

MICHAEL HAHN.

Gen. Gibson's Eulogy.

We publish by request the eulogy of Hon. Michael Hahn delivered in the United States Senate July 2:

Mr. Gibson—Mr. President, I rise to second the resolutions commemorative of the public life and services of Hon. Michael Hahn, recently a Representative from the Second Congressional District of Louisiana, who died in this city suddenly on the 15th of March last. I was absent on the day of his death and had not the opportunity to participate in the obsequies or in the action of the Senate.

My acquaintance with Mr. Hahn dates from the Presidential contest resulting in the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States. He was a supporter of Stephen A. Douglas. I remember distinctly the large and enthusiastic meeting held in the town of Thibodaux during that campaign, and the strong and earnest speech delivered by Hon. Michael Hahn. Thibodaux is the capital town of Lafourche parish, the centre of a wealthy, intelligent and cultivated population.

I have never known in my life in any land a community that was more distinguished for its polished manners, its sturdy character, its genuine hospitality and charitable benefactions, and in which the poor and rich alike enjoyed in a larger measure contentment and happiness. It could boast of such citizens as Bishop Leonidas Polk, than whom no more striking character ever shone forth in the annals of the Christian Church in this country; George S. Guion, the model planter, the public-spirited citizen, the devout Christian, the knightly gentleman; Dr. James Scudder, an ornament to his profession, and beloved as widely as he was known; Braxton Bragg, whose name is forever associated with the history of the war of secession, and of Gen. Richard Taylor, as its Senator in the State Legislature, renowned abroad as well as at home as one of the most, if not the most, accomplished gentleman and brilliant conversationalist of the age, and second only to the foremost in military genius. The day Mr. Hahn came before the audience that had assembled on the occasion referred to he was quite unknown, but when he had closed his address there was not a person in it who had not become convinced that he was a sincere, upright, patriotic man, and an earnest and persuasive speaker.

The career of Mr. Hahn illustrates the beneficence of our institutions as well as how much may be accomplished under them by self-denial, hard work, inherent virtue and earnestness of purpose. Young men may take courage from his example. Born in Bavaria Nov. 21, 1830, he was brought to the city of New Orleans when 10 years of age, one of five children under the care of a widowed mother, whose early death left him to the guardianship of friends and to his own unaided resources. He was fortunate, however, in living in a community quick to recognize merit and in falling under the kindly guidance and instruction of Hon. Christian Roselius, in whose office he was chiefly prepared for the practice of the law. Christian Roselius was for many years a leading lawyer at the New Orleans bar and educated more young men for the practice of the profession than any other lawyer of his generation, not only as the veteran professor of law in the University of Louisiana but he possessed great benevolence and never omitted an opportunity to aid any young man of merit who was struggling for admission to the bar or in the early years of his practice.

The active interest which Mr. Roselius manifested in all worthy young men I think was owing not only to his own experience in early life, for he himself had reached the head of his profession in the State of Louisiana by triumphing over all the difficulties that early poverty imposes, his only weapons being an invincible will and the highest order of intellect, but because the great lawyer had seen his own fondest hopes crushed in the death of his only son, attractive beyond all his competitors, a type of rarest manly beauty, and possessing every intellectual accomplishment, cut off at the very threshold of his manhood. There still dwells upon my memory the image of Conrad Roselius as he appeared when we first met at school, the fairest, brightest, and most gifted of the companions of my youth.

I will not recapitulate the successive steps by which Michael Hahn won his way to the confidence and support of a large body of the people of Louisiana and to the respect of all. He was successively director in the public schools, editor of a newspaper, Presidential elector, Governor of the State, Superintendent of the Mint, Judge, Representative in Congress and founder of a village that bears his name. And, though I differed from him widely in political opinions, I never heard, even in seasons of political excitements, any aspersion upon the integrity of his character or the uprightness of his purpose. I believe he met every duty in life in a firm, conscientious, generous spirit. I remember reading, some few years ago, an address delivered by Mr. Hahn in the village of Gretna, in which he quoted the following passage from Pegasus, and I doubt not that the noble sentiments therein expressed found lodgment in his memory because his heart beat responsive to them and they inspired the aspirations of his life.

Let each man think himself an act of God—his mind a thought, his life a breath of God; and let each try by great thoughts and good deeds to show the most of Heaven he has in him:

Life is more than breath and the quick round of

blood;

It is a great spirit and a busy heart.

The coward and the small in soul scarce do live.

One generous feeling—one great thought—one

deed

Of good, ere night, would make life longer seem

Than if each year might number a thousand days

spent as this is by nations of mankind.

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not

breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on the dial.

We should count time by heart-throbs. He most

lives

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.