

Republican Progress

Printed each Thursday Morning, by
WILLIAM A. GAGE, Editor and Publisher.

OF INTEREST

To the Old Citizens, AND TO THOSE OF THE RISING GENERATION WHO CARE FOR THE PAST.

Editor of the Progress:—
I am really glad to know that you, at least, have not been so carried away by the frivolities and sensationalism of the age as to feel a contempt for matters of a graver and more solid character. There is something else in this world of sober realities to think of and ponder over besides nonsense and excitement. Indeed it is well to once in a while turn away from reading about: "Johnny Brown says his girl is an angel!" and: "Why did Henry Smithers stay so late with his Jane last night? Ask Jane." Such "literature" may be palatable food for the "youngster," but the youngsters are not the best patrons of newspapers—the "old folks" pay for them.

I desire to revive some old memories among the many solid, sober-thinking people who read your "Progress," by re-publishing biographical notices of two men, who in their day, were the prominent figures in social, political and business life in this country. I refer to DR. DAVID H. MAXWELL, and JOSHUA O. HOWE. Dr. Maxwell is well remembered by a large number of our citizens, and additional interest will be felt in this brief biographical sketch when it is known that the writer was the late Paris C. Dunning, and that the sketch was published in the Bloomington Newsletter, of Saturday, June 24th, 1854—over thirty years ago:

Dr. David H. Maxwell.

The political career of Dr. Maxwell commenced under our Territorial Government. After he was discharged from the Ranging service, he re-commenced the practice of his profession; which he continued to pursue in Jefferson county, with but a short interval, until his removal to Bloomington, on the 10th of May 1819. During this interval, he represented Jefferson county, as a Delegate to the Convention to form the Constitution for the State of Indiana. The election took place on the second Monday in May, 1816, and the convention met on the 10th of June following, and adjourned on the 30th, being only twenty days in session. The men of those days were indeed working men, and in our good old Constitution we have a monument of their wisdom and industry.

Dr. Maxwell took an active part in the deliberations of the Convention, and more particularly did he devote his attention to the adoption of the 9th Article; that excellent provision relative to the educational interests of the State. Thus was laid, deep and broad, the foundation for a system of Common Schools; which if wisely improved, will redound to the honor and fame of Indiana in all coming time. Dr. M. had seen much of the topography of the Territory while in the Ranging service; and being particularly struck with the geographical position of the present town of Bloomington, as favorable to health, (being on the divide between the waters of White Rivers,) and impelled by a spirit of adventure, which he inherited from his progenitors, he early sought a home in what was then the frontier settlement of the State.

At the time of his removal to Bloomington, there were not more than a half dozen log cabins in what is now the corporate limits of the town. All this region of country had been a favorite ground with the Indians for hunting, as indicated by the large number of their arrow points which are picked up here and there, and every where, ad altho' it's possible, large numbers still lingered about, and were a annoyance; and in their tracks, often a source of trouble. Among the oldest citizens will remember, White Head, Old Schooner and Little Duck, who often partook of the hospitality of the Doctor and other early settlers.

The Doctor was remarkably fond of what is generally termed "hunting," to which he had been trained in early life as a matter of necessity, by his uncles on his mother's side of the house, who were among the best hunters of Kentucky. As an amusement, and relaxation from arduous professional duties, he often engaged in it, when the necessity no longer existed; and how vividly, as though it were but yesterday, does the writer see, the Doctor mounted on his pack-horse, accented cap-a-pie, in hunter's garb—the hunting shirt, the buck-skin leggings and moccasins—the tomahawk belted to his side—the shot-

pouch slung around the shoulder, and the gun resting on the pommel of a saddle, preparatory to an excursion of a week or two in the Salt Creek hills.

Dr. Maxwell was engaged in the duties of his profession in this and the adjoining counties, for a long series of years. Being the only physician in the place, and for many miles around, in difficult and important cases, he was frequently called to the distance of thirty and forty miles, enduring great hardship and exposure. As the country became more densely populated other physicians came in, and relieved him greatly of this, his most arduous labor. It is no panegyric to say, that the Doctor was a good physician—this community will long remember his efficient and valuable services, in days that are past and gone; while his professional brethren have always awarded to him a high position in all their deliberations, and shown a reverence to his opinions in consultation, which his sagacious judgment and long experience merited.

The Doctor did not accumulate much property by his labor—he worked, but others received the benefits of his labor—he dispensed alike his medical services to the rich and the poor; and no man, on account of his poverty, was ever turned from his door. Although to those unacquainted with him, in his general deportment, he might seem somewhat austere, yet in its sick room he was always kind and cheerful, and by his exhilarating conversation, always imparted a degree of hope, and a confidence in his ability, which re-acted favorably upon the patient's recovery.

Dr. Maxwell had resided but a short time in this county until he was delegated by his fellow-citizens, who took a deep interest in the location of the State Seminary of Loring, to repair to Corydon as a lobby member, to use his influence in procuring the location of that Institution at Bloomington, and he cheerfully obeyed. His labors were crowned with success, and it is not too much to say, that to his influence and exertions, more than to that of any other man, are the citizens of this part of the State indebted, for all the advantages which have accrued from the location of the State University in our midst. It was always a subject dear to his heart, and in furthering the objects of which, he spent much of his time and money gratuitously.

Shortly after this, Dr. Maxwell was elected the Representative of this county in the State Legislature, which station he continued to occupy for several years until in 1827, when he was elected speaker of the House over his competitor, who was one of the most accomplished and talented men of the State, and who, subsequently, filled many high and responsible offices of honor and trust; thereby showing the estimation in which the deceased was held for ability and integrity of character. Dr. Maxwell was a candid man—in all matters of politics or morals, he was frank—he had no concealments, and no under-ground projects by which to accomplish his objects. Dr. Maxwell was a practical man—always devoting his energies to the promotion of the best interests as he conceived it, of the masses, and of those interests the one paramount, in his judgment, to all others, was the subject of Education. He was appointed by the Legislature on the first Board of Trustees of the State Seminary, and upon its organization was elected its presiding officer, a station which he continued to occupy, almost uninterruptedly for nearly a quarter of a century. So much interest did he take at all times, in matters pertaining to the interests of the Institution, and so conversant was he with the workings of its internal policy, and the history of its finances, that great deference was paid to the opinions which he entertained, upon all matters which came up before the Board for their deliberation.

Dr. Maxwell was twice elected to the Senate of the State, from the Senatorial district composed of the counties of Monroe, Owen and Greene. During all the time of his Legislative career, he devoted himself to the advancement of the interests of his constituents, and of the State at large. He was liberal in his views of public policy, and was the first member from this county who ever cast a vote in favor of the Wabash and Erie Canal—at that time the great and only public work of Internal Improvement in the State.

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continuation of the Wabash and Erie Canal from Lafayette to Terre Haute. The Department being satisfied of the justice of the claim, as promulgated in the memorial, decided favorably to the application.

After this period, Dr. Maxwell retired almost entirely from public and professional life, on account of the state of his health. Not satisfied, however, with entire inactivity, he accepted the situation of Postmaster at Bloomington, which he continued to fill for several years. The last few months previous to his death had been spent among some of his children on the Wabash; during which time he felt that his steps were fast approaching the grave!

As the time drew near for his leaving for home, he seemed exceedingly anxious to depart, feeling assured that he could not survive long, and being especially desirous to breathe his last among the former scenes of his activity and usefulness—in the midst of his family and friends—who testified most worthily of their high respect and great esteem for the character of the deceased, during his illness, and on the occasion of the funeral ceremonies.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, to which he had attached himself in early life, and continued his connection with this people until the day of his death. In the infancy of the Church at this place, he had been one of its main pillars, and in his old age he forsook not her faith.

He has gone from among us, re-gretted—regretted, as a kind and affectionate husband—as a most loving parent—a good neighbor—a sympathizing and true friend—a skillful physician—a legislator of enlarged views and policy, and, above all, as an honest and Christian man. *Requiescat in pace.*

THE following biographical sketch of Joshua O. Howe, Sr. was published in the Progress of July 22d, 1868, and it will revive memories among old people that will be pleasant to them, while being instructive to the middle-aged and new-comers:

Joshua O. Howe, Sr.

Joshua O. Howe Sr., was born in Frederick county, Maryland, March 2, 1784, moved about the year 1800, to Kentucky where, in the year 1816, he married his companion, who, in widowed bereavement now survives him. Three years after, in 1819, he came to Indiana and settled on the "Allison farm," which he purchased, some five miles west of Bloomington. Six months afterward he came to town and entered as clerk for a merchant by the name of Newby, whose store he bought out and became for a quarter of a century, a leading merchant of Bloomington. He was successful though he conducted his business upon principles of strict Christian integrity, furnishing an illustrious example of the prosperity which God awards to the upright.

Father Howe, whether we consider him as a citizen, or a church member, was one of earth's noble men, and deserves to be held in everlasting remembrance. As a citizen, his history for nearly half a century is intimately blended with that of Bloomington and Monroe county. He belonged to that noble band of pioneers who lay the foundation of States and Empires. He came to Bloomington when the Territory of Indiana was almost an unbroken wilderness, and assisted in clearing the brush from the streets of Bloomington. He took a deep interest in the improvement of the town and county, and was a most active energetic and enterprising citizen. He was for many years one of the trustees of the Indiana State University, and assisted in laying its foundations, and taking part in the erection of its first buildings, thus aiding in securing its location in Bloomington, and contributing to its early success, as the first classical school established in the State.

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In 1836, the Doctor was nominated to the Senate by Gov. Noble, without any knowledge or solicitation on his part, as member of the State Board of Internal Improvement. His nomination was almost unanimously confirmed, and upon the meeting and organization of the Board, he was unanimously elected its President. Great responsibility devolved upon him in this capacity as the drafting officer of the Board; but no word of complaint, or even the slightest imputation was ever heard, that he did not faithfully and honestly perform its duties.

It was during the existence of the original Board of Internal Improvement, that the deceased, as President of the Board, drew up and presented to the proper Department at Washington City, a memorial, presenting in an argumentative and forcible manner, the claims of the State to an additional

thou givest alms, let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth."

As a Christian he was an honor to the cause, and especially to that branch of the Christian church to which he belonged. More than 46 years he was a member of the M. E. Church, in Bloomington. Through this whole period he held the office of Trustee and Steward, except a few of the last years of his life, when his health had become so infirm from age, that his brethren, at his earnest solicitation, released him from public duties. During the whole of this period his character was without blemish, and above suspicion. He never had an enemy, for he always made it sunshin-round about him. Such was his genial serenity of spirit that he was not only cheerful himself, but all in his presence were made hopeful and cheerful. He seemed always to enjoy in an eminent degree, "the soul's calm sunshine and heart-felt joy" of the true believer in Christ.

It may be said without disparagement to others, his noble co-laborers, that he was for more than a quarter of a century, the principal support of Methodism in Bloomington. The first itinerant ministers who traveling the almost pathless forest of Indiana, reaching this frontier village ere there was yet a church edifice or a society of Methodists, found a cordial reception and pleasant home at Bro. Howe's. He not only entertained the preachers, but contributed largely, to their support. If there was a deficiency in the circuit, he most generally with the assistance of a few others, such as Samuel Hardisty, Mrs. Alexander Owens, and James D. Robertson, paid it, so that few preachers left the work without receiving their full salary, himself always contributing the largest share.

When the first M. E. Church, the old brick, now the Catholic Church, was erected, the pastor, Rev. James Armstrong, undertook to build one of logs, thinking it the best that could be done. These were already on the ground and put up as far as the square, ready for the roof, when Bro. Howe, deemed that Methodism, small and weak as it was in Bloomington in 1825, deserved a more respectable edifice, and the logs removed, and with the aid of John Wright, father of Gov. J. A. Wright, who was a brick mason, built that edifice, Bro. Howe bearing nearly the entire expenditure.

In 1826 the Illinois conference, before Indiana conference was formed, was held in his parlor on the second floor of his business house on the west side of the square. The new Church was used for preaching and other religious services, while the business of the conference was done in the room just indicated. Bishop Roberts and Soul presided. At this conference Peter Cartwright, Charles L. Haldy, Samuel H. Thompson and their noble co-peers the pioneers of North Western Methodism were present, of whom the lone survivor is the venerable Peter Cartwright. Bro. Howe purchased a house on west 4th street, nearly opposite the old church, for \$400, which he gave to the church for a parsonage. This afterwards sold and invested the proceeds in the present parsonage.

When the new church was

erected in 1843, he contributed with his usual liberality, supplying deficiencies in funds, when the work was about stopped for the want of them, and furnishing material when needed. Thus he continued in his labor for the support of the church and ministry, contributing liberally to all her benevolent institutions, until the close of his long and useful life, which occurred at 1 o'clock A. M., July 10, 1868. For some months he had been ready and waiting for the call of his heavenly master.

He now sleeps; but his glorified spirit rejoices in the heavenly mansions, and has doubtless, as this greed of those of his old companions, the veterans of the cross, who had gone before, Strang, Arnett, Beauchamp, and the Bishops who presided at the Annual Conference held in his parlor. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest henceforth, from their labors and their works do follow them. It was some necessary business he had been sent about to do, that he was a good father, an affectionate husband, a faithful friend, obliging neighbor, and good citizen. Indeed he had a large place in the church in the community, in the numerous band of kindred who survive, that it cannot be supplied, and most deeply will his loss be felt. Long will it be before we shall behold his old streets before any new ones are begun. This manifest injustice of all this is that those who have done their work promptly and honestly, by their own labor, will be paid for it two years ago, while others who have been permitted to dodge their responsibility in this particular by breaking just enough stone to cover the ground, but have not complied with the city law either in quality of stone or in the manner of breaking it. Better finish the old streets before any new ones are begun.

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