

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1844.

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TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 15.]

[HOUSE.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

AND

REPORT AND RESOLVES

IN RELATION TO THE DEATH OF

HON. EDWARD KAVANAGH.

[Wm. R. SMITH & Co....Printers to the State.]



MESSAGE.

*To the Members of the Senate and
House of Representatives :*

Since the last adjournment of the Legislature, I have received the melancholy and painful intelligence of the demise of my immediate predecessor, **HON. EDWARD KAVANAGH.**

After a severe and protracted illness, he expired at his residence in Newcastle, on Sunday evening last.

Intimately associated as the deceased has been with both the Legislative and Executive departments of the State government during the past year—connected as, but for this dispensation of Providence, he would have been with our recent organization, and always enjoying in an eminent degree the public esteem and confidence, I have deemed it not unsuitable or improper, officially to announce to the Legislature the tidings of his decease.

Respect for the memory of the wise and good is at all times a natural and becoming sentiment ; to none could it be more appropriately rendered than to the memory of our lamented friend.

The highly responsible duties with which he was charged by the National Government, and the numerous important trusts committed to his care by the government and people of his native State, fully attest the estimation in which his ability and integrity were universally held ; the affectionate attachment and regard of those who best knew his private worth, are enduring memorials of the purity and excellence of his personal character.

The termination of his honorable and virtuous life has released him from sufferings, which, though borne with serenity and patience, have deeply moved the sympathies of his friends ; and as we may humbly hope, has admitted him into that higher and better state of being, where pain and suffering are not permitted to enter.

MESSAGE.

May we all improve this solemn admonition, and in view of the instability of all earthly objects, be prepared to leave the scenes of our duties and labors here, with a confident and cheering hope of enjoying renewed association with our departed friend in a better life hereafter.

H. J. ANDERSON.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }
Jan. 23, 1844. }

REPORT.

THE Joint Select Committee, appointed to take into consideration, and report such action, as may be deemed an appropriate testimonial of respect for the memory of the late Hon. Edward Kavanagh, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions.

JOHN ANDERSON, *per order.*



STATE OF MAINE.

WHEREAS, the erection, at the public expense, of splendid monuments to commemorate the distinguished dead, is alike incompatible with the simplicity and frugality of a Republic, it is the more imperative upon such a Government, to place upon public record, the testimony of the high estimation in which those citizens are held, who having been long tried in the service of the State, have acted well their part; and by so doing, transmit their names to posterity as incentives to emulate their example. Therefore—

Resolved, That we deem it proper to state, that Mr. Kavanagh, from the commencement of his public life, through his honorable and successful career, possessed the full and unbounded confidence of his fellow citizens, and was endeared to them by the many virtues and excellencies that attached to his character; possessing, as he did in an eminent degree, urbanity and modesty, and to a polished education uniting good sense and a generous patriotism, all who knew him held him in high estimation.

The earliest production of this highly esteemed man, which was presented to the public view, was a letter in favor of liberal principles; and during his whole life, the various expressions of his sentiments, were in accordance therewith. Having occupied, at home and abroad, offices of high importance, and receiving both from the people, and Executive officers, trusts of magnitude and responsibility, ample opportunity was afforded for the exercise and display of that ability and worth, which the several elevated stations he occupied appeared largely to share.

In all the relations of private life, he was kind and affectionate. In the distinguished places, he was called upon to fill, he sustained himself by faithfulness and attention to the various and complicated

duties that devolved upon him. Integrity and uprightness were with him prominent characteristics.

Few men have attained to so much excellence and purity of character, and but seldom are we called to deplore the loss of an individual more justly entitled to our unfeigned regrets. To sympathize with the afflicted family, thus deprived of an ornament and support, is suitable and becoming—to offer them our condolence upon this mournful occasion, is just and proper.

RESOLVED, That inasmuch as the character of Mr. Kavanagh is so well known, and his high moral worth has been so well appreciated and greatly valued, it appears to be unnecessary more fully to enumerate the striking and interesting traits, that have commended themselves to the favorable notice and regard of the people of his country and the State, and procured for him a distinguished office, as the Minister of our Republic to a foreign court.

All are familiar with his history—all have admired, honored, applauded him.

He has passed away from the scene of his earthly labors, and is now no more among us. He lives however in our recollections, in our admiration of his exalted and liberal views, in our veneration of his virtuous life, in our respectful and cherished esteem for his memory, and the tribute we design to pay, shall be honest and sincere.

It is well to consider that death makes no distinctions; that all classes and every condition of men, sink under his fatal stroke, and that earthly honors and glory, are only as the fading flower and withering grass.

The lesson before us, is solemn and admonitory, and teaches that the proudest attainments and most lofty acquisitions are perishable. It reminds us, that rectitude of principle and purity of character, are worthy of assiduous and constant cultivation, and that the savor of a good name is precious and enduring.

RESOLVED, That remembering the private virtues of the deceased, we tender to his relatives the expression of our sympathies on this afflictive event; and remembering his pre-eminent worth as a citizen and a public officer, we mourn with the whole people of Maine, the loss of one of her best and most distinguished sons.

RESOLVED, That the members and officers of both branches of the Legislature, attend a discourse in memory of the deceased, to be pronounced on Wednesday next, by the Rev. John H. Ingraham.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these Resolutions be entered upon the Journals of both Houses, and that a copy of them, signed by the Governor, be transmitted by the Secretary of State, to the surviving brother and sisters of the deceased.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 29, 1844. }

ORDERED: That 500 copies of the foregoing Resolves, and of the Message of the Governor transmitting intelligence of the death of the late Hon. Edward Kavanagh, be printed for the use of the House.

WM. T. JOHNSON, *Clerk.*