

The regent expressed surprise at meeting him on account of the great calamity that had befallen his property during the previous night. The governor calmly replied that the loss was a large one in property, but that was of small consequence; his sadness was on account of the loss of life and the general distress to the poor laboring people that it involved; he had given his word that he would aid in locating the observatory this morning, and but for that, perhaps it never would have been located at all. His word must be carried out to the letter. He would proceed at once with the work in charge, and then would proceed to Minneapolis to exert himself in aiding to relieve the distress caused by the destructive fire. His own loss was the last thing that disturbed his mind. This incident indicates the general characteristics of this great and good man. When he gave his word, he never failed to make it good.

There could be no failure in the success of such a character in whatever he might undertake; and it is not remarkable that for the last few years of his life, his business success has been almost fabulous. The death of such a man is a great loss to the business world.

Having thus briefly referred to the successes of General Washburn, in both his official and his business life, it may be well to sum up some of the characteristics of the man, that have been instrumental in producing such magnificent results. A distinguished senator in speaking of a similar character, uses language so appropriate to our subject, that we adopt it as better than we could produce: "Born and educated in New England, passing the maturity of his years in the West, he united, in an uncommon degree, the qualities and characteristics of each; the shrewdness, the steadiness, the keen observation, the inflexible purpose of the one; the freshness, the eager earnestness, the sturdy robustness of the other; the fidelity, the truthfulness, the manliness of both. His sincerity was beyond question, his honest belief in the principles which he professed was never disputed; he meant what he said, and he said all that he meant. He had no halting opinions; he had a judgment, and a decided judgment, on every question that was ever presented to him. He was a forcible, but not a frequent speaker. The strength of his convictions found expression in the bold-