

## DEATH OF SENATOR LANE.

The death of James H. Lane, United States Senator from Kansas, was announced in the Senate at Washington yesterday. It appears that he shot himself on the evening of the 1st inst., at Leavenworth, Kansas, and died at nine o'clock yesterday morning. He had been acting strangely for several days, and a careful watch had been kept over him; but while riding on the 1st inst. with his brother-in-law, a Mr. McCall, and Captain Adams, brother of his son-in-law, he got out of the wagon, which stopped at the gate of the government farm residence of Mr. McCall, and stepping to the rear drew a pistol and shot himself in the mouth, the ball passing out through the top of the skull. The deed was undoubtedly the result of a temporary mental derangement. Senator Lane is the third member of the family who has destroyed himself.

He had been for some time in ill health, resulting from a stroke of paralysis received at St. Louis, and he had long entertained the idea that he could not permanently recover. This doubtless affected his mind, and probably led to the commission of the deed.

James Henry Lane was born on the banks of the Ohio river, at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, on the 22d of June, 1814. His father, Amos Lane, emigrated to the West from New York as early as 1804, first settling in Ohio, and from thence removing to Kentucky, and finally to Lawrenceburg, Indiana. He was a lawyer of some little eminence; was Speaker of the first and second House of Representatives in the State of Indiana; served several sessions in Congress under the administration of Jackson and Van Buren, of whom he was a zealous supporter. It is said that he, in connection with two other democrats, held a "State Convention" in Indiana—one acting as President, the second as Secretary and Mr. Lane as the audience—and unanimously nominated General Jackson for the Presidency. This was among the first nominations that Old Hickory received from a State convention, and was published far and near at the time as an important movement and assembly. Senator Lane's mother, Mary Lane, was a native of New England, and though among the earliest of Western pioneers had some local reputation as a poetess. Among others of the family who became distinguished was Senator Lane's brother, John F., who graduated at West Point and who fell in the Florida war. He had the command at the time of a regiment of Creek and Cherokee Indians, whom he had organized. He brought several tribes of Indians from Georgia, Florida, Ohio and Indiana, to the Territory of Kansas. Jim Lane was very proud of this brother, and used to relate that General Jessup said that he was the ablest man of his age; that General Jackson used to call him his son, and that Webster and Clay paid him complimentary mention in the Senate.

Senator Lane's parents in his childhood were comparatively poor, and both had to work with great energy to extricate themselves and family from the difficulties which beset married people in that condition. While his father travelled the circuit, his mother, in addition to her family duties, kept boarders and taught school at her own cabin. She superintended her children's education, which she had begun, after he had passed to other shores; but after finishing his education young Lane studied law in his father's office, and practised in partnership with him.

Shortly after attaining his majority he was elected a member of the City Council; to which office he was repeatedly re-elected. In 1845 he was nominated by the democratic party of his county a member of the State Legislature; and, in the winter of the same year, his name was before the State Democratic Convention as a candidate for the nomination for Lieutenant Governor. He was defeated, by one vote, by F. C. Downing.

On the breaking out of the Mexican war in the spring of 1846, Mr. Lane held a subordinate position in an Indiana regiment, but did succeed in distinguishing himself in any engagement with the enemy.

During the year 1849 Lane filled the office of Lieutenant Governor of Indiana, and in 1852 represented a district of that State in Congress. He supported the principal measures of the democratic party, including the famous Kansas-Nebraska bill, and was identified with that party in the Presidential canvass which resulted in the election of "poor Pierce." At the end of his term in 1855 he removed to Kansas and soon after became engaged in the quarrels of the settlers of that territory and the border ruffians of Missouri. He became of a sudden a convert to the abolition faith and took an active part in securing the organization of Kansas as a free State. He was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Topeka Convention, which instituted the first State government of Kansas. He was afterwards made President of the Topeka Constitutional Convention, and was elected by the people Major General of the free State troops. In 1856 he was chosen by the Kansas Legislature, which had met under the Topeka constitution, one of the United States Senators from the new State; but the election was not recognized by Congress. He was indicted during the same year by the Grand Jury of Douglas county for high treason, in being connected with the "Topeka government," and was therefore compelled hastily to leave the Territory. In 1857 he was chosen President of the Leavenworth Constitutional Convention, and was also elected Major General of the Kansas troops by the Territorial Legislature. He was formally elected to the United States Senate on the 3d of March, 1861, by the Kansas State Legislature, which had assembled under the accepted constitution with which the new State had been admitted into the Union.

At the beginning of the rebellion Lane was in Washington, and like a great many other high officials at that point boldly enlisted in the "Home Guards" for the preservation of the national capital, and was chosen to be the commander of the "Frontier Guards," enlisted for the defence of that city.

Soon after the commencement of hostilities Lane conceived and inaugurated a brilliant plan by which he proposed to carry the war from Kansas into the Indian nation, and, while making a strong plea for himself as brigadier general, punish the perfidious redskins who had joined the rebels. He made the President believe that the enterprise was necessary in order to protect the loyal Indians and punish the rebel redskins in the Southwest, and Mr. Lincoln thereupon appointed him a brigadier general, and sent his name into the Senate for confirmation. Mr. Lincoln and Secretary Cameron thought there was nobody like Jim Lane for the enterprise, and the President, in one of his characteristic letters, urged him to "put it through." The latter, which is too good to lose, is as follows: "The reader will appreciate Mr. Lincoln's earnest injunction, 'not to be writing or telegraphing back, but to put it through.'"

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES, June 20, 1861.  
MY DEAR SIR—Since you spoke to me yesterday about General J. H. Lane, of Kansas, I have been reflecting upon the subject, and have concluded that we need the services of such a man out there at once; that we had better appoint him a brigadier general of volunteers to-day, and send him off with such authority to raise a force (I think two regiments better than three, but as I am not particular) as you think will get him into actual work quickest. Tell him when he starts to put it through—not to be writing or telegraphing back here, but put it through. Yours, truly,  
HON. SECRETARY OF WAR. A. LINCOLN.

Lane was ahead of his prospects, and immediately left his seat in the Senate to commence operations. He appointed his staff in Washington and then started for Kansas. On his way thither he stopped in various places, receiving orations and making speeches, in which he told the people all about his intentions and the manner in which his operations were to be carried out. He was to have Johnston and Montgomery, the two most notorious jayhawkers in the West, as consulting attendants; and with an army of thirty-four thousand soldiers he would whip the refractory Indians into obedience, clean out Southern Missouri, subjugate the whole of Arkansas and Louisiana, and finally bring up at New Orleans. He would take no provisions nor permit any trains to follow him, but would make the country through which he passed support his army. He said he had been told by the President to "put it through," and he was determined to carry out his instructions.

But Lane was doomed to disappointment. When he reached Leavenworth he was somewhat surprised to find that General David Hunter, who was then in command of that department, had issued an order to the effect that he (Hunter) would take the command of the expedition and control all its movements, and that Lane would, therefore, take a subordinate position and be content with riding at the head of one of the brigades which were to comprise it. This shot struck the brigadier between wind and water, and he immediately sunk beneath the surface. Fortunately for him, however, he had not yet resigned his seat in the Senate, and after a few weeks occupied in raising his shattered bark and repairing damages he again returned to the Senate, and his nomination to a military position was withdrawn before he had time to accomplish much in the military line. He did do something, however, towards quelling the rebellion. For it is rumored that on one occasion he rode into Pleasant Hill, Mo., with his cavalry brigade and made a speech. After addressing his brigade he turned to the citizens and told them he had something to say to them. He told them that to let the flag which floated above them remain undisturbed by the people of Pleasant Hill should be protected as their homes and fields—their wives, children and their property; but if taken down by occasion hands Pleasant Hill would go up in smoke as sure as hell!

After his return to civil life and the recovery of his seat in the Senate Lane did not accomplish much. He took an active part in the National Convention which nominated Mr. Lincoln, and also supported Mr. John

son's reconstruction policy; but of late his life has been rather monotonous.

Mr. Lane was married in 1842 to Miss Mary E. Baidridge, a granddaughter of General Arthur St. Clair and a very accomplished lady. She accompanied him from Washington city, in 1844, to Kansas and "squatted" with him on a claim adjoining Lawrence, where Lane built a log cabin. Accustomed to the conveniences and refinements of a city wife, Mrs. Lane found it difficult to endure the hardships, annoyances and inconveniences of a pioneer's lot. She desired to return, and went to her home in Indiana. Lane was interested in Kansas, had determined to remain, and so Mrs. Lane went back alone. She did not like her lonely lot, and so she wrote to Lane demanding his return to Indiana. He wrote back that it was impossible to return. His wife waited a little while, and then wrote declaring that unless he returned by a stated time she would sue for a divorce. The Senator made no reply, but gave a glowing account of the "patriotic" movement in which he bore an important part. The next letter he received was from the clerk of a court in Indiana, informing him that his wife had filed a bill, with another from a lawyer offering to defend him. The Senator wrote back to the lawyer as follows:—

DEAR SIR—Yours to hand. My wife says she will not stand my long absence. If I were she I would not stand it either. I shall offer no opposition to her suit. Yours, ac.  
J. H. LANE.

Two years later, when the divorce had long been granted, Mr. Lane returned to Washington as Senator from Kansas, visited his old home in Indiana, and found his wife still blooming and handsome and surrounded by admirers. With the rest of them he visited her from time to time, became presently the accepted lover, and was eventually remarried to her.

Senator Lane was a peculiar man in many respects. He was formerly a man of fine physical proportions, but of late years was considerably broken down. His head was very deep, forehead high and face long, hair iron gray, eye mild and cheeks sabby and wrinkled. He dressed in any fashion that suited his caprice, and usually looked alighted and careless. His style of speaking was vigorous but coarse; he could make his points cleverly, yet a certain wacoth declamation marred them very much.