

George W. Bassett

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Then wake, O giant of steel,
 That sleeps by the yellow sand;
 Arise from thy dreams and feel
 The thrill of a nation's hand!
 Sail, sail to many a main,
 Strange lands and to trackless ways,
 But ever come back again
 New crowned with the victor's bays.

Your colors already we know—
 The colors our hearts adore,
 The sea wave's white and wine's red glow
 And the blue sky bending o'er.
 Sail, sail, O sail,
 But come to us at the last,
 If from the battle, or from the gale,
 With the old flag at the mast.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

GEORGE W. BASSETT who died at Elsinore, California, on the 6th of February, was an old-time resident of Iowa, and for many years a well known and prominent citizen. He was born in Canada West in 1827. His maternal grandfather was a soldier of the American Revolution and a member of Congress during Washington's administration. He lost an arm at the battle of Bennington. Mr. Bassett's parents returned to the United States when he was a child and settled in the West. He entered Wabash College when a young man, earning money by manual labor to pay his way while pursuing his studies. After finishing his course at Wabash, he entered the law school at Cincinnati. After graduating there he came to Des Moines in 1856, and entered the law office of Hon. John A. Kasson. In 1858 he went to Fort Dodge and formed a law partnership with Judge W. N. Meservey which continued until he enlisted in the Union army, in 1861, in a Fort Dodge company, which was attached to the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry. He served in the army of the Potomac as a Lieutenant of his company. He was twice wounded in battle, and so disabled that he was mustered out in 1862. His service as a soldier was performed as every other duty by him, faithfully and conscientiously. Though in poor health, he never complained, and was always ready to do his utmost for the noble cause in which he had enlisted. He returned to Fort Dodge, and in the fall of 1863 was elected to the State Senate, representing the 43rd district which then embraced twenty-eight counties of northwestern Iowa—more than one third of the entire territory of the State. His District extended from the east line of Hancock county west to the Missouri river at Sioux City, and from the south line of Harrison county to Minnesota on the north. He served with marked ability in the Tenth and Eleventh General Assemblies, representing the varied interests of his district to the satisfaction of his widely extended constituency. He was for nearly twenty years general agent for the lease and sale of the lands embraced in the Agricultural College grant to Iowa, and conducted that business successfully, handling more than 200,000 acres to the satisfaction of the State and the College. Several years ago his failing health required a milder climate, and he removed to California, marrying late in life. He leaves a widow and a bright little girl of five. A close friend of Mr. Bassett writes of him: "As student, soldier, public

official or business man, no influence that was not wholesome and beneficial ever came from him. His integrity knew no temptations. His conduct and career were not guided by considerations of passing interest or policy, but by principles of life to which he was true without calculation or debate."

HON. JOHN G. FOOTE, of Burlington, died at his home on the 4th of March, at the age of eighty-two. He was born at Middlebury, Vermont, April 21, 1814. He came to Iowa in 1843, settling at Burlington where he carried on the hardware business for thirty-three years. He was one of the promoters of the Burlington and Missouri River railroad, the first built into that city, and was treasurer of that company for some time. He was a director of the Peoria and Carthage and Burlington railroads, and also a director of the first telegraph line in Burlington. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Burlington, and for many years one of its directors. In 1861 he was elected on the Republican ticket State Senator, serving in the Ninth and Tenth General Assemblies. As a legislator he ranked among the ablest financiers of the Senate, and won the confidence and esteem of its members. In 1872 Mr. Foote was appointed one of the Commissioners to superintend the erection of the new State House, and acted as manager of the finances until the building was completed in 1886. Under his administration \$2,876,300 were expended during the fourteen years in which the Capitol was in progress of erection. It is but justice to say that not a dollar of that large sum was misappropriated, and that the State got full value for every dollar expended. The splendid State House is an enduring monument to the ability and fidelity of the commissioners who erected it. Mr. Foot's associates in Burlington truly say of him: "Receiving and holding the confidence of all men, important trusts were committed to him, always to be administered with intelligence and fidelity. In the city of Burlington he upheld the honor of a merchant, and in the commonwealth of Iowa, as a representative and commissioner, raised the standard of the public service."

THEOPHILE BRUGUIER, who died at Salix, Woodbury county, on the 18th of February, was the first white settler in that part of the State. He was born in France, in 1807. His father was a Captain in the British army. Young Bruguier went to New Brunswick and was employed in a store for a few years. But the spirit of adventure soon took him to the far west, beyond civilization, and among the Santee Sioux Indians. He soon adopted their habits and dress and learned their language. He married two daughters of the great chief War Eagle. It was in 1835 that he first settled near the mouth of the Big Sioux river. At the time of the Santee treaty the government gave him 400 acres of land for each member of his family. At one time he owned 30,000 acres, which he divided among his children. For many years he was largely engaged in trading with the Indians and furnishing supplies to the government for the frontier army and forts in the Indian country. For a generation he was the best known man in Western Iowa.

DR. JOHN NEWMAN, who died in Des Moines on the 27th of January, was one of the oldest ministers in the service of the Methodist church in the State. He was also one of the ablest, and a man who had done much for the upbuilding of that denomination in Iowa and the west. He was a most genial and kindly gentleman of the old school. True

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