

# LIFE'S RACE ENDED.

## DEATH THIS MORNING OF COL. JOHN A. STEPHENS.

**Ex-Adjutant General of Georgia, at His Home in Washington—Brief Sketch of His Life and Recollections of His Career—A Good Man Gone.**

Col. A. G. Grier received a dispatch this morning containing the sad intelligence of the death, at 9:45 this morning, at his home in Washington, Ga., of Col. John A. Stephens, ex-Adjutant General of the State of Georgia. The public announcement of his death will carry deep sorrow to the hearts of a very wide circle of friends, embracing the entire State. After leaving Atlanta, a few months ago, Colonel Stephens returned to his home in Washington, intending to devote his time to the practice of his profession—the law. About a month later he was taken sick, and from that time until death ended his sufferings he was confined to his bed. He was a noble specimen of manhood, thoroughly honest, and possessing a heartiness of manner which won him friends everywhere. His death is certainly a loss to the State.

Col. Stephens was born in Hamilton, Harris county, Georgia, in October, 1838, and was therefore at the time of his death, in his 49th year. He was a son of Col. John L. Stephens, a prominent lawyer and a half-brother of the lamented Alexander H. Stephens. His early life was spent in LaGrange, and from there he entered a high school at Philomath, Oglethorpe county. He subsequently entered the law school at Athens, going thence to Virginia, where he graduated, shortly before the war, at the state law school. He was admitted to the bar at Crawfordville, Tallahassee county, the home of his uncle. Upon the breaking out of the war he enlisted in the Fifteenth Georgia regiment as a private, his uncle, Judge Linton Stephens, being lieutenant-colonel of the regiment. Eight months later he was promoted to a captaincy in the signal service, and served in Virginia for a considerable time, and was then sent to Port Hudson, Miss., where he and his command were captured and sent to Camp Chase as prisoners of war. He remained there during the winter of 1864-5. In January, 1865, Vice President Stephens met President Lincoln at a conference at Hampton Roads. The two leaders had been old and warm friends prior to the war, and their meeting was a pleasant one. While there, Mr. Stephens mentioned that his nephew (the deceased) was a prisoner at Camp Chase, whereupon, although exchanges had been stopped, Mr. Lincoln promised that as soon as he returned to Washington he would effect his exchange, which was done.

After the war, Col. Stephens settled down to the practice of law in Crawfordville, from whence he was sent as a delegate to the constitutional convention at Milledgeville in 1863. In 1867 he moved to Atlanta and formed a partnership with his uncle, the Hon. Alex. H. Stephens. That partnership lasted for about six months, when, by an accident, his uncle became incapacitated for the practice of his profession. Col. Stephens then formed a partnership with Gen. L. J. Gartrell, which continued until 1876, a period of about seven years, when he moved back to Crawfordville, Georgia, resuming practice there. He was elected to the state senate from the district composed of Tallahassee, Warren and Greene counties, and served with honor. Upon the election of Hon. Alex. H. Stephens to be Governor of Georgia, he was appointed Adjutant General of the state, and served in that capacity through the administrations of Governor Stephens and Governor McDaniel. He came to Atlanta with his family, and made his home with Governor Stephens at the Executive Mansion, his wife being well remembered as the lady of the Mansion during that administration.

He was married in 1863 to a daughter of the Hon. W. W. Simpson, then of Sparta, now of Washington, Ga. The union was a happy one, the fruits of it being three children, a daughter and two sons, who, with their mother, survive him.

When Gen. Gordon became Governor, Col. Stephens was offered a place under him, but owing to his failing eyesight and his delicate health, he was forced to decline it, and he went back to his home in Washington, expecting to resume the practice of his profession there. But this he never did. Disease laid its hand upon him; his entire physical system seemed to break down and from the first his physicians had little hope of his recovery. By no one will his death be more deeply felt than by his old associates in the State House, who had learned to regard him most highly. It is expected that the funeral will take place to-morrow, and that the interment will be at Washington.