

the happiest efforts of his life in seconding the nomination of Gov. Tilden for the presidency. Indeed the impression he then made upon the convention was so favorable, and his reputation and prominence so generally recognized, that had Gov. Hendricks declined the nomination for vice-president, Gen. Smith would doubtless have been accorded that place upon the national ticket. But had he been nominated and elected to that high office, he would not have been more loved and honored, or his loss more deeply deplored by this Society, or by the community, in which he had lived so long and was known so well. His noble qualities of mind and heart would have been more widely esteemed, but they would not have been more kindly cherished or more fondly remembered by his old neighbors and friends. Had he held high official station, there would have been no feeling of estrangement between him and them, for they knew he was worthy of the most exalted position, and honored him the more because he would not sacrifice his principles for political preferment. But had the public service called him elsewhere, there would have been less of that feeling of local pride and intimate friendship surrounding our late distinguished fellow-citizen, which, mingling with the profound grief we feel over his departure from among us, deepens the dark shadow of a great calamity into the heavy gloom of a personal bereavement.

The position to which Gen. Smith so rapidly rose in his chosen profession, and which he continued to maintain, at a bar distinguished for its learning, ability and eloquence, is the highest proof of the native talents of the man. But it was not in the court room only that his true character as a lawyer was displayed; his broad views, his fairness and impartiality, and his instinctive honesty made him a very safe counsel for those in difficulty. His candor and courage in giving advice professionally, showed the metal that was in him, and exhibited, at the same time, a thorough knowledge of human nature. He would say to his most wealthy and influential client, "you are wrong," in a manner so decided and firm, that it would inspire confidence in his judgment, and carry conviction without giving offense. He was always honorable, frank and courteous in his intercourse with other mem-