

**FURTHER LIGHT, AND  
OTHER POEMS  
WRITTEN FOR  
MASONIC OCCASIONS**

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Further light, and other poems written for Masonic occasions by Henry Pelham Holmes  
Bromwell

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**HENRY PELHAM HOLMES BROMWELL**

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F U R T H E R L I G H T

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AND OTHER POEMS WRITTEN FOR MASONIC OCCASIONS,  
ALSO TRIBUTES TO HIS FRIEND ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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By

HENRY PELHAM HOLMES BROMWELL.

( Baltimore — 1821 ————— 1863 — Denver )

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*"If I should, Bromwell, ever write a book  
Entitled 'Men who worthy prove of fame',  
I would the work begin with your pure name,  
Before I would to any other look;  
I'd show how, when your country underlook  
Herself to save from going down in shame,  
You, in her councils, to her rescue came,  
And did all opposition holdly brook.  
You I would range with honest Washington,  
With Madison, and Jefferson, and Clay,  
And Daniel Webster, that broad blazing star,  
Who, while he shone, Secession held at bay  
You too shall honored be for what you've done,  
If ever right and justice have their way."*

Theophilus Van Deren,

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## B I O G R A P H I C A L   N O T E S .

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[ *From the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, 1908, p. 142:* ]

"Henry Pelham Holmes Bromwell, Past Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, (serving in 1866) and honorary member of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, jurist, author, and legislator. Born, August 26, 1823. Died, January 9, 1903. ( Master of Charleston Lodge No. 35, 1853-59-60-61-62-63. )

"Brother Henry Pelham Holmes Bromwell was a fitting example for any man to safely follow, no matter how exalted his station in life. He was a descendant of Puritan stock. He was a material factor in the formation of the laws and history of two states of the Union, and, to some extent, of the Nation at large.

"As an orator he had but few, if any equals. Some of his flights of eloquence before this Grand Lodge in former years, were marvels that ring in our ears today, and will never be forgotten. He possessed the superb delivery of Everett, fortified with the power of Webster; and, notwithstanding this, one of his conspicuous characteristics was his refinement —  
—humility.

"Nor is this all. He was as good as he was grand. Of his Masonic history nothing need be written here. The records of this Grand Jurisdiction teem with his glorious achieve-



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

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ments, as do those of Colorado, where he had for so long a period made his home. He was like a spotless lily, standing by a cooling stream — a source from which to draw every laudable inspiration."

[*Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, 1908, p. 171, From the address of Brother Joseph Robbins to the Grand Lodge:*]

"There are few men in this body — perhaps not more than half a dozen — who remember Brother Brownwell when he first appeared before the Grand Lodge of Illinois,

"Tall, straight as an arrow, with eagle eye, and hair of quite aboriginal blackness, talking in parables clad in eminent speech, fluent, yet measured as became his subject — such is the picture which stands out in my memory of the Grand Orator of this Grand Lodge in 1862.

"The same figure mounted upon a chair, alive all over, with tongue of fire, and the volubility of a Niagara, — denouncing as treason to Masonry, and the users thereof as foresworn, the cypher which played so prominent a part in the fierce conflict which raged over the subject of work in the early sixties — stands out as one of the dominant forces of the stormy convention at Bryan hall in 1863.

"The same figure, that of the newly installed Grand Master, alert, prompt, decisive, but wielding the gavel with singular moderation, and with almost over-generous recognition of the rights upon the floor, of those who but yesterday had been his opponents — is the picture my memory retains of the executive of 1865 and 1866. Such altogether is my recol-

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

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lection of three aspects presented by the most singularly striking personality that has graced the presence and adorned the annals of this Grand Lodge since its organization."

"Looking backward through the perspective of the fleeting years, at him, and his compars, I am sure that I reflect the feeling of all those who were a part of the events of that period, when I say — there were giants in those days."

"Failing of a re-nomination for Congress — of which he was a member during and after his grand mastership, he sought a new field for his energies in the Territory of Colorado. There his abilities were quickly recognized. He became a member of the territorial legislature, of the convention which framed the constitution, and of the first, and subsequent state legislatures, and later was the commissioner to revise the statutes of the state; and in these capacities he left his impress all over the constitution and jurisprudence of the new commonwealth. His part in giving woman the ballot was so great that there was no one to dispute the title which he ever afterwards bore — that of the father of equal suffrage in Colorado."

"This gives you some idea of the forceful character of the man. His zeal for Masbury, and his love for it, knew no abatement with his change of residence; and while he lovingly remembered this Grand Lodge that had honored him, and preserved his affiliation with it, he took an active part in the affairs of the Fraternity in Colorado. He was made an honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Colorado at an early day, and from that day on, no annual communication passed while he

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

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was in health, that some opportunity was not found or made to draw from him an address upon the principles or symbolism of Masoury.

"As an advisor he was a principal factor in the revision of their code, and was the author of their funeral service, containing a remarkable, original Master Mason's hymn, familiar, probably, to but few of you, as not many copies of this service have found their way to Illinois — a dirge which in its tremendous power of rhythm, language and thought, at once recalls the *Dies Iræ*, one of the notable poems of the ages.

"At its last communication during his life, the Grand Lodge sent a committee to his bedside with greetings from his brethren and a message of encouragement and hope. But the hope proved vain. Tossed by the storms of nearly eighty winters, his worn and frail bark slipped from its moorings, and drifted out upon that silent, fearful sea, of whose boundaries we know only the hither shore.

"Brother Bromwell's mind was of a singularly subtle cast and it was so many-sided that it kept him in touch with all the affairs of men. Tap it on any side, and wisdom flowed, not simply because of his quick perception, for he had that, but because the subject had been thought out.

"Altogether, his was the most singularly striking personality that the Grand Lodge of Illinois has known since its organization.

"His mind was of that peculiar cast that he delighted in mysticism and symbolism. He might have flooded his time