

Eulogies on Wright, McLane, and Sully

Hon. Hiram A. Wright

In Executive Committee, June 5, 1855, Hon. John Y. Smith in the chair, Hon. J. P. Atwood arose and announced the death of Hon. Hiram A. Wright, as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—I arise to announce an event as solemn as such an announcement is unusual, in this hall. For the first time since the organization of this Society, the members of the Executive Committee have occasion to mourn the loss of one of their number. A bolt has descended from a clear sky, and the heavens are shrouded in gloom. A chair is vacant, and with heavy hearts we sit amid the sable insignia of death.

The Hon. Hiram A. Wright, late Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Wisconsin, and one of the Curators of this Society, died at Prairie du Chien, on the twenty-seventh ult.

This event was as unexpected as the intelligence which is now flying from town to town, and from hamlet to hamlet, is startling and mournful. The shadow of his form lingers about the capitol, and the instruments of his office—the opened book—the unfinished manuscript, lay upon the table where he placed them. Almost imperceptibly we expect on the walks and in public places, that pleasant, yet dignified and courtly salutation, and can hardly believe that we are to receive that greeting no more.

The deceased left us, but a few days since, in feeble health, occasioned, as was then supposed, by constant and arduous labors during the past winter, for the purpose of enjoying a short season