

## John Lee Brown

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cation, and now threw into the occasion the charm of his own historical spirit and vivid imagination as he recalled with tenderness and pathos the scenes of a century ago. On his ninetieth birthday the Senate of Wisconsin, of which body he had often served as chaplain, sent him as many roses as were his years, and adjourned to give him their personal greetings at his home. In a subsequent letter, May 25, 1905, he wrote with his accustomed zest of a new edition of an old book, "An English Traveller, Coryat," a pilgrimage to Venice, published in the Bible year, 1611, the description in which he found so good that he said, "Thus oldest books are once more the youngest." He added, "My health for the oldest man here, moves wonder in every body, and not least in myself. May He in whose hand our breath is, make his word that angels' food which at his earthly table he gave to those who sat with him at meat! I still find a Hebrew text my best lullaby in the night watches." Having rounded out ninety years, seven months and five days his end was peace and he joined the kindred spirit of "the immortal dead who live again in minds made better by their presence."

W. S.

JOHN LEE BROWN was born in Essex county, New Jersey, October 31, 1838; he died May 24, 1906, in Cedar township, near Chariton, Lucas county, Iowa. In 1848 he, with his father, removed to Brookville, Ind., thence the next year to Greensburg, and again in 1854, to Warren county, Ind. At the age of 17 Mr. Brown came to Iowa, living for three years in the north part of Madison county. The hard times of 1857 so discouraged him that he returned to Marion county, Indiana, where he attended school and also engaged in teaching. On July 21, 1862, he enlisted in Co. A, 17th Indiana Battery, of which Benjamin Harrison, afterwards president of the United States, was colonel. At the battle of Resaca, May 15, 1864, Mr. Brown was wounded so severely that he lost his arm, and was discharged on account of this disability in March, 1865. He was soon elected recorder of deeds in Hendricks county, which office he held for four years. In 1870 he removed to Iowa, settling in Lucas county. He was soon elected constable, and later appointed deputy sheriff, and special collector for the county treasurer. In 1873 he was appointed justice of the peace, and in 1875 was elected county auditor by the republican party, being re-elected three consecutive times. While serving his fourth term he was elected to the position of State auditor in 1882. Mr. Brown's career as Auditor of State will always be one of the noted official careers of this State. In the administration of his office his supervision of insurance companies was so rigorous that it finally resolved into a collision of himself with Governor Buren R. Sherman, which resulted in his forcible expulsion from office by the Governor, and finally his impeachment and trial before the bar of the Senate. The contest between Governor Sherman and Auditor Brown was one of intense bitterness, the merits of which cannot be dealt with here. Upon the inauguration of Governor Wm. Larrabee in 1886, Mr. Brown was reinstated, whereupon ensued the investigation and impeachment of the Senate. The case aroused widespread interest and much legal talent was employed on the part of the prosecution and the defense. Auditor Brown was acquitted and on the advice of the Attorney General, Governor Larrabee reinstated Mr. Brown in the office of Auditor. One of the hardships endured by Mr. Brown was the heavy expense entailed by the trial. Although he was acquitted by the legislature he was not reimbursed for his outlays for attorneys, and the other numerous expenses connected with the trial. For nearly ten years he urged the

matter before the legislature without effect. Finally, however, the injustice was remedied by an appropriation made in 1896, allowing Mr. Brown \$4,000. Notwithstanding his adverse experiences and heavy burden of debt, Mr. Brown returned to Chariton and in the fall of 1886 purchased *The Chariton Herald*, which he made a republican paper. He remained in charge until 1898, vigorously promoting his personal and party interests.

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JOSEPH S. TRIGG was born in Hertfordshire, England, April 8, 1841; he died in Rockford, Iowa, June 6, 1906. He received the rudiments of his education in the schools of his native town. He came with his father to the United States, settling on a farm near Fond du Lac, Wis. In 1859 he removed to Freeborn, Minn. During the civil war he enlisted in Company E, 10th Minnesota Infantry, continuing in the service until the end of the contest. When mustered out he returned to Minnesota, but soon removed to Floyd county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until 1874. From 1874 to 1882 Mr. Trigg was the auditor of Floyd county. At the close of his term he was honored by being elected mayor of Charles City. He became interested in a creamery and in the marble business. Other interests soon attracted him. In 1885 he began his career as editor of *The Rockford Register*. He made it a paper of note and influence in the State, managing it until he removed to Des Moines to take charge of the agricultural department of *The Register and Leader* in 1904. Mr. Trigg became widely known through his writings upon subjects of special interest to agriculturists. He specialized in this particular field. He not only wrote extensively along lines of interest to farmers, but he was constantly in service as a lecturer upon such subjects. He simply wrote the results of his own experience and observation as a farmer. He had put his own hand to the plow and knew whereof he wrote. Terse and piquant and vigorous in expression, he soon became one of the most widely quoted writers in the west. He knew all about the Iowa farm and could tell it in a way that people everywhere delighted to read. His words of courage and hope were an inspiration to thousands of earnest people who were laboring to improve their surroundings and better their condition in life. Then, he was a lovable man, one who enlisted the friendship and hearty good will not alone of those who made his acquaintance, but of his wide circle of readers. Few deaths that have occurred in Iowa have been more widely or more sincerely mourned.

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JAMES A. LYONS was born in Morgan county, Ohio, April 12, 1838; he died in Grand Junction, Colorado, May 12, 1906. In 1855 Mr. Lyons' parents removed to Allamakee county, Iowa. On the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in the 1st Iowa Cavalry, in which regiment he remained until he was discharged by reason of disability caused by a wound in his arm and shoulder. In August, 1862, he was made 2d Lieutenant in the 27th Iowa Infantry, and served until he was again compelled to resign on account of his wound. In 1868 he settled in Guthrie county. After pursuing farming for two years, he removed to Guthrie Center and entered into mercantile business. As a merchant he was successful and in the course of his residence in the county seat of Guthrie county built up a large and profitable business. In 1883 Mr. Lyons was elected a member of the 20th General Assembly, and was re-elected to the 21st. He became well known for his stand upon various measures prominent in those sessions with the result that upon the close

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