

## **MR. ALEXANDER ASHLEY.**

When the Editor came to the weather service in January, 1871, as civilian assistant to the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, his first acquaintance was Mr. Alexander Ashley, who was usually spoken of as Chief Clerk, although, strictly speaking, he was Chief of the Division of Correspondence and Records; and now, after more than thirty years of public service together, the Editor regrets to have to announce the death of his colleague. Mr. Ashley's official record is as follows:

Born at Pittsburg, Pa., May 31, 1831. Served as an enlisted man in the United States Army from May 10, 1861, to March 3, 1863. (Private Company I, Tenth Regiment, Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, May 10, 1861; Corporal August 12, 1863; detailed from the Army for signal duty August, 1861; assigned to Office of Chief Signal Officer March 19, 1862 ; discharged from Army March 31, 1863.) Appointed civilian clerk April 1, 1863. Died April 11, 1901.

Mr. Ashley was graduated from Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pa., which conferred upon him the degrees of A. B. and A. M. He enlisted and was ordered to Washington, D. C., at the outbreak of the war; was detailed for duty under Gen. A. J. Myer, and later assisted him in the formation of the meteorological service of the Signal Corps. All scientific papers passed through his hands; for several years he prepared and had printed lists of the principal scientific documents preserved in his files, which lists were a great convenience for reference in the daily work of the office. He was also the recorder and historian of the Veteran Signal Corps Association.

On June 30, 1887, on account of his advancing age, he vacated the position then regarded as that of chief clerk and was assigned to less exacting work. From July, 1897, until his death, he was on duty as examiner with the United States Civil Service Commission, by detail from the Weather Bureau.

Animated by the highest ideals of duty, Mr. Ashley's life was one of great official activity and personal influence. Both in official and private life he adhered to the right without a trace of compromise. Often a great amount of work was suddenly imposed upon him and his assistants, and he never failed to hold himself to duty as strictly as he held his subordinates; withal he was as kind and considerate of the rights and feelings of others as any comrade or brother could be. Although essentially a businessman, a soldier, and a churchman, yet, he knew also how to further the scientific interests of the meteorological service in minor details and in many ways the Weather Bureau has been benefited by his long and faithful career.

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