

MEM AND MEASURES AT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2. Thaddeus Stevens occupied the attention of Congress for the last time on Thursday and Friday last week. Hereafter his name will be mentioned and his political career referred to in the debates of the two houses as those of Webster and Clay, but it will only be incidentally. Even the ablest and most renowned of our public men are comparatively forgotten when they pass out of sight. To the old habits of the Capitol it seems as if Thaddeus Stevens was still present. They expect to find him presiding in the committee-room of the Appropriation Committee, or in that of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, where the Reconstruction Committee met while he was its Chairman. These were his haunts when he was at the Capitol, and not in his seat in the House. His face and his figure were at once so familiar and so easily distinguished, because they were so intensely individual, that everybody seemed to know him. Once seen, he could scarcely be forgotten, even by a person with a bad memory for faces. It is in the House, however, that he is missed most of all. While he lived his seat was hardly ever vacant, and the eye in wander, long over the House never failed to single out and rest upon him. He was like the central figure in a group, and invariably attracted attention.

The announcement in the House of Representatives of the decease of members is usually a mere form, and is generally devoid of interest. Deserted galleries, empty seats, two or three proxy and often senseless eulogies by the surviving colleagues of the deceased, and the adjournment of the House, is the scene ordinarily presented on such occasions. Very frequently, indeed, the life of the departed member has been so pitiable and uneventful that it requires considerable ingenuity upon the part of the eulogist to find material with which to build. In the case of Thaddeus Stevens, however, all this was different. The Pennsylvania delegation had intimated the day previous, through the Speaker, that the death of Mr. Stevens would be formally announced on Thursday. Early on the morning of that day crowds of people, black as well as white, wended their way towards the Capitol. Long before 12 o'clock the diplomatic gallery, and all the available space in the other galleries, were filled with an audience evidently assembled more out of respect to the memory of the grand old man than from any feeling of mere curiosity. Very few members were absent from their seats. The entire scene was pervaded with a solemnity seldom witnessed in the House. Only one funeral scene has been presented at the Capitol within the last few years, that equalled this—that was when the historian Bancroft pronounced his oration on President Lincoln.

Reminiscences. I need hardly state that all eyes were concentrated on the seat so long occupied by the venerable leader of the House, now sleeping quietly in the unpretending graveyard at Lancaster. How the memory reverted, almost involuntarily, to other scenes in that hall wherein he was a prominent actor! Galleries crowded as these had often listened to his inimitable logic, his biting sarcasm, and his keen and polished invective, with a mingled feeling of admiration and delight. Members, without distinction in politics, had always bestowed upon his slightest observation on any subject before the House an attention more earnest and intense than they could possibly exhibit now. Old members, who served with him before the Rebellion, remembered how he denounced slavery, and arraigned it before the bar of enlightened public opinion, while the fiery Barksdale was brandishing his bowie-knife before his eyes, and the other Southern champions of the "peculiar institution" were impatient to strike him down, as Brooks did Sumner. A few Sisters of Charity in a corner of the ladies' gallery could scarcely fail to remember Mr. Stevens' last speech in the House, which was an appeal for the passage of an appropriation for the Providence Hospital, a charitable institution of this city. Nearly everybody had some reminiscence of the "Old Commoner," personal or historical—many of them pleasant, few disagreeable.

The Formal Announcement. There was a death-like stillness after the reading of the journal on Thursday, when the Speaker recognized "the gentleman from Pennsylvania." The Hon. O. J. Dickey arose in Mr. Stevens' old seat, which he had selected only the day before at the general drawing of seats. At that moment he was the "observed of all observers." From the time of Mr. Stevens' death there was a singular interest as to who should be his successor in the House. Mr. Dickey was, therefore, naturally subjected to the disadvantage of a comparison with his renowned predecessor. Of medium stature, exceedingly spare figure, with the face of a student, and a head now remarkable from that of dozens around him, it is no injustice to him when I say that his personal appearance did not make much impression upon the House. People had been accustomed to see another form there, which, though tottering under the weight of years, still wore that commanding aspect which belongs to men born to be leaders. Above all, there was missing that extraordinary head and face, easily picked out of ten thousand, which, once seen, could never be forgotten. The more thoughtful may have felt, with Senator Morrill, of Vermont, that "we have had but one Benjamin Franklin and one John Hancock, and we can scarcely hope to have but one Thaddeus Stevens." But the masses manifestly measured the new representative from the Lancaster district by the standard which they had long ago accorded his predecessor. This was a mistake. It brought disappointment to them and embarrassment to Mr. Dickey. It was his maiden effort in the House, and happily for him it was a labor of love. Mr. Dickey may be a good country lawyer, but he is not an orator. He has none of that fire which can move an audience to frenzy, and little of that pathos which, when skillfully used, melts them in tears. What he may be as a debater remains to be seen. His eulogy on Mr. Stevens does him credit simply as a composition. Its delivery, however, was very commonplace. Mr. Dickey has a voice somewhat resembling that of Speaker Colfax. An impediment to his speech, however, makes his utterance rather indistinct, and as he did not succeed in raising his voice to the proper pitch, he was not heard in all parts of the House.

Other Eulogies in the House. Of the eulogies pronounced upon Mr. Stevens in the House, the best were those of Judge

ARMY TRANSPORTATION.

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PROPOSALS.

FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY. OFFICE CHIEF QUARTERMASER. FROM LEAVE. OFFICE CHIEF QUARTERMASER. FROM LEAVE.

RAILROAD LINES.

1868.—FOR NEW YORK.—THE CAMDEN AND TRENTON RAILROAD. PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK. FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW YORK, AND VICE VERSA.

RAILROAD LINES.

READING RAILROAD.—GREAT TRUNK LINE from Philadelphia to the interior of Pennsylvania. FROM PHILADELPHIA TO THE INTERIOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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DR. KRICKLIN, AFTER A RESIDENCE

of nearly thirty years at the Northwest corner of Eleventh and Chestnut streets, has removed to No. 1112 Market Street, between Market and Chestnut streets.