

REMARKS OF HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX, IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Speaker:—The funeral procession of the departed Baker has passed through the crowded streets of our Atlantic cities. The steamer, perhaps, to-day is bearing its precious burden between the portals of the Golden Gate. The thousands who, with enthusiastic acclaim, cheered his departure as a Senator, stand, with bowed frames, and bared heads, and weeping eyes, to receive with honor, but with sorrow, the lifeless remains that are to be buried in their midst. And there devolves upon us, his former associates, brought by the telegraph almost to the side of his open grave, the duty of rendering also our tribute of affection to his memory.

To say that the deceased Senator was an extraordinary man, is simply to reiterate what the whole country long since conceded. He carved out his own niche in the temple of fame. He built his own pedestal in our American Valhalla. And if the French philosopher, D'Alembert, was correct in saying that there are but three ways of rising in the world—to soar, to crawl and to climb—our friend's history is a fitting exemplification of the last and worthiest of these ways. The d-lloom weaver boy of Philadelphia—the friendless lad, with his whole fortune in a meager bundle, turning his face westward—the patient journey, footsore and weary, over mountains and valleys—the deputy in the clerk's office at Carrollton, patiently mastering the principles of the law—his rapid rise in his profession—his election to Congress from the Capital (district) of Illinois—his volunteering in the Mexican war, and raising, equipping, and marching his regiment within fourteen days—his brilliant charge at Cerro Gordo, when, following up the victory which his impetuous and dashing heroism had mainly won, he pursued the enemy for miles with fearful slaughter—his removal, on his return, to another Congressional district, which he carried by his wonderful eloquence against its previous political convictions—his removal to California—his thrilling oration over the murdered Broderick—his triumphant canvass in Oregon—his election to the Senate by a Legislature, a large majority of which differed with him in their political