

IN MEMORIAM

PATRICK FITZPATRICK

(1851 – 1908)

**DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
WINONA COUNTY**

WINONA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

October 9, 1908

PATRICK FITZPATRICK

(March 17, 1851 – August 31, 1908)

Like countless lawyers in the nineteenth century, Patrick Fitzpatrick was first a teacher. He taught school in Fillmore county several years before moving to Winona to “read” in the offices of a local law firm for two years. He was admitted to the bar in April 1881. The next year, he was elected Winona County Attorney, and held that post for the next decade. This was a not a full time position, and he maintained a private practice with H. L. Buck, who was judge of probate and municipal court for many years.¹

In 1895, the following sketch of Fitzpatrick appeared in a county history:

P. FITZPATRICK is a leading member of the Winona County Bar, successfully engaged in practice in the county seat. He is a western man, his birth having occurred in Galena, Ill., on the 17th of March, 1851. In the family of seven children, six of whom are yet living, he is the eldest. The others are Anna, now Mrs. M. Buck of Lanesboro, Minn.; Mary; Sarah, wife of John Buck, also of Lanesboro; Margaret and John.

The parents of this family were James and Mary (McDonald) Fitzpatrick. The father was born in Ireland in 1813, and came to America during the presidency of General Jackson, being then twenty years of age. For a time he worked at his trade of stonemason in New York, Kentucky and other States, and finally made a permanent location in Galena, Ill. This was about 1845. In Galena he

¹ For his bar memorial, see “Harry Lee Buck (1861-1952)” (MLHP, 2013).

married Miss Mary McDonald and there continued to make his home until 1861, when he came to Minnesota, locating in Fillmore County, where he spent his remaining days engaged in farming. His death occurred in 1881, at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife passed away six years previous, being called to her final rest in 1875.

P. Fitzpatrick spent the first ten years of his life in his native city and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Fillmore County, Minn., where he attended such schools as had then been established; but owing to the undeveloped condition of the country at that time, his early educational privileges were somewhat limited. Later, however, he attended the State Normal School of Winona, and was graduated from that institution in the Class of '74. Extensive reading, experience and observation have also added largely to his knowledge and made him a well informed man. On his return from Winona he taught school for a time and then entered the State University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, pursuing the regular three-year's course, which he completed in 1878. He then resumed teaching in Fillmore County, and subsequently came to Winona. Wishing to change his profession, Mr. Fitzpatrick then entered the law office of Wilson & Gale, one of the leading law firms of the city, and under their instruction read for two years. In April, 1881, he was admitted to the Bar, and since that time has been continuously engaged in active practice in Winona.

On the 4th of September, 1879, Mr. Fitzpatrick was united in marriage with Miss Mary Leahy, of Lanesboro, Minn., daughter of John and Julia (Nolan) Leahy. Mrs. Fitzpatrick died May 29, 1883, leaving two children, Mary, born November 1, 1880, and James, May 25, 1883.

In his political views Mr. Fitzpatrick is a Democrat,

and in the fall of 1882 was elected on that ticket to the office of County Attorney, which position he filled for ten consecutive years in a most satisfactory manner, as is shown by his long continued service, which also indicates his personal popularity. At the Bar he is recognized as a lawyer of ability. In argument he is logical and convincing, and his courteous manner and gentlemanly bearing win him the confidence and trust of all with whom he is brought in contact. ²

Fitzpatrick became active the Democratic party. In 1894, he ran for the state senate to represent the 15th District, which encompassed Winona County. His opponent was former two term Lieutenant Governor William Hall Yale. The results of the election on November 6, 1894, were:

William H. Yale (Republican).....3,509
Patrick Fitzpatrick (Democrat).....2,967³

Two years later, securing the endorsement of the Democratic and the Peoples' Parties, he ran for Congress in the First Congressional District. He lost to incumbent James A. Tawney in the election on November 3, 1896:

James A. Tawney (Republican).....27,920
Patrick Fitzpatrick (Dem.-Peoples')....17,219
H. Clark (Prohibition).....846 ⁴

In 1898, his fortunes changed. He was elected to represent the 2nd Legislative District in the state senate. The results of the election on November 8, 1898, were:

R. B. Basford (Republican).....2,694
Patrick Fitzpatrick (Dem.).....3,183 ⁵

² *Portrait and Biographical Record of Winona County, Minnesota: Sketches of Prominent and representative Citizens of the County* 127-28 (1895).

³ 1895 Blue Book, at 473.

⁴ 1897 Blue Book, at 490.

⁵ 1899 Blue Book, at 509.

He was not opposed in 1902⁶ and was re-elected easily in 1906. The results of the election on November 6, 1906, were:

E. K. Tarbell (Republican).....2,457
Patrick Fitzpatrick (Dem.).....4,600⁷

But he did not complete his term. He died on August 31, 1908. He was fifty-seven years old. The next day, the *Republican-Herald* carried his obituary:

THE WINONA DAILY REPUBLICAN-HERALD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1908

8

DIES AT MILWAUKEE

State Senator Patrick Fitzpatrick Passes Away in Wisconsin City Last Evening.

HAD BEEN ILL FOR OVER YEAR

But His Illness Refused to Yield to The Best Medical Treatment—He Was Prominent in Democratic Counsels and Held Many Positions of Trust.

Word was received here this morning of the death at Milwaukee last evening of State Senator Patrick Fitzpatrick, who passed away last evening after an illness of about a year. He spent some time in a sanatorium at St. Paul, after which he returned to Winona for a time and then went to another sanatorium at Wauwatosa, a suburb of Milwaukee, in the hope of being benefited, but his illness refused

⁶ He received 3,959 votes. 1903 Blue Book, at 520, 676.

⁷ 1907 Blue Book, at 493, 648

to yield to treatment and the end came at last. His so and daughter were with him at the end. His numerous friends in Winona will learn the sincere sorrow of his decease. The remains are expected to arrive here at 6 o'clock this evening on the Milwaukee & St. Paul train. The funeral announcement will be made later. The following appreciative sketch of Mr. Fitzpatrick is furnished by a close personal friend who knew him intimately for many years.

Senator Fitzpatrick was born in the city of Galena, Ill., March 17, 1851, and came to Minnesota with his parents in 1861, settling with them on a farm in Fillmore county. He attended the country schools of his district until early manhood, when he attended the State Normal school at Winona, graduating therefrom and then spent some time at the State university. After teaching two years he entered the law offices of Hon. Thomas Wilson and was admitted to practice in 1881. In 1882 he was elected county attorney for Winona county, and for ten years thereafter prosecuted with vigor and earnestness peculiarly his own every evil does who came within reach of the law. As prosecuting attorney he has never had a superior, and it was during the incumbency of this office that Mr. Fitzpatrick obtained the confidence and respect of all classes which he retained to his death.

In 1896 he led the Democracy of the First Congressional district in a gallant fight for congress, and although defeated never wavered in his belief in the ultimate triumph of Democratic principles.

In 1898 he was elected senator for the second senatorial district comprising Winona county, and has been twice re-elected. As senator he has been a careful, broad and wise representative in the law making body of the state, and bore a reputation,

state-wide, as an honest, fearless, and able advocate of all measures beneficial to the masses.

For many years he has practiced law in Winona county, most of the time being associated with Judge H. L. Buck, under the name Fitzpatrick & Buck. He has always occupied a prominent position at the bar, and was always absolutely true to the interests of his clients.

In his life he was an earnest and faithful member of the Catholic church, and of several fraternal and beneficial societies. In his death Winona county and the state lose a man well tried, and whose single purpose in life was to do his duty, faithfully and well.⁸

On October 9, 1908, the Winona County Bar Association presented a memorial to him in district court:⁹

Honorable Patrick Fitzpatrick, for twenty—seven years a member of the Winona County Bar, died at the hospital at Milwaukee on August 31, 1908, after a continued illness for more than one year. He was born in Galena, Illinois, March 17, 1851. In 1861 he with his parents moved to Fillmore County, Minnesota, where his father had preempted land. It was here young Fitzpatrick grew to young manhood's estate, helping to subdue and till the wild land, thereby laying the foundation for the rugged character which developed in later life. While on the farm he attended the district school; later, as a section-hand, by hard labor and denying himself many of the comforts of life, he earned and saved enough money to take him through the State Normal School at Winona, from which institution he graduated with honors in the Spring of 1874. Thereafter

⁸ *Winona Daily Republican-Herald*, Tuesday, September 1, 1908, at 8.

⁹ The presiding judge would have been Arthur H. Snow (1845-1915).

and until the fall of 1875 he was engaged in teaching and then entered the State University of Minnesota, taking a three years course in that institution.

In May, 1879, he entered the law office of Wilson & Gale of this city and began the study of law, and in April, 1881, he was admitted to practice. In 1882 he was elected county attorney for the County of Winona and held the office for ten consecutive years, proving himself to be one of the best and most fearless prosecuting officers the county ever had. While thus serving the county he demonstrated the sturdy character which was the outgrowth of his early environments. As prosecuting officer he was absolutely fearless, and was never influenced by the spasmodic waves of public passion or local prejudice which now and then sweep over a community, and in too many case incline the scales of justice, permitting the escape of the guilty or condemning to punishment the innocent. He was ever jealous of the interests of the taxpayers of the county and laid down the duties of prosecuting attorney without a suspicion attaching to his incumbency, or a criticism that he had not performed every duty well.

In 1883 he associated himself with Honorable H. L. Buck in the general practice of law at Winona, and this partnership continued until his death, interrupted only during the incumbency by Judge Buck of the office of probate judge.

He was the Democratic nominee for congress in 1896, making a vigorous canvas of the district but failed of election, and in 1878 was elected State Senator from the district embracing Winona County and was twice thereafter reelected, his death causing a vacancy in the senate which necessitates a special election to fill that office.

He was of a retiring disposition, seemingly diffident,

reserved and unassuming, but a warm friend of the poor, a devout Catholic, plain, sturdy, honest and upright citizen and faithful counselor, thereby earning the sobriquet of "Honest Patrick Fitzpatrick." He died, in the full confidence of the community in which he lived, and without leaving behind a single enemy.

This is eulogium enough for any man. His natural talents and knowledge of the law entitled him to a higher rank in the profession than that accorded him by the world. In his death the city of Winona and the state of Minnesota has lost a valuable citizen, and the Bar of Winona County an upright and conscientious member.

Your committee beg leave to present this brief memorial upon the life and character of Patrick Fitzpatrick, with the request that the same be spread upon the minutes of the court, and that a copy be transmitted to the members of the family of the deceased.

M. B. Webber
H. M. Lamberton
S. H. Somsen
H. L. Buck

COMMITTEE

At a memorial service on Thursday January 28, 1909, the Minnesota Senate passed a resolution in his honor and heard tributes from nine of its members. The man they mourned was not the county attorney the bar association had honored a few weeks earlier; rather it was a man some senators underestimated at first for his quietude and modesty, but who quickly gained their respect, affection and admiration for his intellect, hard work, honesty and flashes of eloquence. At those infrequent times, he became "the orator of the Senate," who held the chamber spellbound with his "eloquence, arguments, Irish wit and sarcasm."

MEMORIAL SERVICE—PATRICK FITZPATRICK.

The hour having arrived for the memorial service in memory of Patrick Fitzpatrick, addresses were made by Messrs. Works, Collier, Wilson, McGowan, Schaller, Gunderson, Farrington, Nelson and Peterson.

Mr. Works offered the following preamble and resolution, which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

The Honorable Patrick Fitzpatrick, who was born at Galena, Illinois, 1851, was a member of the Minnesota State Senate for two full terms and one session of the third, died Aug. 31, 1908.

As a member of the senate, his work was marked by fearlessness, honesty and courage, coupled with a courtesy that won the love and admiration of his associates. He loved the interests of his adopted state and was extremely jealous of anything that tended, however remotely, to impair her material welfare.

His was one of those rare minds which dwelt not only in the present, but appreciated the past, yet seemed to grasp the possibilities of the future. A man of strong religious convictions who believed in his church with his whole heart, yet was catholic-minded enough to respect and honor those who differed from him. It was only natural that a man of that stamp should impress himself forcefully upon his associates and wield a silent but potent influence over them, and while he was naturally of a silent and retiring disposition, I am safe in saying that no man was ever listened to with closer attention than he when addressing the senate upon any question.

It is therefore but fitting that we, who were associated with him should, in token of the high

esteem in which he was held in his life, pay just tribute to his memory by placing upon the minutes of this body a permanent record of the high esteem in which he was held; therefore be it

Resolved, That the foregoing, as an expression of our high regard for him in his life and the sincere regret in his death and the honor in which we hold his memory be spread upon the records of the Senate of the State of Minnesota, and that a suitable copy be furnished to his near relatives and also to each Senator who served with him during the session of the Thirty-fifth Legislature.

GEORGE P. WILSON,
L. O. THORPE,
S. D. WORKS,
F. H. PETERSON,
Committee.

S. D. WORKS.

Mr. PRESIDENT—I move the adoption of the above resolutions. Death is always clothed in mystery and shrouded in darkness, and wise is he who can see a single gleam of light when his footfall sounds in our midst. It certainly comes with sadness in the striking down of a strong, vigorous man in the height of his usefulness, who like Patrick Fitzpatrick was crowned by the virtues we all love, even though we see them afar off.

Therefore when we look simply at the physical fact of his death, we are in deepest gloom, but as we draw aside the curtain of his past life and see, even briefly and fragmentarily, something he had accomplished, we forget the death and rejoice that one like him had lived.

His life, to my mind, can be best illustrated by the imposing and classic columns of this building. As we look at the massive dome and lovely arches, their strength seems in keeping with their surroundings, but the genius of the architect was not satisfied with strength alone, so the capitol was supplied with the chaste adornment and we have that which beautifully typifies the life and character of Patrick Fitzpatrick, namely, strength and beauty combined.

His life was characterized by such simplicity as to be almost severe. To be convinced of the righteousness of an act was equivalent to his hearty support and personal friendship and even personal interests fell before the greater ideal of righteousness.

The position he occupied in the Senate of 1907 was unique. A member of the so-called minority party in so far as alignments of this character could confine one of his free tendencies, he could always be relied upon to champion the causes of the weak and unpopular and oppressed. He had political opponents, as every strong, independent thinking man must and should have, but Patrick Fitzpatrick had not a single personal enemy, and happy, indeed, the man a who, when the burdens of life are laid down, can give expression to similar fact.

Of personal memories of him, I have many, and they are precious, for they reveal to me something of the inner life of the man. The lips of the "old man eloquent" are silent in death. No more shall his voice be heard reverberating down the halls of this Senate. The simple, busy life is finished, and as we close the book, emphasis has been given to a great truth in "that an honest man is the noblest work of God."

L. O. THORPE.

When the duty of placing a wreath to the memory of our departed friend and co-laborer, Senator Fitzpatrick, was assigned to me, I considered the task a sad one, while in another sense it is pleasant. No explanation can be needed as to why I used such apparently contradictory terms. On the day the news of his death came I wrote an article in one of our local papers, from which I will quote the following:

“Tuesday evening the daily papers brought the sad news that Fitzpatrick of Winona died that day. To the average reader, who is accustomed to have deaths accidents and all kinds of happenings spread before him daily, the simple announcement, of this death can awaken but little interest. I feel, however, that your readers should know a little more about this man, as he has been a member of the law-making body during the past ten years.

The new members naturally try to “size up” the older senators and figure out as best they can what kind of men they are to work with during the two sessions. These new men would generally conclude that Senator Fitzpatrick was a man of little consequence. He had apparently very little ability and was of homely appearance, dressed in cheap, rather ill-fitting “store clothes,” very reserved and intruded his company on no one. He seemed to take little interest in the small matters and routine work that consumed much time, but suddenly when some bill involving a constitutional question, where the rights and liberties of the people were at issue, this plain and unpretentious man would take the floor and the new senators would gaze and wonder. What could he have to say? They saw a changed man, a man on fire, defiant, aggressive and eloquent. When he “let go” all was stillness and rapt attention, not a word

nor a motion could be lost. The eloquence, arguments, Irish wit and sarcasm combined to make it an occasion long to be remembered. He was easily in the front rank as an orator. When in Winona during the latter part of the session I made some inquiry about my good friend, and found nothing but kind words for him. Remember, Senator Fitzpatrick was living at that time and people in his home town spoke well of him. Among other things, they said that as an attorney he was truly a defender and helper of poor, the sick and the unfortunate.

Of him it can be truly said that he did his duty faithfully, fulfilling the purpose for which he was created and built up in himself, a manly character. As Burke said of a powerful nobleman—"his virtues were his means." Fitzpatrick seems to have in his life followed the advice given by Burn's father to his son:

**"He bade me act a manly part,
tho I had ne'er a farthing
For without an honest, manly heart
no man was worth regarding."**

F. H. PETERSON.

My acquaintance with Senator Fitzpatrick dates back only to the beginning of 1903, but this period includes three sessions of the Legislature, in the last two of which he sat on my immediate right, and I came to know him so well that it seemed as if our acquaintance had been lifelong.

Patrick Fitzpatrick was one of the noblest, one of the very best men it has ever been my good fortune to meet, and the Senate honors itself and the great state which it represents by pausing at this hour and uncovering at his tomb.

I speak with profound sorrow because of the great

loss which we have sustained in his death, and yet sorrow is mingled with gratitude to the All Father because such a man as Mr. Fitzpatrick lived in our state, took part in our counsels and influenced our thoughts and acts for so many years.

No one in the short period devoted to these memorial exercises can portray his character or do justice to his memory. Of a truth the elements of life were “so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, ‘This was a man.’”

His personal life was as pure as the sweet breath of spring. During all the hours he spent with me no impure word or suggestion passed his lips. And his devotion to the state was as the devotion to purpose of the sainted knight of old who set forth on his pilgrimage to wrest from the heathen the tomb of the Master.

He was a devoted son of the Church, yet his religion was broad and tolerant enough to include all who honored his Lord.

His home relations were beautiful and his friendship ideal.

He was a man of scholarly attainments and a close student of history and politics.

He belonged to the minority party in this body and in modesty shrank somewhat from giving his name to measures of reform, that he might not be so successful with them as others, but the record of his vote during all the years he was a member of this body is so clean and pure and honest that it constitutes an ideal service which we may all study with profit.

He rarely took the floor; on all ordinary questions he was content to express his thought by his vote, but upon questions of great moment or where some

moral issue was involved, when the dividing line separated right from wrong, where the sanctity of home or the sacred relations of family were called in question, then the strength born in him by generations of struggle for the mastery by virtue over license, and good over bad, became concentrated in his thought, and his speech came as a rushing torrent of overwhelming logic and eloquence, and though it sometimes failed to stir us to active good, it rarely if ever failed to restrain us from positive wrong.

So walked Fitzpatrick among us in the prime of his manhood.

But suddenly the silver cord loosed, the golden bowl broke, the dust was returned to the earth whence it came, and the spirit departed to God who gave it.

To the aged death comes as sunset to the summer day—when all the beauties of light and color are gathered in the western sky for a brief hour, as if the door of the unseen world were opened and its glories allowed to shine out upon us.

But the fatal arrow struck down our friend while his sun was at meridian, while his hand and brain were still vigorous for the battle of life, while it was still a great privilege to be a man and live and work.

We mourn his loss, but can we say his death was untimely? I have an abiding faith that life and death are not matters of accident or chance, but that man in the performance of his duty is an immortal as the undying spirits.

Life and death are great mysteries which no man by reasoning may find out. But when reason fails, faith begins, and it leads us to the feet of the Infinite.

**“I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.”**

Dear friend, we turn from thy grave to face the problems and perplexities of the future—the great, magnificent, matchless future thou wouldst bravely have faced with us.

May thy noble impulses leap over the narrow void from death to life and quicken us to renewed energy and zeal in every good work.

GEORGE P. WILSON.

Very beautiful and touching tributes have been paid to-day to memory of our late colleague, Senator Fitzpatrick, and I am unwilling to forego the privilege of endorsing what has been so eloquently said concerning his life and character and of briefly voicing my personal admiration.

This occasion is unique in this: Memorial exercises are seldom held, and tributes of praise are seldom spoken, in memory or in praise, of those who have led a life of self-effacement as did our deceased brother. He was extremely modest and extremely reserved, always preferring others to himself. In no respect was his a spectacular life. It was only those who came near to him by close association who fully appreciated that in everything he said or did he was actuated by the purest of motives. He was simple and unaffected, and his very soul seemed to be clothed in humility. He seldom asserted himself. It was only when his conscience was touched, when some position was taken or asserted, which he deemed radically wrong in principle, or some measure was proposed which, in his judgment, encroached upon the constitutional right of the

individual citizen, and his silence might be construed as acquiescing, that he asserted himself. On such occasions he would most earnestly and eloquently assault what he deemed to be wrong and assert and defend that which he deemed to be right. It was only on such occasions, and under such conditions, that he laid aside his innate modesty and displayed his moral courage and intellectual power.

But few, if any, of his associates in this body knew until after his death that for almost a year prior to his death he had been seriously ill, and but few, if any, of his associates here knew of his death until they saw in public print the announcement of his of his burial.

So far as we are concerned, therefore, he went to his grave unhonored and unsung, but cherishing his memory as we do, because of his nobility of character and worth as a citizen, it is appropriate that we place upon the records of this body, in perpetuation of his memory, the resolutions reported by the committee.

R. G. FARRINGTON.

Ever since the first day of the session when resolutions were adopted setting apart this day for a memorial to the Honorable Patrick Fitzpatrick, I have looked forward to this hour, but had intended to maintain a silence, for it seemed more appropriate and fitting to me that what was said in his honor should fall from the lips of men who had seen longer service with him than it was my privilege to enjoy, and this morning as I sat listening to the sentiments that have already been spoken and to the spirit of the resolutions that have already been adopted, I wished I had the power of language to pay to his memory the tribute that it deserves. As we walk

down the path of life that is laid out for us, we meet all manner of men—most men are good men—most men are honest men—some men are endowed with rare genius and ability, and here and there we find a real natural gentleman; and I may say that in all the days of my manhood, I do not believe it has been my privilege to meet another man who better combined the kindly, amiable graces of the true gentleman with the brilliancy of a trained and grand intellect and the industry of a laboring nature that makes for the good of the commonwealth. He was indeed a great man! It was said a moment ago—some remark was made with reference to the feelings that come over new members when they first come to the chamber. I remember well my feelings two years ago when I first came here, and I presume the same comes to every other member of us who are new—we study our colleagues, and I cannot forget that as we sat at this desk, the Senator from Dakota County was here at my side and pointed to an old gentleman and said, “Farrington, there is the orator of the Senate,” and subsequent events proved to me the verity of his statement. As you all know, he did not address the Chair as often as his colleagues but when he did we all leaned forward to listen because we knew we were going to hear words of matchless eloquence—hear the pulsations of a noble heart. His face would light up, his eyes flash—he seemed to have a magic presence—there was a splendid modulation of his voice, and his grand and sweeping gestures seemed to magnetize the Senate.

It has been my privilege to listen to many of the great orators of the day, but I can truthfully say that I have never heard any man who interested me more than did our old friend. He was grand, good man. I never saw him until I met him in this chamber but I learned to know the value of his service. Almost always he was at his desk, constant in attendance to his duties in both committees and the chamber, and

always for the people in every measure for which he voted. He worked and labored, and did his duty well.

I do not know that I can add anything more to what has been said this morning, but there is one thought that comes to me in reading of these resolutions, and that is for the members of his family—I do not know them—I have never had the honor to be a guest at his home, but if there are those who have been bound to him by ties of blood, let us have for them the kindest thought today. Few there are among you who have not some time been called to stand beside the open grave of one you loved, have felt that awful grief that seemed to bear you down to earth, that darkened hopeful skies and made you breathe the very breath of anguish. Let us have for them our kindest thought and may we hope and believe with them that if over on the other side of the dark river a place is appointed for them who have done their duty well, who have left this world better because they lived in it, if after the long dark night there comes a glorious dawning, then Patrick Fitzpatrick lives again in the gorgeous sunlight of an everlasting day.

J. T. MCGOWAN.

It is one of the beautiful things in life to observe the charity this world bestows upon the memory of its departed brothers. The lives of most of us are such that we have reason to feel grateful to know that after we have passed over the portal of time and gone to our everlasting home, our good deeds only will live in the memory of those whom we have left behind. Our dear dead friend, whose memory we honor today, does not need the charity of an earthly forgiveness. His life was such an example of honor, purity and virtue that he has gone to meet his Creator with a soul so clear and spotless that he is now undoubtedly enjoying the eternal reward which

his Creator and ours has promised all the souls of the just.

In our mad rush during life for the enjoyment of pleasure, wealth and fame, we are occasionally halted by visitations of sickness and misfortune which cause us to check our onward course and break away from earthly pursuits and for a time at least consider the higher objects of life, recognizing the mission in life for which we were created. Sickness and misfortune may be cured by earthly prescriptions, but when the hand of Death places its icy fingers upon our frail and mortal form, we have naught to do but to accept the inevitable, and prepare to present the account of our life work to the all-powerful Judge whom we shall meet in eternity. It is then that we would ask the protection of the charity promised by the teachings of the Redeemer when he held the hope of salvation out to us, providing we have but made an honest effort to break away from the passions and vices of flesh and sought the forgiveness of those whom we have injured or offended.

While I know that our departed friend was moulded from the same human clay as we, and subject to the same evils of flesh blood as other men, yet I believe that Patrick Fitzpatrick during his lifetime hewed closer to the line of honesty, integrity, and pure brotherly love than a majority of men, and for that he received while in contact with his associates their esteem, love and respect, and now when gone beyond their presence, their everlasting gratitude and remembrance.

Senator Fitzpatrick was eloquent, and while on many occasions he filled the halls of this grand building with the beauty of his magic voice and held his spectators spell-bound by his clear forceful logic, he never used those talents to gain the applause his listeners, or to receive a favorable or

extended comment from the public press. His was a simple, honest, unassuming character, with all those elements of virtue extended into his daily life and while I should like to say more on this occasion to add to the expressions of love, esteem and respect which have already been so beautifully placed by the members of this body over the memory our absent friend, I could offer no words so eloquent or express no sentiment so beautiful as the words spoken by our beloved brother himself when two years ago on this same floor he joined with members present here today in a like memorial to another of distinguished, deceased members. On that occasion he said

“Our deceased friend and former fellow Senator was a man who performed more than he promised, and it may not be inappropriate for me on this occasion in this chamber, the scene of his late public activities, and in the presence of his former associates who honored and respected him, surrounded by the friends who loved him and now mourn his loss to say those beautiful words, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant.’”

A. D. STEPHENS.

The infinite mind, having all power, not only forgives errors and transgressions, but can and does entirely forget. We have the promise “I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions * * * and will not remember thy sins.” The finite mind can forgive, but, unlike the infinite mind, cannot entirely control forgetfulness.

That man desires to be kindly remembered after death is evidenced by monuments and inscriptions provided for during life. Senator Fitzpatrick, looking down upon these solemn exercises must realize to the full extent that desire, and even in the spiritual

life it must be a satisfaction to him that his fellow men, not only speak kindly of his memory, and that they never have nor now have any thought of him except those of kindness.

While speaking of the dead, it seems not out of place to say a word to the living. It is undoubtedly well for us to have in mind the thought that the human kind cannot entirely forget, and realizing that, be careful that we so live and act that some day when eulogies may be said over us we, like Patrick Fitzpatrick, may look down from the realms of bliss and feel that there is no innuendo, insinuation or evil word uttered that either we or those present wish were forgotten.

Senator Fitzpatrick was a just and kindly man—always willing to assist his fellows, and always careful never, by either word or in any way injure anyone—fair to all and just to anyone of a different opinion from his own, and always loyal to his friends.

To us during these sad moments comes the pleasing thought that there is much in our colleague's life to remember and nothing to forget.

S. A. NELSON.

I had not intended to say anything at this time, but since Senator Farrington said he did not know our departed Senator Fitzpatrick's relatives, allow me, Mr. President, to add to the eulogy given here in his memory, to which he is so justly entitled, that the Senator has a sister and a brother in Lanesboro, who are highly respected. I regretted every much that it was not convenient for me at the time to join them and attend the funeral. I have known Senator Fitzpatrick about thirty years, as he used to make quite regular visits to our burg, and there was no

man who came to Lanesboro to whom a glad hand was extended more readily and more cordially than to Mr. Fitzpatrick. There was something about him that people liked after they became acquainted with him, which always made him welcome. I have had many pleasant visits with him which I shall remember, and I heartily endorse all that has been said in honor of our departed friend and will sum up his life by saying that it was humility itself.

JULIUS COLLER.

Mr. PRESIDENT: With our heads bowed in grief and our hearts filled with sorrow we meet here today to pay our last tributes the memory of one who was with us, and one of us, during his life, and who has now passed to that great unknown toward which we are all speeding day by day.

Today there comes to our mind afresh the memory of our departed brother, and with that memory there comes to each one of us the full realization of the great loss that this Senate, this state and all the people, have sustained in the death of our Senator—the Honorable Patrick Fitzpatrick.

While with sorrow we commemorate his departure today— because these memorial exercises bring home to each one of us the great personal loss which we have sustained, yet, with this sorrow there comes to each of us a measure of joy and of happiness as we remember that we knew him, that we associated with him, that was one of us, and that he was our companion and our friend.

Patrick Fitzpatrick is dead. But his memory still lives, and the memory of that noble life and of that honorable man will live on and on, as a shining example to the youth of today, and to the generations yet to come; and his love of country, his patriotism, his devotion to duty, his unswerving

integrity, and all his many virtues, will be emulated by the rising generation long after you and I have severed our relations with the state and have sunk into that dreamless sleep. My acquaintance with Patrick Fitzpatrick began on that January day in 1899, when he, together with the remnants of the old guard, who are still here, with Schaller and Wilson, with Smith and Du Toit, with McGowan and myself, stood in a half-circle before the seat of the presiding officer, and there in unison made oath that we would support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Minnesota and faithfully and impartially discharge the duties devolving upon us as Senators of this state.

That oath Fitzpatrick kept faithfully and well.

But Patrick Fitzpatrick needed no oath to make him see his duty clear. He needed no binding obligation to compel him to fulfill the obligations and to discharge the duties which he owed the state and all of its people; for Fitzpatrick was the soul of honor, and was of the people. We knew him well session after session, day in, day out, we sat with him and had daily knowledge and evidence of his work, and you and I, and each one of us, will cheerfully and honestly testify that his great talents, his tireless energy, and his splendid attainments and ability were ever dedicated to the people's cause, and that he never advocated or opposed a measure, or cast a single vote for or against any proposition, without being thoroughly convinced that what he did was for the people's best interest.

His was an inborn love for the common people.

His was an intuitive knowledge of their wants and of their needs. And it almost seemed, that because of his simplicity, that because of his unassuming, sweet and simple life, because of his supreme faith in the Master who trod the shores of Gallilee in the

centuries gone by, and because of his absolute, unswerving and blind obedience to his teachings, that there had come to him from that Master, some measure of his Divine love for the poor and lowly, and had implanted itself within, and filled his heart, with a never-ending love for the poor and the distressed, and graced his brain with the power to be their ever constant, faithful and mightiest champion.

He was ever simple and unassuming, modest and unostentatious, and none knew him but to love him.

He was ever at his post and every bill that came before this Senate was carefully scrutinized by him and his great legal talent made it easy for him to understand and to know the import of pending legislation.

As an orator he had no equal in this Senate, but he rarely addressed the Senate. Of him it could not be said "Tis remarkable that they talk most who have the least to say;" for when Fitzpatrick talked he had something to say, for he never talked unless he talked for humanity's cause, and you and I who have heard him, know full well the fascination of his wondrous eloquence, we know that when that simple man arose to speak that there was cause for speaking, and when the Senator from Winona spoke we were all charmed and enthralled with that eloquence which came straight from that heart surcharged with love for his fellow man, and from that brain forever dedicated to the people's cause; and as his wonderful eloquence swayed and swept all before it and charmed and held spell-bound all who were fortunate to be present, there came to you and to I, the picture of his prototype, battling in the Virginia House of Burgesses for human rights and human liberties, and Fitzpatrick's captivating eloquence made us realize that we were face to face with the Patrick Henry of Minnesota.

He left this Senate without an enemy, and every man who ever sat with him was his friend, and from the lips of every Senator with whom he was ever associated comes unbidden and unsought the unstinted testimonial that Patrick Fitzpatrick was an honest man and an ideal representative of the people.

The people of Winona had faith in his ability. The people of Winona had faith in his integrity. The people of Winona had faith in his honesty and that he would prove true to his trust, and sent him here to represent them, and having tried him they renewed his mandate, not once, hut twice, and no man but will say that Patrick Fitzpatrick was ever true to his trust and discharged all of his duties with absolute fidelity, faithfully and well.

His work is ended. No more will he counsel us. No more will be ours his wholesome advice. No more will we be benefited and guided by his knowledge and experience. No more will we know his cheerful presence, never again will we be charmed by his eloquence, for forever mute is that eloquent tongue, forever gone that cheerful presence, forever stilled that great and loving heart and forever hushed that eloquent voice that so often pleaded here for humanity's cause.

In our sorrow we are cheered in the knowledge that his was a noble life, our grief and sorrow is assuaged in the remembrance that his was a good life, and that the good which he did, dies with him, but will continue to bless all future generations.

And while with sorrow we commemorate his departure, it is with pleasure that we shall ever remember him and his sweet life, and with this pleasing memory in our mind we will bid him a brief farewell in the hope, the belief and the desire that

when our days are numbered that we will meet him and enjoy him in that land where sorrow and parting are no more.

On motion of Mr. Calhoun, as a further token of respect to the memory of the late Senator Fitzpatrick, all further business of the Senate for the day was dispensed with, and the Senate adjourned until 11 o'clock A. M., January 29, 1909.

Attest:

**GEO. W. PEACHEY.
Secretary of the Senate.¹⁰**

¹⁰ Journal of the Senate, Thursday, January 28, 1909, at 139-152.

