

THOMAS BRACKET REED DIES AT WASHINGTON

Famous Ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives Succumbs to Bright's Disease.

DEAD MAN WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST INTELLECTUAL GIANTS OF AMERICA

Pathetic Death Scene, When the Brilliant Mind Fights for Life Long After the Body Has Become Inert—Sketch of the Career of the Maine Statesman.

Thomas B. Reed, former speaker of the House of Representatives, died in his room at the Arlington in Washington a few minutes after midnight, Dec. 8, of acute Bright's disease, precipitated by an attack of appendicitis.

He had been entirely unconscious since 11 o'clock and all day had been in a half-conscious condition. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon his kidneys refused to perform their functions altogether, and from that time the physicians were constantly with him, although there was no hope. After 5 o'clock he had frequent flashes of consciousness, lasting for some little time.

During these intervals his voice, which had so often thrilled great audiences, filled the sickroom. Scraps of legal argument, fragments of points of parliamentary procedure and political allusions came from his lips, although he knew it not and was unable to recognize even his wife and daughter.

THOMAS BRACKET REED.



Ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives, Who Died at Washington Dec. 7.

who remained at his side to the last.

His brain fought for life long after the body was doomed and almost inert. There was no death struggle, no convulsion, but after 11 o'clock, when all actual consciousness was lost, the body, physically great though it was, began to lose its warmth, while up to the end came the lightning flashes from the great intellect.

Mr. Reed died without knowing his illness was fatal. He had had Bright's disease for years, but no one knew it. With proper care he might have lived ten years longer. If the attack of appendicitis had not reacted on the kidneys he might not have died for some little time.

The indomitable will fought valiantly against the inevitable, and during his last moments the Maine giant held the sentiment which he expressed when requested to withdraw from the presidential race of 1896: "I hate a quitter."

But the fight was against overwhelming odds and the mind which was beclouded during the day lapsed into unconsciousness at 11 p. m., and the intellect which blazed so many brilliant flashes was clouded forever.

For an hour before Mr. Reed passed over the river he was unconscious and did not recognize the devoted wife and loyal daughter, who had vainly endeavored to nurse him back to health. The patient did not suffer from convulsions, as is usual in Bright's disease. He did not know his condition was so serious that death would ensue and his brilliant mind was handed back to its maker without leaving a tender farewell to his loving ones, nor uttering a single phrase which would have been handed down to posterity.

HIS LIFE AND CAREER

Thomas Brackett Reed, one of America's distinguished statesmen, was born in Portland, Me., Oct. 18, 1839. He then became collector for the city of Portland.

is not enrolled on the list of the country's great statesmen, there will certainly be no one to dispute his claim to a place among those who in their day and generation exercised powerful influence over their fellows.

It is, indeed, doubtful whether any other party leader has possessed so much authority in shaping the legislation of his time as did Mr. Reed during the six years that he was the Speaker of the House of Representatives. By strength of brain and force of personality he made the office supreme, and then he filled it supremely. And that is why Reed was "cesar" in the speech of both friend and enemy during his reign.

Absolute, uncompromising integrity marked him in all his political life, so that however much he was criticized by men who disagreed with him, he was never feared as an enemy of his government. And with it all he gained as much fame for some of the qualities

service in Congress began in 1877. The preceding year, after a hot struggle in the party convention, he had secured the nomination and had won his district by 1,200 votes. His re-election for term after term was always unanimous, and only once did he have a real fight for election, and that was in 1880, when the Democratic-greenback movement was exceedingly strong in Maine.

Mr. Reed gained fame even in his first term in Congress by his clever cross-examination of witnesses before the Potter committee appointed by the Democrats as the result of the Hayes-Tilden controversy. In the succeeding Congress Mr. Reed was given a place on the judiciary committee, and in his third term, so rapidly had he risen in standing, that he became chairman of that important committee. His work there in reporting bills concerning claims and railroad land forfeitures has had its worth attested by uniformly favorable decisions from the Supreme Court.

The next three Congresses were all Democratic, and Mr. Reed became the recognized leader of the minority, twice receiving the Republican caucus nomination for Speaker. In 1889, however, the political whirl had come and Mr. Reed was elected Speaker of the House in the Fifty-third Congress.

His situation was a most perplexing one. His party was in control by a narrow majority, and the opposition was strong and determined. The difficulties might well have seemed insurmountable, but Mr. Reed had the knowledge and the courage combined to enable him to become master. Democratic obstruction was the thing that he had first to throttle. He did it to start with by his famous reversal of the long-standing rule of the House in regard to quorums.

The custom had been to make use of the fiction that a Congressman present in the room was not present at roll call unless he chose to answer. In this way the opposition could block action, although its members were present watching every move in the game.

"Cesar" Reed simply ordered the clerk one day to record as present all the Democrats who were in the room and who had refused to answer to roll call. Then pandemonium began.

The Democratic side of the House was in an uproar, but Speaker Reed, gavel in hand, did not lose his temper.

"I deny your right, Mr. Speaker, to count me present," shouted Representative McCreary of Kentucky.

Mr. Reed answered: "The chair is merely making a statement of the fact that the gentleman is present. Does he deny it?"

For two days he refused to permit an appeal to the House from his decision, but when the appeal came he was sustained, and so thoroughly did he make his point that in succeeding Congresses with the Democrats in power his rule was maintained.

The victory on this point established the right of the majority to transact business, and more than that, it made the majority assume full responsibility for the way in which it exercised its power.

From 1896 to 1899 Mr. Reed was again Speaker of the House. This time his autocratic rule, which had been submitted to before because of its apparent necessity, grew steadily more irksome to his fellow Republicans. He retained it, however, despite this, because of his popularity, and the Democrats, who in 1891 had refused to vote for a resolution of thanks to the retiring Speaker, in 1897 offered the resolution.

In 1896 Mr. Reed was a candidate for the Republican nomination for President. He was defeated by McKinley, but did not become disaffected toward the party by his ill success, and he went vigorously to work for the ticket, making speeches in ten different states; from Maine to Kansas.

He resigned from Congress Sept. 4, 1899, in order to associate himself with a New York law firm and accumulate for himself modest wealth. Although he had not been extravagant, he had lived up to his income, which, in addition to his salary as Congressman, had been formed solely of a salary from insurance companies as arbitrator and from his literary work. What little he had saved had been lost in unfortunate investments, made by a trusted friend a few years before.

Mr. Reed was married at Portland. His wife's maiden name was Miss Beane Merrill, and she was the daughter of a Portland clergyman. The only child of the couple was a daughter, Miss Kitty Reed, who was at her father's bedside during his final illness.

VESSELS MENACE CASTRO'S CAPITAL

British Warship La Guayra at Caracas to Make Demand for Claims.

ASSUMES POLICY OF DELAY

President of South American Republic Gives No Hint of What He Intends to Do, but Officials Say State Cannot Settle at Present.

Caracas, Venezuela, cable: That Germany and Great Britain are thoroughly in earnest in their intention to take decisive steps to compel Venezuela to pay their claims is evidenced by the arrival at La Guayra of the British cruiser *Indefatigable*. The warships *Charybdis*, *Quail* and *Alert* will probably arrive to-day, and the *Tribune* a day or two later.

These vessels, together with the three German cruisers now on the scene, will, it is believed, take immediate steps to coerce Castro's government. It is not known just what steps will be taken by the two governments, but it is certain that an ultimatum, couched in unmistakable language, will be presented in a few days.

Word was received here that the British and German foreign offices were in correspondence as to a plan of action. It is believed that a decision will be reached in a few days.

In the meantime there is nothing to show what President Castro intends to do in the matter. It is said that he has in mind a plan of action, but does not intend to make it known until the joint ultimatum is presented.

Venezuela Cannot Pay. Officials of the government, however, are quoted as declaring that Venezuela is not in any condition at present to meet the claims of the powers, and insist, further, that it would only aggravate matters to seize the customs now. The country, they say, has just concluded a long and trying, though successful, campaign against the rebels, and, naturally, the revenues of the government have suffered. These statements are taken here to mean that Castro will continue to push his policy of delay as long as possible, hoping that either Germany or England may accept the terms offered by his secret commission.

Business is Upset. This city is all excitement, and business is almost at a standstill since the arrival of the warships of the powers. Many wild rumors are afloat, and in many quarters it was reported that La Guayra and this city would be taken, if the government did not yield quickly. These rumors were found to be entirely without foundation, however.

INJUNCTION STOPS BOYCOTT

Union Men at Cleveland Must Quit Distributing Handbills.

Cleveland, O., dispatch: Judge Ford of the Common Pleas court has granted a perpetual injunction against the *Walters'* union and the *United Trades'* council restraining its members from picketing or distributing handbills to would-be customers at the restaurant of John Mulholland on Superior street. The injunction is sweeping in nature and practically affects every union man in the city. Mulholland refused to employ union waiters and the latter began a boycott against him by passing cards to prospective customers declaring Mulholland to be unfair to union labor. The case has been bitterly contested by the labor unions in Cleveland.

FALLS FROM LADDER AND DIES

Noted New York Lawyer Sustains a Fracture of the Skull. New York, special: John Grey Boyd, a well known lawyer and one of the best-known citizens of Fordham, fell from a step ladder in the cellar of his home and sustained a fracture of the skull, from the effects of which he died. It had been his custom for years, although he was a man of wealth, to make repairs about his house. He was engaged in that manner when the accident occurred. Mr. Boyd was 63 years old, and for the last thirty years he had been a prominent member of the New York bar.

DIVINITY STUDENTS IN A RIOT

Outbreak in Russian Ecclesiastical Seminary Alarms Authorities. Odessa, Russia, cable: A serious outbreak has occurred among the students of the ecclesiastical seminary here, resulting in the arrest of fifty students and the rustication of 200 others. As an outcome of the trouble the holy synod has ordered the institution to be closed. Such a revolutionary movement among religious students is without precedent and has caused the authorities great anxiety.

To Abolish Titles.

Paris cable: Deputy Fourrier has introduced a bill in the chamber of deputies providing for the abolition of French titles of nobility. The house took the measure into urgent consideration and referred it to a committee.

"Flash" Kills and Maims. Shreve, Pa., special: One man was killed and five others were seriously injured at the works of the Shreve Steel company. The accident was the result of a "flash" from an open furnace.

WOULD TAKE NO CHANCES.

Good Common Sense Displayed by New York Office Boy.

Some of the small boys who get into a business life young can be relied upon for good common sense. A man in one of the big shops up town was much pleased at this attribute in a boy he employed. He was a bright, honest boy, quick and reliable, and when a second boy was needed they sent for Sam. Couldn't he get them a boy? They wanted a boy as good as he was, and he must know of one. After some thought he finally agreed to send one, and the next day the boy arrived, and Sam was called to identify him.

"Do you know this boy, Sam?" asked the employer.

"Yes," answered Sam; "I know him."

"And you know him to be a good, honest boy?"

"I have played with him all my life and I have always thought he was."

"But will you vouch for him?" persisted the employer.

"No," answered Sam, indignantly; "I won't vouch for any one. I wouldn't vouch for my own brother. How do I know what temptations you are going to put before him?"—New York Times.

The Hansons Are Happy.

Ashley, N. D., Dec. 8th.—Cured of that most dangerous of all Diseases, Rheumatism of the Heart, J. H. Hanson of this place loses no opportunity of singing the praises of Dodd's Kidney Pills.

"I am able to work again," says Mr. Hanson. "And am feeling better than I have for five years. Broken down and fairly used up and suffering from Rheumatism of the Heart and Dropsy I was in very bad shape."

"Then I started taking Dodd's Kidney Pills and—well, you can see how I look and I feel as well as I look. My Rheumatism is gone and the Dropsy with it."

"I don't think they'll ever bother me again, but if they do I'll just get some more of Dodd's Kidney Pills. I know that will fix them."

Mrs. Hanson, too, whose health was far from good, took the same remedy and she joins with her husband in recommending Dodd's Kidney Pills. 129—(For week commencing Dec. 12th.)

Nothing more completely baffles one who is full of trick and duplicity than straightforward and simple integrity to another.—Colton.

Stops the Cough and Works Off the Cold. Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Price 25c.

Joking often loses a friend, and never gains an enemy.—Fuller.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. See a Bottle.

Money ceases to talk after a miser gets a strange hold on it.

A lovely breakfast is quickly prepared from Mrs. Austin's Pancake Flour.

After losing his heart a young man often loses his head.

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My doctor says it acts gently on the stomach, liver and kidneys and is a pleasant laxative. The drink is made from herbs, and is prepared for use as easily as tea. It is called "Lane's Tea" or "LANE'S FAMILY MEDICINE."

All druggists or by mail 25c. and 50c. Buy it to day. Lane's Family Medicine makes the bowels easy daily. In order to be healthy this is necessary. Address, G. F. Woodward, Le Roy, N. Y.

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Many women and doctors do not recognize the real symptoms of derangement of the female organs until too late.

"I had terrible pains along my spinal cord for two years and suffered dreadfully. I was given different medicines, wore plasters; none of these things helped me. Reading of the cures that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has brought about, I somehow felt that it was what I needed and bought a bottle to take. How glad I am that I did so! Two bottles brought me immense relief, and after using three bottles more I felt new life and blood surging through my veins. It seemed as though there had been a regular house cleaning through my system, that all the sickness and poison had been taken out and new life given me instead. I have advised dozens of my friends to use Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Good health is indispensable to complete happiness, and Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has secured this to me."

—Mrs. LAURA L. BREWER, Crown Point, Indiana, Secretary Ladies Relief Corps. — \$5000 forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

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