

**ADDRESSES ON THE DEATH OF
HON. T. H. HICKS, DELIVERED IN
THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, PP.1-43 (NOT
COMPLETE)**

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Addresses on the Death of Hon. T. H. Hicks, Delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives, pp.1-43 (not complete) by Various

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VARIOUS

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ON THE

DEATH OF HON. T. H. HICKS,

DELIVERED IN THE

SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

ON

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1865.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1865.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

SATURDAY, *February* 25, 1865.

Resolved, That five thousand copies of the eulogies on Senator HICKS, delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives, be printed for the use of the members of this House.

ADDRESSES
ON THE
DEATH OF HON. T. H. HICKS.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1865.

Address of Mr. JOHNSON, of Maryland.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is my painful duty to announce to the Senate the death of my late colleague and friend, THOMAS HOLLIDAY HICKS. The sad event occurred at his lodgings in this city on Monday morning, the 13th instant, at seven o'clock. A few days of indisposition, so apparently slight as to give his friends no uneasiness, was, without any seeming premonition, followed on the Friday before his death by a sudden attack of paralysis, so severe that its fatal result was at once seen to be inevitable and near at hand. It rendered him speechless, but did not so affect his mind but that he recognized the friends around him, and by whom, to the last, he was carefully and affectionately attended, until within a few hours of his decease. Governor HICKS (a title by which he is best known and will be ever gratefully remembered, not only by Maryland but by the nation) was born in Dorchester county, Maryland, on the 2d of September, 1798. His parents were highly respectable, but with a large family and limited

means they were unable to give their son a collegiate education. What he was taught was merely rudimental, and this was acquired in one of the common schools of the county.

His father being a farmer, Governor HICKS assisted him in that occupation until his minority terminated, when he commenced a career of his own. With manners and disposition that were native to him, and well calculated to win esteem and confidence, he was at an early age made a constable of his county, an office humble but trustworthy, and discharged its duties so satisfactory that, in 1824, at the early age of twenty-six, he was elected its sheriff, an office of high grade and of much importance and responsibility. This office also he conducted with an intelligence and integrity that commanded general approval, and gave him even a stronger hold on the popular judgment. Its term expired, he engaged in mercantile business in Vienna, a village in his county, and in this position his diligence and integrity were again exhibited. In 1836 he was elected a member of the electoral college which at that period appointed the senators of the State, and in the proceedings which ensued, and which for a time filled our citizens with solicitude, and attracted the attention of the whole country, he conducted himself with his accustomed discretion and firmness, and evinced his inherent love of law and order. He was at one time one of the governor's council, a station of the greatest trust and honor, and for several years was elected by the people of Dorchester a member of the house of delegates of the State; and on each occasion so dis-

charged his duties as to retain their confidence. In 1838 he was appointed by the governor register of wills of the county, and when the office was made elective by the people he was twice elected to it, and would have been a third time if he had not declined it. In this official and important trust he again displayed business capacity and perfect integrity. In 1849 and 1850, by the choice of his uniformly confiding constituents, he was elected to the constitutional convention of the State, and discharged its duties faithfully and with ability. He was afterward chosen by popular vote governor of the State, and held that station when the present rebellion commenced and until 1862.

It is his official conduct in that office that has made his name so well and favorably known to every loyal man in the Union.

During this period his responsibility was such as to task his firmness and his judgment, and to test his patriotism. They proved equal to the emergency. With a people whose feelings, from their locality and sameness of habits and institutions, were so well calculated to cause them to sympathize with our southern brethren, and who were sensitively alive to any interference with that particular institution they had known and possessed from the colonization of the States, and in which their pecuniary means were largely invested, with business and social relations closely binding them to the south, it was not surprising that they should for a time forget the paramount duty which they owed to the general government, or be blind to the consequences that were sure to follow an attempt to dissolve the

Union which that government created, and was wisely designed, and endowed with powers amply adequate, if properly exerted, to preserve forever.

In this interval of temporary forgetfulness an excitement amounting to madness threatened the State with a fraternal war, and with driving her into the rebellion, that would have made her soil the battle-ground of the strife which has deluged every seceding State in blood, and would certainly have involved her in ruin. Against every effort that ignorance or ambition could essay to effect the insane and wicked purpose, Governor Hicks interposed the whole power of his office, and succeeded in defeating it. Nor was this accomplished without personal peril. In April, 1861, when the blood of the loyal soldiers of Massachusetts was treasonably shed in the streets of our chief city, and its power for some days was wielded by men who, for the most part, were resolved on rushing the State into rebellion, it was obvious to those who witnessed the scenes of the day, and moved among the parties who engaged in them, that Governor Hicks was an object of such intense animosity that his safety was not assured. This is not the occasion to dwell on these events. It is consoling to her loyal sons, to whom the good name of the State and city is so dear, that they terminated without effecting their design; and gladly would they have them forever forgotten. In these trying moments the governor was true to his duty. Throughout his term of office he devoted himself with untiring industry and an ever-watchful patriotism, by every legal means, to crush out the spirit of secession and to retain the State in her

allegiance to the Union; and he succeeded. When he ceased to be her governor she was loyal in all the departments of her government, and the people, by a voice approaching unanimity, proclaimed their fixed resolve to stand by the Union, not only as a matter of almost holy duty, but as indispensable to their safety and prosperity; and so she and they have been ever since. It is not going too far to declare that this result is in a great measure to be referred to the conduct of Governor Hicks. Had he listened to those who counselled a different policy; had he lent the power of his office to accomplish their object; had he even failed to devote it entirely to their frustration, Maryland might this day have been a desert, and her name dishonored in the estimation of all good and wise men. To lose such a citizen at any time would be cause of general sorrow; to lose him now, before the rebellion is terminated, is to be the more lamented, even on his own account. Who can fail to regret that a public servant so faithful, so patriotic, and so efficient in his efforts to maintain the authority of the Union in his own State, had not been permitted to survive until that authority had been securely extended over every other State!

Such was his own prayer. In an address to the people of the State, of the 7th of January, 1861, he said:

"In the course of nature I cannot have long to live, and I fervently trust to be allowed to end my days a citizen of this glorious Union. But should I be compelled to witness the downfall of that government inherited from our fathers, established as it were by the special favor of God, I will at least have the consolation at my dying hour that I neither by word or deed assisted in hastening its disruption."