

THE SENTINEL.

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Death of Professor Baché.

The great loss of a public servant so eminent for his services and virtues as Alexander Dallas Baché, LL. D., superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, is alleviated by the fact that death relieved him from almost incredible suffering. He died at Newport, Rhode Island, on Sunday morning, in the 61st year of his age, after lingering for months under the affliction known as softening of the brain. Speaking of the deceased, the *Washington Chronicle* remarks:

"His life was one long tribute to his country and to the cause of education and science."

Born in Philadelphia, in April, 1806, he entered the Military Academy in 1821, and graduated as a second lieutenant of engineers July 6th, 1833. He served as assistant professor of engineering from August, 1835, to July, 1856, and resigned his commission June 6th, 1859. He had previously commenced his distinguished career as professor of natural chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, which continued from September, 1829, to July, 1856. Afterwards he was elected President of Girard College which important post he held from 1856 to 1861, when he was again chosen to his old position in the University. From this he was called to organize that splendid institution, which stands among the noblest monuments of his fame, the High School of Philadelphia. He served as its principal until 1853, shortly after which he was appointed superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, which he filled with rare distinction to himself and usefulness to his country down to the day of his death.

No American has ever been more honored by his own and foreign governments. He was a member of the light-house board and regent of the Smithsonian Institution, and was elected doctor of laws by the University of New York in 1856, doctor of laws by the University of Pennsylvania in 1857, doctor of laws by the Harvard University in 1851, and President of the National Academy of Sciences.

He was a member of the Royal Society, London; Imperial Academy of sciences, St. Petersburg; Institute of France; Royal Society of Edinburgh; Royal and Imperial Geographical Society, Vienna; Royal Academy, Turin; Mathematical Society, Hamburg; Academy of Science Institute, of Bologna; Royal Astronomical Society, London; Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, &c., and of all leading scientific bodies in the United States.

The foreign medals awarded to him were as follows: Gold (Victoria) medal from the Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain, May 24, 1858; for acceptable labor in carrying out the great coast survey of the United States. Gold medal from the King of Sardinia, January 14, 1859, for scientific merit as exemplified in the publications of the United States Coast Survey; Gold medal from the King of Sweden, February 27, 1855, as a mark of high satisfaction afforded by the coast survey charts. Cross of Dannenrode, (Danish) November 11, 1856, for services in the general field of science.

The coast survey under the influence of Prof. Baché, has become one of the departments of our great Republic.

Artemus Ward's Threshing Machine.

My wife's a exceedingly practical woman. I love her muchly, however, and humor her little ways. It's a reckless falsehood that she hums me, and the young man in our neighbor hood who said to me as I was distending my distress with a gentleman, with a gently cock-tail at the village tavern—who said to me in those very language, "Go home, old man, unless you wish another ten pds thrown at you by B.J."—probably regrets having said so, I said.

"Betsy Jane is my wife's from name, gentle youth, and I permit no person to address to her as B.J., outside of the family circle, of which I am principally myself. Your other observations I have seen and digest, and I must polish you off."

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