

HISTORY  
OF  
CHESTER COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA,  
WITH  
GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

BY  
J. SMITH FUTHEY AND GILBERT COPE.

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TOWNSEND HAINES\* was born at West Chester, Chester Co., Pa., on the 7th day of January, 1792. Caleb, the father of Townsend, was born June 17, 1754. He was living with his father, and had about attained his majority when the war between the colonies and the mother-country began. The Friends of the period, being averse to war, were accused by their ardent and patriotic countrymen of being disaffected to the American cause. Caleb Haines was frequently involved in disputes in consequence of accusations against his friends and family, and came to be regarded as a partisan of the royal cause. Deeming himself unsafe at home in the heated political condition of the country, he in the fall of 1777, in company with two companions of about the same age, fled to Philadelphia, and took refuge with the British army, then occupying that city. There, after a short delay, he enlisted in the troop of Col. Tarleton, and served in that troop to the end of the Revolutionary war. This troop suffered large losses in the campaigns of 1779, '80, and '81, in the Carolinas and Virginia. Caleb Haines stated to me on one occasion that there were three times as many men belonging to this troop killed as it at any time contained. On the termination of the Revolutionary struggle, Caleb Haines became a refugee from his country, and lived in Nova Scotia till an act of amnesty was passed by Congress. He then returned to West Chester, where he married early in 1791. His wife was Ann Ryant, daughter of Charles and Hannah Ryant. She was a woman of poetic temperament, fond of reading, and addicted, when young, to versification. Townsend was her eldest son, and was born in a log house on the West Chester and Wilmington road, about one hundred and fifty yards south of the present residence of Enos Smedley, in the borough of West Chester. The house was standing within forty years, and is still recollected by many of our citizens.

In 1796, Caleb Haines removed from West Chester to a farm in West Goshen, which he leased of the heirs of Francis Hoopes. In 1806 he became a lessee of Mary Ellicott, of 400 acres of the Avondale farm in New Garden, and resided there till April, 1809. He then purchased a farm of 179 acres in East Nottingham, and resided there till his death, Nov. 12, 1846, in the ninety-third year of his age. He was a man of excellent sense, quiet manners, and amiable disposition.

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\* Memoir prepared by Hon. Joseph J. Lewis.

The boyhood of Townsend Haines differed in no respect from that of other farmers' sons in a similar condition of fortune. Nine months of each year were spent in assisting in the labors of the farm. During the three winter months of each he usually attended some common country school, in which he learned reading, writing, arithmetic, and acquired some general notions of geography. In October, 1809, he entered the boarding-school of Enoch Lewis at New Garden, and remained with him as a pupil about nine months. During this period he became pretty well acquainted with English grammar, improved his knowledge of arithmetic, and studied algebra, geometry, practical surveying, mensuration, and trigonometry. In that school he was made for the first time to comprehend the processes by which scientific truth was evolved, and was inducted into

gave particular attention to the branches of study of which she took cognizance.

Townsend Haines left Enoch Lewis' school with the reputation of a youth of bright parts, capable of rapid acquisition but indisposed to effort, and rarely doing himself full justice. He immediately engaged to teach a country school, and continued in that occupation for several years, with occasional intervals, however, during which he assisted his father on his farm. While teaching he read extensively, and among other subjects, mental philosophy obtained a considerable share of his attention. He also learned to speak in public by attending the meetings of debating societies, in which, after a few discouraging attempts, he became conspicuous as a debater. He was not well satisfied with his avocation as a teacher, and began to look forward to



*Townsend Haines*

a mode of abstract reasoning which attained a conclusion that was irresistible. He was subjected to a mental drill of which previously he had no conception, and not only learned perfectly well what he did learn, but acquired a consciousness of complete mastery over his acquisition. In later life he appreciated this more highly than he did while at school, and he often acknowledged his obligations to his teacher.

Mrs. Lewis was accustomed to give attention to the reading and grammar classes, and imparted to Townsend some ideas of elocution, which were of value to him in his subsequent career at the bar. She was a woman of a superior and well-cultivated mind, sweet affability of manners, and of uncommon eloquence, and her intercourse with the pupils was of the most agreeable kind. Her kindness to Townsend, and her considerate treatment of him, so won upon him that he made it a special object to please her, and

preparing himself for some other occupation more congenial with the disposition and temper of his mind. In 1815 he removed to West Chester, and took lessons of Mr. Glass in Latin, in order the better to qualify himself for a profession. After a few months he entered the office of Isaac Darlington, Esq., then a leading member of the Chester County bar, and commenced the study of the law. He was a diligent student, read carefully and thoroughly, and Feb. 7, 1818, was admitted to practice.

For a time Mr. Haines' practice was inconsiderable. The principal part of the law business of the county was divided among a few of the elder practitioners, who were experienced and able men. For some time he was obliged to be content with a small amount of Orphans' Court business, and with defending in the criminal courts persons charged with offenses against the peace of the Commonwealth. In this latter line of practice he soon acquired

popularity, and it constituted a good introduction to the trial of jury cases in the Common Pleas. Towards the end of the first year after his admission to the bar he considered his prospects sufficiently encouraging to warrant him in assuming additional responsibilities. Jan. 4, 1819, he was married to Anna Maria Derrick. She was the daughter of Philip and Sarah Derrick, the former of whom was then deceased. Her family was highly respectable, and distantly connected with his own, his grandmother and her great-grandmother being the same person, Hannah (Sharpless), the wife of Charles Ryant.

In the fall of 1822 he lost by death his brother, William Haines, then a member of the Chester County bar. He was a young man of brilliant talents and promising expectations. His death was a subject not only of deep private grief, but was also a public loss. He had the family gift of versification, and was a good writer and a fine speaker.

Soon after Mr. Haines was admitted to the bar he was invited to deliver an oration on the anniversary of American independence. He accepted the invitation, and his oration created some sensation, principally by reason of the political sentiments announced in it. Having lived in the State of Delaware immediately prior to his entering upon the study of the law, he had been for some time without a vote in Pennsylvania, under the constitution as it then existed, and he had to choose to which of the two parties, Federal or Democratic, he would attach himself. He availed himself of the opportunity afforded him by the occasion to declare his preference for the Democracy, to the disappointment of many of his friends and associates, who were mostly of the opposite party. He voted with the Democrats that year, and steadily till the gubernatorial election of 1823, when, a division having occurred in the party, he went with the portion denominated Quids, who nominated Joseph Heister for Governor, in opposition to James Findlay, the regular party candidate. Heister was supported by the Federalists and elected, and a number of Democrats who in the struggle affiliated with their former antagonists remained with them in subsequent contests. Among these was Mr. Haines, whose personal popularity made him an important acquisition to his new friends, and in 1826 they showed their appreciation of his ability to serve them by electing him a member of the State Legislature. In 1827 he was re-elected.

In the Legislature his party, though strong in talent, was weak in number. Mr. Meredith, of Philadelphia, then a very young man, was a leading spirit, and fought the battles of his party with an eloquence and ability that distanced all rivalry. Mr. Haines co-operated cordially with him, and, though diffident and disinclined even to share the responsibility of leadership or to become in any way prominent, was a valuable and efficient coadjutor. During the first session they were together at the seat of the State government, he contracted with Mr. Meredith a friendship which continued without interruption as long as he lived. He was not active or laborious in committee, or forward in debate, and was indeed rather an unfrequent speaker, but when he did speak he was forcible and made a decided impression on the House; and he rarely failed to satisfy his

audience that his efforts were not equal to his abilities, and that whatever power he exhibited, he had much more in reserve.

After the close of his second term in the Legislature, Mr. Haines was nominated for Congress by the Adams party of the Congressional district of Lancaster, Chester, and Delaware Counties as successor to Mr. Miner, who declined being a candidate. The Adams party combined the elements of opposition to the Jackson Democracy, and was composed of the mass of the old Federal party, and such small portion of the old Democratic party as did not sympathize with the movement in favor of the great military chief, and was not involved in the tempest of popular enthusiasm which was bearing him onward. The district had been for many years largely anti-Democratic, and Mr. Haines expected an easy victory; but in this he was disappointed, and, contrary to general expectation, the Congressional Jackson ticket was elected.

This political defeat brought to Mr. Haines some change of prospect, and he began, as soon as the excitement attending the contest passed away, to give more attention to business than he had hitherto done. Gen. Barnard, who was one of the leaders of the bar, on the inauguration of Governor Shulze, in December, 1826, had been called to Harrisburg to serve as Secretary of the Commonwealth; and in December, 1827, John Duer, an old practitioner of large practice, had died. These changes in the condition of the bar opened a fine field for the younger members of the profession, and some of the more enterprising entered at once into sharp competition for the business that had been relinquished by their two elder brethren. Mr. Haines possessed a large share of public confidence, and if he had cared to exert himself, might at once have secured a sufficient accession to his practice to satisfy his wishes, even if they had been less moderate than they were; but his attention at that time being largely occupied by politics, he moved along in his profession in the easy way to which his habits inclined, and made no effort to avail himself of the advantages offered by events. Business solicited him, but the interest he took in it was not of a kind that contributed to its growth. When the tumult of the great contest for President subsided, disappointed and chagrined by the result, professional employment became measurably a relief to him, and he engaged in practice with more earnestness than he had previously manifested. A number of cases of importance were committed to his care, and his efforts exhibited unusual ability, and were attended by remarkable success. He had much skill in cross-examination, and seldom failed in an attempt to extort the truth from an unwilling witness. This he did, not by browbeating, for to that unmanly practice he never resorted, but by a kind and candid manner which appealed to the better feelings and overcame the repugnancy of the witness, and by a judicious train of questions which made the answer desired the natural sequence to prior admission. But it was principally in addressing juries that his power was displayed. He had a handsome person, a dignified and imposing presence, a voice at once strong and musical, a grave, deliberate, earnest, and forcible manner, a lively imagination, which gave him the command of appropriate images, and a comprehensive



grasp that enabled him to deal with facts in the style of a master. In technical knowledge he was deficient. He usually trusted to his colleague for the law of the case, and rarely attempted to argue to the court on the admissibility of evidence. As an advocate, he was strong, luminous, brilliant, and sometimes even grand. As a mere lawyer, he was unready, subject to surprises, and never forcible in argument, except after laborious preparation, to which he was averse.

At the time Mr. Haines engaged in practice, and for several years later, there was among certain members of the bar a good deal of unkind feeling, which was often openly manifested during the trial of jury cases by much asperity of personal remark, of which each in turn was the subject. But although Mr. Haines was frequently associated with counsel who seldom let slip an opportunity to sting an antagonist, I can remember, in the course of the twenty-eight years we practiced together, no single instance of his being involved in a personal controversy with a brother-lawyer. His demeanor was so uniformly courteous and his conduct so scrupulously fair that he provoked no resentment; he easily made allowance for a retort causelessly severe occurring in the heat of argument under the impulse of transient excitement, and his ready wit often enabled him to turn aside with a laugh an envenomed shaft flung at his colleague. He was sensitive withal, and if he received an insult which he deemed intentional or wanton, he was not of a disposition to pass it by unnoticed; but he would not create a scene in court, or be provoked to become a party to an altercation by which his personal dignity or the dignity of the bar might be compromised.

The effort put forth by Mr. Haines to achieve distinguished success at the bar, being out of accord with his natural dispositions, and unsustained by high aspirations, was of short duration. How long it continued I cannot say, for, from my own observation, I could not be quite sure of its actual existence, and I know of it only from himself; but it was persisted in long enough to satisfy him that a larger business was certainly within his power, and that all that was necessary on his part to obtain it was a willingness to devote to it the time and attention it would require. But he was destitute of that spontaneous energy that demands employment as a necessity, and he preferred an easy, unanxious life, with no more care than was required by a moderate practice, to larger gains and high professional position accompanied by continual toil. "I counted," said he, "the cost of the career that I saw open before me, and asked myself whether it would afford compensation for the sacrifices it would involve, and the answer was, it would not." Hence he relapsed into his old easy way, sure that his talents and experience would command employment sufficient for his needs, without the laborious diligence which higher aims would exact, and allow him a comfortable exemption from the corroding cares that feed on the vital forces of the intellectual and physical man when engaged in an ambitious struggle for professional eminence.

Although Mr. Haines thus declined to assume the labors and responsibilities of a leader at the bar, and voluntarily permitted it to be taken by such enterprising competitors as might have the energy and ability demanded by it, no

cause could be well manned for a severe and protracted contest without his services being brought into requisition; and he was, therefore, almost uniformly engaged in all heavy trials where two or more counsel were employed on a side. If in these he aided but little in the discussion of mere legal points, he was at least a powerful coadjutor where a verdict was to be wrung from the popular arm of the court by a skillful manipulation of the testimony or by eloquent appeals to sympathy. In cases of disputed boundaries of lands, and of conflicting claims to water-rights, and in that large class of actions in which damages for injuries to person, property, or reputation were demanded, he was in special request, as well as in those falling within the jurisdiction of the criminal courts, where the offenses charged were of great magnitude, or involved the character and standing of persons previously of good repute. He carried with him into court the same sensibilities and large-hearted sympathies which he manifested in private life. And speaking, as he was apt to do, under the sway of the emotions awakened in his own breast by circumstances of injury or misfortune, with voice, mien, tone, emphasis, and language singularly effective to reach home to the heart, it was hard for a panel of unsophisticated jurors to escape the infection of the feelings by which he was visibly impressed, or for opposing counsel to prevent its influence from becoming apparent in the verdict. As a jury lawyer he was very successful. For cases of abstruse law he had no taste, and he never followed any judgment or decree on error or appeal into the Supreme Court, nor did he ever make an argument in that court, though often solicited. For sharp practice, which often rewards vigilance at the expense of justice, he entertained a positive aversion, and would not resort to it, whatever the provocation. His extreme indulgence to others, which was the natural effect of his temper and disposition, rendered others usually indulgent to him, and enabled him to move along with freedom in the easy way that was most agreeable to him, little anxious lest he should be tripped unawares by unheeding the exigency of a rule, or by the non-observance of some technical requisition.

In the year 1829 the popular excitement against the institution of Freemasonry, which had previously raged with great intensity in New York, reached Pennsylvania, and an organization as an Anti-Masonic party for political purposes was effected. This new party was constituted partly of the old Federal and partly of the old Democratic party, and without political principles of its own or the pretense of them, and merely by the coherent force of hostility to Masonry and ambition for power, was able to array itself in a very formidable manner against every other party. It soon obtained an ascendancy in Chester County, and in the Congressional district of which the county was a part, and for several years controlled the elections. Mr. Haines was a Mason, and therefore subject to the ban of exclusion from office laid on all members of the obnoxious order. Whether the subversion of Masonry—the ostensible object of the party—should be attained or not Mr. Haines cared nothing, for he considered the institution not of sufficient value to become the subject of an embittered contest between members of the same peaceful community,

and he had no doubt that the excitement, if left to take its sweep without opposition, would soon expend its power and disappear. But when it assumed the character of a personal attack, as for a time it was made to do upon Masons, as men who were represented to be associated by ties which imposed obligations inconsistent with civil order and social duty, his feelings became warmly enlisted. It was in 1832, when Anti-Masonry, aspiring to the dignity of a national party, had nominated candidates for the Presidency, that its adherents in some parts of Pennsylvania gave to their accusations against the members of the Masonic brotherhood their most offensive form, and these Mr. Haines felt himself called upon to repel. Besides anonymous articles which he prepared for the press, he drew up a vigorous protest, which was published and widely circulated. It was signed by himself, by Charles Miner, William H. Dillingham, Ziba Pyle, William Williamson, and a number of other well-known and leading citizens of Chester County.

This paper made a decided impression upon the reflective part of the community, but it inflamed excited partisans to more envenomed hostility, and Mr. Haines came to be regarded, after Mr. Miner's removal from the county, towards the close of the year, as mainly responsible for the sentiment which prevented a co-operation in the district of all the opponents of the Jackson administration under Anti-Masonic leaders. An organization designated "National Republican," which had been formed soon after the inauguration of Gen. Jackson, and which, under the auspices of Mr. Clay, was in vehement opposition to the administration, was maintained in this part of the State on its own independent ground. In the elections of 1833, in which there was no issue on any national question, the "National Republicans" in the county voted with the Democrats, and the Anti-Masons were overwhelmingly defeated; but in the following year, during which the anti-bank policy of the President agitated the country, the "National Republicans" generally sustained the Anti-Masonic nominations as a preferable alternative, though not with a hearty cordiality. In 1835 they had no distinctive party organization in the county or district, but a larger part of them, under an invitation extended to them by resolutions of Anti-Masonic meetings, became associated with the Anti-Masons in the support of Joseph Ritner for Governor; but Mr. Haines, it is believed, did not vote for him. Whatever others might, he declined to have any connection with a body of men professing as their object the disfranchisement of all Masons, on the ground of their implication in a supposed conspiracy against the supremacy of the laws, though in other respects they might agree with him. His course differing from that of many of his friends, was a subject of pretty severe animadversion, but it was consistently maintained and persisted in, and for several years he continued to hold a position with a small body of men, who were in sympathy with him, separate and apart from the two great parties that were contending for the political control of the State. That body, though small in number, was sufficiently considerable to influence to some extent the result of elections, and their views and feelings could not with safety be disregarded. In 1836 the names of two of them were placed on the Demo-

cratic ticket and elected, but Mr. Haines, who was nominated by the same party as delegate to the convention to amend the State constitution, was defeated by a small majority. The lesson administered by that election to the Anti-Masons and Republicans, then become Whigs, who were acting with them, induced a spirit of moderation and a disposition to greater harmony.

In 1838 those who acted with Mr. Haines held a county meeting, and adopted an address and resolutions which he had prepared. The address stated that that branch of the Whig party had had no distinctive organization for several of the past years. "Leaving to others," it says, "the control of nominations and the formation of tickets, they had acquiesced in a state of things which they could not approve, and had sustained their own principles by choosing between evils. The adoption of this course induced many of our friends to join in the ranks of the Jackson party, and led the main body of the Whigs to unite with and assist the Anti-Masons in the election of their candidates. Either alternative required sacrifices that it was painful to make."

The resolutions proposed an arrangement with the Anti-Masons and the Whigs associated with them, by which each branch of the body thus to be consolidated should have a potential voice in the selection of candidates; and Mr. Haines was appointed to present the resolutions to the other branch of the general Whig party, which was to assemble in county meeting the next day. This duty was performed, but the proposition did not prove acceptable and was rejected. Report of the proceeding was made to his friends, who, from their having first met for the purpose of organizing as a distinct body on Monday, were thenceforth denominated the "Monday Whigs." The "Monday Whigs" thus became recognized as a distinct body, between whom and the Anti-Masons and their Whig allies on the one hand, and the Democrats on the other, there were well-defined lines of demarkation. In order to maintain their organization it was necessary that they should have the control of a newspaper press. Mr. Haines therefore purchased the establishment of the *American Star*, which had been previously published at Coatesville, and which he removed to West Chester, and became its editor, and the recognized leader of the "Monday Whigs." He wrote easily and well, and if success in a newspaper enterprise had been his aim, and had need of no other kind of ability than that of a ready and able writer, he might have commanded it. But his objects were special and temporary, and did not contemplate competition with other newspaper establishments for reputation or business, and hence he gave to the *Star* but an inconsiderable share of his attention. Yet his paper usually contained a large amount of editorial matter written in an attractive style, and in a tone of great moderation and candor. He could not be provoked to forget his dignity or self-respect under any circumstances, and he kept his columns at all times clear of personalities and of epithets of abuse, and presented his views with a calm decorum suitable to his character. His career as an editor was a short one, but the times were warm with political controversy, and his position, to some extent, one of personal antagonism. Yet, though he wrote forcibly and earnestly,

he could say when he had laid aside his pen, after several years of practice, that he had alienated no friend and made no enemy.

An effort was made in 1839 to reconcile the "Monday Whigs" with their brethren in the county, then acting with the Anti Masons, but it failed, and the "Monday Whigs" retained their organization and formed their own ticket. Though able to poll rather less than five hundred votes, their separate action so operated in favor of the Democrats that the ticket of the latter was elected by upwards of twelve hundred majority. The effects of the feud thus became strikingly apparent, and the expediency of cultivating more amicable relations between the different branches of the Whig party was strongly enforced. The Whigs and Anti-Masons were powerless without the aid of the "Monday Whigs," and it was necessary that they should be conciliated, or the expectation of future success be abandoned. This consideration acquired force from the fact that a Presidential contest of more than ordinary interest, and attended by more than ordinary excitement, was at hand. An effort was then made to organize the elements of opposition to the administration, and the object was accomplished without great difficulty. The result demonstrated the importance of this little event. The majority for the Harrison ticket in the State was less than the number of votes polled by the "Monday Whigs" in this county, and if they had not been conciliated, Harrison would not have been elected.

When the "Monday Whigs" became merged in the great party that elected Harrison to the Presidency, the particular vocation of the *American Star* was gone, and Mr. Haines disposed of his press at the first convenient opportunity.

From this time the even tenor of his professional life continued for some years without interruption. Judge Darlington had died in the year 1839, and had been succeeded by Mr. Bell, whose large practice was divided among his fellow-members of the West Chester bar. The share that fell to Mr. Haines was not considerable, merely because he was indisposed to accept the conditions which a heavy practice imposed. He still preferred his ease, accompanied by the inconveniences of a narrow income, to persistent mental labor, however sweet its promised rewards. On this point he and the public seem to have come to a pretty satisfactory understanding. While in severely contested jury trials his services were always in requisition, his chamber and Orphans' Court practice exhibited little or no visible growth.

In 1846, Mr. Haines was a candidate for nomination on the Whig Congressional ticket of the district, but failed of success by a single vote. This defeat was the result of his opposition to Anti-Masonry, which was unforgiven by the section of the united party to which he had stood opposed. Although his popularity in his native county was somewhat affected by the distractions of local politics, his influence and authority as a political leader were not without their proper appreciation in the wider sphere of State politics. When, therefore, on the death of Francis R. Shunk, Governor of Pennsylvania, William F. Johnston became his successor, he, on the 26th day of July, 1848, tendered

to Mr. Haines the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth. The offer was accepted, and within a few days he entered upon the duties of his appointment. Mr. Johnston having been elected Governor at the ensuing fall election, Mr. Haines was reappointed in January following, and he remained in office till Feb. 13, 1850. During the period of his official service as Governor Johnston's secretary and principal adviser his public duties were not onerous, and he had leisure to attend the sessions of the courts in his native county. He availed himself of the opportunity to retain his connection with professional practice, and he was frequently engaged in jury trials, usually as assistant, and not as original counsel.

As Secretary of the Commonwealth, Mr. Haines was *ex-officio* superintendent of common schools, a position which at that time afforded fine opportunities of usefulness in maturing a system then only of sixteen years' growth, and still in a state of imperfect development. He was friendly to a scheme of public instruction, and believed it to be one of the highest duties of the State to take care that the children of the citizens should not be allowed to grow up in ignorance; and he was not unaware of the need of much hard work to be done by some comprehensive and well-informed mind, before the common schools could become the efficient means of the mental and moral culture which the public welfare and the popular sentiment required. He made two reports, which contained some valuable suggestions, but which did not aim at striking out a complete and comprehensive system, such as he might have done had he been able to devote to the subject the amount of labor that it required.

While Secretary of the Commonwealth he gained many friends by his social disposition, his attractive conversation, and agreeable manners. The impression he made upon the members of the Legislature and other public men whom he met with at Harrisburg, was that of a man of decided intellect, yet averse to labor and studious of his ease. He was a most agreeable talker, and although not a full man, like Burke, nor profound, like Coleridge, whatever he said seemed most happily suited for the time and the occasion, and he had the art of so pointing a moral and adorning a tale that his remarks, however trite or trifling, were invested with the interest of freshness and novelty. If not prompt in business, his conduct was at least free of offense to those with whom, by his official position, he was brought into contact; and if he sometimes gave cause for complaint by an inveterate habit of procrastination, he silenced all murmurs by his easy and graceful courtesy. He was therefore popular at the seat of the State government as a Secretary, and was even more liked as a man.

Feb. 13, 1850, Mr. Haines was appointed by President Taylor Treasurer of the United States. His appointment was promptly confirmed by the Senate, and a few days afterwards he removed to Washington and entered upon the duties of his office. Those duties, at the time, were by no means arduous. His clerks had been well trained and understood their business, and the head of the bureau had little to do beyond affixing his signature to official papers. This position he certainly enjoyed; his responsibilities were not onerous and he had abundance of leisure on his hands,



and if there could have been an assurance of its permanency his highest aspirations would have been satisfied. He knew well, however, that there was little probability of the patronage of the government continuing in the hands of his party beyond the existing Presidential term to which Gen. Taylor was elected, and that on the accession of a Democratic President he would be obliged to retire. Believing that his duty required him to be generally at his post, his visits to West Chester, while he continued to be Treasurer, were brief and only occasional, and he withdrew almost altogether from professional practice. He was not accustomed, at Washington, to mingle to any considerable extent in the gayeties of the capital. His wife had become, some years before, a member of the Society of Friends, and conformed in plainness and simplicity to the usages of the people of her religious profession, and consistently abstained from intercourse with the world of fashion which she had renounced. He occasionally attended the President's levees and the receptions of the heads of departments, but more from considerations of respect to the incumbents of those government offices, with some of whom he was on terms of personal intimacy, than with a view to social enjoyment. He almost uniformly spent his evenings with his wife, preferring her society, to which her sweet and cheerful spirit lent a perpetual charm, to the brightest and gayest the capital could afford. It was only in her absence, on her rather unfrequent visits to West Chester, that any inducement could be presented strong enough to lead him abroad on festive occasions, and when he accepted invitations to evening entertainments he was uniformly among the very first to withdraw. Late hours were unsuited to his habits. From his youth he had been accustomed to retiring early, and whether at West Chester, Harrisburg, or Washington, he was usually in bed before any of his neighbors, even those of the most primitive style of living. His practice in this respect was so strongly marked as to be a subject of pleasantry with his friends. It used to be a common joke that he went to rest at the same time that the chickens went to their roost. He gave, however, no more hours to repose than his neighbors. Although he was in bed before them at night, he was astir several hours in the morning while their heads were still on their pillows. Summer and winter he was usually abroad at the first peep of day.

The insecurity of the tenure of the office of Treasurer at Washington made a more permanent position, though attended with greater labor, acceptable. He therefore, on being elected in the fall of 1851 to the president judgeship of the Fifteenth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, composed of the counties of Chester and Delaware, resigned his treasurership and returned to West Chester. In December of that year he was sworn into office. The term for which he was elected was ten years, and he continued for that period to preside in the courts of the two counties. At the end of his term he was not a candidate for re-election, and he returned immediately to the bar and resumed practice, without any apparent diminution of vigor and with all his forensic powers unimpaired.

In February, 1865, his wife died after a short illness. Her loss was severely felt. She had every quality calculated to make his home delightful, and he ceased to take an

interest thenceforth either in society or business. In his own domestic circle he was constantly reminded of her absence, and he became in great measure weary of life. Towards the early part of September of the same year he was attacked by dysentery. His disease in its first stage had no alarming symptoms. To nobody but himself did it appear to threaten a fatal termination. In his depressed condition of mind, however, and with a certain presentiment of approaching death, his recovery became hopeless. His anxiety for relief from the burden of life made death welcome. He died in the following October, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

"Men of genius, tread lightly over his ashes,  
For he was your kinsman."

Judge Haines had a talent for poetry, which, if it had been cultivated with assiduity, would have gained for him more than a local reputation. But he wrote only as the occasion prompted. His pieces were struck off at a single heat, and were subjected to no thought beyond the first effort. I have some twenty or more of them in my possession, and the most of them bear the marks of incompleteness, easily discoverable by a critical eye, and which a revising hand would have removed. He once recited to me an admirable poem, which he had recently written, which I thought needed only some slight retouching to be perfect in its finish and exquisite in expression. He answered my suggestion by saying, "I think I will give it another touch or two some of these days, when I feel in the humor." But I have never seen or heard of it since, except that Mr. Hickman once told me that the author had repeated it to him. Among the effusions of his pen the following may be considered as a just specimen of his style:

#### BOB FLETCHER.

I once knew a ploughman, Bob Fletcher his name,  
Who was old and was ugly, and so was his dame;  
Yet they lived quite contented and free from all strife,  
Bob Fletcher, the ploughman, and Judy, his wife.

As the morn streaked the east, and the night fled away,  
They would rise up to labor refreshed for the day;  
And the song of the lark, as it rose on the gale,  
Found Bob at the plough and his wife at the pail.

A neat little cottage in front of a grove,  
Where in youth they first gave their young hearts up to love,  
Was the solace of age, and to them doubly dear,  
As it called up the past with a smile or a tear.

Each tree had its thought, and the vow could impart  
That mingled in youth the warm wish of the heart;  
The thorn was still there, and the blossoms it bore,  
And the song from the top seemed the same as before.

When the curtain of night over nature was spread,  
And Bob had returned from the plough to his shed,  
Like a dove on her nest he reposed from all care  
If his wife and his youngsters contented, were there.

I have passed by his door when the evening was gray,  
And the hill and the landscape were fading away,  
And have heard from the cottage, with grateful surprise,  
The voice of thanksgiving, like incense, arise.

And I thought of the proud, who would look down with scorn  
On the neat little cottage, the grove, and the thorn,  
And have felt that the tinsels and pleasures of life  
Were dross, to contentment with Bob and his wife.