

9, 1914.

HELBY M. CULLOM; GREAT STATESMAN, DIES AT CAPITAL

Public Life More Than Fifty
Years, Senator for
Thirty.

S A FRIEND OF LINCOLN

few Survivors of Revolution
—Was Real Connecting Link
Between History of Past
and Present.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Former
ator Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois
d here today after an illness of
re than a week, during which he
ered between life and death. His
words were a wish that he
ght have lived to see the com-
on of the national memorial to
raham Lincoln, who was his per-
al friend.

Shelby Moore Cullom's death ended
years of continuous public serv-
that had made him a figure in
merican national life and brought
into official relations with every
ident from Abraham Lincoln to
edrow Wilson. President Taft
said of him:

Why, here's my old friend Uncle
by; he comes nearer connecting
present with the days of Wash-
on than any one else whom I
v."

a ploughboy driving his father's
over the fresh prairie of Illinois
ad known and talked with sur-
s of the revolution and on the
ed foundations of a life begun in
er hardships of a family of
e children had built a career that
him to the Illinois legislature as
mber; speaker of the assembly,
terms in the governor's chair,
e in the national house of repre-
tives, and thirty consecutive
in the United States senate.

nearest living contemporary
ly is "Uncle Joe" Cannon,
senior he was some seven years
th and some three years in na-
service.

rew Jackson was president of
nited States when Mr. Cullom
orn in 1829 down in the Elk
Valley of Kentucky, near the
rand where the Culloms' of
nd and the Coffeys of North
a, drifting westward with the

When he became city attorney of
Springfield he launched upon a pol-
itical career, which for a record of un-
broken service, is unchallenged as
exceeding that of any other American.
Among his first political experiences
was the novelty of being elected and
defeated at the same election. He
was elected to the legislature and de-
feated as an elector on the Fillmore
ticket. Then came the historic Lin-
coln and Douglas debates and Cul-
lom's intimate association with Lin-
coln, whom he followed into the ranks
of the republican party. He presided
over the session of the Illinois house
at which, after Fort Sumter had been
fired upon, Stephen A. Douglas ap-
peared and made his dramatic plea
for the preservation of the union.
During the first of President Lincoln's
second term Mr. Cullom came to the
national house of representatives and
began a work which was practically
interrupted only when he served two
terms as governor of Illinois.

After six years in the house dur-
ing which he had seen the impeach-
ment of Andrew Johnson and taken
part in the making of a most critical
period of American history, he return-
ed to Illinois vowing never again to
take office, only to become speaker of
the legislature and later governor. At
the Philadelphia convention he placed
Grant in nomination for his second
term in which is said to be the short-
est nominating speech ever delivered.
It contained seventy-five words.

Cullom's career as a United States
senator began in 1883 when he re-
signed as governor and was elected to
succeed David Davis. His service in
the senate chamber was an unbroken
one for thirty years—five consecutive
terms—a record excelled only by two
other men, Senator Allison of Iowa,
and Senator Morrill of Vermont.

He entered the senate in 1883, a
spry, active man of 54, he left it in
1913 a fading, tottering man of 84
but with a brain still bright and
active. He used to tell a story of how
one day seeing Senator Vest, very old,
feeble looking and dejected, he said
to Senator Morrill, who then was
some 86:

"Go over and cheer Vest up a bit,"
whereat Morrill walked over and slap-
ping Vest on the shoulder said:
"Cheer up, old man; why, you're
nothing but a boy." His emmoirs of
fifty years of public service finished
only a few months before his final
illness overtook him, concluded after
this manner:

"I have no great fear of death, ex-
cept the natural dread of the physical
pain which usually accompanies it. I
certainly wish beyond any words I
have power to express that I could
have greater assurance that there will
be a reuniting with those we love and
those who have loved us in some fu-
ture world; but from my reading of
the Scripture and even admitting that
there is a hereafter, I cannot find any
satisfactory evidence to warrant such
a belief. Could I believe that I could
meet the loved ones who have gone
before, I do not know but that I
should look forward with pleasure to
the 'passing across.' Not having this
belief, I am quite content to 'stay
where I am as long as I can; and
finally, when old Charon appears to
row me over the River Styx I shall
be ready to go."