

THE SUN.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, OCT. 2, 1882.

EX-GOV. THOMAS IS DEAD.

Old Age and a Complication of Heart Trouble and Bronchitis.

HIS LONG CAREER IN PUBLIC LIFE

Member of the Legislature, Congressman, United States Senator But Not Allowed to Take His Seat, Governor and Secretary of the Treasury.

Ex-Governor Philip Francis Thomas, of Maryland, died last night at 8:30 o'clock, at No. 15 West Chase street. His death was due to old age and to a complication of heart trouble and bronchitis. Ex-Gov. Thomas had been living at Easton, Talbot county, but he came to Baltimore about two months ago and was attended by Drs. Alan P. Smith and Christopher Johnston. He leaves a widow, who was the daughter of Gov. Wright, of Maryland. She was at the time of her marriage to ex-Gov. Thomas the widow of Lieut. William May, United States navy. Three daughters of ex-Gov. Thomas are living. They are Mrs. Markoe, of Baltimore, wife of Col. Frank Markoe; Mrs. Tilton Helmsley, of Baltimore, and Mrs. Richard Tripp, of Washington.

Mr. Thomas was born in Easton, Talbot county, September 12, 1810, and early education was acquired at the Easton Academy, after which he entered Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pa., where he was graduated. He began the study of law, and in 1831, when but 21 years of age, was admitted to the bar. He was successful from the beginning, and when but 26 years of age began an active political career, which continued up to within a few years of his death.

In 1836 he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates for the first time. In the following year he was elected to the Twenty-sixth Congress. James Alfred Pearce, of Kent county, was his opponent. Mr. Thomas served through that Congress, and was renominated for the Twenty-seventh Congress, but declined to serve and resumed the practice of law. In 1843 and 1845 he was elected to the Legislature from Talbot county. He then served as Judge of the Eastern Shore Land Office Court, which was afterward merged into the land commissioner's office.

At the democratic nominating convention held in Annapolis June 24, 1847, Mr. Thomas was nominated for Governor, receiving 56 votes. His opponents were James A. Stewart, of Dorchester county; Dr. Nathel Humphreys, of Somerset county, and Col. Edward Lloyd, of Talbot. The election followed on October 6, 1847. It was five days before the returns were all in, and it was then shown that Mr. Thomas was elected by a majority of 671 over William T. Goldsborough, the whig candidate. The vote throughout the State was: Thomas 22,501, Goldsborough 21,830. In Baltimore the vote was 10,422 to 8,775 in Thomas's favor.

Upon the assembling of the Legislature, January 3, 1848, Governor Thomas laid before that body a message in which he avowed himself in favor of the resumption of payment of the State debt, and as determined to give all the aid in his power to render the revenue and tax laws effective. Governor Thomas retired from the gubernatorial office in 1851, and in the same year was elected comptroller of the treasury, an office created by the constitution of 1851, and of which he was the first incumbent. This office he resigned in 1853 to accept that of collector of customs of the port of Baltimore under the administration of President Pierce, and served during that presidential term.

During the Mexican war Mr. Thomas was offered the office of Governor of the Territory of Utah by President Buchanan, but declined to accept it. Subsequently President Buchanan offered him the office of treasurer of the United States, made vacant by the death of Treasurer Casey, but this also was declined by Mr. Thomas. The President seemed anxious, however, to have Mr. Thomas in some office within his gift, and appointed him commissioner of patents, which he accepted, and continued in that office until December, 1853, when President Buchanan appointed him Secretary of the Treasury, to succeed Howell Cobb. This office he resigned in January of 1861.

For a few years he retired from political life and devoted himself to the improvement of his estate and the practice of his profession. His love for politics, however, prevented him from enjoying this quiet for any length of time, and in 1858 he was again in the political arena and was elected to the Maryland Legislature. During this session Governor Swann was elected United States Senator to succeed John A. J. Creswell, but declining to serve, ex-Governor Thomas was elected in his stead. Although he was constitutionally eligible, and the judiciary committee of the Senate reported favorably upon his credentials, he was refused his seat by a vote of 25 to 20. The charge alleged against him was disloyalty. He was arbitrarily refused permission to enter the Senate chamber simply because his political views were not in accord with those of the radical members of that body, who were bent upon retaining control of the government.

As the United States Senate refused to permit ex-Gov. Thomas to assume the office to which he was legally entitled, the Legislature of 1858 thought it advisable to fill the vacancy created by his non-admission, and elected George Vickers, of Kent county. A large number of the members were in favor of re-electing Mr. Thomas and thus expressing their sense of the indignity put upon the State, but the majority thought otherwise. A few years later ex-Governor Thomas was elected to the Forty-fourth Congress and served through that term, during which he was a member of the ways and means committee and committee on the Pacific Railroad.

Mr. Thomas, in 1877, was again elected to represent Talbot county in the Maryland House of Delegates. He presided at the democratic mass-meeting held in Masonic Temple in 1880, when Robert M. McLane was nominated for Governor, and was himself elected to the Legislature of 1881 on the ticket with Governor McLane and was chairman of the ways and means committee. He was a candidate for the United States Senate in 1864, when Senator Wilson was elected,