

qualities, and I have no hesitation in saying that he had not a "dishonest hair in his head," nor a mean trait in his character. George B. Smith was connected conspicuously with the early history of Wisconsin, when dissipation was so common that occasional excess was hardly criticised. Beginning his career in the midst of associations that were well calculated to lead any one astray from the path of strict social purity, yet he stood the severe test, and was never contaminated by the touch of pernicious example. He walked in the very midst of social evils, but covered as he was by the iron shield of his robust will, discomfited vice shrank from the attack, and left his character untouched.

He could listen to the voice of the syren when she sang of pleasure, but it was always with a firm hand that he thrust aside the proffered cup. His entire freedom from a single contaminating touch of intemperance, of licentiousness, or any social evil, alone mark him as an extraordinary man. If he possessed no other claim to distinction, this exceptional purity, this moral grandeur would elevate him above the roll of common men. In this particular respect General George B. Smith stands out a glorious example for the guidance of the youth of the State. His moral frame, bright, pure and lustrous as the morning star, shines around the strong, powerful and intellectual man like a halo. It is easier to be great than to be good, and the brilliant genius, the man of commanding talents and of superior natural endowments, who can control his own passions and resist successfully the tempting allurements of vice, and thus acquire genuine greatness, becomes indeed truly great, and a real hero, for he conquers himself. High on the roll of fame among the immortal few who have left behind them an unspotted reputation, the pen of truth and impartial justice, in letters of light, will write the name of General George B. Smith.

Indeed, his title to this moral rank is the more conspicuous because of his habits and associations. His genial temperament, his strong social inclinations, and his keen sense of humor, naturally led him to seek, as I have already said, the companionship of those among whom the revel ran high, and where wit and merriment abounded, and where the song, the story and the jest kept