

marked success, whereof his superior officer took the credit although absent and had given directions that would have led to contrary results, and Drake's name was unmentioned in the dispatches.

But while General Drake was modest and unassuming he who presumed too much on his graciousness, he who mistook his desire to please for lack of decision, very soon awoke to the fact that there was a great deal of oak and iron in his constitution. He was Governor while he occupied the office of chief executive. On matters chiefly or wholly political in character he consulted freely with his friends and coworkers; but when a matter touched him closely he shouldered responsibility promptly and exercised power vigorously. He could not be whipped about by the varying winds and waves of sentiment. One day at the dinner table of a well-known citizen in an eastern Iowa city some prominent Iowans fell into a lively discussion of the propriety of a then recent commutation of a death to a life sentence, by Governor Drake. He listened to the numerous unfavorable comments for some time in stern silence; but finally he suddenly blazed forth, bringing his clenched fist down on the table with a bang that made the china jump—"I never believed in hanging boys and I never will." The discussion was ended.

A GREAT MEDAL.

A bronze medal in the George E. Roberts Collection in the State Historical Department has a very interesting history. It was awarded to Joseph Francis, by act of Congress in 1888. He was a Massachusetts philanthropist who spent the better part of his life in devising plans and appliances for saving the lives of those who go down to the sea in ships. One of his inventions was the well-known life-car by

means of which people can be safely landed from a wreck near the shore. This invention proved a great success, though at the start no aid could be obtained from the government. In his first trial of this device, at his own expense, he saved 200 lives from a wreck, losing but a single man who would not obey his orders. The dies were engraved by a French artist at a cost of \$3,000. It has a medallion portrait of the inventor on its face, while on the reverse it shows a wreck in the midst of a storm, with the life-car plying with its precious freight between the ship and the shore. This medal possesses much local interest for it was devised by Charles Terrell, a former resident of the capital of our State, and a graduate of the U. S. Naval School at Annapolis. Some of his relatives reside in Des Moines at this time. The medal is certainly a very beautiful one, one of the finest in every respect ever issued by the government, and one of the largest. The original was struck in gold, and was four inches in diameter and a little more than one-fourth of an inch thick. It is one of the most conspicuous in this interesting and valuable collection.

A SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

On Sunday the 8th of November, 1903, the Rev. Dr. William Salter, of Burlington, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination as a clergyman of the Congregational Church. He preached a sermon on that occasion "replete with helpful thoughts and beautiful sentiments." This discourse was not only pleasant to hear, like everything that flows from the good man's lips, but it is most interesting and instructive reading in plain print. In addition to the analysis and summary of the life, work and doctrines of St. Paul, he presents a brief account of his own preparation for coming to Iowa, and how he entered upon his labors in the city of Burlington. It is now fifty-eight years since he began

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