7 Mr. Wilson and I had many conversations in relation to the affairs of the Senate. When Vice Pres't Mr. Wilson had an iron railing ~~then~~ placed around the bar of the Senate. There had been a railing in the old {Senate Chamber} and ever since the (Jan 1859) Senate had occupied its new chamber, Mr. Wilson had been {desirous anxious} to have one. He regarded it as necessary to prevent strangers {strangers} from occupying the seats of Senators, and consequently as a means of preventing confusion and disorder on the floor.

But such were the objections and ridicule of Senators that he was forced to have it removed. It {fronted annoyed} him a great deal. He lamented what he regarded as the

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great change in the character of the

or Senatorial character.

Senate. Senators were less dignified

Order and the rules of the Senate

~~The rules~~ ~~and order~~ were less observed,

Nor [did he like his position (as] Vice

was he greatly enamored {of the} the

Prest. He said he did not feel at home in the

chair ~~he~~ and regretted that he had ac-

cepted the {office / place}. He preferred that of

Senator. In reply, I would tell him to

be patient. He would soon be able to

occupy his old seat. He would respond:

"I wish I could now."

I was with him in his last sickness.

On the morning that he was struck down,

he left me in the V. Prest's room, saying:

"I am going to the barbers to be shaved and have a

bath. I'm not feeling well. I expect

a gentleman to call. Please ask him

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to take a Seat. ~~I'll return in a short time~~ I'll be back in a few minutes." While I was waiting for him to return, the barber came up and said: "Mr. Wilson wants to see you very much: he is very sick." I immediately went down and found Mr. W. sitting in the barber's chair, partly dressed. He said: "Bassett, I am very sick, but hope to be better directly." The Sergeant at arms, coming in, and Mr. W. continuing to grow worse, we had him placed on a sofa and carried to the Conference Room of the Sup. Court. I then sent for a physician. He came and after ascertaining the condition of Mr. W. directed him that he be Mr. W. to be carried to the V. Prest's room, ~~[illegible]~~

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in which he died Nov. 22, 1875, in the 64th Year of his Age.

* was regarded by many {"good looking" / handsome} man.

Mr. W. was about 5 feet 10 inches in height ~~high~~ - and weighed when in health about 180 lbs. He had a small hand and foot, a florid complexion, dark iron gray hair, blue eyes, and a strong and clear voice. * *

The expression of his face was that of serene good nature.

~~a vigorous intellect, altho' not polished by the discipline of the School of "He made no pretension to a finished or classical~~

He was fearless in the performance of his Senatorial duties -

Always Commanding the attention of the Senate, and the respect of Senators -

Large hearted and liberal,

- the friend of the friendless -

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