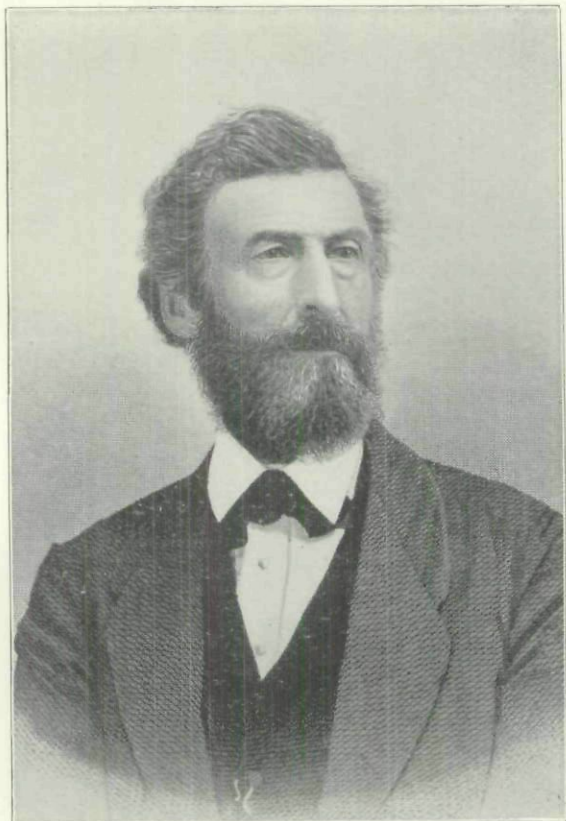


ENOCH WORTHEN EASTMAN.

BY HON. W. J. MOIR.*

This distinguished Iowan was born in the town of Deerfield, Rockingham county, New Hampshire, on the 15th day of April, 1810, of English-Scotch descent. His was the seventh generation from the emigrant ancestor, who settled, on his arrival in America, in Salisbury, Massachusetts. His grandfather, Ephraim Eastman, was in the battle of Bunker Hill, and his father, John Eastman, who was a native of New Hampshire, served as a Lieutenant in the war of 1812. Enoch was the third in a family of seven children. His father was not a man of wealth, and he was obliged to rely upon his own resources to a great extent in obtaining an education. Often his pathway seemed beset with obstacles almost insurmountable, but his great energy and indomitable perseverance enabled him to succeed in a manner that was highly gratifying to the many friends of his youthful days. He lived at home during a large period of his minority, worked on his father's farm, and in a saw-mill, attended the district school until he obtained a fair common school education, and taught several terms of school as a means of support—as nearly all great men have done. Not content with a common school education, by his own energy he

*William J. Moir was born in Banffshire, Scotland, October 19, 1824. He came to this country with his parents in 1830. He was educated at Derby Academy, Vt., and was naturalized at Plymouth, Ind., in August, 1854. At the latter place he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1856. He settled in Eldora, Hardin county, the same year, where he has since resided and practiced his profession. He has twice served—in 1862 and 1864—in the Iowa House of Representatives, where he proved himself a useful and conscientious member. He also served twelve years on the Eldora school board, and was twice elected mayor of that city. Mr. Moir was the leader in the work of founding the State Reform School at Eldora and one of its foremost friends and promoters. He served as one of the Board of Trustees—with the exception of two years—from the beginning, until it was taken in charge by the Board of Control in 1893. He was many years treasurer of the institution, during which time he disbursed the sum of \$1,228,557.25, for which he never asked nor received any compensation whatever. His services in connection with the Reform School have always met with hearty approval, and he is well known to the people of Iowa from his long and efficient work in building up that institution.



E. W. Eastman

ENOCH WORTHEN EASTMAN.

Pioneer lawyer; Lieutenant-Governor, 1864; State Senator, 1884. Author (1850) of the sentiment—"Iowa: Her affections, like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable Union"—inscribed on the Washington monument.

earned means to attend the academies of Pembroke and Pittsfield.

After thus preparing himself as thoroughly as possible in the usual academic branches, he began the study of law about the year 1835, choosing the legal profession as the one best adapted to his tastes, and one from which he might gain a livelihood in after life. He studied law under the direction of the Hon. Moses Norris, of Pittsfield, New Hampshire, who was one of the leading attorneys of that State. Under his able instruction he received a thorough knowledge of his profession, and was honorably admitted to the bar, at the June term of the Supreme Court, in the year 1840, in Concord, New Hampshire, and practiced his profession in his native State successfully for several years.

Desiring a larger field for his life-work, he obeyed Horace Greeley's injunction—"Go West, young man!"—and in 1844 migrated across the Mississippi, settling in Burlington, where he found, to his great satisfaction, plenty of room in which to gratify his ambitious mind. He remained in Burlington until the year 1847, when he removed to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he practiced his profession with renewed success until 1857; at that time he came to Eldora, Iowa, where he resided until the 9th of January, 1885, when he crossed that sea on which sail no return vessels.

During his professional career he occupied a leading position, and was engaged in many of the most important cases in the State. He was generally successful, and in the long-to-be-remembered county seat contest between Eldora and Point Pleasant, he was the leading attorney for Eldora, and to his shrewdness, energy and ability, the people of that town are largely indebted for the retention of the county seat.

In personal appearance Mr. Eastman was somewhat angular; he had a spare form, but was quite muscular, and capable of enduring much fatigue. He was about six feet two inches in height, and weighed over 180 pounds when in

good health. He had an active brain and very expressive features, and his head was covered with heavy dark hair, that the frosts of time tinged with gray sometime before he died. As a neighbor he was loyal and true, and as a husband and father he was kind and affectionate.

Mr. Eastman was united in marriage January 8, 1845, to Sarah C. Greenough, of Canterbury, N. H., a graduate of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, at South Hadley, Mass. From her parents she inherited strong New England proclivities, which shone conspicuously during her whole life. She was an excellent neighbor, and a lovely and affectionate wife and mother. She died in 1861, leaving three daughters and one son who are still living. In 1865 he was again united in marriage with Miss Amanda Hall who was a native of New York, a highly educated lady, a graduate of Binghamton Seminary; by her he had one son now deceased. This second wife survives him.

From early manhood, all through his long eventful life, he was religiously inclined, a close Biblical student, and was ever ready with a quotation from the Bible to sustain a theme or round out an argument. In early life he was a member of the Unitarian church, and after he came to Eldora, while he did not become a regular member of the Congregational church, he was a member of the Congregational Society, and a regular church attendant. He taught a Bible class in the Sunday school, and gave liberally to the support of the church. He played the violin, and often led the choirs in the various churches that he attended in his younger days.

He was of a kind and benevolent disposition, never suing a man for a debt due himself. To illustrate, on one occasion he called his son to his side, took from his desk a bundle of promissory notes, some fairly good, some doubtful, and some barred by statute, and upon ascertaining the aggregate amount to be over \$5,000.00 said, "These notes are all against poor men. I am better able to waive pay-

ment than they are to pay them. Burn them." This was accordingly done, and \$5,000.00 in notes went up in flame and came down in ashes.

In the year 1850 Mr. Eastman first received light in Masonry in Triluminar Lodge, No. 18, at Oskaloosa, Iowa, and served as Master of his Lodge for several terms. In 1854 he was exalted to the degree of a Royal Arch Mason, in Hiram Chapter, No. 6, at Oskaloosa, and in 1857 became its High Priest. In the same year he was called by his companions to preside over the Grand Chapter as its Grand High Priest, and I am informed by his brother Masons that his career in Masonry was a highly successful one. Upon all questions coming before him in his official capacity, he brought to bear that practical good sense with which he was so bountifully endowed.

Politically Mr. Eastman was a Democrat until the development of those principles that culminated finally in the rebellion of the Southern States. He did not believe in the doctrines promulgated by the Democratic party which nominated James Buchanan for President in 1856, and refused to support him. In 1857 he allied himself with the Republican party.* About this time he published an article in which he said:

How, now, stands the Democratic party, headed by James Buchanan? We have acquired New Mexico and Arizona from Mexico, embracing a territory equal to five states as large as Iowa. Mr. Buchanan says, that slavery now exists there under the guardianship of the Federal constitution, and must so remain as long as the territorial condition remains. This I call extending slavery. I will neither advocate nor support such doctrines, nor will I remain in a political party that does. As Maj. Jack Downing once said, "I am going to shoulder my axe and be off."

His old time friends sneeringly asked, "where will Enoch go now to get his axe ground?" In his characteristic manner he replied:

*There has been some controversy among the surviving Iowa politicians of his day in regard to the time that Eastman "shouldered his axe and left the Democratic party." Mr. Moir gives too early a date. The writer of this note is quite certain that it was not earlier than 1859 or 1860.—EDITOR OF THE ANNALS.

I regret to see my old friends taking such a deep interest in having my axe ground. For twenty-eight years I have chopped for the Democratic party with that same axe, and not one of these men in all that time has complained of its dullness, or thought of having it ground. You can say to them that I do not propose to have it ground. I have done chopping. I think I will split awhile now and every axeman knows that a dull axe is best to split with. I will not crawl onto this new-fangled platform (the Buchanan heresy) but will use my axe to split it down, and will most heartily cooperate with any and all others who are engaged in the same holy cause.

During the rebellion the subject of reconstruction by leaving New England out was being mooted by a portion of the press and people of the country. Being a New Englander he expressed himself in very emphatic language against such a movement. In a speech made in Eldora, Feb. 22, 1863, he said:

And there is now a scheme on foot in Congress, and in some of the states, to reconstruct the government, connect the west with the south and leave New England out. I have no desire to survive the day when I cannot claim Boston, Lexington and Bunker Hill as a part of my country. No! Come war and poverty, distress and persecution, and death, come what may, I never will cut loose from my own native New England. Where it goes, I will go, where it lies, if fall it must, I will lie, and her people shall be my people, and her God my God.

He ever aimed to be a statesman rather than a politician. He never was an office-seeker. But without any solicitation on his part and very unexpectedly to him, the republican State convention of 1863 that nominated William M. Stone for Governor, nominated him for Lieutenant Governor. He was elected, receiving the largest majority which up to that time had been given to any candidate for any State office. He presided over the Senate during the session of 1864. Being a member of the House of Representatives during that session I had a good opportunity to judge of his ability as a presiding officer. Coming from my own town I watched him and was proud of him. While at times somewhat eccentric yet he was acknowledged by both democrats and republicans to be fair and impartial in his rulings, and a good parliamentarian. He took the gavel in hand while the

rebellion was still progressing. Some idea of the boldness and patriotism of the man, and the spirit of the times, may be seen by referring to short extracts from his speech made on taking the chair and which are found on page 65, Journal of the Senate, 1864. He referred to the perilous times in which we were then living, to the fact that there were disloyal men in Iowa, and of the possibility of there being some member of the State Senate whose devotion to the Union had ceased to exist, and then added:

If, unfortunately, such an one is here, my heart's desire and prayer to God is, that his tongue may be paralyzed and cleave to the roof of his mouth whenever he attempts to utter the intent of his heart. For the honor of the State, I do hope that the patriotic men of Iowa who have taken their lives in their hands and gone to the tented field, will not receive a shot in the rear from any member of this honorable Senate. . . . Every one goes beyond the bounds of loyalty who talks the government into disrepute with the people. Sedition and treason are first promulgated, and then consummated by a licentious exercise of speech. I hold that no man has the legal, moral, or political right to begin to do, or even to advocate that which the law will punish him for consummating.

Golden words—applicable as well today as when they were uttered in the Iowa Senate. He further added:

Believing, therefore, as I do, that the axe should be laid at the root of the tree, I will hold it unparliamentary for any one to talk treason, or advocate the cause of secession, or any dismemberment of the Union, or in any way give aid and comfort to the rebellion by pleading the cause of the traitors, or denouncing or disparaging the government in this Senate while I preside over it. The right of speech in a legislative assembly does not extend beyond the bounds of loyalty.

During that session there were no treasonable speeches in the Iowa Senate. All knew that his words were gospel truth; they will stand as such until the last syllable of recorded time.

In 1883 he was called by the people of Hardin and Grundy counties to represent them in the Senate of the 20th General Assembly, and he took a leading part in shaping the legislation of that session. Many more matters might be referred to that would add lustre to the fair fame of our friend did time and space permit. Two more will suffice.

detracts nothing from the beauty and originality of the sentiment in the motto as given by its author, which never could have been given or accepted, had the constitution of 1844 been adopted. Thus have I briefly traced some of the principal events in the life of my friend. As a writer he was forceful, vigorous and original. As a speaker he was one of the most widely known as well as one of the most popular in the State. No man who has lived in the State of Iowa, has done more to shape public opinion, and to carry wise principles to a successful issue than Enoch Worthen Eastman.

ELDORA, IOWA, Feb. 1, 1904.

ICARIANS AT NAUVOO.—A general meeting of the citizens of Nauvoo, was held at the Icarian house on the 6th inst., to whom M. Cabet, the principal of the society of French, known as Icarians, delivered an address. After which, the meeting passed resolutions complimentary to the French, and welcoming them to our land. To these resolutions Mr. Cabet responded, expressing the thanks of his people to the citizens. He said they had chosen this country as the land of the free, and determined to submit to its laws. If any one should say that the society is "contrary to the laws of God, he would be mistaken. We are Christians. The Gospel is our law. Our community is founded not only on fraternity, equality and liberality—but also upon morality and temperance—on marriage and family relations—on education and industry—on peace and respect to the laws, and we shall always pray for the prosperity of the great and powerful American Republic." It seems from this announcement of the principles on which the society is founded, that the Icarians have been injuriously slandered in some quarters.—*The Fort Des Moines Star*, Oct. 12, 1849.

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