

“FOSTERS SPIRIT OF WAR.”

Daniel Drew's Reason for Resigning From G. A. R.

“I resigned from the Grand Army of the Republic for the reason that I could not conscientiously remain a member and continue to be a preacher in the Quaker church. It became a question with me whether I should leave that church or the Grand Army of the Republic, and I chose to remain with the church, of which I have been a minister for the past 30 years.”

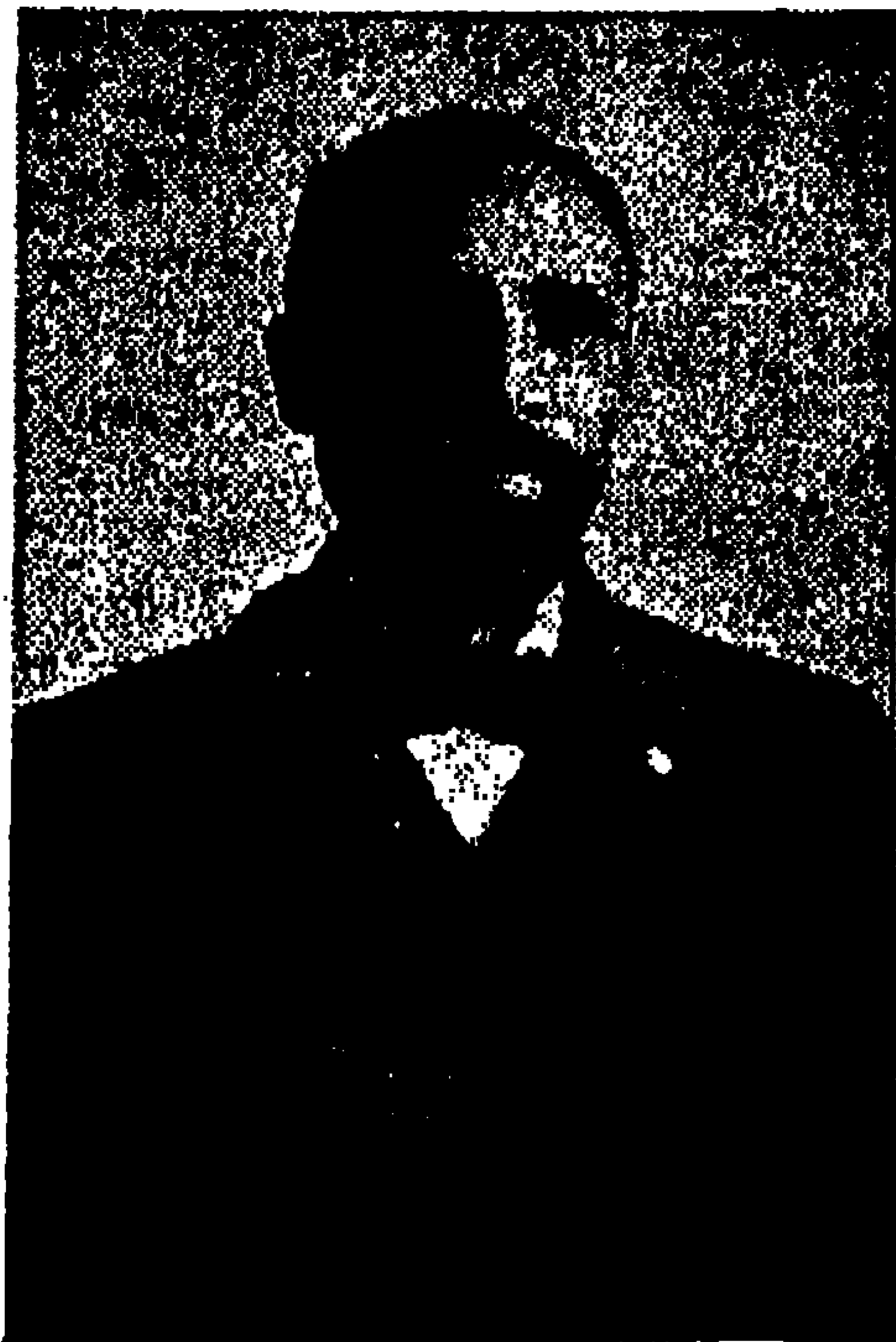
This was the remark of Rev. Daniel Drew, who has resigned from membership in the G. A. R. He went in his resignation as department chaplain, to which place he was elected at the last encampment, and also as a member of Ben' Butler Post, No. 57, at the same time.

“It was a severe struggle,” continued Mr. Drew, “but there was nothing else left for me to do to square my conscience but to leave the order. The Quakers are

opposed to war and everything that foster's the spirit of war, and during the Rebellion they refused to fight on either side. I was a member of the G. A. R. in Arkansas for a number of years. When I came to Portland I was invited to become a member of Ben Butler Post, and I did so, largely in the hope that I might be helpful to the veterans in a spiritual way. While I was a member I was a true member, and no word or act of mine could be construed as antagonistic to the order. I tried to influence the veterans to do right and live soberly. In all my addresses I pointed to the fact that the veterans of the late war should be shining examples of temperance and good citizenship.

"At the recent meetings held in the Friends' Church in Sunnyside a sermon was preached on secret societies and the question of my membership in the G. A. R. was brought squarely before me. I had known before I became a member here that there were some secret features in the order, but I had not been brought to see the situation so fully before. The G. A. R. is a secret organization. By its parades and methods, according to our church, it fosters the spirit of war. Mind you I do not say that it keeps alive the spirit of war between the North and South, for such is not the case. In my

RESIGNS FROM G. A. R.



Rev. Daniel Drew.

resignation from membership in the G. A. R. I do not have to retract anything I have said of the veterans in my public addresses. I honor the veterans for all they have done for my race. While it is true that the Union soldiers did not fight to give us our freedom, that was one of the results of the war, and we might have remained in bondage but for the war. I honor the veterans of the war, and there is nothing that I would not do for the old soldiers. I simply could not remain a member of the G. A. R. conscientiously, and I did what any fair-minded man would have done under the circumstances. I sent in my resignation as the end of the year approaches so as not to interfere with the work of the coming year."

Assistant Adjutant John E. Mayo said yesterday that the Council of Administration will elect a department chaplain at the meeting in January. Mr. Mayo said further: "The assertion that the G. A. R. fosters the spirit of war is absurd. It fosters peace. I doubt if Mr. Drew ever read our ritual. The Quakers have got him; that's all."