

**OBITUARY ADDRESSES ON THE
OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF THE
HON. WILLIAM R. KING, OF
ALABAMA, VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE U. S.**

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Obituary addresses on the occasion of the death of the Hon. William R. King, of Alabama, Vice President of the U. S. by Various

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VARIOUS

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OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF THE
HON. WILLIAM R. KING, OF
ALABAMA, VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE U. S.**



William A. King

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WARRINGTON, DE.

1854

OBITUARY ADDRESSES

ON THE

OCCASION OF THE DEATH

OF THE

HON. WILLIAM R. KING,

OF ALABAMA,

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DELIVERED IN THE

U. S. Senate on the 1st Decr 1854

SENATE AND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE UNITED STATES,

EIGHTH OF DECEMBER, 1854.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY REVERLY TUCKER.

1854.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 12, 1853.

On motion by Mr. ADAMS, of Mississippi, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Printing cause to be published and bound in pamphlet form, in such manner as may seem to them appropriate, for the use of the Senate, ten thousand copies of the addresses made by the members of the Senate, and members of the House of Representatives, together with so much of the Message of the President of the United States as relates to the death of the Hon. WILLIAM R. KING, late Vice President of the United States.

Attest,

ASBURY DICKINS,

Secretary.

DEATH OF WILLIAM R. KING.

*Extract from the Annual Message of the President of
the United States to Congress.*

“Since the adjournment of Congress, the Vice President of the United States has passed from the scenes of earth, without having entered upon the duties of the station to which he had been called by the voice of his countrymen. Having occupied, almost continuously, for more than thirty years, a seat in one or the other of the two Houses of Congress, and having by his singular purity and wisdom secured unbounded confidence and universal respect, his failing health was watched by the nation with painful solicitude. His loss to the country, under all the circumstances, has been justly regarded as irreparable.”

OBITUARY ADDRESSES.

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1858.

Mr. HUNTER, of Virginia, rose and addressed the Senate as follows:

Since the adjournment of the last Congress an event has occurred which it becomes us to notice. The American people have lost a Vice President, and the Senate a Presiding Officer, by the death of WILLIAM R. KING, who departed this life in April last at his home in the State of Alabama. I rise, as the Senators from that State are unavoidably absent, to ask that we may pause for a day at least in our deliberation upon the affairs of life, to devote it to the memory of one who was bound to us by so many personal and official ties. Surely, sir, there are none within the limits of this wide-spread Con-

federacy, to whom the life and services of WILLIAM R. KING are known, who would not be ready with some offering, either of public respect or personal affection, to bestow upon his tomb. There have been few public men, whose lives have been as long and as active as his, who have made more friends, and none, I am sure, ever left fewer enemies. Nor was his one of those cold and impassive characters, which shed their light without heat, but its kindly influences fell with genial and friendly warmth within whatever circle he might move.

It is a happy thing for a country when the lives of its public men may be thrown freely open to the world, and challenge its closest scrutiny, with a consciousness on the part of the friendly critic that there is no blot to be concealed, and no glaring fault which a love of truth forbids him to deny, and his own sense of right scarcely allows him to palliate. Here, at least, is a public man, in whose life there can be found no instance of a mean or equivocating action, none of a departure from the self-imposed restraints of a refined and lofty sense of honor, and none in which either the fear of man or the seduc-

tions of ambition tempted him to a deed which could destroy either his own self-respect or the respect of others for him. He trod the difficult and devious paths to political preferment long and successfully, and yet he kept his robes unsoiled by the vile mire which so often pollutes those ways. It is said, that the story of every human life, if rightly told, may convey a useful lesson to those who survive. Of all the public men whom I have known, there are none whose lives teach more impressively the great moral of the strength which public virtue gives than that of Colonel KING. His was an instance in which greatness was achieved without the aid of those brilliant qualities whose rare assemblage the world calls genius, but by what is better far, a sound judgment, a resolute purpose to pursue the right, and a capacity to gather wisdom from experience.

He was no orator, and yet from the force of character he could wield an influence which mere oratory never commanded. He had none of that presumptuous self-confidence which so often misleads ourselves and others, and which, though a