

The Sudden Death of Mr. Matthew Faris.

Whole communities as well as individual members thereof are subject to unusual shocks, and to Bradford and vicinity has fallen such an experience. When the news, with almost lightning rapidity spread about, that on Monday evening Mr. Matthew Faris had suddenly expired, a wave of grief and gloom o'erspread our town. Was it not but a week or so ago that Mr. Faris and family settled so comfortably in our midst? Was it not but yesterday he was seen upon our streets? Thus the people queried for but few had heard of his short illness and seeming slight accident. A week ago as Mr. Faris endeavored to draw a tightly lodged nail, it suddenly loosened, causing the hammer to give, unexpectedly and strike his side, fracturing a rib. Unconscious of being injured even to this extent, Mr. Faris went in and out, and before aware of it had caught cold. Slight congestion of the left lung followed, but was held in check, and controlled so that the attending physician on Saturday, notwithstanding any fear of Friday evening's gathering at the home, found his patient in good condition and expected no further need of his services. Contrary to this, however, a chronic form of heart trouble had been aggravated, and suddenly loomed up. Mr. Faris not finding himself so well on Sabbath nor yet again on Monday, had his physician in attendance. Quiet and care were advised as quite necessary, but Mr. Faris feeling, as he thought, well enough to sit up a brief spell, after eating his tea did so, and while chatting comfortably with Mrs. Faris and his son Peter, without a moment's warning passed away. Thus, what had been but a couple of evenings previous, a house of gladness and joy, was suddenly converted into a house of mourning and desolation. The friends who then rejoiced together now mingled their tears with those bereft. Slowly but surely the stern truth appeared evident. Mr. Faris had manifested extreme pleasure and interest in his new home, so recently fitted up to his satisfaction, and looked forward with joy to spending the evening of his life in comfort, surrounded by, and within reach, of his children and grandchildren. But he has already entered upon that "rest which remaineth for the people of God" in that "house of God not made with hands eternal in the heavens." It seemed significant that amidst the joy of Friday eve, there should have been woven a prophetic thread when were sung the tender chords of "Lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, lead thou me on." And again when by request of Mr. Faris himself were sung the soul touching words of

"Old Black Joe," "I'm coming, I'm coming. For my head is bending low, I hear their gentle voices calling Old Black Joe."

Mr. Faris was born in West Gwillimbury on Jan. 26, 1831, and was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Faris. He was one of a family of ten children, four of whom survive only, Messrs. Robert and James Faris and Mrs. Alex. Sutherland, of Tecumseth, and Mrs. Jas. Bowles, of West Gwillimbury. He remained at home till 1856, when he married Susannah Goodfellow, daughter of the late John Goodfellow when they started life together on The Maple Farm, Scotch Settlement. Six children blessed their union, five of whom survive, viz: John, Peter and Will and Miss Kate Faris, and Mrs. Jno. Sinclair. For forty-eight years Mr. and Mrs. Faris shared the joys and sorrows of wedded life and four weeks ago moved into this village to spend the remainder of their days in quiet life. Mr. Will Faris, recently married to Miss B. Strong, now occupies the homestead. Deceased was an exemplary christian man and for many years was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church. In public matters he took more or less an active part and though of a firm, resolute character honesty of purpose marked his every step. For a number of years he served his township faithfully and well as Treasurer, which position he held at the time of his death. The name of Matthew Faris was almost a household word in the township, and no man was probably more respected nor yet will be more greatly missed.

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon. The service at the house, conducted by Rev. Dr. Smith, was very largely attended, and the funeral cortege which wended its way to the Scotch Line burying grounds was composed of over one hundred conveyances.

"Friend after friend departs, who hath not lost a friend."

The following from a distance were present at the funeral: Mrs. Stevenson, Huntsville; Mrs. Dodds, Jos. Goodfellow and Miss Mary E., Barrie; Dr. Forrest, M. Scanlon, Jno. Lucas, Toronto; J. S. Duff, M. P. P., Cookstown; Wm. English, Thompsonville; Hugh Cobourn and John Cobourn, Cayner.

A memorial service in connection with the death of Mr. Matthew Faris, will be held in the Presbyterian Church in this village on Sunday evening. The pastor, Rev. Dr. Smith, will conduct the services. A similar service will also be held in the Scotch Settlement Church in the morning, at the usual hour.