



THE INDIAN CHIEF KEOKUK—"THE WATCHFUL FOX."

This half-tone portrait is from a daguerrotype taken in 1847, when the great chief was 67 years of age. THE ANNALS copies it from a photograph from the original, kindly furnished by Dr. J. M. Shaffer of the city of Keokuk. This has been generally accepted by historical writers as a faithful likeness of that celebrated Iowa Chief.

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

COLONEL KINSMAN.

Since the civil war few men of his rank have been so well remembered in this State as Colonel William H. Kinsman. True, he was a brave, impulsive and most efficient soldier, who was killed in battle; but this might be said of many others who were quite his equals, but of whom the general recollection is growing dim with the flight of years. His name has lived while "the mould is gathering upon the memories" of so many others. In addition, however, to his high, manly, and soldierly qualities, he was most fortunate in other respects. He was the idol of two famous regiments, the Fourth and the Twenty-third Infantry, the survivors of which may be found in many Iowa counties, and an officer whose characteristics gave him a warm place in the affections of his men. He stood high in the regard of Gen. G. M. Dodge, with whom he was upon terms of close friendship in private life before the war. The friendship of Gen. Dodge greatly aided Kinsman in the early days of his military service, though he possessed the elements which make up the dashing soldier. He would have won higher promotion had his life been spared.

In the pages of this number of *THE ANNALS* Gen. Dodge gives to history his recollections of his friend and fellow soldier, paying a generous tribute to his many high qualities. This article was written nearly a year ago, long before the recovery of Col. Kinsman's remains. Gen. Dodge sometime since determined that the remains of the gallant soldier should be brought home to Council Bluffs for final burial, with such honors as people so spontaneously pay to the illustrious dead. Two expeditions were set on foot by him and carried through at his expense. The last was successful and the

grave was located by men who had helped bury the soldier, and his remains were sent home. Upon their receipt at Council Bluffs, Gen. Dodge published the following open letter to his old comrades in arms. It explains itself:

TO MY COMRADES.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, NOV. 26, 1901.

To My Comrades of the Fourth and Twenty-third Iowa Infantry:

The remains of W. H. Kinsman of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who was a lieutenant and captain in Company B, Fourth Iowa Infantry, and lieutenant-colonel and colonel of the Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, have been recovered by Lieut. J. A. Straight and Jesse Truitt of the Twenty-third Iowa, and are now deposited in a vault in Fairview cemetery in this city.

It is intended to erect a suitable monument to his memory, and it is my wish that every living comrade of the two regiments in which he so gallantly served, should have an opportunity to aid in the erection of the monument, no matter how small the amount. The names of every one of you should appear in honoring the memory of your comrade and commander, and you should also be present at the unveiling of the monument, May 17, 1902.

As the contract for the monument must be made immediately, in order to have it completed in time, your donation should be prompt and forwarded to E. J. Abbott, adjutant, Abe Lincoln Post, G. A. R., Council Bluffs, Iowa. The comrades who see this are requested to inform all comrades of their acquaintance in either regiment.

GENEVILLE M. DODGE.

THE ANNALS of July next will no doubt present some account of the final tribute to the memory of Col. Kinsman, including the dedication of the monument, to pay for which his old comrades in arms are now sending in their contributions.

After the foregoing article was prepared, we received from Gen. G. M. Dodge, copied by a friend, the following item from the genealogical record of the Kinsman family:

William Henry, son of Theodorus Kinsman, born July 11, 1832, graduated from Claverack Academy in Claverack, Columbia county, N. Y., about 1857, studied law. When the war broke out joined the army, rose to the rank of colonel of the Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, and fell in battle near Vicksburg, Miss., May 17, 1863, in Grant's army.

JUSTICE TO MR. COFFIN.

We believe it must be known to every intelligent reader that the movement to require the railroad companies throughout the United States to furnish their cars with safety appliances to prevent the maiming and killing of their brakemen, origin-

ated with Hon. Lorenzo S. Coffin of Webster county, Iowa. We mention this matter just now for the purpose of stating that other parties are claiming the credit of this great undertaking. This is not to be wondered at, for it is seldom, indeed, that any genuine reform comes to its fruition without a like result. There are always "claimants" of the credit of every good work, whether it be the writing of an immortal poem or the initiation of a great measure of reform. Mr. Coffin, the pioneer in this movement, seems unlikely to escape the common fate of all true reformers. But hundreds, if not thousands, of the people of this and other states, are still living to testify to his earnest and self-sacrificing work from the very start, in securing the adoption of this life-saving law. How he presented it to the Iowa and other state legislatures, and to the congress of the United States, is yet within the public memory. He had to meet and overcome a thousand objections, all of which were less than fanciful when weighed in the scale against human lives. Aside from all this he was stigmatized as a "crank," "a half crazy enthusiast," with divers other choice epithets from the same general category of denunciation. But he steadfastly persevered, braving and surmounting every obstacle, laboring with law-makers everywhere, discussing the measure on the rostrum and in the newspapers, until he won a success which has made his name illustrious. And now, various men here and there, are claiming that they initiated the movement. We have written these lines in justice to Mr. Coffin, with whom the writer has had a personal acquaintance of more than forty years, and with an earnest wish to aid in giving a good man the permanent credit so justly his due. It is to be hoped that he will write a history of the measure and tell the coming generations how it came to its abiding-place in the general legislation of the country.

No sooner had Mr. Coffin secured the adoption of appliances for saving the lives of railroad employes than he projected another enterprise which must also appeal to the sym-

pathies of all humane and Christian people. This is a home—consisting of a beautiful 80-acre farm and comfortable buildings—for discharged convicts from our penitentiaries, a temporary resting-place, where they can safely abide until permanent employment can be secured for them. A condition can scarcely be imagined more forlorn than that of a convict during the first few weeks succeeding his discharge from a term of imprisonment. He is an object of universal distrust, and it is little wonder that so many of them, failing to obtain employment, keep on the down grade and again bring up in the penitentiary. Mr. Coffin's plan contemplates welcoming them to this pleasant home, where light employment can be had, and where, under the influence of Christian teaching they can be aided and encouraged to lead better lives—in short, "to be saved to themselves and the State." At this writing the building is enclosed and on the way to completion. It will doubtless be ready for its good work early in the spring. There are many details relating to this undertaking, which we have no space to recount, but it is so far advanced that its success is assured. In fact, Mr. Coffin never takes a backward step in any good work. We understand that many convicts in our penitentiaries, whose terms will expire the present year, are already looking ahead with high hopes of finding a resting-place and encouragement until they can make a new start in life from the home so wisely and generously provided for them by Mr. Coffin. This place of rest is near his own home—in fact, a part of his celebrated Willow-Edge Farm.

CHARACTERISTIC LETTER BY GOV. KIRKWOOD.

The original copy of the following letter was recently presented to the State Historical Department by Mr. H. W. Lathrop, author of the "Life and Times" of our late War Governor. It has been published heretofore, and possibly

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