

SENATOR SAMUEL D. McENERY.

Hon. Samuel Douglas McEnery, a senator of the United States for the State of Louisiana, passed out of earthly life at his home in this city on Tuesday, June 28, a few minutes before 10 o'clock in the morning. The senator had reached home on Monday morning, having left Washington on Saturday night immediately after the adjournment of Congress, and seemed to be in his usual health, but on the train he suffered an attack of acute indigestion, which developed disorders that terminated his life within twenty-four hours after reaching home and the affectionate and tender care of his family.

Twice governor of his state, subsequently a judge on its Supreme bench, a position which he resigned to accept a seat in the United States Senate, to which he was re-elected, and to which he would have continued to succeed had he lived longer, it is not too much to say that there was in the state no public man more generally beloved than this noble old citizen, and with good reason.

When he returned home from the tremendous and disastrous war, in which he had fought faithfully and gallantly for his native South, he addressed himself to the pursuits of peace and took up the practice of the law in the effort to rebuild his fortune and assist in recovering the state from the frightful ravages it had suffered.

But it was neither immediate poverty nor prospective hard work that troubled him. He was nerved to meet that, but it was the spectacle of his proud state, trodden under the armed heel of military oppression, with the enfranchised negro slaves as the tools of bold and unscrupulous adventurers, and upheld by armed soldiery, dominating the political and social situation, that wrung his heart and drove him to the front as a leader in the struggle for the restoration of the white man's supremacy and the redemption of the state from the control of the negroes and their alien allies.

In New Orleans the people were organizing for the recovery and control of their city, while Samuel McEnery, then a young man, was called to the leadership of a movement in which North Louisiana was engaged, with its headquarters at Monroe.

Those persons who only know the infamies of the Southern Reconstruction period from history can have no adequate idea of what was realized in the attempt of a bitterly sectional Congress at Washington to fix the black heel on the white neck. It is not intended here to recite the horrors of those terrible times, but it is enough to know that relief came at last, and that in North Louisiana it was Samuel D. McEnery's able and daring leadership that contributed much to that blessed consummation. It was for this that he was so greatly beloved, for his inestimable services in behalf of white supremacy and the redemption of his state quickly became known and acknowledged everywhere, and when Louis A. Wiltz, of New Orleans, became governor of the state in 1879, Samuel D. McEnery was chosen for second place in the State Government under the Constitution of 1879. Thenceforward, and to the day of his death, the old hero was almost constantly the recipient of public honors and dignities at the hands of the people for whom he had done so much and whom he had loved so well.

Elsewhere a circumstantial biography of Senator McEnery finds a place in the Picayune this morning, and it was only proposed to show here why he was so beloved by his fellow-citizens. It is worth while to mention that in the Senate of the United States he always kept before him the determination that for all which could be got from the National Government for the honor and dignity of Louisiana and for the welfare and benefit of its people, it was his highest duty to strive.

In the Senate he recognized that the development of the wealth and prosperity of Louisiana lay in the protection of her great staple crops of sugar and rice, and in order to gain favor in the Senate for them he supported the various tariff measures of the Republican Party, and in every case he accomplished what he had desired, putting in that issue his state above party.

Senator McEnery enjoyed great consideration in the Senate, his character, his bearing of dignity and courtesy and his quality of true nobility gaining for him respect and friendship on all sides. He was among the old senators, only Culom, of Illinois; Hale and Frye, of Maine; Depew, of New York, and possibly some others having attained a greater age, and they are all senators of eminence and influence. He enjoyed their friendship, which he only used for the noblest purposes.

Samuel Douglas McEnery will class up with the great statesmen of Louisiana, and he served his people wisely, bravely, faithfully and well, and take him, all in all, we shall not soon look upon his like again.

He died at the age of 73.