

did he keep the pledge of that record. Through all the eight years following runs a straight line of purity and righteousness, in his senatorial career. One could hardly wish a better test of what was wrong, than what Senator Caffery opposed; and that was a good deal. He was probably fallible in his judgments of such things, like other mortals; but he seemed rather less and less, than more and more so, with increase of acquaintance.

One of his latest prominent appearances before the country was wholly thrust upon him, or rather attempted to be, in his nomination by the third party in New York last September. Of this occasion one of his family remarked: "We were against it, and I felt some uneasiness, for they came trying to persuade him that it was his duty, and I knew that if ever that got into his head, nothing on earth could ever turn him away." A leading public man of his state described him indeed as a queer fellow, citing as instance, that there had once been a sharp opposition between them on some local question, and when shortly afterward this gentleman wished endorsements for a certain position, he was astonished by a particularly strong one from Senator Caffery. This absolute rectitude seemed the key to all his grasp of public matters; the clearness of judgment, the almost unerring sense of the better part and the worse, the weighty comment, all appeared to flow from that one pure fountain; his large knowledge, his diligent reading, and all his public opportunities, being so many tributary streams. At any rate, for one who knew that such were his main springs, it was interesting to see what ways they would impel him, under all his conditions, as a public man. The ways proved to be, inflexible opposition to silverism, protectionism, imperialism, subsidism; support of the present administration by a clear though narrow margin; general views of his country, bound up as he is and identified with his own section, yet easily transcending all mere partialities and limitations of any section.

Whenever his manful stand in the time of his party's great eclipse is recalled, there comes with it the figure of the steadfast angel:

So spake the seraph Abdiel, faithful found
Among the faithless, faithful only he;
Among innumerable false, unmoved,
Unshaken, unseduced, unterrified,
Nor numbers nor example with him wrought
To swerve from truth, or change his constant
mind,
Though single, from amidst them forth he
passed,
Long way through hostile scorn, which he
sustained
Superior, nor of violence feared aught;
And with retorted scorn his back he turned
On those proud towers, to swift destruction
doomed.

The foregoing may have a little the sound of an epitaph, as is natural; but it is responsible, and moreover, not with-

out hope even in this life. Hale as one of the majestic live-oaks that hang their mossy streamers round his Southern home, he could not if he would estrange himself from the interests of the country he has served so well.

THE WHITE CHIEF.

Owners of the curious work published in 1870 under the above title, edited by General Brisbin, will be interested in the following note from Governor Furnas, of Brownville, concerning the "adventurous white chief, soldier, hunter, trapper and guide," Belden, from whose manuscripts the book was professedly compiled. According to Belden's narrative, he ran away from his home in Ohio at the age of thirteen, came to "Brownsville," Nebraska, then a small hamlet of log houses, induced his father and family presently to follow him thither, and embarked in the publication of a weekly newspaper, the "Nemaha Valley Journal," which he characterizes as a sickly affair. Then in the course of two years brick houses sprang up, "buffalo, game and Indians were gone," the sickly paper became a daily, and young Belden felt constrained to depart for less metropolitan fields. The lack of buffalo can hardly have been felt at Brownville, for according to the journals of early travelers, they were not seen east of Fort Kearney for many a year before this time.

Governor Furnas writes that this account is "highly colored. George Belden came to Brownville with his father and family. Not before. George was an adventurous boy, which in the end cost him his life. He was a member of my regiment, the Second Nebraska Cavalry, in our northern expedition against the Sioux Indians in Northern Dakota in 1863. He was a writer of merit, and kept for me the diary of that expedition. After that service was over, he ventured alone into that country and was killed by the Indians.

"There was a small, short-lived daily paper once published in Brownville, for which young Belden did some writing. I do not think George was interested in the paper. His father only leased the material for the printing office."

In running away from home for the second time, the young man laid his course for Nebraska City, riding fast and furious and never pulling rein until he reached his destination; but then remember that there was telegraphic communication with Brownville, and fearing lest he should be overhauled by wire, he pushed on over the prairie and reached Omaha the same day he started. But his recollection of this matter must have been confused, or else he did not come to Nebraska so early as one would suppose; for the first telegraph office in Nebraska City was opened only in the fore part of November, 1860. The office was two doors east of the Morton House.

THE CONSERVATIVE A WISE RECOMMENDATION.

Governor Dietrich for opposing unnecessary duplication in the construction and equipment of public buildings. In a special message to the legislature he has made a sensible recommendation in regard to the lighting of state institutions located at the capital city that deserves the approbation of our law-makers. He suggests that money be appropriated for the building of a common lighting plant in conjunction with the electrical plant of the state university. As the governor points out there would be a two-fold advantage in the proposed arrangement. It would result in an annual saving to the state of \$10,496, or fifty per cent. And in addition to this economy it would equip our state university with one of the best electrical plants in the country and give the electrical department a rank second to none.

Relative to the cost of the proposed plan the governor says:

"The cost of instituting such a plant as is proposed, including all the wiring and material needed, would not exceed \$50,000, so that the amount saved the state each year, to say nothing of the advantages in the way of adequate lighting, convenience and education, would in less than five years be sufficient to pay the entire original cost.

"The proposed plan contemplates the enlargement of the electrical plant at the university. Prof. Morgan Brooks of the department of electrical engineering at the university, who very kindly at my request, investigated into the matter and from whose estimates these deductions are drawn, says that for \$50,000 or possibly less, the university plant can be enlarged so as to furnish light for all of said buildings day and night and the necessary power to operate the machinery at the penitentiary and furnish such power as is needed at the asylum together with necessary motors. This plan also provides for the use of exhaust steam for heating the university and the expense of rearranging the heating plant to that end is included in the foregoing estimate. Conditioned upon such an improvement in the facilities for teaching and demonstrating work in electricity it is possible if not probable that the board of regents will agree to defray the expense of rearranging the heating system out of funds of that institution and thus make a corresponding decrease, approximately \$2,500, in the cost to the state.

"There are many reasons why such a plant as is proposed should be located at the university. It means that the machinery will have close inspection and be under constant supervision of expert electricians at all times without additional expense. It means a saving in the cost of a boiler house and a stack. And it means—and this is a most significant feature, considering the part electricity promises to play in the future as a concomitant inventive genius—that the university of Nebraska will be equipped with as good a plant and be as well prepared to educate on the subject of electricity as any of the great colleges of this country."

A. T. R.