THE FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

CRUSADE IN THE HOUSE AGAINST THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Cannon and Grosvenor Seek to Cripple the Commission by Withholding Supplies—A War of Words Between Republican Opponents and Supporters of Sham Reform—Mr. Sherman's Amendment to the Copyright Bill Adopted by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—After some routine business the House to-day went into Committee of the Whole (Mr. Payson of Illinois in the chair) on the Legislative Appropriation bill, and the fight over the clerical force in the Civil Service Commission was resumed.

Mr. McComas (Rep., Md.) offered an amendment making an appropriation for the clerical force in the Civil Service Commission provided for in the current appropriation act.

Mr. Grosvenor (Rep., O.) raised a point of order against the amendment. After a brief debate the point of order was sustained by the Chair, and Mr. Butterworth appealed from the decision. It was sustained—109 to 86.

Mr. Cannon (Rep., Ill.) then moved an amendment providing for a secretary and a stenographer at $1,600 each. This, he said, would comply with the terms of the organic law.

Mr. Butterworth said that his friend from Illinois (Mr. Cannon) knew that these points of order were intended to strangle the Civil Service Commission. He knew perfectly well that the appropriation bill was reducing the force of the Commission one-fourth.

Mr. Grosvenor—It has not reduced it a man.

Mr. Butterworth, continuing, said that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Cannon) in the last House moved to increase the force under the Commissioners with regard to having the work done properly. This was a case of hypocritical masquerading, or else the other was. [Laughter and applause.] To adopt the amendment was a mockery. It was like giving an empty plate to a starving man. [Laughter.] A year ago the gentleman, recognizing the fact that unless there was an increase of force in the Commission the service must be paralyzed, himself made the motion; and now, under the pretence of observing the rules of the House, he struck down the Civil Service Commission. "When the Commission asked for fish, it was given a serpent; when it asked for bread, it was given a stone." This appropriation was worse than a mockery. It was a hypocritical pretence of responding to the promises of the Republican party. When the Tariff bill was before the House and the majority was gleaning through every harvest field, not the reward those who had sown, nor those who had garnered (Democratic applause), his friend was actively concerned about the Republican national platform. But to-day, in the face of his conduct of a year ago, in the face of his own effort to give effect and vitality to the platform of the Republican party, the gentleman proposed to strike out an appropriation which, if he were consistent with himself, he knew was indispensable for the conduct of the service. The House could not fool the people, though it tried it a good many times a week. [Laughter.] He did not know whether the gentleman's constituents had declared, but every national Convention had declared to the people that it was in favor of enforcing the law. Now let members, if they did not want the law, repeal it like men.

Mr. Cannon—You are masquerading under false pretences, and making false accusations against your colleagues.

Mr. Butterworth—I am holding up the gentleman's record before his face, and I propose to hang it up between Orion and Pleiades, so that everybody can read it. [Laughter.]

The general debate on the clause was limited to three hours.

Mr. Cannon, taking the floor, said that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Butterworth) and other gentlemen not satisfied with the law wanted to give the Commission a force of clerks and examiners under the direction, control, and appointment of the Commission, independent of the departments, independent of everybody. In his opinion this was not a wise thing to do, and he felt quite certain it would not be done. The gentleman from Ohio, in his forcible and plastic manner, waxed hot and said that the observance of the law creating the Commission meant to destroy the Commission. Neither the Civil Service Commissioner nor any other Commission had a right to live in the United States unless it drew the breath of life through the organic law of the land. The gentleman then arraigned him (Mr. Cannon) as being opposed to the Commission, and proposed to hang up his record between Orion and Pleiades. The gentleman had not a right to upbraid him with opposition to the Civil Service Commission. He was not in love with the Civil Service law; but he did not wish to embarrass its enforcement. He was willing to try the experiment until it ripened into fruition and success, or until, in the fulness of time, it was demonstrated that it was a delusion. In the interest of the experiment, in the interest of the Civil Service Commission, in the interest of the law, he was in harmony with the point of order raised by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Grosvenor), for the reason that the law was ample and covered all clerical service. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Butterworth) could not terrify him by talking about his inconsistency. He had always met every question as it arose, and had always been ready to take the consequence of his actions.

Mr. Butterworth criticised what he termed the inconsistency of Mr. Cannon, and was about to quote from a speech delivered by Mr. Cannon two years ago when he was interrupted by Mr. Cannon with the exclamation: "I don't know what I said on that occasion, and I don't care." [Laughter.]

Mr. Butterworth, replying, said that there was, of course, a class of men who changed their views. What he had submitted was that the facts and the requirements of the service were not changed. If the gentleman was not concerned because he was not consistent, he (Mr. Butterworth) was sorry for him. The gentleman was right before. He was wrong now. He asserted, in the presence of the American people, that this House should not, while pretending to protect the institutions, be trodden by a blow from behind. If the Republican party had any history of which it might be proud it was that it had met every question squarely and fairly, and this was the first time in his experience in Congress that the Republicans had attempted to destroy one of its babes by withholding the nourishment necessary to sustain life.

Mr. Grosvenor said that it was the misfortune of the present civil service organization that whenever it had been criticised, whenever an honest effort had been made to better its condition and place the law in a position where it could be upheld, the cry went up that the advocates of the reform were spoilsmen. He said that they wanted to abandon the merit system and go back to the spoils system. It was not uncommon to discover that the gentlemen who made this charge occupied a sort of dual position. They were Dr. Jekyll on this floor, but in the departments they were Mr. Hyde. [Laughter.] He was not a spoilsman. He was not opposed to civil service reform as contemplated in the Chicago Convention, and he wanted to rescue that platform from the charlatans that had taken possession of it.

Mr. Springer (Dem., Ill.) inquired whether the gentleman had ever introduced a bill for the reform he contemplated.

Mr. Grosvenor replied that he had not, but bill after bill had been introduced in the House and had gone to the tomb of the Capulets, where it would remain. He was in favor of the principles of civil service reform, but that reform should be raised to the highest possible development. He would not remove clerks because they were Republicans or Democrats. He would have the heads of the departments select the men to go before an examining Board. Was there anything better than that unless (sarcastically) it was that the Commission which was attempting to build itself up on the ruins of the statute laws of the country. He had nothing to say against the Commissioners. He knew but one of them by sight, and he was happy to say he had not seen him very often. [Laughter.]

Mr. Lehlbach (Rep., N. J.) suggested that the Committee of Civil Service Reform had investigated the workings of the Commission, and its report was on the calendar and would be called up as soon as the committee could get the floor.

Mr. Grosvenor—Yes; and when it is called up, Gabriel's trumpet will be an obsolete piece of furniture. [Laughter.]

Mr. Grosvenor, continuing, said that the system, as at present carried on, was an unpopular one. The Government should have a system of examination under the control of heads of departments. He looked forward to the time when the people would crush down this arrogant Commission, and when the principle of civil service reform would find full development.

Mr. Lodge (Rep., Mass.) vigorously defended the Commission. He did not believe that there was an intelligent man in the House or Senate who spoke of the work of distributing patronage as anything but an annoyance, a trouble, and a common source of embarrassment. But some gentlemen thought that it sounded a little better to take ground against civil service reform for fear of being called Miss Nancies and dudes. They wanted to be thought tough and manly. They reminded him of the famous Major Bagstock. "Tough is Joey B——k, tough and devilish sly." [Laughter.] He thought he knew what was the reason for the attack of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Grosvenor) upon the Civil Service Committee. The gentleman had claimed that the Commission was aggressive. It was aggressive; and that was the trouble. It would not be struck without striking back. He then quoted from speeches made by Mr. Grosvenor and from his testimony before the Civil Service Committee. The gentleman from Ohio had said in the House that he wanted to repeal the Civil Service law; before the Committee he had said that he did not want to repeal the law, and had never said so. In a speech the gentleman had said that no one in the classified service had been appointed from his district; the Commission had shown that there were eight persons so appointed. He had denied that one Rufus P. Ritnam was a resident of his district, while a letter from him was found in the office of the Commissioner of the Indian Bureau asking for Putnam's appointment, stating that it was such a resident. The trouble was that the Commission had been aggressive. It had taken hold of the law in earnest. It had administered the law as a non-partisan law, without fear or favor. The great body of the people wanted to see the offices properly filled and administered, and cared very little for the party politics of the men who filled them. The sense of the people could not be blinded with pats of order. They knew what the issue was just as well as the members here did, and they had no sympathy with the attempt to turn back the wheel of progress and of civilization.

Mr. Grosvenor said that he was out of the chamber when the gentleman from Massachusetts made an attack upon him, and he only knew of it by hearsay. He did not intend to allow a personal controversy to tarnish the debate on a greater question. But the gentleman had attacked him, as he wished to read from the record in reply. He had never recommended the appointment of Putnam, and such a statement was utterly and maliciously false, coming first and or second hand. After Putnam had been appointed by the Civil Service Commissioner came to him (Mr. Grosvenor) and told him that he was a resident of his district. Knowing some people in his district by the name of Putnam he believed the statement, and on that statement he wrote to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, asking for the retention of the young man. Having learned by writing to a relative of the young man that Putnam was not a resident of the district, he then stated that no man had been appointed to the classified service from his district. Thereupon came an attack from the Civil Service Commission, and it gave a list of names of eight persons appointed from his district. Seven of these were Democrats, appointed under the Cleveland Administration from the county of Washington, which was not then his district. The other was Putnam. That was the basis on which a civil service reformer attacked the honor and integrity of a member of the House.

Mr. Lodge replied that however he might have failed in defence of the Secretary of the Navy, his observations as to the gentleman from Ohio seemed to have been perfectly successful. He could be seen from the gentleman's admirably tempered. He had not misrepresented the gentleman. He had made no attack upon him. He had read the gentleman's own words from his remarks, his speeches, and his letters. He had made no reference to the gentleman personally. If there was falsehood it was in the gentleman's own statements, for he (Mr. Lodge) had uttered none.

Mr. Grosvenor inquired whether the gentleman had read the letter from Douglass Putnam, stating that Rufus Putnam was not a resident of the district.

Mr. Lodge replied that he had read the gentleman's own statements.

Mr. Grosvenor retorted that there was little difference between the expression of falsehood and the suppression of truth.

Mr. Boatner (Dem., La.) supported the Civil Service law and commended the Commission for its effort to administer the law honestly and effectively.

Mr. McComas (Rep., Md.) also, with much earnestness, upheld the law, and vigorously denounced those members who attempted to destroy the statute in an indirect and underhand way.

Mr. Greenhalge (Rep., Mass.) expressed his admiration for men who had the courage of their convictions, and instanced Grover Cleveland as being courageous in his views in favor of civil service reform and free trade and against the free coinage of silver. If it were true that a majority of the House desired to wipe out the Civil Service law, let them do it out man fashion and take the responsibility.

Mr. Dingley (Rep., Me.) moved to amend Mr. Cannon's amendment by inserting a provision appropriating $36,400 to enable the Commission to execute the provisions of the Civil Service act.

Mr. Cannon called attention to the fact that this would merely be a contingent fund and would not enable the Commission to employ clerks. The amendment was agreed to, and Mr. Cannon's amendment as amended was adopted. The committee then arose and reported the bill to the House.

The first question was on the amendment providing for clerks to members not Chairmen of committees. The amendment was defeated—yeas, 78; nays, 146—and the Speaker, in announcing the result, declared dryly that the committee's amendment was disagreed to by the House. Then the bill was passed.

The President's message announcing the death of Admiral Porter was read and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and then the House adjourned.

Senate Proceedings.

In the Senate the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was reported with amendments and placed on the calendar. Mr. Hale giving notice that he would ask for its consideration to-morrow. The only changes made by the Senate committee were the division of the Central American mission into two missions, with salaries of $10,000 for each Minister, and the increase of the Mexican mission from the second to the first grade, with a corresponding increase in the salary of the Minister from $12,000 to $17,500.

The Senate resumed consideration of the Copyright bill, the pending question being on Mr. Sherman's amendment to strike out the words "lithographs" and to insert the words "subject to the duties provided by law" so that foreign editions of books, &c., which are copyrighted in the United States, may be admitted to this country on payment of the regular tariff duties.

Mr. Platt (Rep., Conn.) said that the friends of copyright would recognize the fact that the passage of the bill was imperiled by the amendment already agreed to, and that further amendment to it would probably defeat its passage at this session. He appealed to the Senate to pass the bill without further amendment. He opposed the Sherman amendment because the theory of the protection of copyright was the exclusive right to vend and the prohibition of importation from foreign countries. That was the only way in which a man's property in the work of his brain could be vindicated.

Mr. Morrill (Rep., Vt.) expressed the opinion that the adoption of Mr. Sherman's amendment would transfer the business of book printing entirely to Germany, where printers were not paid half as much as they were paid in the United States.

Mr. Vance (Dem., N. C.) said that he would rather be the means of placing a cheap book—a book printed and pillé-bed and sold cheap—in the hands of one poor ambitious boy, that would stimulate him to greater exertions, than of placing a million dollars in the pockets of the Harpers by the passage of a copyright bill. The scheme to make a man pay a dollar for a book which he could now get for fifty cents was quite as dishonest as the scheme to appropriate the work of another man's brain. If he could he would repeal the tariff duty on books and would allow all books to come in freely. He had before him to-day's New York Sun, whose editor was a very high authority in matters pertaining to literature, and which contained an article showing that in 1890 there were published in the United States 4,559 books, of which about one-third were works of fiction, one-third were religious and theological, and one-third philosophical, biographical and rhetorical. He observed that Mr. Dana drew a distinction between religion and theology—probably on the principle laid down by a great author "that religion came from God, and theology generally from the other individual. [Laughter.] According to Mr. Dana one-half of the works of fiction were the work of American authors and the other half were the work of foreign authors; and such novels, the article said, could not be stimulated or improved by a copyright law. He supposed that all would agree with Mr. Dana that it was not desirable to increase the number of them.

Mr. Vance declared that the bill, when it was simmered down, would be found to be simply in the interest of American publishers. That was the sum and substance of it. He was opposed to it in principle "out and out."

Mr. Sherman's amendment was then agreed to—yeas, 25; nays, 24—as follows (Democrats in italics):

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Allison, *Bate*, *Berry*, *Carlisle*, *Coke*, *Daniel*, *Jones*, *Gorman*, Hale, *Harris*, *Ingalls*, *Jones of Arkansas*, *McPherson*, Mitchell, *Morgan*, *Pasco*, Pettigrew, *Plumb*, *Pugh*, *Ransom*, *Reagan*, Squire, *Vance*, *Vest*—25.

Nays—Messrs. Blair, Cullom, Davis, Dawes, Dixon, Edmunds, Evarts, Frye, *Gray*, *Hampton*, Hawley, Higgins, Hiscock, Hoar, McMillan, Morrill, Pierce, Platt, Sawyer, Shoup, Stockbridge, *Turpie*, Washburn, Wolcott—24.

The Copyright bill was then laid aside without further action.

The President's message announcing the death of Admiral Porter was then laid before the Senate, and Mr. Chandler (Rep., N. H.) pronounced a eulogy on his life and character. After addresses by Mr. Plumb of Kansas and Mr. Hale of Maine, the Senate adjourned.

LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

Things of Interest Happening In and Out of the Halls of Congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The Copyright bill suffered further mutilation in the Senate by the adoption of the Sherman amendment, which completely subverted the principle on which the bill is based, and is equivalent to an estoppal of the entire copyright enterprise for this session at least. It was brought out clearly in the debate to-day that the bill was a publishers' bill, pure and simple, and that the proposed legislation was as truly "class legislation," or legislative favoritism, as anything that has ever received denunciation as such. The promoters of the bill showed their colors when they passed the word along to oppose the Sherman amendment. This amendment simply sought to place foreign books copyrighted here, but printed abroad, under the regular restrictions of the present tariff law. This would appear sensible, but the publishers said it would completely ruin the bill. In other words it would destroy their interest in it, because it would interfere with the monopoly which they hoped to enjoy under the bill. After the Sherman amendment was adopted the bill was laid aside without further action. It would not be surprising if it were not taken up again in a hurry, as it has been moulded into a shape very distasteful to its originators. They confess here to-night that they now expect the bill to fail. It is an open secret that the authors of the county, the ostensible beneficiaries of the bill, have never taken any real interest in it. It has been pushed solely by the big publishing houses, and it is safe to say that they have not spent their time and money over it just for fun, or even for the sake of advancing the cause of abstract right and justice.

The Senate will insert an amendment to the Post Office Appropriation bill, reviving in a limited degree the franking privileges that were the joy of Congressmen in the years immediately after the war. The amendment provides that hereafter Congressmen shall be permitted to frank all communications to public officers of the Government, but that the privilege shall not be applicable to merchandise. As it now stands Congressmen are compensated for the cost of postage and stationery by an annual appropriation of $125 per capita.

Senator Teller left here to-day for Florida to be gone for two or three weeks. His health is a little better than it was a few weeks ago, but he is badly in need of rest, and his physician, Dr. Sowers, has urged him to go away. His departure is regarded as proof that the Senator has become thoroughly convinced that there is no prospect of silver legislation at this session of Congress, as he would never leave the city while there was the least hope of this subject coming up in the Senate. Mr. Teller will probably not be in the Senate chamber again in this Congress, unless the situation with regard to silver legislation should change unexpectedly, in which event he will make a hasty return to Washington.

The caucus of Republican members of the House, which was to be held to-night, is again off. Monday night next is now named as the date for holding it. The call for the caucus was issued at the request of members principally from the Mississippi valley, who believed that they had found in the plan for the purchase of silver, the product of American mines, a compromise on which nearly all the Republicans could unite. There is now some doubt as to whether the caucus will ever be held. The other object in view in having a caucus was to see if the bill could not be got out of the Coinage Committee. It is understood, however, that an informal understanding has been reached among a majority of the committee by which hearings will cease not later than Wednesday of next week, and a report be made to the House as soon as all the necessary votes on various propositions can be taken in committee.

The House performed a characteristic act to-day by rejecting on a yea and nay vote the amendment providing clerks to Representatives who are not chairmen of committees. This amendment to the Legislative Appropriation bill was adopted by a large majority in Committee of the Whole, but by a viva voce vote. When the bill got into the House and the yeas and nays were ordered on the amendment, then courage forsook them, and they changed their votes. Twice already the Senate adopted an amendment of a similar nature the House has been envious. It was estimated that $196,000 annually would be sufficient to cover the expense, and while all of the members hoped that the amendment would be adopted, there were very few who had the courage to vote for it.

AYER'S BANK TROUBLES.

A Letter From the Absconding Cashier Telling Where the Money Went.

AYER, Mass., Feb. 13.—Missing Cashier Spaulding has been heard from. Last night President Hartwell found the following letter under his door with no postmark:

"Mr. HARTWELL: You are no doubt afraid lest the savings bank's funds have been stolen. Such is not the case so far as I know. If on making such examination as you desire you find deposits not credited on the bank's books, you may rest assured that, if I failed to make the entry, it was a mistake, not done intentionally, and if others have done it I know nothing about it. You will believe me, I think, when I say that I had no idea or desire to rob either bank or any individual, for had I wanted to I could have taken many thousands of dollars from the savings bank as well as individuals. The checks I endorsed belonged to the cash. They laid on the office after the money was put away and I put them in my pocket."

This statement by Treasurer Spaulding as to the condition of the savings bank is verified by the report of the Commissioners, who this morning say that no inaccuracies had been found in the accounts of that institution as yet.

The checks referred to are evidently those of the Ayer National Bank, which was robbed of $10,000 for each Minister, and the increase of the Mexican mission from the second to the first grade, with a corresponding increase in the salary of the Minister from $12,000 to $17,500.

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DEATH OF ADMIRAL PORTER.

THE END CAME SUDDENLY, BUT WAS CALM AND PEACEFUL.

President Harrison Notifies Congress of the Death and Secretary Tracy Announces it to the Navy in General Orders—Admiral Porter's Brilliant Career in the Navy—Sixty Years of His Life Spent in the Service of His Country—He Selected His Last Resting Place in Arlington Cemetery—A Pathetic Incident of Gen. Sherman's Last Visit to the Admiral.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Admiral David D. Porter died suddenly at 8:15 this morning at his residence, 1,714 H street. Death resulted from fatty degeneration of the heart, which disease asserted itself at Newport last summer, when, contrary to the persistent advice of his physician, he overtaxed his strength by taking violent exercise, and was stricken down with a complication of diseases, including congestion of the lungs and dropsy. As soon as he could be moved with safety he was brought to his home in Washington, and all means known to science and medicine were resorted to for his benefit. Despite them, however, there were slight but unmistakable symptoms of approaching dissolution. Mental disturbances were added to other troubles, and the patient failed to realize the seriousness of his condition. The family were made aware weeks ago that his death was only a question of a short time, and that the efforts of his physicians were directed solely to a postponement of the inevitable, and to make his last hours as comfortable and as free from pain as possible. Medical Director Philip S. Wales of the navy, has been his attending physician for about fifteen years, and during the last six months has been at his bedside for two or three hours out of every twenty-four. He said this morning that Admiral Porter suffered from strangulation of the bowels twelve years ago, and the malady had a weakening effect on his system, but it was not until seven years later that the disease which carried him off first manifested itself.

ADMIRAL DAVID D. PORTER.

The Admiral's condition has been such for the past five years that he has been unable to transact much public business. He was retained on the active list of the navy, however, and the lightest and least responsible kinds of duties were given him. The department authorities have shown him neanwhile scrupulous honor and respect, and treated all his official utterances with due deference. His death this morning was calm and peaceful. It came almost entirely without warning. When Dr. Wales left him at 11 o'clock last night his condition was about the same as it had been for several weeks past, and there were no indications that medical services would be needed before the time for the Doctor's regular visit this morning at about 9 o'clock. The nature of the Admiral's death made it extremely dangerous for him to lie on his back, so that he was accustomed to rest sitting up on a large sofa, with his back and his head supported by pillows. Nourishment was administered every hour, and the Admiral was awake at 6:45 this morning and took his nourishment as usual. He then dozed off into a light sleep, and gave no indication whatever that the end was so near at hand. At 8 o'clock the Admiral's son Richard, who slept by his side, noticed that there was a change in his father's condition. He was breathing with difficulty and seemed to be choking. The nurse felt his pulse and found it to be fluttering feebly. The household was at once aroused, and Dr. Wales sent for. The patient's pulse grew fainter and fainter, and at 8:15 ceased to beat. At that hour he gasped convulsively and expired without a word. He sat bolt upright, with his son Richard holding one hand and his daughter, Mrs. L. C. Logan, the other. There were also at his bedside his son, Lieut. Theodoric Porter, U. S. N.; and his son-in-law, Lieut. L. C. Logan, U. S. N.; his nurse, James McDonald, and his faithful man servant, William Wilkes. His other sons, Capt. O. H. Porter, U. S. M. C., and Major E. K. Porter, formerly of the army, and his youngest daughter, Mrs. Charles Campbell, arrived soon afterward and joined the sorrowing group which had gathered in the chamber of the afflicted widow, who is herself an invalid, and was prevented by her own feeble health from attending her husband in his last hours.

Dr. Wales was at the Admiral's bedside immediately after being notified and applied all the restoratives known to science, but to no effect, and the Doctor was compelled to admit that the case was at last beyond human skill. Word was at once sent to the President and the Secretary of the Navy, and the flags on the White House and all other public buildings were placed at half mast. Secretary Tracy promptly visited the family and conferred with them in regard to the funeral arrangements. It was settled that the funeral should be marked with the highest military honors, and that the interment should be at the Arlington National Cemetery. Admiral Porter selected the cemetery about a year ago, in company with several members of his family, and selected a site for his grave at a point a little ways northeast of the Arlington mansion, corresponding exactly with the grave of Gen. Sheridan on the other side. After selecting it he turned to an attendant and said, "Drive a stake there. That's where my body shall rest."

A pathetic incident, in view of the critical illness of Gen. Sherman, was a visit made by him to his old comrade at arms about three weeks ago. Admiral Porter happened to be asleep at the time, and Gen. Sherman told the family not to wake him. He left a message of sympathy, and remarked in a sad tone of voice: "I would rather not see Porter unless I could see him as he always was when I have met him." Turning to Mrs. Logan he said half jokingly, but with a tinge of pathos: "I will be the next one, and perhaps I may go before Porter does." Then with a shrug of his shoulders he added: "Anyhow, it's nothing to die, as it's just as natural as it is to be born."

The President was informed of Admiral Porter's death by an orderly and sent a feeling message of sympathy to the family. He subsequently sent a message to Congress notifying that body of the death, and in the afternoon issued an executive order closing the executive departments on the day of the funeral, and directing that the flags on all public buildings be placed at half mast on that occasion. The following is the President's message to Congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Admiral of the Navy, David Dixon Porter, died at his residence in the city of Washington this morning, at 8:15 o'clock, in the 76th year of his age. He entered the navy service as a midshipman Feb. 1, 1826, and had been since continuously in service, having been made Admiral Aug. 15, 1870. He was the son of Commodore David Porter, one of the greatest of our naval commanders. His service during the civil war was conspicuously brilliant and successful, and his death ends a very high and honorable career. His countrymen will sincerely mourn his loss, and their sympathy will gratefully pride the memory of his deeds. To officers of the navy his life will continue to yield inspiration and encouragement. BENJAMIN HARRISON.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Feb. 13, 1891.

The Secretary of the Navy has issued the following general order this afternoon:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Feb. 13, 1891.

The Secretary of the Navy has the painful duty of announcing to the navy and the country the death of the highest officer of the service, David Dixon Porter, Admiral of the Navy, died at Washington, D. C., at 8:15 o'clock this morning, in the 76th year of his age. Sixty years of Admiral Porter's life were actively devoted to the service of his country. The record of his deeds forms one of the brightest pages of its history. His achievements while in command of the mortar flotilla at the attack of the New Orleans, forts of the Mississippi squadron at the fall of Vicksburg and of the North Atlantic squadron at the capture of Fort Fisher have given him a place among the foremost of the world's naval commanders. He is deeply lamented by the whole country, and his memory will forever be cherished and held in honor by the service.

On the day of the funeral of the Navy Department will be closed, the flag will be displayed at half mast at all navy yards and stations and on board all ships in commission, and seventeen minute guns will be fired at noon from each navy yard. The Navy Department will be draped, and all officers of the navy and Marine Corps will wear the badge of mourning for thirty days.

B. F. TRACY, Secretary of the Navy.

The funeral of Admiral Porter will take place on Tuesday at 2 P. M. from his late residence, 1,714 H street, and he will be buried at Arlington Cemetery with the highest military honors.

Admiral Porter's Life.

David Dixon Porter came of the most illustrious family of naval heroes which the country has produced. His genius for naval warfare was inherited from father and grandfather, while his great-grandfather was a ship Captain who was too old to serve his new-born country when its flag first floated on the sea in the war of the Revolution. Admiral Porter's career in the navy is a remarkable parallel of that of Gen. Sherman in the army. Both devoted their lon lives to the country's service, both attained relatively the same distinction in the civil war, and both rose to the highest rank ever created in he command of their respective departments.

Admiral Porter was born in Chester, Pa., Jun 8, 1813. Even at that time his father, Commodore David Porter, was winning worldwid fame as Commander of the frigate Essex in se war against Great Britain. From his earliest youth his associations were of the sea. Whn very young he entered Columbian College Washington, but he was soon taken out to jin his father in a cruise against West Indiapirates in the John Adams. When only 14 h was appointed midshipman in the Mexican navy, and served under his cousin, Capt. David H. Porter, until the latter was killed in an action with the Spanish frigate Lealtad. In February, 1829, at the age of 16, he entered the United States navy as midshipman. His first sea cuty was on the frigate Constellation, where he served several years under Commodore Biddle in Mediterranean waters. Then followed a long term in coast survey work, lasting until his promotion to be a Lieutenant in 1841. Then he became executive officer of the Congress and cruised in Brazilian waters for four or five years. He was assigned to special duty at the Naval Observatory in Washington for a year, and then was sent on a special mission of inquiry to Brazil. When the Mexican war broke out he was assigned first to recruiting duty at New Orleans, and then to the command of the schooner Spitfire. He participated in the engagements at Vera Cruz, Tuxpan, and Tabasco, and in the land fights at Tamulico and Cidlico. He was put in command of the coast survey schooner Petrel at the close of the war, and remained at that work until 1853, when the California gold fever was at its heigh, and he obtained long leave of absence to take command of one of the Pacific Mail steamships plying between New York and the Isthmus.

In 1858 he returned to duty, and was assigned to the Portsmouth Navy Yard, where he was stationed when the civil war broke out. His first a-signment after hostilities began was to the command of the steam frigate Powhatan, which was despatched to join the Gulf blockading squadron at Pensacola and to aid in reinforcing Fort Pickens. Soon afterward he was made Lieutenant Commander. Serious doubts had been expressed as to Farragut's loyalty, and the department was undecided at about this time as to who should command the expedition against New Orleans. Porter was taken into the confidence of the Secretary, and was sent as an intermediary to ascertain whether the proposed service would be agreeable. As a result, Farragut was ordered to report to the seat of Government, and soon afterward he received his preparatory orders to command the Western Gulf Blockading Squadron. To the squadron was attached the famous mortar fleet, consisting of twenty-one schooners, each carrying a thirteen-inch mortar, and five steamers as envoys, all under Porter's command. This fleet made the famous bombardment of Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip from April 18 to April 24, 1862. No less than 6,000 bombs were exploded within the fortification by Porter's fleet, and then Farragut made his grand attack, passing the forts and leaving their reduction to Porter. The latter received the surrender four days later. This was Porter's first great engagement, and it made of him in a moment one of the great popular heroes of the war. Congress voted him its thanks, and Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, wrote to him:

The important part which you have borne in the organization of the mortar flotilla and the movement on New Orleans has identified your name with one of the most brilliant naval achievements on record, and to your assistance in the flotilla is Flag Officer Farragut much indebted for the successful results he has accomplished. To yourself and to the officers and seamen of the mortar flotilla the department extends its thanks and congratulations.

Then comes the long series of operations on the river above New Orleans, having for its ultimate object the capture of Vicksburg. Porter was assigned the command of the naval forces of the upper Mississippi, and he cooperated with Sherman and Grant in the various attempts to open the great national thoroughfare. He drove the enemy from the Arkansas and White Rivers, and finally efforts were concentrated upon the stronghold at Vicksburg.

Porter was an able strategist as well as a splendid commander in a hot fight. He frequently outwitted the enemy by clever subterfuges. When the Confederates had captured and refitted the Indianola, Porter rigged out an old scow to look like one of his turtle-back" gunboats. He named her "The Turreted Monster," and he fitted her with canoes for quarter boats, a smokestack of pork barrels, and mud furnaces, in which a smoky fire was kindled. This dangerous craft was sent down the river from above the enemy's works, with no one on board. As soon as she was sighted the Confederate batteries opened a terrific cannonade, which failed to stop her. In a panic the Confederates destroyed the Indianola, which it was supposed the monster was coming to capture. The deception was discovered until too late to save any portion of the destroyed ship.

In July, 1862, Commodore Porter was ordered to Fortress Monroe, where he resigned the command of the mortar flotilla. In September he was placed in command of the Mississippi squadron as acting Rear Admiral. He soon improvised a navy yard at Mound City, by covering river boats with light armor and providing them with heavy guns he increased his squadron from a dozen effective vessels to 125. He had only twenty-five regular officers, but soon obtained 1,300 by recruiting from the ranks of Western steamboat men, by cooperating with the army, and by manning captured Arkansas Post, receiving in return the thanks of Congress and the commission of a Rear Admiral. He ran past the batteries at Vicksburg soon afterward, and by capturing the Confederate forts at Grand Gulf was placed in communication with Gen. Grant, who, by means of the fleet, placed himself in the rear of Vicksburg. The fleet which Porter then commanded was the most terrific floating engine of war that the world had seen. For forty days and nights he bombarded the fated city. Nothing escaped the devastating work of his bombs and shells. His gunboats and mortars and sharpshooters hurled deadly missiles into even the most distant part of the Confederate works, and when the city fell the destruction which had been wrought was found to extend three miles from the point of bombardment. The surrender to Grant was made July 4, 1863. Porter's commission as Rear Admiral was dated the same date. In his report of the bombardment, Porter wrote:

The navy has necessarily performed a less conspicuous part in the capture of Vicksburg than the army; still it has been employed in a manner highly creditable to officers and men, the mortar vessels being constantly below Vicksburg in shelling the works and with success cooperating highly with the left wing of the army. The mortar boats have been at work for forty-two days without intermission, throwing shells into all parts of the city, even reaching the works in the rear of Vicksburg and in front of our troops, a distance of three miles. I stationed the armed launches and gunboats to keep the banks of the Mississippi clear of guerrillas, who were assembling in force and with a large number of cannon to block up the river and cut off the transports bringing down supplies, reinforcements, and ammunition for the army. Though the rebels on several occasions built batteries, and with a large force attempted to sink or capture the transports, they never succeeded, but were defeated by the gunboats with severe loss on all occasions.

During the remainder of the year 1863 Porter employed his squadron in keeping clear the Mississippi and its tributaries. In the spring of 1864 he cooperated with Gen. Banks in the latter's unsuccessful Red River expedition, and never were Porter's resources more severely tested than in his efforts to save his fleet after the retreat of Banks's supporting army. The retreat of the army left the gunboats above the rapids after the fall of the river. Lieut. Col. Bailey, an old engineer, saved the fleet by building below the rapids a dam which deepened the water sufficiently to allow the boats to go down in safety.

Admiral Porter was next ordered to the command of the North Atlantic blockading squadron, which embraced Cape Fear River and the port of Wilmington, N. C. It was absolutely necessary to close the last remaining open port of the Confederacy, which was guarded by Fort Fisher. Gen. Benj