

his weary night march, just as the sun rose over the humiliated capital. It was probably the only instance during the war where a civilian undertook to command armed forces and was obeyed.

The reader will observe that the foregoing fragment was written by Mr. Kasson about 1895 and his death occurred on the 18th day of May, 1910. After the sketch was written, President McKinley, in 1899, recognizing Mr. Kasson's great ability and experience in international diplomacy, appointed him to the important position of special commissioner plenipotentiary for the negotiation of commercial treaties with other nations, and also as a member of the British-American Joint High Commission for the settlement of differences with Canada. He proceeded at once to negotiating reciprocity treaties with the leading countries of both Europe and South America. His work was more difficult than was that of Secretary Blaine in negotiating his famous reciprocity treaties, because under the then recent Dingley tariff law other countries were somewhat resenting the strong protective policy of this country. But laboring with great skill and perseverance and with an eye single to the future interests of this country in its trade with other nations, he was successful in completing several agreements of limited scope, which did not need ratification by the Senate, and which became operative by proclamation of the President, and at least twelve treaties, which had to be submitted to the Senate before they became operative. This was the largest number of commercial treaties ever before negotiated by one officer on the part of the United States. Mr. Kasson's great disappointment as a diplomat was the refusal of the Senate of the United States to ratify these treaties. The unique distinction paid him by the President, which should have been the crowning glory of his long and successful career in diplomacy, turned out to be his great disappointment. Although the press largely commended his work and the President desired him to remain longer in the position, he resigned in 1903, and the position lapsed. This was his last official work. The remaining seven years of his life was spent mostly in quiet retirement at his home in Washington, where he died May 18, 1910. Thus ended the life of this accomplished orator, lawyer, legislator, statesman and diplomat. The series of presidential commissions, diplomas and other tokens of honor and attainment of Mr. Kasson, deposited in the Historical Department, excel in number and excel in character all similar collection extant in Iowa.—Editor.

SAD AFFAIR.

The saddest incident connected with the battle at this place was the killing of Miss Magy Virginia Wade by the rebel sharpshooters posted in the outskirts of the town. She was attending a sick sister at the time, and the house standing in an exposed position, she was in constant danger. A minie ball from one of their rifles struck her in the head and killed her instantly. Miss Wade was aged 20 years 1 month and 7 days, and was a young lady of good character and much respected. This is only one of the many painful incidents connected with this cruel war.—Gettysburg, Pa.—*Star and Banner*, July 9, 1863. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

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