who would have done for him anything they could have done, he continued to fail.

He returned home about six weeks ago, and never afterwards left the house. To his former trouble there now seemed to be added a fever of a typhoid-malarial form. Under its additional ravages he declined constantly—and, wasted with fever, and racked with pain, the rest of his life was one prolonged breath of intense suffering. So fast did the disease work that life was now become endurable only under the influence of opiates. About three weeks ago, still more acute pain manifested itself, and after this he lived on opiates, existing in a semi-conscious state, sometimes being unconscious for hours, then at intervals rallying, and assuming his natural vivacity and high spirits, conversing freely with all who were admitted to his presence, and keeping a sustained interest in the news and public matters of the day.

Yet even in such hours of relief, life was a torture. But through it all, the man once so strong, so impulsive always, so impatient of restraint, bore with patience, cheerfulness, and courage, his lot—frequently rising to the point of joviality, in order to cheer up the sinking hearts of those about him. Even pain and torture could not wring complaint from his lips, and although the failing body was on the rack, the intrepid spirit preserved constantly the martiality of its heroism. Those who were about him in these last days, saw revealed in all its beauty the gentle inner nature which had been always the soul and the stay of a character which ever had in it an element of the impetuous and the stormy—saw the sun go down from the spanning sky of pride, valor, strength and majesty, to the peace, the twilight, and the submission of the expiring day.

Some three weeks ago the General's condition became so weak that his physicians restricted the number of visitors to his own family, and to those who watched at his side. This was necessary, as he would become excited and weakened by much talking. It was to him a great regret that he could not see all his friends: so many came and so few could be admitted. It was thought even at that time that he could not possibly long survive, unless the disease should lessen its grasp. But still it wrought on, and although for six weeks his only nourishment was a little milk and beef tea, the

remarkable strength and vigor of the body held out during all this time, simply by its own great power resisting with the most utter tenacity, the severity of a disease which almost any other man would have sunk under in the first fortnight of its ravages.

Last Saturday came on the end,—his sufferings increasing with remorseless violence. The torch was burning to the socket, and on Sunday, Sunday night and all of Monday, death seemed every minute present, but Tuesday was yet to come, and with it still more cruel suffering. In the forenoon of that day the minister, Rev. Mr. Clarke, principal of Seabury School and temporarily the Rector of St. Paul's church, came with the last offices of prayer. The prayer was that of the Episcopal service for the dying. The General was conscious, and made the proper responses, and joined in, although inaudibly, in the Lord's prayer, repeated at the conclusion,—but, before it had been concluded, passed off into unconsciousness. About an hour afterwards he returned to consciousness, and commenced in quite distinct and audible tones to repeat the same prayer. He had repeated about half of the Saviour's words of appealing beauty, when his mind lapsed away, and consciousness never came to him again;—his last conscious words being those that fell, golden above all others next to those of the promise of life to come, from the lips of Him who spake as never man spake. Could the voice of father and husband in its last words live in sweeter echoes, in the ears of wife and children, than in the echo of words so rich in promise and so precious in hope?

In the afternoon of that day, his sufferings grew so terrible every breath being audible all over the house, that hypodermic injections of morphine were given him. After this his breath grew shorter and shorter, till the end—and at 1 o'clock Wednesday morning, death came on, as a sleep. There was not even a struggle preceding dissolution, nor the least evidence of pain. Death had won its victory, but the surrender was made with a smile. Almost immediately there came into the face that perfect peace which is seen on earth only in the face of the dead. The noble head, with its crown of iron gray hair, the classical face, as clearly-cut and as nobly-featured as any ever on Roman bronze, set about with the whiskers which age had spun into silver, showed that Nathaniel B. Baker, had from nearly sixty years of incessant activity lain down in death, and lain down in peace. The form is a mere witness of what the stalwart body was

once. There remains of it scarcely any flesh, simply the frame-work of the man, with the great heart still and silent in its breast, and the face telling, almost triumphantly, of a soul joyfully released. Could all who ever felt the warmth, or shared the bounty, or been kindly held in the shelter and the love, of that stilled heart, come to it now, and lay their hands upon it with their blessings, the world would know, what it little knows now, of numberless deeds of kindness, succor, and help, performed so quietly that only God knew of them to remember them.

Probably no man in the State was more intimately acquainted with the ways and the deeds of the lamented Baker than James S. Clarkson, editor of the *Daily State Register*. As a journalist and as a citizen he had become thoroughly known to the inner-goodness of the deceased, and a warmer tribute of friend to departed friend can scarcely be pronounced. It is re-produced with this memorial as being worthy of the writer and thoroughly so of the deceased,—the preceding description of the General's sickness being also from Mr. Clarkson's pen:

THE GENERAL IN IOWA.

To the sketches that have been written with the freedom always indulged in when writing about the living, we can add but little, except to refer to the multitude of things, noble and good, performed by General Baker in Iowa, and which are as well known to all of our people as they are to us. As the sketch says, the General came to Iowa in 1856. He was soon called upon to hold office, the people recognizing him for his worth. His first offices were held as a Democrat. But in 1861 when he had to choose between party and country, the patriotic soul of General Baker chose instantly—and thereafter he was ardently and prominently allied with the patriot cause and the republican party. His work as Adjutant-General during the war, his organization of the Iowa troops, his care of Iowa soldiers, his matchless records with which he has handed the achievements of Iowa valor and the names of Iowa heroes over to history, his well-earned plaudit, granted by the General Government, the Secretary of War, and the General of the Army, as having been the

most efficient, accurate and painstaking Adjutant-General of all the States, his unflinching devotion to the soldier of the Union and his unwearied care for their interests, his proud record of good deeds as public officer, the unstinted charity of his private hand, his heart of warm sympathy and his hand of quick help and succor to the many thousands stricken by the plague of locust in Iowa, his constant position at the front in every matter of public charity or private generosity in our State for twenty years, his sacrifice of his own fortune, his forgetfulness of his own needs, in his readiness and anxiety to relieve the distress of others—the unselfishness, the great-heartedness, the ruinous generosity of the man, are known to all, and honored by all, while thousands of his acts of kindness and sacrifice stand as good angels about his coffin to-day, not talked of in the speech of men, nor recorded on earth.

Those not intimate with the gentleman, know nothing of his lavish generosity. When he had plenty of money, he gave on every hand, and sought out chances to give. When his fortune was gone he gave of his daily earnings, denying himself, or rather, never thinking of himself. His own family, even, never dreamed of the extent of this. They are learning of it now,—from the people who go with grateful hearts to the house to see their dead friend and to tell of his kindness to them, and from the people, who stop them, at almost every step upon the streets, to tell them with wet cheeks of the protection or help the General had been to them.

There was probably never a man in whose heart children lived more supreme than in General Baker's. Many are the children who have been taken barefooted from the paving stones in Des Moines, into the stores, and clothed and warm shoes put upon them—and General Baker was always the name of the kind man, when they could find it out. Never did an eager child, looking wistfully into Christmas windows, look only to go away with heart emptier still if one Kris Kringle, passing by on hurried step, and yet never too hurried to stop to talk with a child, happened to see her. Boys, in trouble, in want of a friend or a champion, always knew the way to the Arsenal, and who was there. Older people, mothers in poverty and fathers in difficulty, knew of one door which never closed on them denied. And even the unworthy, knowing his unsuspecting heart, often abused its generosity basely.

We could fill pages of the *Register* with actual incidents of the General's private generosity. We refer only to sample ones:

A soldier boy, coming into the *Register* office, on a cold day, was thinly clad. The General had on a fine new overcoat. The boy wore it away, and his hand was going down in his pocket, putting away money, as he went out.

In 1872, as the tide of movers was passing back from Kansas and Nebraska into Iowa, with the long trains of wagons filled with wan faces of women and children, several times have we seen him halt the whole train, and take them, men, women, and children, sometimes sixty or seventy in number, to the Des Moines House for a warm dinner. This was frequently repeated, and was a common thing with the General. The same thing was done last year and the year before, with the trains of refugees from the grasshopper districts.

Poor families, living near the Arsenal, and being under the General's eye, have been literally supported, whole winters through from a purse none too plethoric.

Other samples we know of: Boys furnished money to go off to school, old folks' railroad fare paid to go back to the old home East, poorly clad individuals dressed in whole suits of new clothing, children of indigent parents buried, not in the potter's field, but in lots of their own, and in good coffins, &c., &c. A Dallas county gentleman sitting by us as we write, tells of a case in Minburn, last year. The General was there the day the child of a Dane family in ill circumstances died. It was provided with good clothes, good coffin, and the parents taken to the graveyard in a carriage with it—and all the expense borne by the General.

We mention these things, not to benefit Gen. Baker now, nor to serve the purpose of his eulogy. Benefit cannot reach him, and eulogy can add nothing to him or his fame. But we write them because, as we write of him, the countless noble and good things in his record come trooping up to our mind so forcibly that they fairly crowd their way into this article. Nobody will ever tell all of them.

The news of the death of Gen. Baker will go cruelly throughout the whole length and breadth of Iowa. No man in the State had so wide and so universal a personal acquaintance, and no man in the State had so many personal friends. They were in all classes and societies, and the most devoted ones found among the untitled and

the plain. All the Union soldiers in the State will feel as though brother or father had died. For the tie between him and that class was as devoted as that of blood. They were all his "boys,"—and for them he would have suffered, gone hungry, starved, or even died.

And those who have ever seen the "boys" in the arsenal here, or meeting the General, and fairly embracing him, know how mutual was the love. At the great Iowa Re-union of soldiers in Des Moines in 1870, neither the General of the army, nor the Secretary of War, received the attention that Gen. Baker did—he was the man who was most supremely in their hearts, and whom they cheered and lionized the most. He was as absolutely wrapped up in them. He could not believe any of them could do wrong—and Judge Hatch, then Mayor of Des Moines, will remember how, when a soldier was brought before him for drunkenness, (the only one arrested out of the seventy thousand here,) the General, who had just heard of it, came rushing into the room during the trial, and impulsively took the soldier out of the hands of the astonished court, and carried him away to camp, telling the officers of the law to punish him, if they were going to punish anybody.

To every soldier, and to every home with a soldier in it, or a soldier's vacant chair, this tidings of death will strike hard and sharp. To such and to all who knew him best, this article will be none too warm in its tribute, and none too cordial in its praise. We ask no apology for it. For we feel that the dead is our dead, too; and feel, in the valley of this sorrow, that a heart which made this world warmer for us, now is cold; That the strong hand which so often took our own weaker one in its warm grasp to cheer and strengthen it, is never to thrill our blood again; that the familiar form which has so often glided into a seat by our side in dark days, and in darkest days the oftenest, to say that he was there as a friend, whether to be there, just then, was popular or unpopular, will never come again; that the noble man, with whom we have rejoiced in common triumphs, like men, and with whom, in sorrow and in trouble, we have cried, like women, is now lying between his life and his grave, with our hearts lying open to his knowledge,—all this, in the shadow of this hour, we feel, and God pity us, if in such a time, we do not speak the truth of the unselfish, faithful, noble man, as we knew it. We write not with sharpened inspection of such dead. We would bury him from our hands, faults and all, as tenderly as we

would bury a child of our own home and heart, praying God simply that when we die we shall die as good a man.

HONORS TO THE DEAD.

Immediately upon the receipt of the news of the death of General Baker, His Excellency, Governor Kirkwood, issued the following:

EXECUTIVE ORDER.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNOR ON THE GENERAL'S DEATH.

STATE OF IOWA, EXECUTIVE OFFICE, }
September 13, 1876.

It is with profound sorrow that the Governor announces the death at one o'clock this morning, of Brigadier-General Nathaniel Bradley Baker, Adjutant and Inspector-General of Iowa since the year 1861, and Acting Quartermaster and Paymaster General, and at one time Governor of his native State, New Hampshire. The Governor anticipates the universal regret this event will awaken through the entire State, and even beyond its borders. To his skill, his indomitable energy, and his tireless industry, our State owes not a little of the high reputation her military record has made for her. To the soldiery of Iowa, of whose deeds he was ever proud, and whose history he did so much to preserve, he was especially dear; and so long as that history shall be read will the memory of Iowa's great Adjutant-General be perpetuated. More recently, during seasons of great destitution in the newer parts of our own and adjoining States, the same characteristics that had distinguished his services in the department of arms were of measureless value in securing relief to the impoverished and starving settlers; and the devoted and self-sacrificing labors of the faithful officer in this work will ever constitute one of the brightest pages in the State's annals. The Governor, himself long intimately associated officially with the deceased, feels that the popular estimate of this distinguished man is a just one, and realizes that in his death the State has lost a valuable officer—the public a servant of spotless integrity, and society a useful member.

It is therefore ordered,

1. That proper military honors be rendered the illustrious dead, by the Third Regiment, I. S. M.
2. That, upon Friday, the 15th instant, the day of the funeral, minute guns be fired from noon until sunset.
3. The detachment of artillery attached to the Olmstead Zouaves will report for duty at such time and place as shall be directed by the commanding officer.
4. Lieutenant Colonel Townsend, Third Regiment, I. S. M., is charged with the execution of these orders.
5. The national flag will be displayed at half mast from the various public buildings belonging to the State.

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

HOW THE REMAINS OF THE DEAD GENERAL WERE HONORED AT THE CAPITAL.

We again make use of the columns of the *Daily State Register*, to gather for the use of history, the record of the honors paid to the memory of the deceased. We quote from the issue of September 15, 1876:

ASHES TO ASHES—BURIAL OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL BAKER—THE LARGEST FUNERAL PROCESSION EVER SEEN IN DES MOINES—THE BODY LYING IN STATE IS VISITED BY THOUSANDS—A DAY OF SADNESS IN DES MOINES—EXPRESSIONS OF RESPECT FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE—THE REMAINS LAID AT REST WITH IMPOSING CEREMONIES.

The warm affection of the people of Iowa for General Baker found ample expression Friday in the imposing pageant at his burial. At nine o'clock in the morning the

REMAINS LAY IN STATE,

at the residence on Pleasant street. The porch in front of the house was covered with National flags, similar emblems extending forward so as to form an awning, beneath which the body was placed. It was enclosed in an elegant rose-wood casket, with silver handles and trimmings and lined with white satin. Over it was spread the flag for which the dead General had done so much. Another flag covered the supports upon which the casket rested. Above it was suspended a floral tribute from General Baker's Bible class—the words, "Our Teacher," woven in evergreen and immortelles. Resting on the casket was a cross and crown of tube-roses. On the lid was a plain silver plate, bearing the inscription: "General N. B. Baker. Born September 20, 1818; died September 13, 1876." The remains were guarded by a detachment of the Olmstead State Guards, Third Regiment, Sergeant Carsort, Officer of the Day. It was a loving though sad service, for this regiment, and especially this company, were the children of his military life in whose prosperity General Baker had ever taken the deepest interest.

THE LIFE-LIKE REMAINS

were so natural in appearance that the beholder almost involuntarily watched to see if the breath had indeed left the mortal casket. Save for their emaciation the features were unchanged and the kindly, noble, countenance seemed but in repose. There was no look of death; nature had beneficently spared the face that the sorrowing thousands might bear away the memory of the living rather than of the dead. The body was clothed in a suit of simple black. The left hand grasped a bouquet of flowers.

The throng that viewed the remains continued to arrive and depart from nine in the morning until one o'clock. It was estimated by the guard that not far from ten thousand people called during that time. They embraced all classes of society—rich and poor, titled and unknown, all flocked to see the man they all had loved. Among them were many children, for the young were ever General Baker's especial favorites. The poor had many representatives there, men and women who had been the beneficiaries of his kindness and overflowing charity. There went the Governor who had first named him Adjutant-General of Iowa, with him two Ex-Governors that had continued his commission. There came scores of officers who had known him during the stormy days of war and the soldiers that had benefited by his skill, his carefulness, his patriotism. Living, he was ever alive to their interests; dead, he lived in their memories a grateful recollection. There flocked the widows and children of Iowa soldiers, whose claims were never slighted nor ignored by the Chief that lay before them so still and cold. The remains lay in state until the hour announced for the burial services, and even then many were forced to leave without catching a last glimpse of the features so familiar to all of Iowa.

MINUTE GUNS

were fired during the progress of the procession until its return from the cemetery. Lieutenant Shackelford, of Baker Battery, had charge of the artillery.

THE FUNERAL SERVICES

were commenced at the house, where Rev. Mr. Clarke read some of the prayers of the Episcopal church, the pall bearers and family and

relations only being present. There were present of these latter Mrs. Baker and her two sons, Doctor Edward and little Phil, her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Runnells, Col. F. B. Peabody and wife, of Chicago, the latter Mrs. Baker's sister, and Col. Ten Broeck, of Clinton, her brother. Col. Peabody was General Baker's Aid-de-Camp while he was Governor of New Hampshire, and also his first law partner.

As soon as the simple service at the home were concluded the several military and civic organizations commenced to arrive. First came the Knights Templar and Blue Lodge Masons, then the military and other corps, until the streets leading either way from the residence was crowded to their fullest capacity. After this came thousands of citizens on foot and in carriages.

There were representatives from all the towns and cities in the vicinity of Des Moines—including some from Clinton, Davenport, and other distant places.

THE PALL BEARERS

Were Governor Merrill, Judge Casady, Lieutenant Governor Gue, General Ed Wright, General J. A. Williamson, Hon. George W. Jones, G. M. Hippee, Esq., Col. J. N. Dewey. Temple Commandery, Knights Templar, appeared as escort. Gen. R. V. Ankeny was Marshal of the day, assisted by Messrs. E. R. Mason, John R. Peed, and P. H. Bristow, all mounted. Lt. Col. Townsend, of Newton, Third Regiment Iowa State Guards, was in charge of the military, assisted by the Quartermaster, Lieut. G. M. Walker, and his Adjutant, Lt. M. Mahon. The Fire Department was out in full force, under charge of Chief Engineer Johnson. There was a peculiar fitness in this, for the Des Moines Fire Department dates from the time when General Baker organized it as its chief. Among the organizations was a detachment of the Second Iowa, bearing the flag they so gallantly upheld at Shiloh. Riddled with shot and shell, the old banner as borne yesterday was but a remnant of the silken folds that first floated in the breeze on that eventful day. A scant dozen of the gallant men that then held it aloft remained to again carry it in honor and sadness to the grave of the noble officer that had been so firmly and constantly their friend. The General's Bible class, which he had taught for many years, and by whom he was tenderly loved, were also present in a body. In respect to the dead, the city schools had

been dismissed, and hundreds of school children were in the ranks. The line of march to the church placed the hearse and mourning carriages in the rear of the line, the Knights Templar appearing in escort. Arriving at the church the ranks were opened and faced inward and the body and attendants passed through.

AT THE CHURCH.

The remains were met at the church door by Rev. Mr. Clarke, reading the litany of the Episcopal Church. The casket was placed on supports in front of the chancel, draped with the national colors. The Knights Templar and a portion of the Master Masons were all that could find room within the walls. Meantime the streets on either side of the church were packed with carriages and citizens, and the long line of the procession had scarcely left the residence. At least four thousand people were in line, and thousands more were present as spectators. When the prayers of the church were concluded, the choir sang, "Jesus, Lover of my Soul," with a touching sweetness that brought tears to many eyes. The choir consisted of Mrs. Ira Mitchell, organist, J. P. Sharman, bass, W. P. Guiberson, tenor, Mrs. S. T. Gill, soprano, and Miss Clarke, alto. When the hymn was concluded Rev. Mr. Clarke announced: "The burial service of the Knights Templar will now be rendered by the Commander and Prelate." Eminent Commander Ainsworth formed a guard about the casket, above which their swords were crossed and the Templar ritual observances followed, the exercises at the church being closed by the choir chanting a Templar chant.

The procession to the grave was probably one mile in length, marching in the following order:

Martial bands, with muffled drums.

Third Regiment Iowa State Guards, Lieutenant-Colonel Townsend commanding, as follows:

Olmstead State Guards, Captain E. J. Ullrich.

Jasper State Guards, Captain J. S. Mathews.

Belknap State Guards, Captain Dean.

Sarsfield State Guards, Captain James Murphy.

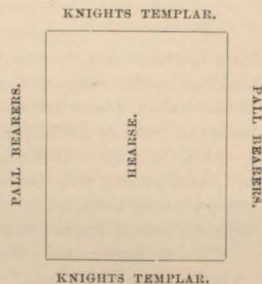
Valley State Guards, Captain J. B. Lawson.

Scandinavian State Guards, Captain S. G. Peterson.

Detachment Second Iowa Infantry.

Des Moines Fire Department.

Hayes and Wheeler Cadets.
 Tilden and Hendricks Cadets.
 Detachment 60th United States Infantry, (colored).
 Capital City Cornet Band, playing dirges.
 Master Masons in regalia.



Mourners in carriages.
 State officers in carriages.
 Members of the Bar in carriages.
 Officers of Federal, State and County Courts in carriages.
 Mayor and Aldermen of Des Moines in carriages.
 General Baker's Bible Class in carriages.
 County officers in carriages.
 Citizens in carriages.
 Citizens on foot.

Arriving at the burial grounds, which had been kept clear by the Sarsfield State Guards, the military and other organizations halted and opened ranks while the hearse and attendants passed through. Following the mourners came the Governor's carriage containing Governor Kirkwood, Ex-Governor Stone, Hon. Ezekiel Clark, and the Governor's Private Secretary. A second carriage conveyed General Ed Wright, Hon. Robert Finkbine, Hon. George W. Jones and E. J. Holmes, Clerk of the Supreme Court. Among the long line of attendants were hundreds of the most distinguished citizens of the State, outside of our own city, and almost all of our citizens of note. Ex-Chief Justices Cole and Miller occupied one carriage.

On the way the band played "Rest for the Brave," and at the grave "Farewell to Earth."

A triple line was formed around the grave, enclosing the mourners, consisting of the Knights Templar, Masons, Military, and other organizations. Outside of these cordons were thousands of citizens dismounted and in carriages. The hearse was draped in the National colors.

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES AT THE GRAVE

consisted first in singing by the choir, "Abide with Me; Fast Falls the Eventide." Portions of the Episcopal and Knights Templar ceremonies were then recited and the services were closed, Rev. Mr. McIlwaine, K. T., placing on the coffin the cross, the Templar emblem, and with the solemn "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust," the body of General N. B. Baker was left to sleep on a beautiful hillside of Woodland Cemetery. Retiring in the same order in which they had marched to the grave, the various organizations opened ranks at Twelfth street to permit the carriages containing the mourners and pall bearers to pass through, presenting arms and drooping colors as they did so.

THE INCIDENTS OF THE DAY

worthy of special notice were many, all showing, as they did, the warm regard in which the dead hero was held. While the body lay in state a little boy came shyly up and laid on the coffin a handful of fresh flowers that he had gathered. They were his own unprompted offering to the memory of one that ever loved children. They were selected with little taste, and the soil of their beds still clung to some of the blossoms, yet they told a story of love and regard that a costlier gift could not have told.

By a wise regulation the standards borne by the Iowa regiments during the war are not permitted to be taken from the Arsenal, yet who could blame the small handful of Second Iowa men if they, by strategy, secured possession of their own tattered flag to be carried to the grave of General Baker. He had wept like a child over the death roll of their regiment; he had been to them a commander in war, a friend in peace. The torn ensign had a fitting place in the march to his tomb.

The colored company that appeared in the line all visited the remains as they lay in state and all left weeping in earnest sorrow. One of the last official acts of the General was to assist them in organizing.

The General's Bible class were affected to tears and could scarcely be tenderly forced away from the casket to make room for others that wished to see the remains.

And so has been laid at rest General Nathaniel Bradley Baker. Wherever sterling patriotism is prized throughout this broad land, his name is revered and honored. Brave men died on Southern battle fields blessing the great heart that was so full of tenderness for them. Gentle children and women will mourn him as a friend, whose generosity and manliness lived only to do good to those about him. The citizens of the city where he lived so long, and which gives him burial, will ever bear him in kindest memory. A man without a stain, an official whose every act was born of probity and justice, a friend whose charity of heart impoverished his purse, and a citizen whose public spirit was ever enlisted in good deeds for his fellows, Gen. Baker fills an honored grave. Sunshine and shadows where he lies will rest on a tomb inclosing a heart that beat ever for the good of others. In history he will fill a place accorded to those who worthily, bravely, honestly filled their stations in life, and who left behind them records of good.

This article should not close without special mention of the skill and carefulness of Gen. Ankeny in conducting and marshaling the large procession. The thousands comprising it were assigned to their places without a jar or disagreement—a circumstance no less pleasant to the family and mourners than it was to the other participants in the ceremonies. During the day, and, in fact, ever since General Baker's death, all the flags in the city have been suspended at half mast.

HONORS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

THE BAR.

The bar of Des Moines held a meeting on the day of the death of General Baker, and the Circuit Court being in session, it adjourned that a meeting of the attorneys might be held. It was called to order by Hon. C. C. Cole, ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa, and Judge M. D. McHenry called to preside, who, on taking the chair, spoke feelingly of the virtues of the deceased. William Connor, Jr., was chosen Secretary; whereupon Hon. Galusha Parsons, Hon. C. C. Cole, and Col. Goode were appointed a committee

on resolutions, who submitted the following, which were adopted by a rising vote:

We have heard with feelings of profound regret, of the death of our friend and professional brother, General Nathaniel B. Baker.

Resolved, 1st. That in his death the members of the bar of Polk county, and of the State, have lost a friend and brother whose many noble qualities and uniformly courteous and manly bearing will be always cherished in grateful remembrance; that the public has lost a faithful and efficient officer, who was true to every trust, and vigilant and zealous in the performance of every duty.

Resolved, 2d. That we tender to the widow and family our sincere sympathies in their affliction.

Resolved, 3d. That these resolutions be presented to the Circuit Court now in session, with the request that they be spread upon its records, and that a copy of them be furnished to the family of the deceased, and that the court adjourn in honor of the memory of the deceased.

Remarks of a warmly eulogistic character were made by Hon. Galusha Parsons, Hon. C. C. Cole, Judge W. W. Williamson, Col. E. J. Goode, Col. C. H. Gatch, Col. G. L. Godfrey, R. G. Orwig, J. B. Bissell, and J. M. Day. Mr. Parsons presented the resolutions to the Court, when re-assembled. His Honor, Judge Mitchell, Circuit Judge, was presiding, and the Court, on receiving the resolutions, made these remarks:

GENTLEMEN OF THE BAR.—I very fully assent to all that has been so well expressed by the resolutions presented by the Committee in regard to our deceased brother. It has been my good fortune to have known, personally, our deceased brother for nearly twenty years. He was a man of great energy, always ready for any good work or kind act. Besides the many qualities possessed by our departed brother, and to which, gentlemen, you have so forcibly alluded, most of all should we remember him for his noble qualities of heart.

He will be remembered not alone by his immediate relatives and personal friends and brethren of the bar, but lovingly and kindly by the widows and the orphans who were in distress or in need of assistance. For the poor, needy, or distressed, of whatever nationality, always found a timely friend in Gen. N. B. Baker—and his charities and kindness exhibited themselves not only in words, but in deeds also. So long as the records of this State shall exist, or so long as there shall be left a descendant of any of the many brave soldiers for whom he so faithfully cared, so long will the memory of our departed brother be warmly and kindly cherished. He was a man with malice toward none and with charity for all—who in the fullness of the goodness of his heart, meant to be a benefactor to his race. May we

all profit by his example, and at the same time bear in mind, that we too, are rapidly hastening to that bourne to which our departed brother has been called.

The Judge then ordered that a copy of the resolutions be spread upon the records, and court adjourned.

THE THIRD INFANTRY.

At a meeting of the Third Regiment Iowa State Guards, held Friday evening, September 14, 1876, the following resolutions were adopted :

WHEREAS, An All-wise God in His Providence has seen fit to remove from our midst our much beloved friend and brother, Brigadier-General Nathaniel B. Baker, a man whom to know was to love and honor for his kind and generous characteristics ; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the death of General Baker, the voluntary militia in the State has lost a staunch and faithful friend, and one who was always ready and willing to assist us in all cases, and at all times.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the family of the deceased in their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That the armories of the different companies be draped in mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the widow of the deceased, and that they be placed upon the records of the Regiment.

DECORAH LIGHT GUARDS.

At a meeting of the Decorah Light Guards, the following resolutions were adopted of learning the death on General N. B. Baker:

WHEREAS, It pleased the will of the Supreme Ruler that General N. B. Baker should be called from life unto death, and believing that we, as soldiers and citizens, should express our feelings of sorrow and regret that he should be taken from our midst ; therefore, be it

Resolved, That in the death of Adjutant-General N. B. Baker, the State of Iowa has suffered an irreparable loss—a loss which is felt by every soldier's heart in the entire state. Others may fill his position, but the great heart of the genial friend is lost to us.

Resolved, That his memory will ever be cherished by us for the grand service he rendered our State in the hour of trial ; for the warm-hearted energy with which he entered into great charities when thousands were starving, as well as for the kindly offices which in other ways have always distinguished him.

Resolved, That we tender to those who mourn the loss of a near relative our most heartfelt sympathy in their affliction.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in our home papers, and a copy forwarded to the family of the deceased.

A. S. BENEDICT,
Secretary,
SEPTEMBER 22, 1876.

G. Q. GARDNER,
Captain Decorah Light Guards.

LANSING SOLDIERS.

At a meeting of old Union Soldiers, the following resolutions were adopted :

WHEREAS, It having pleased the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, to take from among us our noble, generous, faithful, and beloved friend, General N. B. Baker, for years past the efficient Adjutant General of Iowa, a comrad, who, during the dark days of the Rebellion, stood by the soldiery of the State, a true guardian of their interests, and a deep sympathizer with them in all their trials and vicissitudes of camp and field, we who learned to love him deeply, do hereby

Resolve, That we are but doing our duty to the memory of departed worth to extend to his bereaved family our heartfelt condolence and assure them that we mourn with them the untimely death of our dear friend whose memorable deeds of kindness towards his boys won for him their most profound admiration and regard ; that we will so long as memory with us shall continue, cherish the affection for him who has so justly won it, and endeavor to emulate his virtues so that when our lives shall end we may be laid to rest with even a measure of the universal sorrow and sadness expressed for his death.

Resolved, That we forward to his bereaved wife and family a copy of these resolutions with our signatures attached, and at the same time assure them that among the soldiery of Iowa, they will ever have friends who for the sake of him for whom they now weep, will ever have for them the tenderest regards.

Samuel W. Hemenway, Captain Co. B, 27th Iowa Infantry.
J. Rath, Captain Co. F, 27th Iowa Infantry.
E. B. Bascom, Captain Co. K, 5th Iowa Infantry.
George W. Camp, Private Co. G, 1st Cavalry.
H. Spaulding, Private Co. K, 5th Infantry.
T. C. Medary, Private Co. B, 27th Infantry.
T. B. Spurrier, Sergeant Co. B, 14th Infantry.
John Corell, 1st Sergeant Co. B, 27th Infantry.
J. M. Lisher, Private 16th U. S. Infantry.
John D. Cole, 2nd Lieut Co. B, 12th Iowa Infantry.
John S. Mobley, Private Co. B, 6th Iowa Cavalry.
Peter Karberg, Captain 31st U. S. Colored Infantry.
Charles Bergcler, Co. C, 29th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers.
B. F. Mekay, Co. B, 12th Iowa Infantry.

BAKER MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

BAKER MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

It is thought proper here to make brief mention of the proposed tribute to the memory of the late Adjutant-General in the erection of a monument. For this purpose, the following sketch has been prepared by one familiar with the enterprise from its inception:

Immediately after the death of General Baker, the deep and profound affection entertained for the distinguished deceased manifested itself in various forms. The erection of a monument to his memory was naturally among the first measures proposed. As preliminary to the accomplishment of this object, the following call was issued:

"The friends of the late Gen. N. B. Baker are requested to meet at the U. S. Land Office on Tuesday evening, Sept. 19th, at 7 o'clock for the purpose of organizing an association which shall raise the funds for the erection of a suitable monument to his memory."

Signed by the Governor of the State, ex-Governor Merrill, ex-Lieutenant Governor Gue, and numerous other prominent citizens.

At the time mentioned in the call, a large number of persons, assembled at the land-office, and after organizing with ex-Gov. Merrill in the chair, and John C. Parish, Esq., as Secretary, and a general discussion as to the proper methods to be adopted, a committee was appointed to draft articles of association. This committee reported to an adjourned meeting the next evening; and their report, after amendment, was adopted, and the following articles were made the basis of an association, the officers named being subsequently elected:

Articles of Incorporation of the Baker Memorial Association, adopted September, 1876.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the "Baker Memorial Association of Iowa."

ART. 2. This association is formed for the purpose of securing the erection of a monument to the memory of Nathaniel B. Baker, late Adjutant-General of Iowa, and also of making suitable provision for the care of his widow by the creation of a trust-fund, the capital

of which, when no longer needed for this purpose, shall be used in the erection of a monument, at the capital of the State, in honor of the Soldiers of Iowa.

ART. 3. The officers shall consist of a President, fourteen Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and ten Trustees, whose duties shall be those usually incumbent upon such officers. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall also be *ex-officio* members of the Board of Trustees. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the regular annual meetings of the Association, to be held in the city of Des Moines, on the Tuesday next after the second Monday in January, commencing with the year 1878. *Provided*, That the following named persons shall constitute such officers until the first annual meeting aforesaid, viz :

PRESIDENT—Gov. S. J. Kirkwood.

VICE PRESIDENTS—Hon. Caleb Baldwin, Council Bluffs.

Hon. John H. Gear, Burlington.

Col. Peter Ballingall, Ottumwa.

Maj. R. D. Kellogg, Decatur Co.

Hon. Geo. D. Berkins, Sioux City.

Col. P. Gad Bryan, Polk Co.

Ex-Gov. Wm. M. Stone, Knoxville.

D. N. Richardson, Davenport.

Col. John Shane, Vinton.

Col. D. B. Henderson, Dubuque.

Capt. L. L. Ainsworth, Fayette Co.

Maj. Jonathan Hutchison, Ft. Dodge.

Maj. P. H. Conger, Blackhawk Co.

A. Jenkins, Emmet Co.

SECRETARY—Wm. H. Fleming.

TREASURER—Ex-Gov. Samuel Merrill.

TRUSTEES.

Hon. Hiram Price, Davenport.

Col. Jas. VanDeventer, Clinton.

Col. G. L. Godfrey, Des Moines.

Capt. B. R. Sherman, Vinton; P. O. Des Moines.

Hon. John A. Elliott, Des Moines.

J. S. Clarkson, do

Col. R. V. Ankeny, do

Col. S. F. Spofford, do

Hon. B. F. Gue, do

Hon. P. M. Casady, do

ART. 4. A co-operative committee, with delegated powers, to consist of one or more persons in each county in the State, may be appointed by the Board of Trustees to assist in furthering the objects of the Association, under the direction of said Board.

ART. 5. Any person may become a member, and be entitled to vote at all meetings of this Association, upon the payment into the treasury of the sum of one or more dollars.

ART. 6. The Board of Trustees shall have power to adopt by-laws, and to alter or rescind the same, whenever advisable, by two thirds of all the members thereof.

ART. 7. The Board of Trustees shall have power to transact such business, and to adopt such measures and rules as they may deem necessary to carry out successfully the objects of this Association.

ART. 8. All vacancies in office, occurring otherwise than by expiration of term, shall be filled by the Board of Trustees.

ART. 9. The Board of Trustees may appoint an Executive Committee, and delegate thereto such powers as it may deem necessary for the more efficient management of the business of the Association.

ART. 10. These articles may be amended by the Association at any annual meeting, or at a special meeting called, upon thirty days' notice in some newspaper published in Des Moines for the purpose.

ART. 11. The Board of Trustees is authorized to call special meetings of the Association whenever deemed advisable.

The Board of Trustees met at once, and proceeded to business. Among its first acts, was to issue the following touching and eloquent appeal to the people :

"On the morning of the 13th of September, 1876, the telegraph announced to the press and people of Iowa, and the world, that the heart of Gen. Nathaniel B. Baker had ceased its painful throbbings. At once the same agency was returning to his family at Des Moines expressions of condolence; and throughout the State the flags were draped and at half-mast, as a token of the warm affection and reverence entertained by the people who knew and loved the man.

"He has built the most enduring of monuments for himself in the hearts of his neighbors and fellow-citizens—one more desirable than that made of marble, so cold and expressionless. Yet this sympathy and love endure only during the life of the people who are cotemporary. The public acts of the individual pass to the future in the unsympathetic pages of history. The spot of mother earth sacred to friendship and love will, if unmarked, in time be unknown and forgotten. Therefore the duty is ours to mark this spot by enduring granite, that his memory shall not fade entirely from the earth. And in behalf of the people who loved this great, generous soul, and by virtue of authority delegated us by the Baker Memorial Association of Iowa, we appeal to all citizens, regardless of political affinities, sex, color, age, or religion, and especially the "My Boys"—the soldier veterans and the organized militia—of the old hero and patriot. It is but fitting that they should lead off in this last opportunity and show their appreciation of his noble, self-sacrificing nature; that was ever alert, vigilant and prompt in their interests. Contributions should be collected immediately, and sent to the county committee or direct to the Secretary of the Association with the name and postoffice address of each contributor (and if soldiers, their rank and command). A record of names will be kept. If all is accomplished that is outlined, on May Decoration Day, 1877, a monument shall be unveiled to the memory of our hero and friend that will mark his resting-place—a tribute from loving hands.

G. L. GODFREY, Second Iowa Infantry.

P. GAD BRYAN, First Iowa Cavalry.

R. V. ANKENY, Brevet Brigadier-General."

Simultaneously was issued a circular letter, giving instructions as to the mode of making collections for the purpose, and appointing county committees in each county, with authority to name township committees in each township. It was suggested that a concerted and uniform effort be made throughout the State to make a collection in each precinct on the day and at the place of holding the Presidential election.

These efforts met with much less success than had been hoped for. The season was extremely unpropitious for the work. The great Centennial Exhibition was then at the height of its success, and thousands were leaving the State weekly to visit that wonderful aggregation of the world's art and industry. At the same time, the presidential election was pending, and never was the popular feeling more intensely absorbed in that quadrennial struggle than it was in the memorable one of the centennial year. These causes all conspired to defeat the proposed plan, and thus to postpone the accomplishment of the Association's object. Such was the result, the entire amount of cash receipts up to the close of the year being less than \$300.

But the Board determined to continue the effort to raise the amount needed. Here it has had to meet with a formidable and continuous obstacle in the long prevalent financial distress; and it has been with difficulty that contributions could be obtained even from the most willing. Whatever of success the Association has met with, therefore, has been had under most unfavorable auspices. But we are informed that the Board proposes to continue the work, and has an active and experienced agent in the field for the purpose.

It is to be hoped the patriotism and public spirit of our people will not allow this worthy effort to commemorate the life and public worth of one who was so largely instrumental in procuring for her the "weight of glory" the war of the great rebellion brought her, to fail, or even to languish for want of their support.