



NATHAN E. KENDALL

Speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives, 1907-08; member of Congress from the Sixth District of Iowa, 1909-13; governor of Iowa, 1921-25. From a portrait from life in oil by Carl W. Rawson, 1931, in the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.

NATHAN EDWARD KENDALL was born on his father's farm at Greenville, Lucas County, Iowa, March 17, 1868, and died in his home in Des Moines November 4, 1936. The body was cremated and the ashes deposited at Albia. Greenville was a post office from 1853 to 1864 near the east edge of Washington Township, the southeastern township of Lucas County. A schoolhouse known by the same name, the first schoolhouse in the township, built in 1853, was on the southwest corner of section 13. Governor Kendall's parents Elijah L. and Lucinda Kendall came from Indiana to that locality as early as 1852. Nathan E. was the youngest of six children, four sons and two daughters. His schooling was secured in the local country school. He removed to Albia in 1887, learned shorthand, worked in a law office, and was admitted to the bar May 15, 1889. He served one term as city attorney of Albia, and was elected county attorney of Monroe County the fall of 1892, was re-elected in 1894 and served four years. On April 20, 1896, he married Miss Belle Wooden of Centerville. He was the Sixth District member of the Republican State Committee from 1893 to 1898 inclusive. He was elected representative in 1899 and re-elected three times and served inclusively from the Twenty-eighth to the Thirty-second Extra general assemblies, and was speaker of the Thirty-second and Thirty-second Extra. He was elected to Congress in 1908, defeating in the general election Daniel W. Hamilton, Democrat, the then congressman. Two years later he was re-elected, again defeating Mr. Hamilton. In 1920 he ran for the Republican nomination for governor, his competitors being John F. Deems, Horace M. Havner and Ernest R. Moore, and won, and won in the general election, his Democratic opponent being Clyde L. Herring. He was renominated for governor two years later without opposition and defeated at the polls the Democratic candidate, J. Ray Files. During his second administration as governor he took an extended vacation, he and Mrs. Kendall visiting Honolulu during September and October, 1923, largely on account of his health which had not been vigorous. After retiring from the governorship in January, 1925, he withdrew from actively participating in politics and soon thereafter he and Mrs. Kendall embarked on a trip around the world. During that trip he wrote many letters to friends in Des Moines who collected them later and they were published in book form. In January, 1926, when he and Mrs. Kendall were cruising in the Mediterranean she suddenly died. In 1928 he married Mrs. William F. Bonnell of Cleveland. During his later life Mr. Kendall maintained his residence at 2400 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, but mostly spent his summers at Sebasco on the coast of Maine. He also maintained an office in Des Moines where he looked after his properties which consisted largely of farms. In 1935 he deeded seventy acres of land to Centerville for a public park in honor of his former wife. Mr. Kendall was an avid reader from boyhood and acquired a large private library. He was a brilliant platform speaker. He was a student of Robert G. Ingersoll's oratory as well as the classical gems of all time. He had a rare taste

for words and a felicity of expression which, with an engaging personality and a voice of vibrant tone, all combined to place him among the leading Iowa orators of his day.

JOHNSON BRIGHAM was born in Cherry Valley, New York, March 11, 1846, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, October 8, 1936. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Cedar Rapids. His parents were Phineas and Eliza (Johnson) Brigham. He was educated in the public schools of Watkins and Elmira and spent his freshman year in Hamilton College, Clinton, New York. In 1862 when only sixteen years old he enlisted with his father in the One Hundred and Fifty-third New York Infantry, but was rejected because of his youth. However, he spent the last year of the Civil War in the service of the United States Sanitary Commission at Washington, D. C. He entered the class of 1870 at Cornell University and distinguished himself as editor of the students' publication which suggested journalism as a vocation. He became local editor of a weekly paper at Watkins, bought and edited a Democratic paper at Brockport and turned it over to the support of General Grant in 1872, and later was part owner of a weekly at Watkins. In 1881 he removed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and became part owner and editor of the *Cedar Rapids Daily Republican*. He was for a time chairman of the Linn County Republican Central Committee, member of the Fifth District Republican Committee, and in 1892 was president of the Iowa State Republican League. In 1893 he was appointed by President Harrison United States consul at Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany. He resigned that position in about a year and in 1894 established at Des Moines the *Midland Monthly*, a literary magazine, but in 1899 he disposed of it to a St. Louis syndicate. In 1908 he was appointed by Governor Shaw state librarian and administered the duties of that office until his death, a period of thirty-eight years, as long a time as the continued period of his seven predecessors in that office. He was qualified by scholarship and his knowledge of books for efficiency as a librarian, and added dignity to the position. He was president of the Iowa Library Association in 1903 and again in 1927, and of the National Association of State Libraries in 1904. He was president of the Prairie Club, Des Moines, in 1908, of the Grant Club, Des Moines, in 1913-15, and of the Iowa Press and Authors Club in 1916. He was connected in a business way with the Farm Property Mutual Insurance Association, the Commercial Savings Bank of Des Moines, the Mutual Hailstorm Insurance Company of Des Moines, and the Waterbury Chemical Company of Des Moines. He was an active member of the Unitarian church. He had many friends and especially as he grew older his kindness and his appreciation of friendships increased. He continued to live largely among his books. He was the author of *An Old Man's Idyl*, 1905; *The Banker in Literature*, 1910; *History of Des Moines*, 1911; *A Library in the Making*, 1912; *Life of James Harlan*, 1913; *Iowa, Its History and*

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