

Publishers' Note

Congress. He accepted this seat in Congress at Mr. Tilden's urgency and against his own inclinations, declining a re-election. With this exception, he has persistently refused office. "I resolved," he said, on one occasion, when offered a distinguished position, "when a very young man, that I would not perpetrate the mistake of Greeley and Raymond."

A notable figure wherever he has appeared, Mr. Watterson's relation to the public questions of his time has been that of a leader, who, having reached his own conclusions, took no thought of the consequences. He stood for the pacification of the country and the reconciliation of the sections upon the acceptance of the three final amendments to the Constitution, which he described as the Treaty of Peace between the North and the South, when not another voice on his own side of the line could be heard in his support, and lived to see his policy universally accepted. He stood for the public credit and a sound currency, with scarcely any but a silent following in his own party, during the Greenback craze and through the succeeding Free Silver agitation, still living to see his course vindicated by the results. Mainly through his efforts the old black-laws were removed from the statute-books of Kentucky, and the Kentucky negro was invested, without the violence which marked other of the old Slave States, with his new rights of citizenship.

Years before Lamar delivered his eulogy of Sumner, and while Grady was a school-boy, Mr. Watterson was passing backward and forward between the two embittered sections laying the foundation for the epoch-making utterances of those great orators. Through all his writing and speaking one dominant note will be found—the national destiny and the homogeneity of the people—charity and tolerance—constituting a key to his life-long labor of love.