

Paymaster General of the Army under appointment from President Grant.

Upon General Alvord's retirement from active service June 8, 1880, General William T. Sherman used the following language in a general order to the army:

"At his own request, Brigadier General Alvord, Paymaster General, U. S. Army, is, by direction of the President, placed on the retired list, under section 1243, Revised Statutes."

"In the course of this long period General Alvord has filled nearly every grade in the army from Brevet 2d Lieutenant to Brigadier General with honor to himself and credit to the service. In the field against hostile Indians, in the war with Mexico, in command on the North Pacific Coast during the last war, and as a subordinate and then Chief of the Pay Department, he has always been found a true, reliable and upright soldier and gentleman. In his retirement General Alvord will find leisure to enjoy the cultivated tastes which ever in the press of public business have proved to him a recreation and a resource."

General Alvord took great interest in science and literature and was a working member in several literary and scientific societies. He was the author of a Geometrical Memoir in "The Tangencies of Circles and Spheres," published in the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. VIII, 1855; a sequel to the same, "The Intersections of Circles and of Spheres," in the American Journal of Mathematics, Vol. V, 1882; "The Interpretation of Imaginary Roots in Questions of Maxima and Minima" in the Mathematical Monthly, 1860; papers on the "Compass Plant" in Vol. II, Proceedings of American Association for the advancement of science, 1849, and the American Naturalist for August, 1882; "On Winter Grazing in the Rocky Mountains," Bulletin of the American Geographical Society, 1883; and of numerous essays and reviews, 1833-82. The degree of A. M. was conferred upon him by the University of Vermont in 1854.

General Alvord was a man of exceptional ability and character. He had at all times the confidence and respect of his superiors in the army, of his literary and scientific associates and of a wide circle of friends throughout the United States. Trained as a soldier and distinguished in his profession, he was also a scholar and writer of repute and a mathematician of a high order. In personal character he was honest to a fault, as pure-minded as a child and a consistent