

## In Memoriam.

WELL may the German-American of Maryland mourn the great loss he has sustained in the sudden and unexpected death of our distinguished fellow-countryman and member

Dr. Lewis H. Steiner.

No brighter example of high and earnest ardor in his country's cause, of manhood, integrity and energy shines in the galaxy of sterling citizens which the sturdy race from which he sprang has given to our State, and few men have left behind them such a record of kindly traits, devotion to duty and friendship.

But as a member of this society he has a special claim upon us. We reverence in him the traditions of the past. Descended from the hardy Palatine Jacob Steiner, who settled in the valley of the Catoctin in the fourth decade of the last century, and proud of his German ancestry, which is characteristic of the best German-American citizen in our great republic, Dr. Steiner was of those who took the lead in the formation of this association, that unquestionably has given an impetus to the spread of a desire for information upon the subject of the German settlements and their influence upon the social and industrial development, and political history of this State. Himself the scion of a pioneer who helped to change a wilderness into one of the most beautiful and prosperous regions of Maryland, the great-grandson of a revolutionary officer, there was a beautiful fitness in his position as one of our leaders and most enthusiastic workers. Let us assume that his spirit is still active around us, encouraging and leading us on to persevere in the good work we have set before us, and for the promotion of which he was ever ready to give his time and talents.

Dr. Steiner was a patriot and lover of liberty from birth — for he first saw the light of day in the Switzerland of Mary-

land, and inherited the blood of patriots who were among the first to join the starry banner of the revolution. A son of Christian and Rebecca Steiner, nee' Weltzheimer, both natives of Frederick, he was born in 1837 and received a sound education at the academy of his birthplace. A close and thoughtful student, endowed with a remarkable memory — a faculty which stood him in good stead in later life, and made him the fluent off-hand speaker to whom it was our privilege frequently to listen — he entered at an early age the sophomore class of Marshall College in Mercersburg, Pa. Here he received the degree of A. B. at sixteen, and that of A. M. three years later when he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with the degree of M. D. At twenty-three he began the practice of medicine in his native city of Frederick, and would, no doubt, have attained eminence in this profession had he continued to practice it. In 1852 he removed to Baltimore, and became associated with Dr. J. W. Dunbar in the conduct of an institution for medical instruction, and in the following year entered upon his successful career as lecturer and teacher. He was appointed to the chair of Chemistry and Natural History at Columbia College in Washington, and Prof. of Chemistry and Pharmacy in the National Medical College of the same city, in 1853; he was chosen lecturer on Chemistry and Physics at the college of St. James, Maryland in 1854; in 1855 he became lecturer on applied Chemistry at the Maryland Institute, and in 1856, Professor of Chemistry at the Maryland College of Pharmacy. It is hardly too much to say that the majority of pharmacists and younger men in the medical profession in Maryland heard their first lectures on science from Dr. Steiner, whose simple style and genial manner made him a favorite lecturer of that time.

Unexhausted by his labors in lecturing and teaching, he early combined authorship with his professional duties. He commenced his busy literary life, when only twenty four, with the publication of a volume called "Physical Science" which was soon followed by other scientific works and a number of biographical and historical papers, some of which have become models for similar publications, and all of which form a striking memorial of the author's scholarship and diligence.

When in 1861 the black clouds of the civil war began to darken the horizon, Dr. Steiner returned to Frederick and espoused the cause of the Union, offering his services to the medical department at "Washington, which were accepted assigning him to the Army of the Potomac, where by his zeal and skill he soon rose to the position of a chief inspector of the then newly organized Sanitary Commission. His energy greatly aided in alleviating, after many a battle, the suffering of the wounded in ambulance and hospital, in recognition of which he was complimented on several occasions by the medical staff and elected by the New York Commandery a companion of the military order of the loyal legion of the United States. After Appomatox he returned to his native city and belonged to those who were anxious to have all traces of the war wiped out and forgotten; and, true to his instinct, he set about to heal the wounds which it had left open. Public education demanded his first attention, and to elevate it and bring it in accord with the changed condition of affairs, he labored incessantly for three years as a member and president of the Schoolboard of Frederick County, a position which brought him prominently before the Republican voters of his county, who sent him, unsought, thrice as their standard bearer to the State Senate, where his warm moral and human nature, his loyalty to principal and sterling integrity gained him great influence and the respect of a Democratic Senate and House.

During all the exciting time of war and public life, Dr. Steiner never allowed his literary energy to flag. His facile pen continued to contribute bright and interesting articles on various subjects, to, a number of journals, which won him a national reputation and well deserved academic honors from several seats of learning, among them the degree of Master of Arts from Yale University. Learned societies enrolled him among their honored members, and in 1876 he was elected Vice-President of the Public Health Association; in 1878 President of the American Academy of Medicine.

It was but natural that a son of Maryland whose attainments were of such a high character, whose talent as an organiser had been so thoroughly tested, should have been called by the President and trustees of the Enoch Pratt free library

to become its first librarian and executive officer. That this great trust was well placed, that Dr. Steiner, to the day of his death, did all that the most stringent care, rare scholarship, good practical sense and fidelity, could do for the noble foundation, is matter of history. There are many free public libraries, great and small, in our country, but we know of none of a more rapid growth, or better adapted to satisfy the wants of that class of readers for whom public libraries were established, than the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore, of which Dr. Lewis H. Steiner was the first librarian and practically the organiser. Few, we believe, have differed from him in matters of technical preferences and choice of works supplied, while no one denies him credit for the masterly performance of his duties. Our interest in him will always centre in his work rather than in the incidents of his career although by no means uneventful; in the splendid example which he gave us of steady purpose and unswerving devotion to every moral obligation, of simple Christian life, of unremitting effort in imparting knowledge, and in the scholar that won in a quiet way lasting fame for his native State and the city of Baltimore.

His useful life closed on the 18th of February. He died suddenly at the library of his home, among his books which he loved so well, and surrounded by his stricken family, his devoted wife Sarah Spencer, a daughter of Hon. Ralph D. Smyth, of Guilford, Conn., and his three daughters Getrude, Bertha and Amy. His two sons Bernard C. and Walter R. were away at the time; the former at Williams College, Mass. where he is successfully filling the chair of history, and the latter at Yale College, a student.

In the midst of their great bereavement it cannot but bring some comfort to the family, as it surely is gratifying to us, that our lamented friend has left behind him, fostered by his kindly encouragement, a worthy aspirant to the respect and fame which he himself has nobly earned. Dr. Bernard C. Steiner, a graduate of Yale College, of Johns Hopkins University and Professor of History at Williams College, Mass., and eldest son of the man that is so dear to our memory, will succeed to the position left vacant by the death of his father.

C. F. RADDATZ.

**Mr. J. Alexander Shriver**, a late member of the Society, whose ancestors (Schreiber) came originally from Alsenborn, Germany, was born in the city of Baltimore on February 3rd, 1821. He occupied during his life time many positions of trust and was president of the Ericsson Line of Steamers up to the time of his death. His uniting with our Society gave proof, that though generations had been born and died since his ancestors came over from the Fatherland, he still took an earnest interest in the labors of those sturdy pioneers. Mr. Shriver departed this life, greatly lamented by a large circle of friends, as well as by this Society, on the 1st of March 1891.

**Mr. Christopher Lipps**, whose death the society had to record during the year, was born in Mainhernheim, Bavaria, on the 29th of October 1819. He came to this country in 1815 and by his indomitable energy rose to one of the largest and best known manufacturers of Baltimore City. He took an earnest interest in a great many of the social as well as Benevolent Societies of the city and died on the 13th of April 1891.

**Mr. Herman von Kapf**, another departed member, was one of the best known German-American merchants in the city. He was born in Lorngo, Duchy of Lippe-Detmold on the 29th of April 1818, and came to this country at the age of 21 years. He also was an active member of many of the German Societies of the city and for a number of years was the honored president of the "German Society of Maryland." He died on the 30th of April 1892.

**Frederick Polmyer**, business manager of the "German Correspondent," was born on March 16th, 1848 in Baltimore city; he was educated at "Knapp's Institute" and at an early age entered the business of his uncle, F. Raine, in which he was engaged for over twenty years in the capacity of business manager. He died on August 16th, 1891.

**Dr. John H. Smith** was one of the earliest members of the society. He was born in Baltimore city on 6th of May 1848. His medical studies he prosecuted in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then for nineteen years was a most successful physician in this city. In 1889 he left his large practice and went to Europe to prepare himself for a special branch in medical science. After spending two years in the world-renowned medical schools and hospitals of Heidelberg, Prague, Munich, Vienna and Berlin, he returned to Baltimore and established an institute in his special branch, looking forward with good reason to a most useful and successful exercise of his acquired greater skill. He was suddenly, without a moment's warning, removed from this earth on the evening of the 7th of December 1891.