

AN INGLORIOUS "COLONEL"

The Mighty Patriot Who Loves the Flag
but Did Not Defend It.

"COL." C. R. SCOTT IN WAR AND IN PEACE

Pen Sketches of the Belligerent Barrister
With a Bogus Military Title—His
Exploits and Ex-

The active canvass which Judge Scott is making for the republican nomination for congress has very naturally made him the subject of discussion not only among active politicians, but among all classes of people. Many of our older citizens have known of him while he was a resident of Council Bluffs and other places in Iowa. A large majority of our people, however, know very little of Scott's career prior to his recent elevation to the district judgeship.

Judge Scott, or "Colonel" Scott, as he calls himself, located in Omaha about 1856 or 1857 and entered upon the practice of law with here and there a dip into real estate speculation. He did not become prominent enough to attract attention until last fall, when he became noisy and officiously fussy at Rock Estate Owners' meetings, where he tried to make a display of championing the proposed location of the national republican convention at Omaha. He had himself selected as envoy extraordinary to the Iowa and Colorado conventions, and when, finally, leading citizens succeeded in raising the money to defray the expenses of the excursion, Colonel Scott had himself appointed as chief and sole spokesman to advocate Omaha's claim before the national republican committee. His performance at the national capital, and his failure to bring back a single vote, brought the "colonel" into a great deal of notoriety and Omaha into ridicule and disrepute.

But this is putting the cart before the horse. The "colonel's" judicial campaign which preceded the town of Washington was the first act of the colonel's career, and the general discontent about the court house clique and city hall ring the colonel mounted the rostrum on the high horse of Americanism and patriotism. He raised the rallying cry of reform and made himself particularly obnoxious to the public by bringing the "colonel" into a great deal of notoriety and Omaha into ridicule and disrepute.

The Colonels' War Record.

The colonel's record is, however, not quite as glorious and bloody as most of his admirers have believed it to be.

If you ask any old-time residents of Anamosa or Jones county, Iowa, "Do you know Colonel Scott?" he will probably reply, "I know him, R. Scott, but where in the devil did he get the title of colonel?" and then he will go on to tell you all about the raising of a company of soldiers in Anamosa early in 1861 and Scott's part in the patriotic movement.

Scott reached Anamosa early in January, 1861, from Tipton, Ia., where he had resided a short time, having also lived a while at Keokuk. Everything was war talk at that time, and Scott was soon recognized as the most bumptious partisan. He ferociously assailed every man who was not as enthusiastic as he was.

Major S. F. Farwell of Anamosa, who recently represented his district in congress, was one of the enthusiastic men whom was most to take an active part in the work equipping the company of Jones county soldiers for the army. He found a valuable assistant in Mr. Scott, who was wildly enthusiastic in the cause. These men and another prominent republican and abolitionist started to raise a company of volunteers. Major Farwell held at various places in the county, and the loyal sentiments expressed by the movers in the cause found response in the loyal hearts of the women of Jones county, and a company of 100 women were soon formed. At these meetings no man was sent so far as Scott in bitter denunciation of the seceders and in passionate appeals to the men of the north to rally to the defense of the mother and the union. It is remembered by a judge of the circuit court a good many and many other citizens of the country that in one of his speeches Scott stated that he owned a farm near Anamosa and his home in the city, all he had on earth, and that he would gladly give all for that one good soul a right to live.

This all sounded very patriotic and the men thought that Scott was unselfishly patriotic and was willing to give his life for the country, so that they soon got different when it was announced that Scott wanted to be elected captain of the company, notwithstanding the fact that he was a comparative stranger in the county, and that all of the talk on the subject had been to elect the first lieutenant, rather than Jones county for the position. If Scott couldn't be captain he was willing to take the place of first lieutenant of the company, and so carried on a vigorous campaign, to get the first place if he could, and the second at any rate.

His Patriotism Oozed.

When the election of officers came Scott was sadly disappointed. E. D. Alderman, now a resident of California, was chosen captain by an almost unanimous vote, and one of Scott's hopes had gone glimmering. But this was the last straw, for he was determined that he would very truly handicapped by a case of inflammatory rheumatism that had not troubled him any before his defeat for an office in the company. "Col." Scott said that Captain Alderman told him he had no money at home and keep his family from starving instead of going to the army and leaving them at home without the necessities of life.

The question was put plainly to Major Farwell: "What do you understand was the reason that Scott did not go with the company until after he had been defeated?" and the Major replied: "It was generally understood that Scott would not go unless he could be made captain or first lieutenant of the company, an endorsement that he refused to give him."

"Scott says that it was further stated to the major, 'that he had inflammatory rheumatism.'

"I never heard of Scott's inflammatory rheumatism until after he had been defeated for an office in the company."

The title of "colonel" is a source of amusement to the Anamosa people.

The "Colonel's" Expulsive Tendencies.

Although Colonel Scott was a non-combatant stay-at-home patriot during the war, he was decidedly belligerent as a man of peace. An Anamosa paper relates one incident that especially excited the community.

"Then Judge Yates was called judge in the '60's," says the Anamosa paper. "Lawyer Scott's conduct was so unmanly, so hèmously insolent, that Judge Yates one day during the trial of a case threatened to fine him for contempt of court. As soon as court was adjourned, Lawyer Scott rushed up to the judge's desk, as that gentleman was rising to leave the court room and shaking his fist under the judge's nose, applied to him the most execrable epithets, and caused to knock him down, and probably would have done so, but for the interference of other lawyers. Judge Yates was a puny man in poor health and unable to defend himself, and in view of the last words the court had been compelled to dismiss and continue the case. Scott had and his uncontrollable rage were contemptible and cowardly. The members of the bar here were unanimous in the opinion that Lawyer Scott had made an ass and a fool of himself, and in view of the conduct of the judge's court, had been disgraced and contumacious. 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