

NOTABLE DEATHS.

MATT PARROTT was born at Schoharie, New York, May 11, 1837; he died at the Sanitarium at Battle Creek, Michigan, whither he had gone for medical treatment, April 21, 1900. He was the son of William and Marie (Beck) Parrott, natives of England, who came to this country in 1833. They resided two years in Albany, New York, before they settled in Schoharie. He was the third of ten children in a family of quite limited circumstances. He attended the district schools until his tenth year, when he became a student in the Schoharie Academy, where he paid his tuition by sweeping the rooms and building the fires. He remained in this school three years when he entered the office of *The Schoharie Patriot* to learn the trade of printer. That was in the days when the apprentices—"printer's devils," as they were called—had to do every species of work from washing the rollers and sweeping the office, to setting type, working the hand presses, and folding and mailing the papers, the result of which was, that when an ambitious boy of fair intellect and good habits had completed his time, he came out an excellent printer, fully equipped for almost any position in a publishing house in city or country. After his four years of country printing office tuition, in what has been often aptly called "the poor boy's college," he started out in 1854, seeking employment as a journeyman printer. He wrought at his trade for two years when he came West, stopping a short time in Chicago where he worked on "Long John" Wentworth's *Chicago Democrat*. August, 1857, found him working upon *The Evening News* at Davenport, Iowa. A little later he connected himself with the well-remembered publishing firm of Luse, Lane & Co., in that city, who were then bringing out that now rare historical work the Debates in the Constitutional Convention of 1857. He was also employed a short time on *The Burlington Hawk-Eye*. But in December, 1857, he became a partner in *The Eureka*, at Anamosa, with C. L. D. Crockwell, who afterwards sold his interest to Edmund Booth. In 1862 he retired from *The Eureka*, and started *The Advocate* at Morris, Illinois, an enterprise which did not prove successful. Returning to Iowa, he settled in Waterloo, where he formed a partnership with J. J. Smart, and purchased *The Reporter*, with which he was connected until the end of his life. James L. Girton and L. P. Sherman were at different times partners with him, but he became sole owner of the establishment in 1883. His two sons, William L. and Louis G., were admitted as partners soon afterwards, the firm becoming Matt Parrott & Sons. Mr. Parrott was three times elected state binder, his service extending from May 1, 1879, to January 23, 1884. He served three terms as mayor of Waterloo, and eight years as state senator. He was elected lieutenant-governor in 1895. For this service he was most admirably fitted, not only by reason of his wide and varied intelligence, his spirit of judicial fairness, but by his experience as a senator. The State senate never had a better presiding officer. He became a candidate for governor in 1897, and at one time his nomination seemed well-nigh assured. That he would have given the State a wise, conservative, able and honest administration was confidently believed by his thousands of friends. But the convention of his party decided otherwise, and while he loyally accepted its decree, it was feared that his disappointment over that result was one of the elements of his physical decline. He was a man of such probity and purity of character that the breath of slander never touched him. He acted in his business relations and in political life with rare conscientiousness, leaving a record which is without blot or stain. He had been a leading member of the Protestant Episcopal church for many years and his name is a prominent one in the annals of Iowa Masonic history. He may also be regarded as one of the founders of the Historical

Department of Iowa, for as editor, senator, and lieutenant-governor, he earnestly supported the work from its commencement.

GEORGE S. SMITH was born in Canton, Mass., July 13, 1826; he died at Fort Payne, Ala., Feb. 2, 1900. During his early boyhood his parents removed to North Charlestown, N. H., settling on a rocky hillside farm, where George grew to manhood. He attended the winter schools in his district and two terms at an academy in an adjoining town. After some considerable experience as a merchant's clerk at North Charlestown, he came west and settled in Rockton, Ill. Here he embarked in merchandising and was also a partner in a boot and shoe manufacturing business in Dubuque, Iowa. This enterprise, however, did not prove successful and was discontinued. He then went to Webster City, Iowa, where he engaged in the land business with Kendall Young, L. L. Treat, and his brother, Cyrus Smith. One of their enterprises was the laying out of the town of Irvington, on a most beautiful site a few miles south of Algona, about the year 1857. They made considerable improvements at this point, but the town of Algona had acquired such a start that the Irvington enterprise had to be abandoned. After this, Mr. Smith became a traveling man for a wholesale house in Chicago, and was for a time very successful. During the ten years he was so employed he made investments in real estate in Chicago and Colorado, the most of which proved highly remunerative. He also became a large land owner in the vicinity of Renwick, Humboldt county, Iowa. After this business career, he returned to his old home in New Hampshire where he was elected one of the selectmen, and also representative and senator in the state legislature. In 1896 he returned to Webster City where he remained about two years. He then removed to Fort Payne, Ala., where he resided up to the date of his death. He was a prominent and honored pioneer resident of Webster City, taking an active part in local affairs. A good and true man in every relation in life, he deserves to be remembered among the early settlers of northwestern Iowa.

HENRIETTA SICARTAR, familiarly known as "Aunt Hetty Coleman," died at Keokuk, Iowa, March 12, 1900. She was born some eighty years ago, in a camp of the Stockbridge Indians, at Stockbridge, Conn. Her father was of mixed French and Indian blood and her mother a squaw. When she was but three years old her mother was killed by accident, and Henrietta was taken into the family of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman, who then resided at Hartford. The Colemans removed to this State in 1863 and settled at Montrose, Lee county. After the death of her foster-mother, Mrs. Coleman, several years later, Henrietta resided at Keokuk, where she became well and favorably known. *The Gate City* of March 15 paid a fine tribute to the aged Indian woman. She was bright and intelligent, an omnivorous reader, an interesting person to meet, though her facilities for obtaining an education had been very limited. She always possessed Indian traits—never forgetting a favor and always resentful of ill-treatment. She excelled in all home industries, such as cooking, sewing and other housewifely work. Her memory of early times in Iowa was bright and clear to the end of her days. She was well acquainted with Black Hawk and other noted Indians, and loved the wild forest life of her people notwithstanding she had spent her days among the whites. She joined the Presbyterians in early life and remained a member of that church down to her death. In her old age and reduced circumstances Mrs. A. W. Kilbourne kindly looked after her welfare.

LOBE ALFORD was born at Hope, Maine, March 8, 1838; he died at Waterloo, Iowa, March 30, 1900. He was prepared for college at Kent's Hill Seminary, and later entered Union College at Schenectady. In May, 1861,

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