

But in the composition of a faculty for the spurious medical department we find a redundant complement of chairs overflowing with professors, without any effort to prune down to save expense. For instance, here we have the chair of medical jurisprudence, while there are but two other medical schools in the whole Union containing such a professorship; and, again, we have the chair of obstetrics, and the chair of diseases of women and children, filled by two separate professors; while in such medical schools as Bellevue, New York, the medical department of the university of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and a dozen others that might be named, the most eminent institutions of medical learning in the country, where the professor is secured for the chair and the chair not made for the professor, we find these chairs combined. The anxious inquirer will, therefore, have to look elsewhere than to economy for the motive of the president of the university in recommending the abolishment of the important chair of history and political economy in the collegiate department, while he favors and commends the unusual and unnecessary ones referred to in the medical department.

It is but sheer justice to add that Prof. T. S. Parvin, who has been removed from his professorship in the university by the recent action of the regents, is a gentleman who has long and earnestly devoted himself to the study of history, local and general, ancient and modern, and is conceded by all to have special aptness and qualifications for the chair which has been discontinued.

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MEMOIR OF COL. N. W. MILLS.

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Noah Webster Mills, the fourth colonel of the second Iowa infantry, whose portrait we present as a frontispiece to this number of the ANNALS, was born in Montgomery county, Indiana, June 21st, 1834. He received his education partially

at Wabash College, defraying his own expenses while there from the proceeds of his work in a printing office. In college he was distinguished for modesty, morality, and industry. After leaving college, he was attached to an engineer corps, and afterwards was employed in Adams' Express Company as a messenger. While thus engaged, he applied his spare moments to the study of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1856, and the same year removed to Des Moines, where, renouncing the profession of law for the time, he engaged with his brother, F. M. Mills, in the book printing business, as one of the well known and successful firm of Mills & Co.

On the breaking out of the rebellion, he was among the first in Iowa to join the Union army, and entered the service as a lieutenant in Capt. M. M. Crocker's company, which was assigned to the second infantry. At the organization of the regiment, Crocker became major, and Mills took his place as captain, which position he held till the 22d day of June, 1862, when he was promoted to the majority, two days later to the lieutenant colonelcy, and finally, in the succeeding October, to the full colonelcy of the regiment. His latest promotion, however, had not time to reach him before his death. He entered upon his military career with the lowest commissioned position, and in seventeen months, by bravery and good conduct, had attained the highest regimental rank.

He had passed with his regiment unscathed through many severe conflicts, such as the siege of Fort Donelson and the battle of Shiloh, but death awaited him in the second day's battle of Corinth, October 4, 1862, where and when he received his death wound. Col. Baker, whom he succeeded in command, had been mortally wounded in the battle of the preceding day. On the second day, the enemy had massed his forces on the south side of Corinth for a last desperate charge on the Union lines, and came dashing down into the town on the double-quick. At this critical juncture Col. Mills, while rallying his regiment in a successful effort to drive back the rebels, received a musket ball in the sole of the foot, which plowed a furrow from the toes to the heel. He was taken to

the hospital in due time, and his wound not being considered even dangerous, he was warmly congratulated on the happy issue of the fight, and the conspicuous services himself had rendered in securing the victory, as well as on the promotion which certainly awaited him. But, unhappily, death is too often in the wake of the slightest injury, and lock-jaw supervening, the gallant Col. Mills, eight days after the receipt of his wound, was numbered with the slain. His body was soon afterwards brought home, and buried with distinguished honors at Des Moines.

Col. Mills somewhat exceeded the average height, and was rather portly. He had a good voice and was kind and frank in manners, which were enhanced by a blue eye, fair complexion, and light brown hair. He was a good scholar and a forcible writer, and, though young, was an influential citizen of Des Moines at the beginning of the war.

L. D. Ingersoll, author of "Iowa and the Rebellion," says of him: "A kinder heart than his never beat, nor a more generous soul ever animated man. He was a practical printer, a ripe scholar, an independent thinker, a fine writer, an excellent soldier, a man of a thousand admirable qualities and not one bad one. His modesty had prevented him from gaining the standing to which his merits entitled him; but it is the absolute truth that in his death Iowa lost one of her best, one of her most lovable, most promising citizens, and the volunteer service an officer who, had he been spared, would have added to its dignity, its fame, and its usefulness."

He left a wife and two children. The battle of Corinth bereft his wife not only of her husband, but of her father, Brig. Gen. Hackelman, of Indiana, who was killed in the first day's fight. When informed of the inevitability of death, Col. Mills sent touching messages to his parents and family, breathing nothing but resignation and heroism.

The principal facts contained in this meagre sketch have been gleaned from Ingersoll's "Iowa and the Rebellion," and Stuart's "Iowa Colonels and Regiments."

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