

in Brooklyn, N. Y. Returning to Brattleboro he became connected with the Baptist church of this town, and has since retained a very active interest in the success of the church of his choice. His interest in church affairs has led to many notable gifts in Vermont and in other states. The Baptist church at St. Johnsbury have always cherished a very grateful regard for him because of the large contributions which led to the establishment of that body. A like feeling has been entertained by the Baptist church at West Brattleboro, which for many years he occupied the position of superintendent of the Sunday school, and entered largely into the management of the church affairs. His gifts, however, were not confined to churches and institutions of his own faith, but his liberality in all directions was proverbial. Of this, however, no exact information can be secured, and indeed it is not necessary.

He was for a number of years treasurer of the Vermont Baptist state convention, and was for a time president of the convention. For several years he served the Baptist church at Brattleboro as its clerk, and during many annual periods was a member of the managing board of trustees. Until within a comparatively recent time he was an active member of the Baptist Sunday school, and there are very many in this community and elsewhere who will remember his faithful labors as a devoted teacher in that school.

Activity in Civil and Military Affairs.
Gov. Fuller, although burdened with many business cares, always maintained a very active interest in all matters that pertained to the welfare of Brattleboro. He was at one time chairman of the board of bailiffs of the village, and introduced many improvements during that period which were recognized and appreciated by the people of this town. He was also a member of the managing board of trustees of the Free library, created through the munificence of the late Mr. George J. Brooks, and was also a member of the executive board of the Brattleboro Baptist church, although for several years unable to devote very much time to its affairs. He was a prominent Free Mason, and an influential member of Beaumont commandery, as well as a member of the Odd Fellows and Red Men organizations. He was for several years on the board of trustees of the American Baptist Home Missionary society of New York, and of the American Baptist Missionary union with headquarters in Boston.

During the period immediately subsequent to the war he, with many other citizens, evinced a great interest in military affairs. In 1870 he was elected to the Fuller Light Battery, V. N. G., as an independent company. For a long term of years he was captain of that company, and entered into its thorough training with the keenest zeal, and was promoted to a degree of proficiency universally commended by regular army inspectors as second to no other military organization in the country, and adding greatly thereby to the reputation of the Vermont National Guard.

Mr. Fuller participated actively in public affairs, not only local but state. In 1880 he was elected to the state senate, and took a very active part in the important legislation of that session, including what was then known as "the new tax law," a measure tending to equalize the burden of taxation and to make the factory to the people more equitable.

Mr. Fuller took a very active part in the preparation and execution of a small but important measure, but this qualification led to a successful operation. It was such a radical departure from the old system that there was great confusion in the minds of the voters who were appointed to carry out these provisions, so much so that meetings of these officials were called to study together and arrive at a definite understanding concerning all points of difference or doubt. Mr. Fuller, who had accepted election as a member of the Brattleboro board of lists, was of great aid in elucidating all matters in connection with this law, and not only assisted the Brattleboro board, but participated in the meetings of lists which were held. As a member of the state senate he served as chairman on the committee on finance, and also upon the committee on military affairs and the railroad, and by his clear and accurate information which was greatly needed.

In 1886 Col. Fuller was elected to the office of lieutenant governor, and filled that position with great credit, and honor to the state, proving himself one of the most capable and popular presiding officers whose service the senate has had the good fortune to enjoy.

His Term as Governor.

In the year 1892 Col. Fuller was called by the people of the state to occupy the governor's chair for the biennial period beginning in October of that year. With his large experience as a business man and as a citizen who had given much study to public affairs, he entered upon the position especially equipped for the discharge of his multifarious duties. It is not within the limits of this sketch to enter upon an exhaustive résumé of the administration of Gov. Fuller, but it is a fact cheerfully acknowledged by all who were marked throughout by a devotion to public interest to seldom found in the occupancy of such an office. While large business interests of right claimed his attention, no case was there of any one who was so much to be seen by his opportunity to serve his state. His early training in mechanical pursuits led him to be an especially wise counselor in matters pertaining to the general welfare and organization of some of the more prominent state institutions, notably the asylum for the insane at Waterbury, and the house of correction at Rutland, and to both of these institutions he gave largely of his time and oversight.

His investigations of the working of the prohibitory law, while subjecting him to adverse criticism from some quarters, enabled him to arrive at a consensus of opinion from the eight hundred voters of the state, and reinforced very strongly the recommendations in his valedictory message that the cords of this law should be loosened in some directions he recommended that its objectionable features should be done away with. In his dealing with those who in one way or another came under the workings of the criminal code of the state, Gov. Fuller showed rare discrimination, independence and good judgment.

It is well known that the demands of a social nature upon the governor in Vermont, as in all states, are very onerous, and while carrying with them a measure of satisfaction and enjoyment are really a severe tax upon an executive. It can safely be said that no governor has given of his time in these directions more cheerfully than did Gov. Fuller. Not only at the many gatherings in the state is the governor an expected guest, but the growing number of societies of Vermont's sons and daughters springing up in all the larger cities of the country seek the presence of the chief executive at their annual gatherings. A glance at our files discloses very frequent reference to the presence and addresses of Gov. Fuller at such gatherings in Boston, Springfield, Providence, Brooklyn, Chicago and other prominent cities where these societies flourish.

Trip to California.

In no gathering of this kind was the governor more enthusiastically welcomed than during the winter of 1893-4 when he attended the Midwinter Exposition in San Francisco. The "Vermont day" at that exposition was notable in its history, attended as it was by thousands of enthusiastic Vermonters with their descendants. The governor and Mrs. Fuller, attended by his official staff, were in the midst of a continual ovation from the time they reached the Pacific coast, and the attention shown to them by the governor of California, the mayor of San Francisco, and the officials of the exposition, was most gratifying in its spontaneity and heartiness. The visit was one long to be remembered by the warm-hearted Vermonters in California and adjoining states, and the influence and enthusiasm centering upon Vermont day at the exposition not only led to the observance of other state days, but attended the governor on his return trip, which led him through Oregon, Washington and other of the northwestern states.

This, and many other trips of a like nature, which the Governor took upon him in order to keep the people of Vermont to the front, entailed not only a large expense, which was borne personally and not by the state, but also made very heavy drafts on a constitution upon which the governor's health and vigor were heavily pressed prior to his election as governor.

After two years' service he laid down the cares of state in October, 1894, being succeeded by Col. Urban A. Woodbury of Burlington. The commonwealth of Vermont and national press in October, 1894, were highly complimentary and appreciative in their nature. As will be seen from the few quotations given below, the opinions expressed by the people of the state, immediately after the September election in 1894, a prominent Vermont paper said: "The intelligent and painstaking care which Gov. Fuller has paid to all the interests of the state, and the personal attention to those things that worked for the prosperity of Vermont at home and her good name abroad, were no mean factors in the notable majority given to Woodbury and Mansur."

Mr. Fuller's administration: "He has given of his time and attention far beyond what could be reasonably demanded, sparing nothing that the state might be well served, her interests guarded, the comfort and happiness of her people assured, and her laws executed."

The Burlington Free Press at that time editorially said: "His labors in connection with the various state institutions are evident from a glance at their condition. Gov. Fuller has not only studied to promote the interests of the people at home, but he has also endeavored to win credit for Vermont abroad, and it is not too much to say that the Governor has attained a gratifying degree in both directions. He retires from the office of governor with honor and esteem."

From our own columns at that time we quote the following: "Gov. Fuller has been unsparing of himself, his time and his means. On every occasion he has borne himself as to maintain the dignity of the state, and has uniformly evinced a just and proper appreciation of the demands of the situation. His undivided service has been given to the people of Vermont, and his administration is one which both they and he may contemplate with pride and satisfaction."

A brief characterization of Gov. Fuller's official life was the pride which he felt in properly adorning his office and meeting its requirements. He felt himself the servant of the people and all personal effort to justify their faith in him.

His Home Life.

Governor and Mrs. Fuller were married in the month of May, 1865, she being the only daughter of the late Hon. Jacob Estey.

The early part of their married life was spent under the parental roof, but about the year 1870 Governor and Mrs. Fuller removed to a commodious residence at Pine Heights in Brattleboro, to which notable addition of a beautiful library and observatory have since been made. His library was equipped with standard works of literature, art and science, and no place on earth was as well equipped to him as the four walls of that room. Of necessity the study which he gave to scientific and other pursuits was confined to the hours when he was not actively engaged in business, and these night studies doubtless made inroads upon his energies, although affording great satisfaction.

With a great fondness for children, their home was never blessed with them, but his devotion was ever for all. Several years ago Miss Mand Essex, then a child of about ten years, the daughter of the representative of the Estey Organ company in London, made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, and for most of the time she lived with them. The occasions are many when the entire community has received a cordial welcome at the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Fuller at Pine Heights. For many years the husband and wife have had as the home of "Uncle Charlie," as his uncle, Chas. K. Wood, was familiarly called. We are reminded that it was only two years ago that he died and was buried from this town.

The governor was exceptionally companionable in his manner, and cordial and genial to people in any station in life, warm-hearted and willing to befriend on all occasions. He led a happy and social life, his friends not only in Brattleboro, not only in Vermont, but in the country at large, and the circle widens even to foreign lands. His long and painful illness, which began in 1892, and which he bore with such courage and sympathy, and his death the deepest sorrow.

Besides his wife Gov. Fuller is survived by his father, now in his 83d year, and by his mother, Mrs. W. Fuller, for many years the engineer and mechanical supervisor of the Estey Organ company.

A Self-Made Man.

Gov. Fuller was one of the best examples of a self-made man. Beginning life as a mechanic he worked his way to wealth, attaining distinction as an inventor and a business man of more than ordinary capacity, while in the political field he won the best of his countrymen's approval.

bestow upon one of their number—the governorship. In this position he labored unceasingly for what he regarded as the best interests of the state. The hard work he performed in his official capacity undoubtedly shortened his life. The heartfelt sympathy of the people of the state is extended to his estimable wife in her great sorrow.

His Worth as a Man.

(From the Montpelier Watchman.)

His occupancy of the office of governor was one of the most notable in the history of the state. For his faithfulness in the performance of not only his technical duties, but more particularly for his attention to those things that lie outside of his perfunctory obligations, he has laid down his life in the noon of man's best powers.

The best of Governor Fuller was in his worth as a man. He was honest and conscientious in all the affairs of life. He was honorable in all his associations. He was a faithful friend and consistent Christian. "Rest in peace" will be breathed above his grave with grateful fervor, and the remembrance of the good deeds he has done, the kindness he has shown, the benefactions he has made, will long keep his memory green.

The Funeral.

Large Attendance of Personal Friends and of Representative Men from Vermont and from Distant Cities—Addresses by Rev. Dr. H. J. Parry—Tributes and Expressions from Many Sources.

The funeral of ex-Gov. Fuller was held at the Baptist church Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The clouds hung low and dark and the rain poured incessantly, adding to the gloom of the occasion. The audience room of the church was crowded and the Sunday school room in the rear was opened for the overflow. At 10:30 in the morning private services were held at the home when there were present the immediate family relatives, intimate personal friends and neighbors, and the members of Gov. Fuller's staff during his executive term. The services were held by Rev. Dr. H. J. Parry, Rev. L. D. Temple made a brief address, and Rev. F. S. Smith, the ex-Governor's pastor at West Brattleboro, offered the closing prayer. At the conclusion of the services the body was taken to the Baptist church under escort of the Fuller Battery where it lay in state in the vestibule until the hour of the public service. A detail of the Battery officers acted as a guard of honor, and the ladies of the Baptist church were crowded with people, who passed through to take a last look at Gov. Fuller's face.

The public funeral was attended by the Estey Battery, a body of 100 men, the commandery of Knights Templar, by the Odd Fellows and the Red Men, all of whom appeared in a body. All the surviving members of Gov. Fuller's staff, 13 in number, were present, and many of the honorary members. Seats were reserved for Gov. Grout, Mr. A. M. Farr of the Chicago firm of Estey & Camp, Samuel Hamilton of Pittsburgh, Pa., H. M. Hall, representing A. L. Bailey, the sales agent at Burlington and St. Johnsbury, and Mr. W. H. Johnson, the sales agent at Col. J. H. Goulding, secretary of civil and military affairs. The only break which has occurred in this official funeral was occasioned by the death of Col. A. O. Gates of Morrisville.

Major O. D. Clark of Montpelier, representing the National Life Insurance company, and G. H. Babbitt of Bellows Falls, representing the American Express company, were present.

Marks of Respect from the Music Trade.

The representatives of the music trade who came to attend the funeral included S. A. Gould and A. T. McClure of the Boston house, H. K. Saxe, representing Estey & Camp, and Mr. W. H. Johnson, representing the Estey Piano company of New York, Prof. D. Henry Sanders of the firm of Sanders & Stayman, and Mr. W. H. Johnson, the sales agent at Burlington and St. Johnsbury, and Mr. W. H. Johnson, the sales agent at Col. J. H. Goulding, secretary of civil and military affairs. The only break which has occurred in this official funeral was occasioned by the death of Col. A. O. Gates of Morrisville.

Dr. Parry's Funeral Address.

My love for Gov. Fuller was so deep, and my sorrow at his death is so great, as to greatly embarrass me on this solemn occasion. I had for him the affection of a son, and the ties that bound me to him were so close that the public utterance of my feelings is the exercise of a privilege so painful that silence would seem to be more appropriate than any words of eulogy. Having loved him so when living, and now viewing his life in retrospect, I cannot but be difficult for me to speak of him without the enthusiasm of affection, which may lay me open to the criticism of exaggerating his virtues. The sadness of my heart can find no other outlet than in the plaintive cry of the Hebrew king when the chiefs of his people were stricken down: "How are the mighty fallen!"

Widely and intimately as Gov. Fuller was everywhere known, and especially by those gathered here today, it seems scarcely necessary to voice our appreciation of his character over his silent form. The fullness of his spirit, as at once felt the truth of the poet's words: "The silent organ loudest speaks the master's soul."

And yet there seems to be a fitting propriety in a brief review of his life and his work. He was a man of words, and his life was a series of words of praise where praise is so richly merited, for such expression is always a strengthening of virtue, and the opportunity of such expression becomes an inspiration to the soul.

It is said in one of those old legends in the Hebrew Talmud that at the moment of the death of a good man there gather around him his deeds of charity and kindness transformed into ministering angels, and the spirit of those departed who have been benefited and comforted by his life, and they bear aloft on luminous wings the freed spirit to the very portals of the city of the dead. Should the thought of that old legend be true, we are sure that the eyes of our dear friend were closed to the scenes of this world and the eyes of his enfranchised spirit were catching the first gleams of the light that infinite beyond the darkened portals of the here.

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The burial was in the family lot in Prospect Hill cemetery, the Knights Templar acting as guard of honor on the march thither. The procession was led by the Estey Regiment band. The body bearers were eight long-time employees of the Estey firm—J. H. Holden, Jerome W. Knight, E. A. Foster, Thomas Hannon, Chas. K. Wood, Geo. H. Hyder, F. H. Brackett, L. F. Barnett.

The floral offerings were of rare beauty and profusion. In the long list of these tributes there were included:

A large pot of roses, with a standard of white chrysanthemums, from the Estey Organ company employees.

A magnificent wreath of white and pink roses, from Louis Ritz of Hamburg, the representative of the Estey company in Continental Europe.

Wreath of ivy from Hodge & Essex, London.

A broken column of roses from the members of Gov. Fuller's official staff.

A wreath of roses and chrysanthemums from the employees of the Boston house.

A wreath of roses and chrysanthemums from William Decker, New York.

A wreath of roses and chrysanthemums from the employees of the Estey Piano company.

A wreath of ivy and roses, with sheaf of wheat as a standard, from Estey and Bruce, Philadelphia.

A pillar of roses with inscription from Fuller Battery.

A wreath of roses and chrysanthemums from ex-Lieut. Gov. Stranahan.

A cross of roses and other flowers from the Brattleboro Savings Bank.

A large bouquet of pink and yellow roses from the office employees of the Estey Organ company.

A bouquet of roses and chrysanthemums from the students and teachers of Vermont Academy.

A bouquet of 108 white carnations, representing the 108 members of the West Brattleboro Baptist church.

In addition to these were many other offerings, mainly from individuals and personal friends.

All the arrangements for the funeral and the conduct of the services were in charge of L. W. Hawley of the Estey office, the long-time confidential and personal friend of Gov. Fuller and the Estey firm.

Frederick Holbrook, Vermont's honored "war governor," now in his 84th year, was present at the services. He was accompanied by his son, Judge Wm. C. Holbrook of New York.

State Officials and Others.

A special car attached to the afternoon mail train arriving at 2:10 brought a large delegation of state officials, the legislative committee appointed to attend the funeral, and other men of prominence. In the list of those present were: Hon. J. H. Grout, Lieut. Gov. Fisk, Secretary of State Brownell, State Treasurer Field, State Auditor Hale, Sergeant-at-Arms Phinney, F. G. Field, state inspector of finance, ex-Governors Woodbury, Ormiston, Farnham, Fingree and Page, ex-Lieutenant Governor Stranahan and Mansur, Gen. W. W. Grout, member of Congress from this district, Gen. W. I. Greenleaf, Willard Crane and Capt. R. B. Arms of Burlington, Gen. H. K. Ide of St. Johnsbury, Hon. W. H.

Dubois of West, Adolph, J. C. Stearns of Bradford, Col. A. L. Lillis of Rutland, Col. R. J. Coffey of Newbury, E. C. Tuttle and W. H. Fuller of Rutland, Col. C. S. Forbes and C. E. Fuller of St. Albans, Hon. Hugh Henry of Chester.

The members of Gov. Fuller's staff already mentioned as being in attendance, included Gen. T. S. B. Simpson, W. B. Gilmore, Gen. F. E. Alfred, Dr. D. P. Webster, Col. E. W. Jewett, J. E. Polard, John G. Foster, C. C. Gilmore, H. E. Parker, E. S. Bates, Geo. S. Dowley, Capt. W. H. Fuller of Rutland, Col. C. S. Forbes and C. E. Fuller of St. Albans, Hon. Hugh Henry of Chester.

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as the act and fact of dying. But to save us from the breathless terror of this isolation, our holy faith comes in with the assurance that not by himself, not for himself, not to himself dies the Christian, but unto and to "forever with the Lord," and to enjoy the double immortality of perpetual influence on earth, and everlasting work and happiness in heaven.

Gov. Fuller was one of a large and distinguished roll of men who have made our history famous with the glow which comes from the character which has been all base alloys melted out in the forge of adversity. No adventitious aid in early life helped him upward toward the heights he reached. He early learned that the genius of success was the genius of toil. The only Aladdin's lamp he ever knew was a heroic soul that no difficulty could ever daunt. His courage did not shrink before adversity; his fortitude never failed to honor the heaviest trials made upon him.

His enormous industry was all conquering and his ambition invincible. Difficulties in the paths of usefulness served only like the interfering Alps, in the march of Hannibal, to make his victory more glorious and complete. Opposition was only like the wind on the low whereby the bark weathered the headland and worked itself into the harbor. Obstacles were only rounds in the ladder which he more valiantly and more early ascended than was his contemporaries. He was a self-made man, as every man who so accomplishes anything in this world is a man who makes himself, and upon each man is put the responsibility of his life and his work. He was calm and self-contained, consciously the master of his own fate, and his private life was a vast amount of laboriously acquired knowledge. He was a man of remarkable versatility, under all circumstances exhibiting adaptability to every particular occasion and peculiar environment.

He was a man of such prodigious industry that he could not tolerate idleness in others. He was kind and sympathetic in his intercourse with those in his employ, and the humblest laborer had ever-ready access to him for advice, or assistance in time of need. His charities were extensive but rarely published to the world. He gave to learning without ostentation, to the church without parade, to poverty and distress with kindly and sympathetic words. He never disappointed a friend; he never ignored an obligation; he never forfeited a confidence. His motives were pure, his purposes were definite, but, except in the case of his private life, he never advanced a word for his own advantage, for he was always jealous of his own honor. By his individual strength of character, indomitable will, dauntless courage and determination of purpose, he accomplished a vast amount of work in the positions he adorned. He had rare faculty in dealing with men, and in effecting without friction the settlement of differences between them. He had very positive convictions, and he could voice them in such a manner and with such force as to win the respect of all.

I would not be just to his memory if I did not say that his loftiest characteristic was the fact that he lived and died a Christian. In the high places of the world, as well as in the lower walks of life, he was always loyal to his Lord and Master. So I say that while his life and character and his achievements may be a just source of pride, and furnish an inspiration and example to every noble, aspiring spirit, yet one great consolation now that he is gone lies in the conviction of the excellence of his Christian character. As we gently fold the drapery of his couch, above him and lay his body where immortal and sweet forget-me-nots shall bloom over his grave, we will say with the poet:

"It seemeth such a little way to me, Across the strange, far, far beyond; And yet strange, for it has grown to be: The home of those whom I am so fond; To make them mine, and mine more dear; As journeying friends bring distant countrymen."

"And so to me there is no going in death. And so the grave has lost its victory: It is but crossing, with abated breath, And while we feel a little strip of sea, To find the loved one waiting on the shore. More beautiful, more precious than before."

Tributes from Many Sources.

Action of the Vermont Legislature.

The death of ex-Gov. Fuller was formally announced to both houses of the legislature on Monday in a message from Gov. Grout. In the House Mr. Childs of St. Johnsbury offered the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the general assembly has learned from the message of His Excellency the governor of the death of ex-Governor Levi K. Fuller of Brattleboro with feelings of profound regret, and desire to place on record an expression of its appreciation of his exalted personal character, his many and civil virtues, and his eminent services to the state, therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of ex-Governor Levi K. Fuller the state of Vermont mourns the loss of one of her most distinguished sons, who had contributed generously of his time and talents to her service, filled with marked ability and steadfast fidelity the highest positions within the gift of her people, and by his exceptional attainments in commercial, scientific and economic enterprises, reflected honor upon the commonwealth for whose material and moral welfare he labored with untiring zeal and conscientious devotion. Born in the humble walks of life, ex-Governor Fuller, worthy of his position, natural ability, worthy ambition and unflinching courage, rose to eminence in the many occupations with which he became associated, and illustrated in his own successes the possibilities of American manhood and citizenship. In private life he was a devoted husband, a loving father, a devoted son, and his energies were devoted to causes that had for their purpose the advancement of knowledge and the uplifting of humanity. The state of Vermont mourns the loss of a noble and patriotic citizen, whose heart and mind were attuned to the loftiest conceptions of Christian duties and obligations, and who

"Bore without abuse, The grand old name of gentleman."

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the journal of the house and a copy thereof be transmitted by the clerk to the family of our late honored and beloved citizen.

Resolved, that a committee consisting of five senators and nine representatives be appointed by the president of the senate and speaker of the house to attend the funeral of the late ex-Governor Fuller, and that the sergeant-at-arms be directed to provide the necessary transportation and accommodations.

Resolved, That out of respect to the memory of the deceased, when the house and senate adjourn it be until Wednesday morning.

The speaker appointed as the committee on the part of the house to attend the funeral: Childs of St. Albans, Bates of St. Johnsbury, Powers of Morrisville, Thomson of Rutland, Dyer of Salisbury, Bailey of Rockingham, Morris of Hartford, Probst of Newport, Buell of Stratford.

In the Senate Senator Merrillfield offered these resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the senate has heard with

profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Levi K. Fuller, but recently governor of the state of Vermont, and is deeply sensible of the public loss occasioned by