

William Fletcher King

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who was inaugurated March 4, 1877, appointed a commission, which reached New Orleans April 6, to try to secure a peaceable adjustment. It soon became apparent that the only way the Packard government could be maintained was by the force of the Federal troops, and the administration declined to use the troops to longer uphold either claimant in a contested election. The Nichols legislature made some overtures to members of the other body, so that desertions from one body to the other soon resulted in giving the Nichols faction a quorum and it became a functioning body. Then on April 24 the Federal troops were withdrawn and the Packard government melted away. The next day Governor Packard issued a statement saying he yielded to superior force, but waived none of his legal rights. However, he made no further efforts to secure them. In 1878 he was appointed consul at Liverpool, England, which place he held seven years. In 1885 he removed to Marshall County, Iowa, purchased about one thousand acres of land and became an extensive and successful breeder of fine stock. In 1893 he served as one of the Iowa Commission to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and in 1898 served in the same capacity to the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha. From 1901 to 1909 he was the Fifth District member of the State Board of Agriculture. He was a very useful and public spirited citizen of the state during the quarter of a century he resided in it. In 1909 he removed to Seattle, Washington, where he lived in comparative retirement.

WILLIAM FLETCHER KING was born near Zanesville, Ohio, December 20, 1830, and died at Mount Vernon, Iowa, October 23, 1921. Burial was at Chillicothe, Ohio. His parents were James J. and Mariam (Coffman) King. He grew to manhood on his parents' farm near Zanesville, attending school during winters. He studied Latin under a private tutor and in 1851 entered Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, where he studied a year before entering the freshman class. He taught a year at Unionville, Tennessee, and returned to Ohio Wesleyan and was graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1857. The following five years he devoted to tutoring in his Alma Mater and doing post-graduate work. In 1862 he was drilling and planning to enlist in the Union Army when insistent calls came to him to go to Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, to teach Latin and Greek, which he consented to do for one year. Before the end of the year the president, Dr. S. M. Fellows, was so incapacitated by what proved to be a fatal illness that the young Latin professor, in 1863, became the acting president. Soon thereafter he became president and remained such until 1908, a period of forty-five years, a length of service said to excel that of any other college president of his time. From 1908 until his death he bore the title of president emeritus. President King was given the degree of A. M. by Ohio Wesleyan in 1869, D. D. by Illinois Wesleyan in 1870, and LL. D. by the State University of Iowa and by Ohio Wesleyan in 1887. He was a delegate to the General Conference of the Metho-

dist Episcopal church in 1876, 1888, 1896, 1904, and 1908. He was president of the State Teachers' Association of Iowa in 1885; was made a member of the National Council of Education in 1886; a member of the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1895; was a National Commissioner of the World's Columbian Commission in 1890; was a delegate to the Congress of Higher Education, Paris Exposition, in 1900; and was a delegate to the Ecumenical Conference, London, in 1901. His work as an educator took him into all parts of the United States, and to parts of Europe, while his leisure in later life permitted him to become an extensive traveler, a trip around the world being one of his privileges. He had broad education, culture, kindness, genuine Christian character, and rare judgment and administrative ability. As an example of his business judgment he made real estate investments on his own account and accumulated more than a competence, and then gave it practically all to the college, as he endowed a professorship in memory of his daughter and others in memory of his wife, and left money to the college by will, so that all his bequests to the college amounted to some \$200,000.

MAJOR JOHN GRAY THORNELL was born at Sidney, Iowa, May 5, 1886, and died in an aerial accident at Hampton, Virginia, February 21, 1922. Interment was at Sidney. He was a son of former Judge Andrew B. Thornell. He attended public school at Sidney, entered West Point Military Academy in June, 1906, and was graduated therefrom in June, 1910, with the rank of second lieutenant. For a time he was mostly in the Quartermaster's Department, being stationed at various points in the United States. In 1914 he went to Vera Cruz as commissary for General Funston. On July 1, 1916, he was promoted to first lieutenant. He was appointed an instructor of artillery at Fort Snelling and was promoted to captain in May, 1917. In December, 1917, he was transferred to the Third Motor Mechanics' Regiment, stationed at Fort Crook, Omaha. The regiment was soon sent to France and he was transferred to the air service, with the rank of major, with headquarters at Tours. Later he was sent to the front in charge of a balloon section and on Armistice morning was acting as a signal officer in a balloon over the American lines. After November 11 he was sent to aerial schools in England, France, and Italy, then returned to this country in July, 1919, and was placed in command of the flying forces at San Antonio. February 1, 1921, he was sent to Italy where he took a trial trip in the dirigible airship Roma, took it apart and shipped it to Langley Field, Virginia, reassembled it and made another trial flight in it. Its formal delivery was made to the government in December, 1921, and Major Thornell was relieved of its command that he might instruct in the officers' school at Langley Field. However, he was ordered back to take charge in a test flight after new and stronger motors had been installed, when the catastrophe of February 21 occurred, the greatest in the aerial history of the country, in which he and thirty-three others lost their lives.

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