

JAMES HUTCHISON KERR⁵. No. 85. (ELIZA JANE⁴,
JAMES³, ELIZABETH², JOHN¹.)

HEIDELBERG, Germany, Oct. 10, 1899.

HON. HUGH R. FULTON, Lancaster, Pa.

Dear Brother: I have just received from Guy a blank entitled "Fulton Genealogy" with a request to fill out the same and give an outline sketch of my life. As I do not know how full you are making the life history of your family, I will simply give you a skeleton. You can throw out any bones too long for the collection and any that are too short, pull up to the proper height and hang a towel in front. If any are too bare, take a hint from the most lovely and divine sex and use cotton.

Your loving brother,

JAMES HUTCHISON KERR.

LIFE OUTLINE.

Born near Chambersburg, Franklin Co., Pa., August 30, 1837. When a year old, took my parents and went to farming near McConnellsburg,

Fulton Co., Pa. . In 1844 moved to Chester County, taking the same parents. Here also we engaged in farming. Until 1850 attended school in winter, and in summer engaged in the exciting sport of picking potatoes and gathering stones. When brother George and I were not gathering stones we were watching them grow. In those days, father thought I was cut out for a farmer, and mother thought I was a born preacher.

In 1847-8 I began, through the stories of the Mexican War and the Students' Revolution in Germany, to feel the influence of a greater world. Then came the discovery of chrome in the barrens of Chester County. I heard much of this ore and the mining and reduction of the same. I saw many different kinds of minerals, which were carried around by different persons. Many specimens were given me; and I began to look for the beautiful things God has made to beautify this world, and to give power, and comfort, and a broader, better and happier ever-growing life, individually and collectively to mankind.

In 1851 I was attending school at Elk Ridge when the teacher was taken sick and the pupils selected me as their teacher. This being ratified

in the course of a week by the directors, I taught the remaining two months. From the first I loved the work, and I saw that, for me, life's open door was teaching as a profession. I read everything I could get on methods, I sought the society of teachers with experience. I attended institutes, and took an active part in the same. Above all I made a study of my pupils. Tried to assist Nature by giving pupils a chance to grow. One of the greatest pleasures of my life has been in seeing the different effects of a question, or a proposition put to a class of pupils as indicated in their eyes. The teacher who has not watched and studied the awakening of human souls may know much of the drudgery of the profession, but can know little of its inspirations.

In 1852-53 I attended the Turner Seminary. In 1853-54-55 attended New London Academy. 1855-56 Westminster College in Lawrence County, Pa. In 1857 saw something of the South and later went to Rochester, New York, where I taught school, engaged in the grocery business, got burned out, and attended lectures at the Rochester University; also carried on a systematic study of the natural sciences under the direction

of Rev. Orville Dewey, of Rochester, and Dr. James Hall, the geologist and paleontologist, of Albany. During these years my resting hours were spent in travelling in New England, Canada, and the West. Had charge of the Academy of Franklinville, Cattaraugus County, New York, in 1859 and 1860-61.

In 1861 entered Yale College (Classical Department). Kept up in geology under the direction of Prof. James D. Dana, and meteorology under Professors Loomis, Twining and Newton. In my senior year had charge of the Department of Natural Sciences in General Russel Military and Collegiate Institute in New Haven, Conn. During this year was offered the position of Second Assistant Geologist and Mining engineer, by the Maximilian Government of Mexico. Spent college vacations mostly in making excursions afoot. In sophomore year went to West Indies and South America in a sailing vessel. Graduated with honor in 1865, having had to labor under the misfortune of only a four months' fit in Greek—several members of the class having had a preparation of over five years.

After graduating took a two months' tour to Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Labrador and Greenland.

Returning to New Haven, was offered the position of principal of Jackson Academy, Jackson, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. This I accepted, and arrived at Jackson on the 28th day of September, 1865. Within two months, was appointed County Superintendent of Public Schools by the Governor and directed not only to reorganize the schools of the county, but also to give such assistance as lay within my power in reorganizing public instruction in the twenty-three counties constituting the Third Congressional District of Missouri.

On Christmas 1866, married Miss Mary Ella Spear, of Jackson, Mo., who is a Jefferson-Randolph (of Virginia) through the Criddles and Bollins.

In 1868 was elected County Superintendent of Public Schools and the same year was appointed by the Governor one of the Curators of the University of Missouri at Columbia. Took an active part in organizing the Mining School at Rolla, Mo. Was offered the directorship of the same.

In 1869, organized the Fruitland Normal Institute, 6 miles north of Jackson. This was the first Normal School in the United States south of St. Louis, Mo.

In 1874 poor health led me to Colorado and in 1875 was urged to come to the assistance of Colorado College, which had been organized at Colorado Springs the year before. September, 1875, I became professor in charge at Colorado College, and was soon joined by my family. In 1876 I resigned my position; but was immediately elected professor of chemistry and geology, with the understanding that I was to devote to the College only such time as I could spare from mining, engineering and metallurgical work. In 1878, became a member of the Board of College Trustees and resigned in 1879. In 1880 made an extended visit with family through the South Bahamas and West Indies. In 1882 with my son visited Japan and China. While abroad was elected to the Colorado Legislature—the Democrats doing me the honor of putting up no one against me.

In 1884 originated the Pike's Peak railway scheme. In 1885-6 visited, as a mining engineer, Central America, South America and England—taking my wife with me to England. In 1887-8 was the acting president of Colorado College.

In 1888 went to Mexico, as mining engineer and metallurgist. Became in 1890 mining engineer and

metallurgist for the British Consul and Minister.

In 1892 to 1894 did considerable engineering work for several American, English, Mexican and Spanish companies.

Returning to the United States in 1894, have been since engaged in the practice of my profession, principally in Montana and New York. In June, 1899, my wife and I came to Europe for rest, health, pleasure and study.

From 1851 until 1880 I taught from four to ten months of every year. I hold state teacher certificates from Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Colorado.

For twenty years of my life I worked from 16 to 18 hours per day. Notwithstanding the work, the struggles to get an education, and the coming of misfortunes over which I had no control, life has been full of cheer. I have gathered very much honey and very little poison from the many flowers that have beautified my life pathway. I have never cried over spilt milk and never crossed a bridge until I came to it; and thus, I have thrown aside nine-tenths of those troubles and burdens which a very large per cent. of mankind endure and carry.

JAMES H. KERR.

JAMES HUTCHISON KERR.* No. 85.

REPRESENTATIVE FOR EL PASO COUNTY.

Of all the counties in the State, El Paso has most reason to be proud of her delegation in the Colorado Assembly. Senator Howbert and Representatives Kerr and Ford never flinched from beginning to end; and Professor Kerr was one of the last four who voted for Pitkin, the twelve going to Bowen by an arrangement of the caucus. When the caucus decided the nomination, El Paso men were in honor bound to vote for the nominee, though they voted for Tabor under protest. The last four who voted for Pitkin were Messrs. Kerr, Curtice, Wells and Greene. The El Paso men voted anti-bonanza and anti-monopoly throughout.

Professor Kerr was born near Chambersburg, Pa. In 1874 he came to Colorado, and in 1875 he settled at Colorado Springs, becoming professor in charge of Colorado College. In 1876 he was elected professor of chemistry and geology in the college. During his professorship there, he did a great deal of expert work in Colorado, New Mexico and Old Mexico.

* Editorial from the Denver (Col.) *Weekly*, February 17, 1883.

This brief account of a life of many vicissitudes, shows the stuff that Professor Kerr is made of. He is a positive, energetic man who never quails. Some portion of every year for twenty-nine consecutive years was spent in teaching, and though he was always more or less an invalid, he has worked from sixteen to eighteen hours a day for twenty years. While studying geology he walked through every county of the Middle and New England States, except some of the counties of Maine. He has traveled over the greater part of the two Americas, including most of the West Indies. He spent some time among the Japanese, and was in China when a cablegram reached him informing him of his election as Representative for El Paso. While in China, he sold the first mine ever sold to Chinamen.

Professor Kerr returns to Colorado Springs with a record that stands among the clearest in the Assembly. He did his duty to his constituents as well as to the State.