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1885

Hon. John Taffe

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firm of Barrons, Millard & Co.; then in the firm of Millard, Caldwell & Co.; then in that of Caldwell, Hamilton & Co.; and latterly in the U. S. National Bank, of which he was vice-president and the largest stockholder when he died.

Mr. Caldwell was a broad-headed man, self-reliant and resolute, of high public spirit, and capable of large undertakings. The monuments of his enterprises will stand long after all that was mortal of him shall have returned to its kindred dust. The Caldwell block fitly bears his name, because, at the time it was built, without his energetic efforts it would not have been built at all. The Omaha & Southwestern railway, of which he was president, was, to a great extent, his own creation in a financial point of view. It was the parent of railways connecting Omaha with the south-western interior of the state. Mr. Caldwell was one of the leading spirits and chief organizer of the Grand Central hotel enterprise, which was regarded as a great undertaking at the time it was erected. For many years he wielded a powerful influence upon Omaha affairs, and with his positive views and energy of purpose, whatever he undertook he was pretty certain to accomplish. He was a man of fine mind, strong character, commanding personal dignity, and refined and cultivated tastes. Under a somewhat forbidding, and somewhat curt manner, he carried a warm and gentle heart, whose sympathies were never in such full play as when he was in his own home surrounded by those whom he so dearly loved.

Mr. Caldwell was married to Miss Henrietta M. Bush, of Tioga, Pennsylvania, in April, 1863, a lady who, as woman, wife, and mother, has occupied the highest position in our Omaha social life for twenty years.

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#### HON. JOHN TAFFE.

HON. JOHN TAFFE died at North Platte, Nebraska, March 14, 1884, aged 57 years. He was a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was born Jan. 30, 1827. He received an academic education, and after a diligent study of the law was admitted to the bar in the city of his birth.

In the year 1856 he moved to this state and located in Dacotah county, where he resided until his election to congress. In 1858-9 he

served in the lower branch of the territorial legislature, and in 1860 was elected to the council and made president at the organization of that body. He married the daughter of Col. John Ritchie, of Omaha.

In 1862 he was commissioned as major of the Second Nebraska Cavalry, and served for a period of about fifteen months. Shortly after this he ran for congress, and though twice defeated by Mr. Daily, was elected to the fortieth and forty-first and re-elected to the forty-second congress, by an overwhelming majority of nearly 5,000, the vote standing in his favor 12,375 and for his opponent 7,967.

In his congressional course Mr. Taffe was a faithful worker in the interest of the state of his adoption, energy and zeal being the predominating features of his work in the halls of congress as well as at home. His work was successful without ostentation, and thorough with all the elements of a practical nature.

In the forty-second congress he served as chairman of the house committee on territories, while, at the same time, holding important positions on two other committees.

After leaving congress he became editor of *The Republican*, and filled the chair with considerable ability and success. He was a plain, practical, and earnest writer, and, on political issues, throughout the state, in those days, was considered almost infallible. An excellent proof of this is found in the fact that in a certain presidential election he not only forecast the vote of our own state to a nicety but also that of many of the states of the union.

After his retirement from *The Republican* he returned to the practice of his profession, taking some interest in mining operations.

He was honest and honorable in all his dealings, and loyalty to friends was the ruling characteristic of his head and heart.

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### ELDER J. M. YOUNG.

ELDER J. M. YOUNG was really the founder of the city of Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska. He was born in Genesee county, New York, near Batavia, on the old Holland purchase, on November 25, 1806. In 1829 he married Alice Watson, at that time eighteen years of age, and who now survives him at the age of seventy-four. The following year he moved to Ohio and from Ohio he went to Page county, Iowa,