

## A Suspense

Soon after the adjournment of  
the Senate on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August  
1876. Mr Ferry, the President of  
the Senate, came up to me, and  
said Captain, I want to see you  
for a few minutes in the Marble  
Room. I in my ignorance may  
said sternly Sir, and said a  
polite boy - he then put his  
arm in my and led me to the  
Marble Room - and to my surprise  
I saw quite a crowd. He turned  
my attention to a portrait that  
had been covered over.

and made this remark  
look at that picture and  
see if you can recognize  
it, I must confess that  
I never was so inhaled, in  
my life, before, a Meddley  
Mr Christie, addressed me in  
the House, that is in his kind  
and short address, presenting  
to me a portrait of your  
humble servant, painted by  
order of So. Mary's Senate  
I knew not what to say  
for I was taken by surprise  
not knowing that any such  
think was in contemplation

It was kept a perfect secret  
from me. I knew nothing what  
ever of it. Untill I was brought  
to face it, that was the first  
that I had ever heard or seen  
of the portrait it will be  
seen that it was the intention  
of Senator Anthony to make  
the presentation but was called  
away on some important business  
now can I express my kind regards  
to all of the Senators -  
Words cannot do it, My heart  
overflows with gratitude to  
them all

86

14E 114



below will be found  
a copy of Mr Anthony letter  
and what was said and done  
This is a copy taken from  
The Providence Daily Journal  
of Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> 1876  
ninth page.

87

14E 115

A pleasant incident took place in the Senate wing of the Capitol at Washington, last week. Whoever has looked from the gallery of the Senate has observed a figure which, at first, he might mistake for a statue, so grave and motionless it sits, at the left of the chair. Presently the observer will note that the statue moves, a man, who watches every thing which occurs in the chamber, and sees more than all the pages together, whom he overlooks. This man is Isaac Bassett, assistant doorkeeper of the Senate, in whose service his hair has whitened. It is almost fifty years since Daniel Webster moved that an additional page be appointed—there was then one—so that there might be one on each side of the Senate chamber. The motion prevailed, and Isaac Bassett was appointed. He has remained there ever since; the lad has grown a man; surviving all those whom he originally served, and rising step by step till he has become the second executive officer of the Senate. Last week Mr. Bassett received an evidence of the estimation in which he is held by the Senators. The *Washington Republican* gives the following account of the affair:

A happy and interesting occurrence took place in the room of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate yesterday. It was the presentation to Captain Isaac Bassett, who for upwards of forty years has been a faithful officer and employe of that body, of a handsome portrait of himself, done in oil by Mr. Thorp. Mr. James I. Christie, assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, in the presence of a number of the friends of the recipient, addressed him as follows:

REMARKS OF MR. CHRISTIE.

MR. BASSETT: I am about to perform one of the pleasantest duties of my life. Senator Anthony was selected to present to you this portrait of yourself, but being called away from the Senate he has written a letter, which he has requested me to present to you, together with this token of remembrance and appreciation. The letter is in behalf of a majority of the Senate, of both political parties, who have contributed to this presentation.

SENATOR ANTHONY'S LETTER.

U. S. SENATE CHAMBER, }  
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 3d, 1876. }

Dear Sir: A number of the members of both political parties of the body which you have served so long desire to make you some testimonial of their personal regard and of their high appreciation of the intelligence, the promptness, the accuracy and the conscientious fidelity with which you have discharged the duties of your important office. Your service in the Senate ante-dates the eldest of us. Starting in a youthful and humble capacity, you have risen step by step to one of the highest of its executive offices, and in every grade you have shown the qualities which commended you to the promotion which you have steadily received. With this view we have caused a picture of yourself to be painted by Mr. Thorp, and of which we beg your acceptance.

Hoping that you may long remain in the service in which you have been so eminently useful, and in which you have won the regard of all Senators, I am, in behalf of a large number of the body, very faithfully, yours,  
H. B. ANTHONY.

*Captain Isaac Bassett, Doorkeeper U. S. Senate.*

The captain responded in a few appropriate remarks, gracefully accepting the portrait and the accompanying expressions of regard.

88