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DANIEL H. HASTINGS.

GENERAL DANIEL HARTMAN HASTINGS, Adjutant-General of Pennsylvania, was born near Salona, Pennsylvania, February 26, 1849. He is of Scotch and Irish descent—his mother born in Scotland, and his father, William Hastings, born in Ireland. They emigrated from the County of Clare, in Ireland, and settled in what is now Clinton County, Pennsylvania, in 1832. The Pennsylvania Canal being then in process of construction, his father obtained employment as a laborer thereon, after which he worked as an ordinary farm hand. His parents had not the advantage of even a rudimentary education. The parents' wages were only fifty cents a day, and they lived in a log house, in

which they reared a family of nine children. In that log house, two miles from Salona, the subject of this sketch was born. He was named for the venerable Rev. Daniel Hartman, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, still living in the fifty-eighth year of his ministry, who has thus far lingered in his earthly journey to be gladdened by the successful life-struggle of his namesake. The poverty of young Hastings' parents prevented his access to any other than the public schools, but Mr. George Hopson, of Farrandsville, generously allowed him to attend a select school taught by Miss Mary A. Crosby, and it was through her careful training and good influence he acquired a fair knowledge of the English branches. The further prosecution of his studies was, however, interrupted by the slender means of his father, which compelled assistance in obtaining a livelihood for the family. In 1861 the boy of twelve was following his father's plow on a Nittany Valley farm in Clinton County, when the rattling drum of the recruiting officer caught his ear; with it came discontent and restlessness, and he determined to follow the patriotic example of his older brothers, who had joined the ranks of the defenders of the Union. On account of his youth and his need at home, his father would not consent; the boy planned an escape and succeeded in getting to Lock Haven, where he was captured and brought home. In a second attempt he reached Williamsport and was again brought back. In the last effort he reached Carlisle in safety, and was happy in a private's uniform, but his youth was against him, and his father again appearing upon the scene, he ruefully resumed his place with the hoe and behind the plow. In the winter of 1863, when young Hastings was but fourteen years of age, a school in Wayne township, Clinton County, became vacant by the selection of its teacher, Colonel W. W. S. Snoddy, for County Superintendent. Forthwith the boy borrowed a dollar, trudged through the snow on a wintry day, and secured the appointment. It was, however, conditioned upon his passing an examination. He walked back to Lock Haven the same day, was examined and received his certificate, and returned on foot in time to open the school the next morning. Meanwhile the dollar was spent and his first day's experience as a school teacher was passed without anything to eat. The following four years were spent in teaching the neighboring schools in the winter, and assisting his father on the farm in the summer. He studied diligently through the winter evenings, the better to qualify himself for teaching, and in 1867 his exertions were rewarded by his being elected Principal of the High School at Belle-

fonte. He became, by virtue of his office, superintendent of all the schools in the borough. Feeling the need of education in the higher branches, he became a private pupil of Professor W. H. Murray, who then taught the Bellefonte Academy, and under his tuition the young teacher acquired a competent knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages. He filled the position of Principal of the Bellefonte High School from 1857 to 1875, with general satisfaction and with the commendation, still openly expressed, of the pupils and their parents. During two years of this period he was assistant editor of the Bellefonte *Republican*, filling that place with conspicuous ability and spirit. With all this varied employment Mr. Hastings found time to read law, and having passed a thorough examination, was admitted to the bar of Centre County, April 29, 1875. He became a member of the law firm of Bush, Yocum & Hastings. Colonel Bush retired from the firm in 1877, and the business was conducted under the firm name of Yocum & Hastings until the election of Mr. Yocum to Congress in 1878, when the former withdrew from the firm and Mr. Hastings associated with him W. F. Reeder, constituting the present firm of Hastings & Reeder. His success in his profession at once became apparent and he was soon looked up to as a leader in the local politics of his party. His natural ability and indefatigable industry were rewarded with many local honors; he was elected a member of the School Board, then Burgess of Bellefonte, Trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is now one of the Trustees of the Pennsylvania State College. His military abilities were developed in the riots that occurred in July, 1877. Governor Beaver then commanded a division of the National Guards, and at his request Hastings accompanied the command to Altoona, serving as an aid on General Beaver's staff. As was his wont, he threw all of his energy and ability into this, to him, new field of action, and soon attracted the admiration of the officers and soldiers. He rose rapidly in the service. In July, 1877, he became Paymaster of the Fifth Regiment, with the rank of Captain; in March, 1878, he was elected and commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fifth Regiment; in June, 1883, he was appointed Assistant Adjutant-General of the Second Brigade, and in March, 1884, he was elected Colonel of the Fifth Regiment and at the annual inspection of 1886 his regiment achieved the highest standing of any in the State. After serving nearly three years as Colonel, in January, 1877, Colonel Hastings resigned his commission and accepted the appointment of Adjutant-General of Pennsylvania. As a member of the military commission, created to revise the military code of the

Commonwealth, General Hastings, in connection with General Hartranft and the other able officers of that board, rendered excellent service in the preparation and passage of the present military bill, which places the militia of the State on its present basis of efficiency and completeness. As Adjutant-General, the National Guard openly acknowledges General Hastings' ability, zeal and efficiency. It recalls the success of the division encampment of 1887 at Mount Gretna, where General Sheridan reviewed the eight thousand guardsmen all fully equipped for war, all due chiefly to the united energy and vigilance of Generals Hartranft and Hastings. As the soldierly regiments passed in review before the veteran Sheridan, with uniform and accoutrements in perfect trim, with ranks in true alignment, followed by the cavalry and batteries conforming to the best standards, the old soldier was heard to say: "That looks more like business than anything I have seen in this country since the disbandment of the army at Washington in 1865." Turning to General Hastings' record as a politician, it is evident that he brings to the discharge of duty in this sphere, honesty and earnestness of purpose and commendable zeal and energy. From his youth he was an ardent Republican. His first prominence as a local leader was in the Congressional campaign of 1878, when he managed the campaign for his partner, Seth H. Yocum. Full of resources and shrewd in the management of the opposition element, he secured the election of Mr. Yocum in a district whose Democratic majority reached three thousand. In the campaign of 1882 General Hastings was the personal friend and enthusiastic supporter of General Beaver for Governor. Defeated, but not disheartened, in 1886 General Hastings presented the name of Governor Beaver to the Republican Convention for renomination, and asked and succeeded in having justice done to a brave and generous man who had been defeated by misrepresentation and prejudice. In 1887 General Hastings was Chairman of the Republican State Convention which nominated Henry W. Williams for Judge of the Supreme Court and William B. Hart for State Treasurer. But it was in the Republican National Convention of 1888 that General Hastings placed his fame as an orator far forward into the political world. Hon. John Sherman was the favorite of the delegates from Pennsylvania and General Hastings, who was one of the Delegates-at-Large from that State, was selected to present the name of that grand old Republican for the highest office in the land. General Hastings was equal to the occasion, and in a single half hour attained a national reputation as an orator. The press throughout the country acknowl-

edged and applauded the ability and brilliancy of that nominating address. George Alfred Townsend telegraphed to the Chicago *Tribune* that day:

"Sherman was best put in the field. The Pennsylvania man who lives in the little mountain town of Bellefonte made the best speech which has been heard at this display. It was worthy of being the party platform. Hastings, who made it, they say will some day be heard in the Senate or run for Governor."

Murat Halstead, of the Cincinnati *Commercial-Gazette*, wrote his paper:

"As to the reception of the presentation of nominations, there was no marked preference shown for any candidate until the splendid oration of General Hastings, of Pennsylvania, nominating Sherman. Then things took a more decided shape. General Hastings has a magnificent appearance and delivery and his superb ringing sentences fell one after another, bright as new coin, each word clear as a bugle note; the mighty multitude felt the magic of oratory, of a man speaking worthily on a great occasion. There never was a finer speech made on such an occasion, and I remember Ingersoll's nomination of Blaine at Cincinnati. General Hastings walks up at once to a place among the few of our public speakers."

So marked was the impression made, that he was complimented by being called by the presiding officer to hold the gavel over that great assembly for the day, and invited to second the nomination of Hon. Levi P. Morton for Vice-President. It followed as a matter of no doubt that he was the favorite orator of the campaign that came after. He spoke in behalf of the nominees, and in defense of the principles of the Republican party, in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Michigan, and retired from his labors with success crowning his efforts and with the confidence of all the great leaders of the party. Only a short allusion to his services after the unparalleled disaster at Johnstown is proper in this sketch, as the newspapers carved the details of the work there in never-fading lines, while his wonderful sagacity, his good judgment and his kind heart cast a pleasant sunshine over that appalling gloom. On Friday, May 31, 1889, General Hastings was at Hastings, a flourishing town in Cambria County, so called for him, looking after the interests of large coal-mining operations in which he is concerned, in connection with Governor Beaver, Robert Coleman and Colonel J. L. Spangler. The next morning he was awakened by the landlord and told of the awful reports from Johnstown. Without a moment's hesitation he hired a team, and in company with Colonel Spangler, started for the ill-fated city, driving the whole day long over flooded roads and broken bridges and arriving at Johnstown at 4 P.M. Taking in the situation of affairs, he immediately tele-

graphed to Governor Beaver to send up some tents and other necessaries, then took off his coat and went to work as a private citizen to help and succor the distressed. Promptly recognized by the survivors of the disaster as the man for the place, by general consent he assumed the charge and responsibility of feeding and relieving the people, and subsequently managed the operations ordered by the State authorities, demonstrating his great executive ability, and, as well said by another, "Winning by his uniform kindness and sympathetic actions the gratitude of his fellow-citizens throughout the State." On the night of the 13th day of July, 1889, when General Hastings took leave of Johnstown, the old soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic fitly expressed their appreciation of the General's services by their presentation to him of a badge of their Order, beautifully set with diamonds, claiming that by labor and sacrifice on that field of desolation General Hastings had proved himself worthy to be enrolled as a "comrade" in honor. Colonel Thomas J. Stewart, in an eloquent address, made the presentation, and the citizens of Johnstown, represented by Colonel Linton and Cyrus Elder, publicly and cordially thanked the General for the great work he had been instrumental in accomplishing for Johnstown and in the valley of the Conemaugh. General Hastings' name has been frequently and earnestly canvassed as a candidate for the Gubernatorial nomination shortly to be made. Whatever may be the outcome of the nominating convention, no one will gainsay the fact that his successful industry, ability and integrity commend him as worthy the suffrages of the people for any office in the gift of the Commonwealth. General Hastings was married, October 10, 1877, to Jane Armstrong Rankin, of Bellefonte, daughter of James H. Rankin, Esq., the present senior member of the Centre County bar. He has one child, a daughter—Helen.
