

## NOTABLE DEATHS.

MRS. MARY KIDDER MILES died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ada E. North, in Iowa City, on the 3d of May. She was the eldest of six daughters of Maj. Royal Keyes of Jamestown, New York. She received a good academic education at home and studied for a year under Miss Ingham at LeRoy Female Seminary. She was married September 19, 1839, to the Rev. M. N. Miles, and her early married life was spent in western New York and in Pontiac, Michigan. In 1843 she removed with her husband to Illinois, where they spent twenty years in the Home Mission field. In 1858 Mr. Miles became pastor of the Congregational church of Geneseo, Illinois, and for ten years this was her home. Her two eldest sons served during the latter part of the civil war. In 1870, Mr. and Mrs. Miles followed their children to Des Moines. Here, in September, 1889, they celebrated their golden wedding in the presence of their children and grandchildren and many loving friends. The last ten years they have made their home with their daughter in Iowa City, where, in the month of March, Mrs. Miles assisted in celebrating her husband's ninetieth birthday, on which occasion the church of which they were members gave a reception in honor of the aged pair. A month later death came suddenly and painlessly, and the loving wife and mother and earnest Christian woman entered into rest in the seventy-eighth year of her age.

HANNIBAL L. RANN was born in Alexander, New York, January 24, 1824; he died at Manchester, Iowa, May 1, 1897. June 6, 1846, the writer of these lines entered the office of *The Literary Messenger*, published at 148 Main street, Buffalo, New York, by Clement & Faxon, as an apprentice to learn the trade of a printer. The head workman in the office was H. L. Rann, who was already a journeyman, having learned his trade in the office of *The Fredonia* (N. Y.) *Censor*. He was then twenty-two years of age, a remarkably intelligent, promising young man. At that time he wrote occasional poems which were accepted and published in the old *Knickerbocker Magazine*, the lineal predecessor of *The Century and Scribner's*. In 1853 he was one of the editors of *The Rough Notes*, a bright, independent, but short-lived little daily paper in Buffalo. He was connected with other journalistic enterprises until 1871, when he came to Manchester and founded *The Press*. With the exception of a couple of years it remained in his possession until his death. Mr. Rann was one of the old-time printers who thoroughly learned his trade—a practical workman who could do anything and everything about a printing office. He was a neat and tasteful printer in his youth, and became a judicious and widely influential editor in his mature years.

JAMES M. ELDER was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, September 11, 1832, and died at Concord, Iowa, April 7, 1897. He settled at Upper Grove, Hancock county, in 1861, where he first engaged in teaching. Four years later he was elected to the office of Clerk of the District Court. About this time he removed to Concord, where he remained until his death. He was for a time postmaster, and held several other public positions up to the year 1870, when he entered into a partnership with Hon. Harvey N. Brockway, the firm engaging in a general real estate and banking business, which was continued until 1894, when Mr. Elder retired on account of poor health. This firm was very enterprising and prosperous, and succeeded in accumulating a fine property. Politically Mr. Elder was a Democrat, attaining a high position in the councils of his party. He was once nominated for lieutenant governor, but was not elected. He was a man of much general culture, an amateur naturalist, and a pronounced

friend of the birds. He devoted considerable attention to horticulture, and when his fruits were ripe was always glad to see his "feathered friends" get their share. He was a kind father, a loving husband, an entertaining host, a broad-minded Christian gentleman.

JOSEPH A. RHOMBERG was born in the Tyrol, Austria, in 1833. He died in Dubuque, May 17, 1897. He came to the United States in 1852, and the following year located in Dubuque where he resided until the day of his death. It is stated that his entire capital when he reached Dubuque consisted of but twenty-five cents. He was first employed by Wellington & Blanchard, agents for a line of steamboats. But he saved his money and was soon able to enter into business on his own account. He was connected for a time with a distillery, but later in life became a successful railroad operator. He helped to complete the Dubuque division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line, and afterwards held several important positions in its management. He was president when the road was sold to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Company. After this he became prominently identified with the Dubuque street railway, and at his death was sole owner of the property. He became widely noted as one of the leading capitalists and business men of Dubuque and northeastern Iowa. He was handsome in person, genial in manners; popular with his many employes, and in business circles wielded a wide influence.

ASAHEL AMARIAH CASE died at Atlantic, Iowa, March 15, 1897, at the age of eighty-five years. "Father" Case came to Iowa in 1840, settling in Denmark, where he remained seventeen years. He then removed to Lewis, Cass county, and from there to Atlantic, where he spent the last years of his life. He was a man of vigorous intellect, and, although for the last fifteen years he had been deprived of sight, the powers of his mind remained unimpaired. In early days he enjoyed the friendship of Gov. James W. Grimes, Judge Thomas W. Clagett, Hon. D. F. Miller, and other men prominent in the public life of the state. In those pioneer times his hospitable home was a recognized center from which the best influences emanated. In Congregational church circles he was especially well-known, for to that organization he freely devoted his best services. In 1843 he attended the council which ordained the "Iowa Band," and at its close drove a number of the young preachers to Burlington. It was granted to "Father" Case to celebrate recently the sixtieth anniversary of his marriage with the wife who survives him.

A. P. DURLIN was born in Fredonia, New York, August 30, 1819, and died in Erie, Pennsylvania, April 30, 1897. He will be remembered by the older citizens of Lyons, Iowa, as a pioneer resident of that place. In early years Mr. Durlin learned the printer's art in the office of *The Erie Observer* and became one of its editors in 1843. It was then the only Democratic organ in the county and through his able management became a power in the state. In 1856 he removed to Lyons, Iowa, where he purchased *The Lyons Advocate* and was for years recognized as one of the strongest editors in the state. He was also appointed postmaster at Lyons. In 1874 he returned to Erie, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Durlin was a man of positive character and intense convictions, an "upright and downright man," but his public spirit, his honesty, sincerity and great activity won for him the highest respect.

THEODORE SCHREINER, known in Masonic circles as "Father" Schreiner, died at Mt. Pleasant April 15, 1897, at the age of eighty-five years. He had been an official in the Grand Lodge of Iowa for nearly forty years and was the best known and most prominent Mason in the State, with the ex-

ception of Grand Secretary T. S. Parvin. Mr. Schreiner was born in Germany, June 15, 1811, and came to America in 1833. In 1855 he removed to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, becoming one of the pioneer residents of that place. He has ever since been identified with the public interests of the town and was at the time of his death one of its best known citizens. His prominence as a Mason and the fact that for fourteen years he served as door-keeper of the Iowa senate, gave him an extended circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the State. His ready sympathy, large heart and kindly manner endeared him to all.

JOSEPH UTTER was born in Clermont county, Ohio, March 31, 1833; came with his parents to Burlington, Iowa, in 1836; learned the printer's trade; was first sergeant, Co. E, First Iowa Infantry, and served under Gen. Lyon at Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861. His comrade in that company, Eugene F. Ware, now of Topeka, Kansas, says of him: "No finer non-commissioned officer or better man was sent out from Iowa. He was vigorous, strict in attention to duty, conscientious and tireless. His habits were good, discipline perfect, and his good nature constant." From July, 1862, he was Captain of Co. G 25th Iowa, and served to the close of the war. He died at Denver, Colorado, May 6, 1897, and his remains were interred in Aspen Grove cemetery, Burlington, May 9th, a number of his comrades in the 25th Iowa acting as pall-bearers.

MRS. HARRIETT ANKENEY, widely known as "Grandma" Ankeney, died in Des Moines April 18, 1897, at the advanced age of ninety-six. Mrs. Ankeney came of German ancestry, her father being one of the pioneer preachers of the German reformed church in Berlin, Pennsylvania, where, in 1801, she was born. Here she spent the early years of her married life, removing later to Millersburg, Ohio, at a time when the trip was made by wagon. In 1867 she came with her husband to Iowa and has for the past thirty years been a resident of Des Moines and Polk county. Her strong, bright personality and the remarkable activity and vigor which she retained to the very last, made her life a powerful influence not only in her unusually large circle of relatives and friends but in the entire community.

JOHN V. CRUM, the famous young Iowa athlete, died after a brief illness, in Des Moines, May 3, 1897. He was born in Bedford, Iowa, September 3, 1872, was graduated with honor from the State University in 1894, and the following year from the law course. He was probably the fastest amateur sprinter in the world, and had won renown for his Alma Mater in many contests in the east as well as west. He was a high-minded young man, of clean personal habits and highest moral character, representing the best element in college athletics. As has been said, "It is Crum the man and not the athlete whose memory will endure in greatest potency." His early death is a sad loss to an unusually large circle of devoted friends.

MRS. JOEZELL WILLIAMS BLANCHARD, wife of State Senator L. C. Blanchard, was born at Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1850, and died there April 22, 1897. She was the youngest daughter of Hon. Micajah T. Williams, a distinguished Iowa pioneer, and one of the leading lawyers and legislators of our state. Mrs. Blanchard had lived in Oskaloosa all her life. She was a graduate of the Presbyterian Seminary, Mt. Pleasant, and a woman of many accomplishments. Attractive personally, and possessed of a bright intellect, the distinguishing features of her character were amiability and kindness to all with whom she was associated. Her acquaintance throughout the State was large, and her early death was widely deplored.

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