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APPENDIX No. 24.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF CARLILE P. PATTERSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY FROM 1874 TO 1881.

CARLILE P. PATTERSON.

IN MEMORIAM.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

The Department mourns, in the sudden death of Carlile P. Patterson, Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, the loss of one of its most eminent and valuable officers. Mr. Patterson's death took place at his residence, near Washington, on Monday, the 15th of August. His efforts have been so earnest in the performance of the various duties which have devolved upon him, that to his untiring prosecution of them the immediate loss of his life is to be attributed. With unbounded zeal and ceaseless energy, he pressed on without taking the relaxation which nature demanded.

Carlile P. Patterson was born at Shieldsboro, Bay of Saint Louis, Miss., August 24, 1816. He was appointed a midshipman in the United States Navy in 1830; served in the Mediterranean Squadron, and in 1836 returned home, and graduated from Georgetown College, Kentucky, in 1838. Having served as passed midshipman on the Coast Survey until 1841, he was again on naval sea service until 1844, and subsequently, as lieutenant, United States Navy, had charge of a hydrographic party on the Coast Survey for four years. In 1850 he took command of a Pacific mail steamship, and continued in that and other private business until 1861. He then returned to the Coast Survey as Inspector of Hydrography, and so remained until he was appointed Superintendent of that work in February, 1874.

Combining wide experience with great judgment, he was eminently successful in the conduct of the great national work under his charge, and in his hands its scope was greatly enlarged, and its character as a general geodetic survey became fully recognized. That the interests of science, which had been so carefully fostered by his predecessor, so far as compatible with the objects of the work, were not neglected by Mr. Patterson, is attested by the fact that he received the honorary degree of LL.D., and was elected to membership in several leading scientific societies. Of the Light-House Board he was an honored and useful member, bringing into its discussions not only ripe experience, but particular and intimate knowledge of the points to be decided.

Mr. Patterson was chairman of a commission appointed by Secretary Boutwell, in 1869, to examine into the condition of the Revenue Cutter Service, the report of which commission, made after some two years of patient investigation, was adopted, and resulted in a large saving of expense, and in a fourfold increase of efficiency. He was also a member of the commission, created in 1872, to examine and test life-saving apparatus. The report made by this commission was carried into effect with excellent results to the Life-Saving Service.

The personal character of the late Superintendent was such as to attract friendship and command esteem. Frank and truthful, full of generous impulse, ardent in the cause he represented,

strict in the administration of his trusts, he secured the entire confidence of this Department and of the representatives of the Nation in Congress.

As a tribute to his memory, the office of the Coast and Geodetic Survey will be draped in black, and will be closed on the day of the funeral.

WILLIAM WINDOM,
Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, August 17, 1881.

ACTION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

At a meeting of the officers of the Treasury Department, held in the office of the Secretary, August 16, 1881, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas it has pleased an all-wise Providence to remove from our midst by death Carlile P. Patterson, Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States, and a member of the Light House Board: Therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of Superintendent Patterson the whole country has sustained the loss of an honest, able, efficient, and valuable officer, who combined great judgment with large experience, firmness with courtesy; ardent in the performance of duty, wise in council, strict and faithful in the administration of his trusts. Devoted as he was to the advancement of the public interests, he ever sought to perfect the work of which he had charge.

Resolved, That, as a citizen, in all the relations of life, he justly shared the confidence and esteem of all who knew him.

Resolved, That the condolence and sympathy of this meeting are hereby tendered to the bereaved wife and family of the deceased.

WILLIAM WINDOM,
Chairman.

JOHN RODGERS,
WILLIAM LAWRENCE,
J. E. HILGARD,
Committee.

ACTION TAKEN AT THE OFFICE OF THE COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

At a meeting of the Assistants and other persons employed in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, held at the Office of the Survey, on the 17th of August, upon the occasion of the death of the Superintendent of the Survey, remarks were made by Assistants Hilgard, Cutts, Boutelle, Mitchell, Whiting, and Goodfellow, by Commander C. M. Chester, United States Navy, Hydrographic Inspector, and by Samuel Hein, esq.

The following preamble and resolutions were then unanimously adopted:

"The officers and members of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, assembled here to-day, desire to express their sense of the loss the work has met with in the death of Carlile Pollock Patterson, its Superintendent for the past seven years.

"Mr. Patterson's appointment to the work as Superintendent was in recognition of his eminent ability and efficiency as Hydrographic Inspector, his deep and almost life-long interest in all that pertained to the service, his readiness and fertility of resource both in council and in action, and his constant effort to uphold a high standard of honorable ambition among his associates.

"These qualities were at once manifested when he assumed the great responsibilities of his position as the successor of Benjamin Peirce in the superintendency. It was a time of general commercial depression, when all appropriations were cut down close to, and often below, the point of efficiency. This was the case with the appropriations for the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the full powers of the new Superintendent were put forth to keep unbroken the organization of the work, knowing well that once seriously impaired it could with difficulty be restored.

"This struggle the late Superintendent successfully maintained, despite every obstacle, to the

close of his administration, and his death took place at a time when a brighter prospect appeared in view.

"To put upon record their sense of his public services, the officers and members of the Survey have adopted the following resolutions:

"I. That in the death of Mr. C. P. Patterson, Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, they deplore the loss of an upright man, an able and energetic officer, and a sincere friend.

"II. That they extend to the family of the late Superintendent their profound sympathy in the great calamity that has overtaken them."

Mr. HILGARD said:

We meet to give expression to our deep sense of the great loss which we ourselves have sustained, no less than the public service, by the sudden death of our late chief, Carlile P. Patterson, Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. There are few among us who can feel more deeply than myself this unexpected severance of official and personal relations. My association with Mr. Patterson on this Survey began thirty-five years ago, when I sailed with him from New York to Mobile in a small schooner of which he was lieutenant commanding—both about to commence work in the Gulf of Mexico. That voyage and subsequent co-operation in the work of the Coast Survey established intimate relations of personal friendship, which were suspended only by wide divergence in the field of our operations.

In the days of peace, when no opportunity of distinction appeared open to a lieutenant in the Navy, the ardent enterprise of Patterson led him to cast his lot, during the great material development of our country consequent upon the addition of California to the national domain, as a commander of steamships carrying that great tide of emigration; and subsequently, while serving on the North Pacific line, in extending the new civilization to the shores of Columbia River and Puget Sound. After taking a prominent part in the great movement of our population to the Golden State, he was recalled to his home by family ties, and, on the outbreak of the civil war, found a worthy field for his varied professional acquirements in the direction of the hydrographic work of the Coast Survey under our former lamented chief, Professor Bache. Those who knew Patterson well cannot doubt that, had he remained in the service, opportunities for distinction then offered would have found him at the close of the war among the foremost officers of the Navy.

Of Mr. Patterson's services to the Coast Survey, the occasion permits only the briefest recital—his biographer must do him the full justice which his great merits demand. While acting as Chief of Hydrography he entirely remodeled that service by adapting the character of the vessels and the organization of parties to their special ends, thereby largely reducing expenditure. Called to the superintendency on the retirement of Professor Peirce in 1874, he was met by the very difficult situation of having to maintain an organization which had gradually grown up out of the requirements of the country against a great contraction of public expenditures. This condition of affairs has, however, happily proved to be only temporary. His success in maintaining the scale of the Coast Survey under these adverse circumstances, and in expanding the scope of the work according to the policy laid down by his predecessor, so as to embrace a general geodetic survey of the country, will ever mark his administrative ability.

During the past eighteen years I have been in almost daily association with our late chief, either as co-adviser with him of the Superintendent, or during the past seven years, since he himself held that office, as his immediate executive officer. His death, by none dreamed of as so near at hand, is a great shock to me, and in my estimation, is a loss to the Coast Survey and public service, which can be realized only upon a review of the influence which he has exercised on all public matters with which he was connected. But his death is too recent—my emotion too deep—to permit me to say more in appreciation of his career. His personal character always excited my admiration. Full of ardor and generous impulses, frank and truthful, rigorous in the performance of duty, strict in the administration of his trusts, wise in council, combining good judgment with wide experience, he was, truly, a great man.

Mr. CUTTS said:

Thirty hours ago, while on duty at the far north, I received, at the same time, a letter and a telegram—the one informing me of a proposed visit on the part of the Superintendent, and the

other announcing his death. No previous warning of danger had reached the field-officers of the Survey. Hastening on, with others who received the sad news in time, we have now each to express our personal and profound grief at the loss we have sustained.

His previous experience in the working of the Survey, especially of one of its most important branches: his ability as an executive officer, and his sound judgment in all matters pertaining to the interest and progress of the great work under his charge, have been tested and proved by seven years of successful administration. Those, however, more intimately connected with his official life, can tell of the never-ending interest and oversight which he gave to every detail, and with an intensity which, no doubt, laid the foundation of the malady of which he so suddenly died. He was a faithful friend, a man of the kindest and most generous impulses, great decision of character, and full of energy and life. As such I have known him from early manhood, under trying circumstances in the early days of California, and as Superintendent of the Survey. I deeply deplore his death.

Remarks of Mr. BOUTELLE:

To all that has been said here, and to all that is stated in the resolutions offered, I most heartily subscribe. In addition, I desire to say a word on the personal qualities of the friend so suddenly taken from us. I say friend in the full meaning of the term. During my service of nearly forty years in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, we have had three most eminent, noble, and generous men to preside over its destinies. In every noble quality, in his knightly scorn of subterfuge and meanness, open or implied, in his kindly appreciation of every good thought or action, Mr. Patterson was the full peer of his great predecessors, Bache and Peirce. For his devotion to the best interests of the great work we all have at heart, we owe him a debt of gratitude, and we cherish his memory as we lament his loss.

Mr. MITCHELL said:

Seventeen years ago, when Professor Bache was suddenly seized with the disease which caused his death, he cried, in his anguish of mind, "Send for Captain Patterson, that I may lean upon a strong man!" This call echoed along our ranks most heartily, and we all felt that the man who could be depended upon to support our great chief's failing footsteps was Mr. Patterson. And when, ten years later, our much-loved Peirce, wearied of the burden that had crushed his predecessor, proposed to throw up his commission, President Grant sent for that same strong man that Bache had designated.

The retirement of Professor Peirce was a serious disappointment to us all, for he had filled us with the enthusiasm of his own genius and widened all our paths. But we soon discovered that under the changed conditions consequent upon the indiscriminating spirit of retrenchment that appeared in Congress, we were entering upon a troubled sea, where the peculiar strength of our new chief was required at the helm.

Mr. Patterson was strong in intellectual resource, and strong in will; but, most of all, *he was strong in honesty*. He believed that we should live and work in the light of day, and he felt confident that Congress would support the Coast and Geodetic Survey, if it could see entirely through all its aims and all its purposes, and recognize that these were all genuine and practically useful.

He was strong in honesty, and that strength had its base in religious faith. He believed in God, and, therefore, in the ultimate triumph of good effort. More than this, he loved his God, and was ready to abide His will. In any doubtful case, he used to say, "We must use no specious argument; *we must never fight for victory*."

To say that he was pure in life and pure in speech, repelling indelicacy by his own attitude, and prompting good thought and good action by instinctive sympathy, is only to repeat that *he was strong in honesty*.

But he, too, has been crushed at the wheel, and some of us, who knew him best and loved him most, are full of remorse to-day, remembering that even we, thoughtlessly, suffered him to carry our burdens.

Mr. PEIRCE said:

It is difficult to add to the words which have already been spoken, or to characterize more justly the administration of the chief whom we are all so suddenly called to mourn. One thing I feel most keenly: It is that American science loses a great support and friend.

Perhaps this is hardly known to those who were not near him. His superintendency was marked by such great practical achievements as the production of the Coast Pilot, and by improvements in innumerable details of the organization and running of the Survey. Yet, although he was not professedly a scientific man, under none of the eminent geodesists who had preceded him, was more stress laid upon the scientific branches of the work—to their extension, and to the precision of their execution. No one was so earnest as he to secure to the Survey the labors of men of purely scientific, and especially mathematical, attainments and abilities.

It was not very long ago that, in speaking to me of a mathematical discovery by a young man whom he had appointed to a position on the Survey, he expressed his conviction of the importance of having such minds ready at hand in the Survey to solve any problem which might arise. He had often said that; but on this occasion he added, that nothing about the office which he held gave him such real gratification as the opportunity it afforded him to aid in the development of that kind of genius. For such reasons I feel that in Patterson's death the science of the country has lost a staunch ally.

I will not trouble you with my personal affliction at the loss of him—"O et praesidium et dulce decus meum." Never can I hope to find again so true a friend and so just a chief!

Mr. GOODFELLOW said:

Those of us now present who knew Mr. Patterson as Hydrographic Inspector of the Coast Survey, and then as its Superintendent, can bear full witness to his zeal for the work, to his unflagging energy, and to his persistent and untiring efforts for its advancement.

Trained early in the habit of command, a strict disciplinarian according to naval methods, an advocate rather of the "*fortiter in re*" than of the "*suaviter in modo*" in his ideas of government, he strove to impress his strong personality upon every branch of the service; and wherever he saw his way clearly he hesitated not to take the responsibility of action.

The successive steps of his career are known to nearly all of us, and we all know the high and exacting standard of personal service and devotion to duty which he upheld, and to which he himself became at last a martyr.

He did not live, as doubtless he would have desired to live, to see that day, now, as we trust, not far distant in the progress of the Survey, when the gradual extension of its work over the whole of the territory of the United States, and its steady advance to completion, shall be fostered by a hearty executive support, and sustained by a wise and liberal legislative policy. But he died, as perhaps he might have wished to die, by a swift and sudden stroke, in the very midst of his labors.

Lieutenant-Commander C. M. CHESTER, U. S. N., and Hydrographic Inspector Coast and Geodetic Survey, said:

Professor Hilgard has spoken of our lamented chief in his connection with the Coast and Geodetic Survey. I, as a representative of a large number of the service who are necessarily absent, desire to express their full sympathy with the members of this meeting in their sorrow at this great loss.

While only temporarily attached to the Survey, yet we of the Navy, being impressed with Mr. Patterson's uniform kindness, consideration, and great assistance rendered us, feel his loss in his double capacity of Superintendent and brother officer. Originally belonging to us, always connected with us by ties of love and friendship, he has ever taken the deepest interest in our welfare, and, as I have long maintained, done more for our naval service than almost any man in it. We have lost a friend indeed.