

This was said in a tone, a manner and words that carried complete conviction of its truth to my heart. I believed him then, fully and absolutely believed him, and no doubt or suspicion of his truth ever afterwards changed my mind on the subject.

One conspicuous trait in the character of Mr. Smith I have omitted to mention, and it is one that adds largely to the royal nobility of his nature. I allude to his kindness of heart, and his disinclination to say or do anything that was calculated to pain or wound the feelings of others. A touching little incident will furnish a better illustration of this trait than anything I can say. I met him in Milwaukee about three weeks before his death. He seemed in unusual health and spirits. After the first friendly greetings were over, he said, while his brow saddened, and a shadow of regret swept over his strong features: "A circumstance occurred, while on my way here today, that has left a very painful impression on my mind." I asked him what it was. "I will tell you," answered he. "A lady got on the train at Milton Junction, and as she came into the car where I sat, she bowed to me, and as I was taken somewhat by surprise, for I did not recognize her, I neglected to return her salutation; but afterwards, when too late to correct my seeming impoliteness, it flashed into my mind who she was, and that I had known her very well when she was in better circumstances than now. It pained me exceedingly to think that my neglect might have wounded her feelings, and even now, if I knew her address, I would write her a letter of apology, for I feel bad about it." I replied that he would doubtless have the opportunity hereafter to correct the error. "At all events," answered he, "I feel better for having told you about it."

A few words more, and my mournful task is ended. It would be impossible to do full justice to the worth, integrity and ability of such a man as General Smith, within the limits to which I am confined.

I can only add here, that in his character were most happily combined all the elements of true and noble manhood. He was true to his own convictions, true to his family and friends, true to