

## Action of the Legislature.

MR. JOHNSON'S DEATH ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNOR CARROLL—EULOGIES OF DECEASED.

ANNAPOLIS, February 11. The Senate met at noon, President Fields in the chair. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Amos. Twenty senators present.

The reading of the journal was begun, when the Hon. R. C. Hollyday, Secretary of State, appeared at the bar of the Senate chamber, and Mr. Lloyd, of Harford, moved that the further reading be dispensed with, in order to receive a communication from the executive. The motion was carried, and the communication from the executive announcing the death of Hon. Reverdy Johnson read. (The message is in full in the House proceedings.)

On motion of Mr. Walsh, it was ordered that the national flag be displayed at half-staff on the dome of the statehouse in respect to the memory of Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Stevens, chairman of the committee on judicial proceedings, said he deemed it proper at this time to offer a motion for adjournment as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased statesman; that Mr. Johnson was eminently one of the most distinguished members of the bar of Maryland and her borders did not confer his far-reaching fame as a lawyer and unsurpassed advocate. His reputation was world-wide. It was not his purpose to attempt an eulogy of his great abilities or the public services he had rendered. Mr. Johnson had been an honored member of this Senate, and it was fitting on this melancholy occasion that no business should be transacted, and he moved the Senate do now adjourn.

Mr. Phelps spoke of the life of Mr. Johnson. He had been associated with him and could speak of him with knowledge. In all the affairs of the State and the country he was ever prompt in those things which he believed would result in the maintenance of honor and prosperity.

Mr. Steiner, of Frederick, said he hardly felt prepared to speak of Mr. Johnson as he would desire. In all the affairs of the nation, and in the diplomatic relation, he had occupied an exalted position. Standing upon conservative ground he was never ultra, but when conflict came between the sections of the country he was among the first to take the side of the federal government. He, too, was of those who early took hold of the celebration of the Centennial, and in his correspondence with Mr. Randall urged that there should be no stint in making that celebration equal to the occasion.

Mr. Mudd, of Charles county, said that every tribunal in the State should join heartily in paying tribute to the memory of Reverdy Johnson. He had contended with the master minds of this country, and in other parts of the world his great mind had been appreciated. After such a life he returned to Annapolis to lay down his life near the spot where it began. He thought it the duty of every Marylander to join in doing honor to one of her noblest sons.

The clock of the House appeared with a message from that body relative to the death of Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Stevens offered the following answer to the message, which was adopted:

SENATE, February 11.—*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:* We have received your message proposing that suitable honors be rendered to the memory of the late Hon. Reverdy Johnson by an attendance of both Houses upon the conveyance of the remains to the depot to-day, and also proposing the appointment of a joint committee to take proper action in respect to his eminent and distinguished services and of the exalted appreciation of his character, and respectfully concur and unite therein.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Stevens, of Baltimore city, and Steiner, of Frederick, as the committee on the part of the Senate.

The Senate then adjourned to noon on Monday.

### HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

An air of sadness and gloom seemed to pervade the hall of the House of Delegates this morning, and on the countenance of the members were depicted expressions of sorrow at the sad occurrence which startled the community last evening. Everyone appeared to fully appreciate the loss sustained in the death of Mr. Johnson and the absence of the mirth that usually precedes the morning meeting was easily noticeable. Secretary of State Hollyday, as soon as the House opened, delivered the following message from the governor:

STATE OF MARYLAND, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT—ANNAPOLIS, MD., February 11.—*Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:* The melancholy duty devolves on me of informing you, by an official communication, of the death of the Hon. Reverdy Johnson. This sad event occurred last evening at the executive mansion from an unaccountable and unwitnessed accident. The distinguished abilities of Mr. Johnson as a jurist and statesman have long made him the pride of his native state. And on this most sad occasion the General Assembly of Maryland may deem it proper to pay to his memory that tribute of respect to which his faithful services to his state and his country so justly entitle him.

JOHN LEE CARROLL.

After the reading of which, amid a stillness and hush of every sound, that was solemnly impressive, Dr. Chalsty arose and said: Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House, the sad intelligence communicated by the message from the executive chamber announcing the death of one of the proudest and most honored sons of the city that I have the honor to represent, renders it most eminently proper that I, in common with my colleagues, should testify in words, alas too feeble! the loss that our community, our State, nay our whole country has sustained in the death of this distinguished and honored son of Maryland. We, in whose midst the noble dead has lived a long, good and honored life, may well attempt to merit, virtue, honor and unequalled fame. This was the ideal of our hearts, trained for his many virtues, his legal lore, his strength of intellect, justly regarded as the brightest luminary that shined in the religious ground the temple of justice, and the proudest statesman of our land, and whose superior who had ever found among the distinguished of Maryland will not be the only one to mourn the loss of this noble son of Maryland.

receive his cherished remains we cast our fervent offering of affection as a shield to decorate his tomb. In testimony of the limited merits of the departed, I trust that the House will send a message to the Senate expressing that appropriate measures be taken to do due honor to the noble spirit whose departure a nation now mourns.

Mr. Whitehead said: Mr. Speaker, coming from a county for many years the home of Mr. Johnson, it seems fitting I should express my cordial approval of the resolution proposed by the distinguished member from the city, Mr. Chaisty. In my early youth it was my happiness to have known the departed, who even then was hailed as the successor of Mr. Pinkney, and the worthy champion of Mr. Wirt and Mr. Taney. The promise then made has been fulfilled, and since that period he has filled a larger space in the public eye, and no Marylander has received a more enduring influence over the destinies of our State and country than Mr. Johnson. It would, Mr. Speaker, be presumption in me to eulogize Mr. Johnson. His praise is hymned by loftier harps than mine. A well-rounded life of four score years is the legacy he leaves for our consolation, and his sudden and painless death, though shocking to his family, is, perhaps, to be desired by those prepared, as he was, for the Great Trial before the Bar of the Mighty One, to whom his accountability can be rendered without fear. I, in common with those around me, and the vast multitude of his friends

"Hears genius high and love profound,  
And wit that loved to play, not wound,  
And all the reasoning powers divine  
To penetrate, receive, perceive,  
And feelings warm and labor's glow,  
They sleep with him who sleeps, he aw."

Mr. Hinks said: As a youthful member, Mr. Speaker, of that profession of which the late Hon. Reverdy Johnson was the recognized and honored head in our State, I deem it proper for me to express my concurrence in the proposed action of the Legislature on this sad occasion, and my profound regret and sorrow at the death of this distinguished jurist, eminent statesman and venerated son and citizen of this commonwealth and country, on which he reflected so much credit and honor by his public services, great abilities and exalted character. I share in the general grief created by this melancholy event which has cast a pall of gloom over this State and capital, and hope that such action may be taken by this House as will manifest its proper sympathy with those more immediately bereaved by his death and be a fitting tribute to the illustrious dead.

Mr. Donaldson said: Mr. Speaker, the last of the mighty giants has died from amongst us. Nelson, McMahon, Taney, and now Johnson. To name him one of those is to call him first among those who now are. Only among his dead peers could have been found one to pay his memory a fitting tribute. In every field—the law, statecraft, diplomacy—his name has brought added pride to the place of his birth. Mr. Speaker, my remarks are short. I have done, for I feel that this is not a time to be long. As there are griefs too deep for tears, so there are those forbid to all other outward show, and for such grief as this occasion there can be none so seemly or eloquent as silent grief.

Mr. Stewart, of Baltimore city, followed Mr. Donaldson, and said: Mr. Speaker, a great man has fallen in Israel this day, and it is meet and proper that the legislation of the State shall be suspended, as the temple of justice has paused in its functions. Language fails me to rightly portray the greatness of the man whose sad, sudden death we now mourn. That he was a statesman the scintillations of whose powerful genius illumined the vast problems of the Constitution which he loved so well, is to say that which has become the knowledge of us all. As a lawyer he was the Nestor of the bar of this grand republic, and the words of wisdom which fell from his eloquent lips—lips that were ever ready in the defense of innocence and right, and in opposing wrong and oppression—would fill a volume. His affability, his noble, good heart and his kindness, especially to the young, instructing and helping without wounding them, were tendrils of pure gold that bound to him the affection, the love and the reverence of all whose happy pleasure it was to be thrown in his company. Nor are we alone in our grief. All over this country, from the mountains and the valleys, and even across the broad ocean, the wires, in sympathetic emotion, tremblingly flash the sad tidings, and one universal gloom overspreads the earth at the loss of such a man as Reverdy Johnson. In my mind's eye I can now see the grand old hero as I saw him yesterday morning, feeling his way to the court which he so long adorned, like the old blind bard Milton. But he has gone to his final rest: death came to him suddenly, but his Maker knew him, and I am sure kindly, and laid low his gray locks with laurels blooming lightly. Before another Court than that where he expected to-day to be as the advocate of his client he now stands, confronted by Justice and Mercy, with the Great Shepherd as his counsel, bearing in His wounded side and hands the acquittal of our friend and brother.

Mr. Robinson, of Anne Arundel county, also spoke and said: Every day the long roll of mortality is being called; a distinguished son of Maryland has answered the summons. Our national galaxy glitters with the names of the illustrious dead, and now Maryland, proud even in her sorrow, has another bright star for the cherished firmament. In the field of strife where omnipotent was the wage and frondous the prize, the banner of Maryland was borne by her own sons. The nation accords it was a gallant line. The bones of her sleeping children upon every historic field is the evidence of her interest in patriotism. In the councils of the nation the records of her sons has been for manliness and conservatism: when the mad billows of sectional strife were beating wildly against the bulwarks of the constitution and threatening to undermine them, let it be known that the voice of Mr. Johnson was heard above the fury of the storm, chiding the tempest and bidding a nation protect the landmarks of a sacred past. Cynicism says that republics are forgetful and ungrateful, but facts prove that men who are correct in life, firm in purpose, pure in patriotism, link themselves by those conditions to immortality of remembrance through the generous estimation of grateful hearts. Why, Mr. Speaker, we have one grand old chieftain before us (pointing to Washington's picture, that hangs over the lobby), who has gone home to rest—

His companions are angels—God thought it best—  
A home with the just ones: 'tis a fit recompense.  
Our Washington will be remembered a thousand years hence.

On the tented field of strife Maryland had a gallant line; in the councils of the nation her record is for conservatism; in the world of honor and national estimation she proudly points to Pinkney, Paoli, Stone, Taney and Carroll. With these the record was full, but when we mournfully add the name of Reverdy Johnson it is complete.

Mr. Gill proposed the following message to the Senate, which was adopted.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, February 11. —  
*Gentlemen of the Senate:* We respectfully propose, with the concurrence of your honorable body, that the two branches of the General Assembly assemble in the hall of the House of Delegates at 2 45 o'clock, and from thence proceed in a body to the mansion of the Governor, to act as an escort to the remains of the late Hon. Reverdy Johnson, thence to the depot; and we further propose the appointment of a committee of three on the part of the House, and two on the part of the Senate, to prepare such resolutions and take such other steps as will most properly show our regret at the loss of one of Maryland's most distinguished sons. We have named on the part of the House Messrs. Chaisty, Lankford and Atkinson.

The Senate returned its concurrence, and the House then adjourned until Monday at 12 o'clock.