



THE LATE JUDGE N. M. HUBBARD.
1829-1902.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

NATHANIEL MEAD HUBBARD was born in Oswego, N. Y., Sept. 24, 1829; he died in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 12, 1902. From a sketch in "Progressive Men of Iowa," which is no doubt authoritative, we derive most of the following facts: He was the son of Ansel Hubbard, a Methodist clergyman and farmer, whose New England ancestry went back to 1624. In his boyhood days he had to battle against adverse conditions which he conquered in his determination to attain an education. An elder sister was his first teacher when he was a hard-worked boy on the farm. "By the aid of a pine knot in the evenings," says his biographer, "after his regular work was done, he began his earnest efforts to educate himself." As soon as he had made sufficient progress, he taught school and carried on his studies out of school hours. At the age of 20 he entered Alfred university, a Seventh Day Baptist college, at Alfred Center, Allegany county, N. Y., a short distance west of Hornellsville. After his graduation he studied law at the latter place. Coming west in 1854, he located in Marion, Iowa. At the outbreak of the civil war he entered the Union army, in which he served three years. He raised Co. F of the 20th Iowa Infantry, of which he was commissioned captain. In 1863 he was appointed provost marshal on the staff of Gen. F. J. Herron. He also served in the same capacity and as judge advocate on the staff of Gen. O. E. C. Ord. He resigned on account of disability April 20, 1865, and was brevetted major March 16, 1867, for meritorious services. He had long been a member of the Iowa Commandery of the Loyal Legion, and was president of the Society of the Army of the Frontier. In November after his return he was appointed district judge, to fill a vacancy. He left the bench the following year to enter the legal department of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Co., in which service he remained down to the time of his death. He removed to Cedar Rapids in 1870. During the thirty-six years which elapsed after Judge Hubbard entered upon that engagement—1866-1902—no man in Iowa achieved a higher position as a lawyer or became a more dominant factor in its politics. His life was one of the greatest activity, and he won distinguished success in most of the contests in which he was necessarily engaged. While never craving political honors for himself, for many years his friendship for an aspirant for nomination or appointment counted as much as did that of Thurlow Weed in the state of New York. It would require a volume to tell the story of so active and influential a life, and we have little doubt that some such memorial will be prepared and published by his friends. His sudden death called forth expressions of respect and sympathy throughout the State, and from leading men in other parts of the country. We do not recall another instance in which the press of Iowa has devoted so much space to the record of a life. This was especially noticeable in the case of *The Register*, of Des Moines, ten of the broad columns of which were given up to "Memories of Judge Hubbard," by his friend, Hon. James S. Clarkson. He once asked the judge whom he estimated as Iowa's greatest men. Judge H. replied that Samuel F. Miller and James W. Grimes were "the greatest Iowa men in greatness born." He placed Mr. Grimes next to Lincoln in ability, at that time, saying, "Grimes had the cleanest and strongest mental ray among Iowa men," and he mentioned especially his great services as chairman of the senate committee on naval affairs during the civil war. Judge Hubbard's death was due to an accident. "He was driving from one of his farms to the other on a wagon with dump-boards, as he used to do in his boyhood days." The jolting frightened the team, which ran away, throwing him to the ground where a hind wheel passed over him. He was so seriously injured that he died three days afterwards.

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