

Hon. Harlow S. Orton, LL.D., of the supreme court, offered the following remarks:

It has been assigned to me to speak of Gov. Washburn's private, public and business character, and I shall do so with brevity, and I trust with truthfulness.

Our acquaintance began about thirty-five years ago, and had been somewhat intimate most of the time until he died. In early Territorial times, the firm of Washburn & Woodman of Mineral Point, engaged in the business of banking, law and dealing in real estate, was, and continued to be, for many years, one of our most prominent and creditable business concerns, and achieved great success, and for that time, wealth. Both Washburn and Woodman were amongst the earliest friends and supporters of this Society, and have done much for its success, by their encouragement, counsel, and contributions. In 1852, by the urgent request of Gov. Farwell and myself, Gov. Washburn came to Madison and assisted in framing a general banking law for this State, and his suggestions tended greatly to perfect it, with the view of securing both bill holders and depositors against any possible loss; and that law failed only in these respects, by the vicious construction and loose, if not dishonest practices, of those having charge of its execution.

His great abilities, and excellent character, early in the history of the State, commended him to the people of his district as a candidate for Congress, and his prominence and usefulness in that body, made his election sure for many years. After his return from distinguished service in the war, he became a resident of another district, which he also represented for many terms. At one time, at least, he might have been elected a member of the United States senate, had he pledged himself in advance of his election to a special course of official conduct, which in itself was not particularly objectionable, but which he did not approve. In the Congress of the United States, at a time when Credit Mobilier frauds and congressional stock jobbing had seduced and corrupted its members to such an extent that even so-called Christian statesmen received bribes, and well nigh committed perjury to conceal them, he stood almost alone in their exposure and denunciation. For one term, and for one term only, he was allowed to fill the execu-