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## Dr. Gilbert C. Monell and Hon. Phineas W. Hitchcock

G. M. Hitchcock

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To-day we've met, to-night we part,  
Who shall say when next we meet,  
What heart shall miss its kindred heart?  
Whose quick pulse has ceased to beat?

God of love and God of mercy,  
Whoso'er it chance to be,  
Fold them in Thine arms so gently,  
Bear them safe o'er Death's cold sea.

Bring them safe to homes of glory,  
Built by our Father's hand,  
There to chant in loving story,  
Memories of this precious band.

And, oh Father, hear, I pray Thee,  
Hear these words and grant this prayer,  
May each dear one now before me  
Spotless wedding garments wear.

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DR. GILBERT C. MONELL AND HON. PHINEAS W.  
HITCHCOCK.

The biographies of these two old and prominent citizens were written by Mr. G. M. Hitchcock, grandson of Dr. Monell, and son of Mr. Hitchcock.

DR. GILBERT C. MONELL was born Oct. 20th, 1816, in Montgomery, Orange county, N. Y., and was his parents' second son. As his father could afford to do so in but one case, the elder brother was alone accorded a college education, and the subject of this sketch was thrown upon his own resources at an early age with a fair common school education. He, however, at once made the resolve to acquire himself what his parents were unable to give him. He took a salaried position in a country store, and began at the same time earnestly to prosecute the studies preparatory for a college course. He was enabled by strict economy and by a gift from his father, to raise a sufficient amount for a three years' course, and by self education while at work in the store, he fitted himself to enter Union College in the Sophomore year, abreast fully with those of his own age. He graduated at the age of nineteen years, and soon thereafter married Miss Lucinda Carpenter, in 1836, and then for a short time he continued his mercantile occupation, but only for the purpose of supporting himself while he

studied medicine in New York city. Completing his course there, he, with his wife and little son returned to Orange county, N. Y., and located in Newburg. Here a large practice soon rewarded his early privations, and in the specialty he made of the diseases of women his success was so great as to bring patients from New York city and New England.

After nearly twenty years of a hard working professional life the Dr., who had in the meanwhile acquired a competence, moved west in 1857, with his family, at that time consisting of his wife, one son, John J. Monell, and one daughter, Annie, and located in Omaha.

His two objects had been to establish his son in the West, and to break off the practice of his own profession.

Here Dr. Monell identified himself with the new republican party, and as an outspoken abolitionist was for some time a chief owner of the leading republican paper of Nebraska.

He was the founder of the *Rocky Mountain Daily News*, the first newspaper of Colorado.

He was one of the incorporators of the U. P. R. R. and the chief local mover in that enterprise, and being also a confidant and friend of Mr. Ogden, of Chicago.

He was active in the early political struggles which established republican control in Nebraska.

He was a leading republican, supporting his creed by argument and money when it was neither popular nor politic.

After the war Dr. Monell retired to the seclusion of private life, where he devoted himself to study, which with him was a passion, and to charitable and religious works which so endeared him to the community in which he lived and worked.

He was the originator, incorporator, and director of the present state deaf and dumb asylum, the charter to which he surrendered to the state when the institution was well established.

He was the founder of the Omaha City mission, whose headquarters are still on the property of his estate.

The younger generation knew him only for his good deeds and quiet life; the older also for his political labors, and his friends in New York as a great physician.

He was a ready, dramatic, and forcible speaker, a philosophical student, an enlightened citizen.

He died Sept. 30th, 1881, aged 65.

Mrs. Monell survives him and lives in Omaha with her married son, John J. Monell, while her daughter Annie, who married P. W. Hitchcock, died in 1877.

PHINEAS W. HITCHCOCK was born at New Lebanon, New York, November 30th, 1831. His ancestors were English, who settled in New England in early colonial days, and his father, Gad Hitchcock, was a soldier through the war of 1812.

He was the youngest of several children, and while never physically his father's equal he gave early indications of intellectual endowments and tastes which led his father to furnish the son with the additional advantage of an education, which for a plain farmer's son was a liberal one.

From Williams College, Mass., Mr. Hitchcock graduated in 1855, at the age of twenty-four years. He then began the study of law, which he continued for two years, at the same time supporting himself by journalistic labors on a daily paper of Rochester, New York. As a writer at this time, and in later years in Nebraska, when he occasionally contributed articles to the *Omaha Republican*, he was terse, forcible, and incisive in style, while his thought was original and strong.

In 1857 he moved west and located at Omaha. Here a new field opened before him and he soon entered it with all the energy and ambition a naturally active mind and nervous constitution would display in a country rapidly developing and at a time of great political changes.

Engaging actively in the practice of his profession, which he supplemented with a real estate and insurance business, Mr. Hitchcock at the same time felt a great interest and took an active part in the solution of the social and political problems of the day.

He became a leading abolitionist, assisted in the organization of the republican party, and aided in establishing the first republican paper in Nebraska.

He was a member of the republican national convention, at Chicago in 1860, and had the honor of voting for Lincoln from first to last. He was appointed U. S. marshal by Lincoln in 1861, and held the position till 1864, when he was elected territorial delegate to the 39th congress. In that congress the territorial interests, in-

cluding the legislation in respect to public lands, Indian affairs, and timber culture, received his active attention.

When Nebraska was admitted as a state P. W. Hitchcock became surveyor general.

He was elected U. S. senator in 1870, and during the six years of his term engaged himself quietly but earnestly in furthering the interests of Nebraska and of the undeveloped West. He did not take prominent place as a speaker in the senate, but did achieve some distinction as a most successful advocate of the measures he introduced or supported. He was an untiring worker, and in his speeches, which were neither frequent nor lengthy, he displayed the ability to carry his point by the careful, candid, and forcible presentation of the facts with an emphatic and practical explanation of the requirements of the case.

His measures were those which were calculated to develop the West, to improve the condition of emigrants and settlers, and advance the interests of their struggling communities.

Mr. Hitchcock was defeated for renomination by a powerful coalition, which waged a bitter fight and expended much money. He thereupon devoted himself to repairing his fortune and possessions, which by the neglect of his later years of public life had been somewhat wasted and impaired. During the remaining four years of his life he declined official honors tendered him by the administration of President Hayes, and devoted himself more to his own private interests.

Mr. Hitchcock had, shortly after his arrival in Omaha, in 1857, married Miss Annie Monell, daughter of Dr. G. C. Monell, and by her had three children, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, in 1859, Grace Hitchcock, in 1862, and John G. Hitchcock, in 1865.

A very happy married life was suddenly interrupted in 1877 by the death of Mrs. Hitchcock, and to further add to the sorrows of Mr. Hitchcock's later years his favorite child, his daughter Grace, died in 1880.

From this time to the period of his death in July, 1881, Mr. Hitchcock was a sorrowful and broken-hearted man, living more in the sweet memories of the past than in the hopes of the future.

He died a few days after the assassination of President Garfield, with whom he had been a college mate at Williams and a friend in congress.