

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; 52
D CONGRESS, 2D SESSION, NO.
99, MEMORIAL ADDRESSES ON
THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF
JOHN R. GAMBLE**

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VARIOUS

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JOHN R. GAMBLE**

Gamble (John Rankin)

52D CONGRESS,
2d Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MIS. DOC.
No. 99.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

JOHN R. ^{Rankin} GAMBLE,

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA.)

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,

FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

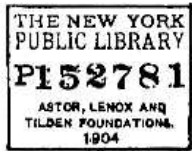
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Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the Hon. JOHN R. GAMBLE, late a Representative from the State of South Dakota, eight thousand copies, of which number two thousand shall be delivered to the Senators and Representatives of the State of South Dakota, which shall include fifty copies to be bound in full morocco, to be delivered to the family of the deceased; and of those remaining, two thousand copies shall be for the use of the Senate, and four thousand copies for the use of the House of Representatives; and the Secretary of the Treasury is directed to have engraved and printed a portrait of the said JOHN R. GAMBLE to accompany said eulogies.

Agreed to in the House of Representatives, April 15, 1892.
Agreed to in the Senate, April 20, 1892.

DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE GAMBLE.

JOHN RANKIN GAMBLE died in Yankton, S. Dak., Friday, August 14, 1891, aged 43 years 7 months and 13 days.

"JOHN GAMBLE is dead." These words greeted the early risers Friday morning and were told at many bedsides in the early day. JOHN R. GAMBLE dead? There must be some mistake. He can not be dead. We can not realize it; and yet he is gone, and this city, the State and the West, have lost a good citizen, a loyal champion, and a grand representative.

Mr. GAMBLE had been a sufferer with a heart trouble for many years. Indefatigable, as he seemed, and as industrious and persistent as he was, there was a limit to his strength, and he reached it. Thursday he complained of an indisposition, and at 6 o'clock last night Dr. Turkopp, the family physician, was summoned. He left some medicine and called again at 9 o'clock. Mr. GAMBLE seemed to be feeling better then; but at 12 o'clock the heart trouble, of which the mild illness of the day was a symptom, attacked him, and Dr. Turkopp found him very weak and very much wearied when he reached the bedside. His brothers, Hugh and Robert, were with him until late last evening, but they had not the remotest idea that he would not be well on the way to recovery to-day. John rallied from the attack and rested easily until about 3 a. m., Dr. Turkopp and Mrs. Gamble remaining with him. The doomed man seemed, however, to realize his own condition, but was

much encouraged that he felt stronger. At about 3:30 o'clock, however, there came another attack, and Dr. Turkopp asked for a consultation of physicians. Dr. McGlumphy was summoned, and the two doctors applied external restoratives and made every effort to relieve the sufferer. Their efforts were partially successful, and Mr. GAMBLE rallied again. At 5:30, however, he began to fail rapidly, and at 6:15, after having been unconscious for fifteen minutes, he drew one last feeble breath and was dead. Robert Gamble had been called at 5:30, but his brother had passed into a partial unconsciousness and did not know him.

JOHN RANKIN GAMBLE was born in the town of Alabama, Genesee County, State of New York, on the 15th day of January, 1848. He was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. On his mother's side he was related to Andrew Jackson, his mother being a third cousin. He was brought up upon the farm, and attended the common schools in the neighborhood. He removed with his people to Fox Lake, Wis., in the year 1862 and continued to reside on the farm. He was always an energetic, active, and studious young man, and was a leader in his work and the best student in his classes. By his industry at an early age he mastered all the studies taught in the schools of the neighborhood, and he then took up the work of self-instruction. He was always a great reader, and he made such advancement that when he entered Lawrence University at Appleton, Wis., in 1867, he graduated the first in his class in 1872, taking the full classical course. Prior to his entering college and during his course he taught school, and largely paid his own way through his entire course. After his graduation he studied law with Dawes Brothers, at Fox Lake, one of the leading firms of central Wisconsin, and was admitted to the bar in August, 1873. He moved from Wisconsin and located in Yankton, S. Dak., in September, 1873, and commenced the practice

of law. He has resided here continually since. In November, 1875, his brother, Robert J. Gamble, joined him at Yankton, and the two have been partners in the law business since that time under the name of Gamble Brothers.

On the 22d of September, 1875, John was married at Fox Lake, Wis., to Fannie Davis, a daughter of the Hon. John W. Davis, a leading citizen of that part of the State. He leaves a wife and three children, Lillie M., aged 13, Alice J., aged 11, and John W., aged 7. His mother died in November, 1880. His father is still living at Fox Lake, at the advanced age of 79 years. He has also two brothers and one sister residing there. William A. Gamble, the eldest brother, keeps the old homestead, and the aged father is with him, Hon. James C. Gamble, a leading and representative citizen of the county. His sister Margaret is the wife of Lieut. S. C. McDowell, who has held many official positions in that part of the State, and was an officer in the Eighth Wisconsin Regiment during the war. He has also another sister, Mrs. L. B. Bridgeman, who resides at Wakonda, in this county. His two younger brothers, Hugh S. and Robert J., are residents of Yankton. Mr. GAMBLE'S different periods of public service were:

As district attorney for Yankton County from 1876 to 1878.

As United States attorney for Dakota Territory, after the death of Col. Pound, and until the appointment of Hugh J. Campbell, in 1878.

As a member of the house of representatives from Yankton County in 1877, 1878, and 1879.

As a member of the legislative council from Yankton from 1881 to 1885, inclusive.

He was elected a Representative in Congress from the State of South Dakota to the Fifty-second Congress, and was preparing to go to the National Capital and take his seat at the time of his death.

He had been admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, and had the reputation of possessing the greatest legal ability and knowledge.

His law business had been lucrative, and he had accumulated moderately of the world's goods.

The death of HON. JOHN R. GAMBLE is an event altogether unexpected. The intelligence came with a shock that has served to intensify the feeling of bereavement which pervades the city and is keenly felt in every heart and home. A few days ago he was mingling with his fellow men, apparently in the best of health, planning for the work which his newly assumed official position opened before him, inviting to a career that promised lasting honor to himself and great usefulness to his fellow citizens. His whole mind was in this work, and urging him to its performance was the will and the ability of one whose successes in life have proven that he possessed both qualities in a remarkable degree.

Mr. GAMBLE has been a conspicuous figure in the affairs of Dakota for the past fifteen or twenty years, and his name is as familiar as a household word throughout both the States that made up the former Territory. His active business life had its beginning and its ending here. From the young and briefless lawyer of twenty years ago he had grown to be a leader and an authority in his profession, ranking second to no one of the ablest attorneys and counselors in South Dakota. His natural endowments were of a high and valuable order, and these were supplemented by a liberal education and a mind thoroughly and intelligently disciplined. He was intuitively a lawyer, and grew step by step in his profession, spurred by an ambition that never flagged or wavered. He was a rare worker. His application was a distinguishing trait. To his tireless

will was he indebted for the uninterrupted successes which greeted his professional labors. In this feature of his life the young who are striving to make headway may learn a valuable lesson.

As a leader of public opinion in matters of a political nature Mr. GAMBLE held a first place in the State. Here again his indomitable spirit, good abilities, and strong practical common sense made him eminent and influential, and during a period of nearly twenty years, always foremost in the thickest of the conflict, his career was one of almost uninterrupted achievement. And better than this is the record of his public acts, which bear no stain or blemish to reflect upon the honor of his name. He was an uncompromising Republican. His political principles were inborn and inseparable. He was an unflinching and indomitable fighter and truly knew no such word as fail. Such a nature always attracts the affection and confidence of political friends, and can not escape the censure of political foes. Mr. GAMBLE was no exception to the rule, and yet no political leader in the State has enjoyed the respect and confidence of all classes to a greater extent than he.

In private life Mr. GAMBLE was a loving husband, a gentle and indulgent father. As a citizen he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the entire community of Yankton, where his years of manhood have been passed. It can be said of him that here he was thoroughly known and thoroughly respected.

His mourning relatives and sorrow-stricken wife and children may surely know that their inconsolable grief is largely shared by the entire population of the city. Strong men strive in vain to check the tear of sorrow and bereavement. All feel bereaved—that if not a brother, a true friend, a worthy, able, and trusted citizen, whose future career promised so much of usefulness and honor, is lost to them. Yankton mourns the death of her foremost citizen—her gifted and honored son.