

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES ON THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER OF DAVID
WILBER (A REPRESENTATIVE
FROM NEW YORK)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649263547

Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of David Wilber (a Representative from New York) by Various

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VARIOUS

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES ON THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER OF DAVID
WILBER (A REPRESENTATIVE
FROM NEW YORK)**



HON. DAVID WILBER.

W. W. & C. O. G. & C. O. G. & C. O. G. & C. O. G.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

DAVID WILBER

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK).

DELIVERED IN THE

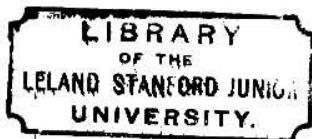
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1890.

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Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late DAVID WILBER, a Representative in the Fifty-first Congress from the State of New York, ten thousand copies, of which two thousand five hundred copies shall be for the use of the Senate and seven thousand five hundred for the use of the House of Representatives; and the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to have printed a portrait of the said DAVID WILBER, to accompany said eulogies, and for the purpose of engraving and printing said portrait the sum of five hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. That of the quota to the House of Representatives the Public Printer shall set apart fifty copies, which he shall have bound in full morocco, with gilt edges, the same to be delivered when completed to the widow of the deceased.

Approved, September 19, 1890.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

APRIL 1, 1890.

Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. Speaker, it becomes my sad duty to announce the demise of Hon. DAVID WILBER, of New York. The lamp of his life, which for months has been failing, to-day went out. The time is not here to speak his eulogy. At some future time I shall ask the House to turn aside from its business to pay fitting tribute to his memory. For the present I offer the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows :

Resolved, That the House has learned with profound regret of the death of Hon. DAVID WILBER, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That a special committee of seven members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate be appointed to take order for attending his funeral at his residence in the State of New York ; and the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order shall be payable out of first funds in the contingent fund of the House available therefor.

That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

MAY 24, 1890.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the resolutions I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity be afforded members to pay proper tribute to the memory of Hon. DAVID WILBER, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That in the death of DAVID WILBER the country has lost the services of a safe legislator and faithful public servant.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to his memory the House shall at the conclusion of these ceremonies adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

ADDRESS OF MR. SHERMAN, OF NEW YORK.

Mr. SPEAKER: By death the living are taught a lesson; of death they know nothing, can learn nothing; in it the heart responds not to the living; the muscles have lost their power; the will is gone. Its awful mystery falls short of grandeur only by reason of the stinging pain, which blunts all sensibilities save that of sorrow. Whether it comes with the startling vividness of the lightning or with the certain premonitory warning of the low thunder, it is alike incomprehensible. The now and the then are so near, the invisible line which marks the division of the real and the hallowed, sanctified unreal is so narrow that a single step unravels the mystery. But that step taken is never retraced.

The revelation that comes thereby sheds no light this side the gloaming. The lesson startles, it warns us of, but does not reveal the hereafter. Rightly viewed it strengthens our belief in Divinity and molds our lives to share the happiness thus to be found. The portal we call death is sooner or later opened for us all. That one bare fact

palsies argument. Upon it the Christian and the Pagan can find no ground of difference. Well does that man live who is ready to enter therein when it opens for him, and render up the account of his stewardship to his Maker.

So live, that, sinking in thy last long sleep,
Calm thou mayst smile, while all around thee weep.

To-day we pay our last tribute of honor, of respect, of affection, for one who did so live.

On April 1, after a long and well-spent life, the immortal of DAVID WILBER passed to the higher existence. In his seventieth year, in the State of his nativity, almost in sight of the place of his birth, he died; and there, on a beautiful knoll overlooking the valley in which were passed all the active days of his life, his body sleeps—

The sleep that knows not breaking.

Mr. Speaker, DAVID WILBER was a remarkable man. He was a strong, forceful character. From boyhood he made his own way in the world. An honest heart and a large brain he inherited from his Quaker parents. The advantages of an academic education it was not his fortune to receive. Yet his brain had remarkable absorbent and retentive power. Nothing of moment ever escaped his attention, and once noted it held place in his mind ever afterward. Habits of industry and frugality were learned in his youth to be followed through life.

With these habits and the little money he had saved from the earnings of his hands for his capital, he started in the business world fifty years ago, in Otsego County. Step by step he advanced. His foot never slipped backward because he never allowed it to. His forward course in the road of prosperity was as steady and as strong as the current of a mighty river. This was not so by chance. It was because

his will power was exhaustless, his energy untiring. His vocabulary knew no such word as "fail." It was because he had more of conservatism than of daring. It was because—

He knows the compass, sail, and oar,
Or never launches from the shore;
Before he builds computes the cost,
And in no proud pursuit is lost.

Before entering upon any undertaking he viewed it from every standing point; he scanned every detail; he thought out a plan of action. That plan was made with far-sight shrewdness. It was executed with industry and perseverance.

He could not be said to have kept pace with the progress of the time, for he was its leader. He marked the pace of industrial growth and business advancement for the entire community in which he lived. He was identified with every enterprise which had in view the advancement of his town, his county, or his locality.

Not a few of them had their inception in his brain. Of his time, his means, and his experience he was a liberal contributor to the business life of the community. His shoulder at the wheel was a force so well known in the later years of his life that even the chronic doubter known in every community made way for the advance of progress. His personal affairs he managed with wonderful sagacity. The capacity of his mind was even greater than the requirements of his extensive and varied interests. Neither his hands nor his mind were ever idle. He was both progressive and aggressive. He reaped the fruits of untiring energy and unquestioned honesty. His business life was successful to an extent even greater than that of most successful men.

In the county where he tilled the soil for others for a meager pittance fifty years before, at his death he owned