

his hearers, impressed me with the full conviction that he felt and believed what he said. Now while I write these broken sentences, there sweeps down upon my throbbing heart a shock of irrepressible sadness when I remember that his eloquent voice is hushed forever in the silence of death, and that I shall never hear it again. Alas! alas! that it should be so. Why should he be stricken down in the prime and vigor of his mature manhood, in the very noon-tide of his success, and in the very midst of his usefulness? Why should the strong and vigorous oak, rich with the harvest of ripe fruit, and its spreading branches under which so many found shelter, why should that fall beneath the ax, when there are so many gnarled, crooked and worthless trees that survive to encumber the ground with their worthless lives? Who can tell?

Impelled by a strict sense of duty, I shall in this connection devote some space to the task of rescuing the pure memory of our departed friend from the odium of the only slander that ever clouded his bright fame. I should not allude to the subject at all, had it not been for the fact that several newspapers of the State have attempted to revive the unjust charge since his death. I refer to the election frauds of the Barstow and Bashford campaign. For reasons which I could never comprehend, General Smith was made the conspicuous object of attack in connection with those false returns. The cause of truth and right alone demand his full vindication from the foul charge. The slander should fall to the ground by its own weight. A man of his admitted sense and ability, of his honest and noble nature, could no more be guilty of originating or consenting to a known fraud than the bright sun could cohabit with darkness. Between him and fraud there stood an impassable wall. Every instinct of his heart, every aspiration of his soul, and every thought of his strong mind were against it. What evidence has ever been given tending even to convict him of complicity with these election frauds? None whatever that would be even considered in any court of impartial justice. On the contrary, a thorough investigation by a partisan committee, urged on by party and rancor, failed to elicit a fact or circumstance showing complicity or guilty knowledge on his part. In the result of the then pending canvass,