

# FAMILY RECORD

AND

# BIOGRAPHY.

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COMPILED BY

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CHICAGO:

1896.

(Hon.) Archibald Loudon Snowden.

Son of Isaac and Margery Loudon Snowden.

Grandson of Archibald and Margaret Loudon.

Great grandson of Matthew and Elizabeth McCormick  
Loudon.

Great great grandson of Thomas McCormick (1st).

Hon. Archibald Loudon Snowden was born in Cumberland County, Pa. On his father's side he traces his ancestry in America back to the earliest settlers in New England. His ancestor, William Snowden, under patents from the Duke of York, owned large bodies of land in Philadelphia, in 1669. John Snowden, the son of William,

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was no less distinguished for his enterprise and probity as a merchant than for his benevolence and high Christian character. He was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, and is believed to have been the first Elder of that denomination ordained in America. His son, Isaac, born in 1710, was one of the founders of the Second Presbyterian Church in the same city. His son, also named Isaac, born in 1740, was an Elder in the same church, and was a Commissioner appointed by Congress to issue Continental money. His son, Rev. Nathaniel Randolph Snowden, was born in Philadelphia, in 1770, and was the first Presbyterian clergyman over the first church in Harrisburg, the capital of the State.

His son, Dr. Isaac Wayne Snowden, the father of the subject of our sketch, was born in 1793. He entered the United States army as Assistant Surgeon, when he was under twenty years of age, served with distinction in the Seminole war under General Jackson, and was severely wounded at Fort Scott. He subsequently resigned from the army and settled in the beautiful Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania, where he married Margery Bines Loudon, daughter of Archibald Loudon, granddaughter of Matthew and Elizabeth McCormick Loudon, and great great granddaughter of Thomas McCormick.

Col. Snowden, the subject of our sketch, received a preliminary education in the academies of Newville and Mechanicsburg, Pa., and completed his education at Jefferson, now Washington and Jefferson College, in Washington County, Pa. At this college, he twice represented his class as orator. On leaving college he studied law, accepting in the meantime the position of Registrar of the United States Mint in Philadelphia, during the directorship of his uncle, Hon. James Ross Snowden. On the outbreak of the war in 1861, he assisted in raising a regiment of infantry and was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel. Subsequently, Col. Snowden participated in the campaigns made by the First City Troop of Philadelphia, the oldest military organization, with a continuous history in the United States.

## *Genealogy.*

It was the body-guard of Washington during the Revolution. Of this famous corps, after fifteen years of continuous service, Col. Snowden became the Commander. In the Mint service he was appointed, in 1866, the Chief Coiner by the President, and continued in that office until 1877, when he was appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia by President Grant. In 1878, he declined the office of Director of all the Mints of the United States, twice tendered him by President Hayes. In 1879, he accepted the Chief Executor's office in the Philadelphia Mint, where he remained until after the inauguration of President Cleveland, in 1885, when he resigned from the Mint service, being recognized everywhere as the best authority in America on all subjects relating to Mint, coins and coinage. He introduced important machinery from different parts of the world for the rapid and artistic production of our coinage. Among numerous articles relating to coinage and medalistic history, of which he is the author, may be mentioned his paper giving researches in relation to the history of the Great Seal of the United States, which obtained widespread attention and most favorable commendation. In 1879, he was designated by the Councils of Philadelphia to organize the great demonstration of Dec. 16, in honor of General Grant. This demonstration was most imposing, embracing 47,000 persons, and many thousand horses, in the street parade. In 1887, the Commission having in charge the appropriate celebration of the Centennial of the adoption of the Constitution framed in Philadelphia, requested Colonel Snowden to organize the industrial demonstration. This he did with consummate skill, and upon such broad lines, that it became the chief feature of the great celebration. Col. Snowden, in assuming charge of the work, resolved that all departments and branches of our industrial, intellectual and moral life, should be so illustrated, that the demonstration should be a great object lesson, illustrative of the progress made in a century of constitutional government. The ability and energy displayed by Col. Snowden in this important work

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received from the Commission, and the public, just recognition and hearty thanks.

In 1889, he was appointed United States Minister to Greece, Roumania and Servia. This mission was raised to that of the first-class, owing to his service in Athens.

In July, 1892, President Harrison transferred him as Minister Plenipotentiary to Madrid. Here, as our representative, he rendered most important service, for which he received the especial thanks of the State Department. In the business and social life of Philadelphia, he has been for a long period a conspicuous figure. For many years he presided most acceptably over the annual meetings of the stockholders of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He has also been largely interested in railroad and other business enterprises; was for many years President of the "United Fire Underwriters of America," an organization embracing nearly all the insurance companies doing business in this country. He is a Commissioner of Fairmount Park, a member of nearly all the social clubs of the city, of the Philosophical Society, the Union League, Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution, and while a pronounced Republican in politics, and one of the most eloquent and effective speakers in the State, he, at the same time, enjoys to a marked degree, the respect and esteem of men of all shades of opinion.