

The Late Thomas S. Graham.

It was with profound sorrow that our citizens heard of the death of Mr. T. S. Graham, which occurred on Sunday evening, about 7.30 o'clock. It was not unexpected, however, as it was known for several weeks that his illness was one unto death. He was surrounded by his devoted wife and family and two sisters and conscious of their presence he passed calmly and quietly away. Deceased had been ailing for over two years. In January he was obliged to give up all business and from that time onward was confined most of the time to the house. During the last few months he suffered a great deal but bore it all with christian patience. His faith in a Risen Redeemer was strong. He had no doubts or fears as to the hereafter and frequently enjoyed sweet talks during his illness with his affectionate wife. The cause of his death was pernicious anemia.

Deceased was born in Brock, Ont., in the year 1837. He was one of a family of seven children, being the oldest son. His father died at a comparatively early age leaving him but eleven years old. At the age of 17, in May, 1854, Mr. Graham came to Bradford and apprenticed himself for four years to harness-making with Mr. Thos. Wallace. At that time Mr. Wilson B. Scott, who is now a resident of our village, was also an apprentice in the same shop. Having thus acquired a good trade both young men struck out to try their fortunes under the Stars and Stripes, Mr. Graham going to Fairport, N.Y., and Mr. Scott to Kentucky. In three years both parties returned about the same time and formed a partnership, buying out Mr. John Davidson, who was then in business. For twenty-nine years the partnership existed, and we think we are correct in saying that not a business jar occurred in all those years, which were marked with great success. The two families resided under one roof for over twenty years, during which time the utmost harmony prevailed.

It was in the year 1868, on the 25th March, that Mr. Graham was married to Miss Anne Drifill, and seven children blessed their union, four of whom are living, Harvey, Charles and Victor, and Mrs. T. W. W. Evans. The partnership of Scott & Graham ceased in 1891, when Mr. E. P. Snow, who is now in business here, purchased their interest and good will. Mr. Graham shortly before retiring from business was appointed to the Clerkship of the Second Division Court, which position he held up to the time of his death.

His church life stands out prominently. At the age of 18 he became a member of the Methodist church, under the pastorate of the then Rev. J. now Dr. Hunter. In all the years intervening up to about the commencement of his last illness he was an active and willing worker in the church and a very liberal giver. He was fond of music and the Choir of the Church had the benefit of his services for over 38 years, and part of that time as leader. On his retirement from the Choir about two years ago, owing to illness, he was made the recipient of a handsome Morris Chair, also a beautifully worded address.

He was an honored member of the Bench of Magistrates for over 18 years. In educational matters he always took an active interest and at the time of his death was a member of the High School Board. The Public Library Board was also graced with his presence for years, and the Agricultural Society found in him a most valuable officer as Treasurer. In fact he was identified with all good causes, and his many acts of kindness bestowed from time to time will cause his memory to be perpetuated for years to come.

We must not overlook mentioning his connection with the A. O. U. W., an order of which he was a member and which he highly esteemed. He never begrudged what he had paid in during his membership of 21 years, knowing that it was doing good unto others. Members of the Order at their last meeting bore testimony to his many excellent qualities of head and heart.

His Municipal experience extended over some seventeen years, and for nine consecutive years he was honored with the Reeveship, the highest gift in the hands of the ratepayers. When he voluntarily retired from municipal life it was generally conceded that during his participation therein no man more zealously advocated the cause of the people in matters tending to their general well-being.

Mr. Graham, from the smallest beginnings, and with a very limited education, and solely by his own efforts, placed himself in a position of affluence and influence in commercial, municipal and social affairs, which few attain to, and which is a splendid example of what patience, energy and honesty can accomplish in this fair land of ours. His christian character and principles of integrity and uprightness are too well-known to require any comment.

On Tuesday afternoon all that was mortal of deceased was laid to rest in Mt. Pleasant cemetery, borne by six Brother Workmen and accompanied by about fifty of the brethren who took part in the burial service. Rev. Mr. Young, his pastor, assisted by Rev. Mr. Ferguson, of Alliston, a former pastor, conducted the service at the house. Mr. Ferguson took occasion to eulogize some of the sterling characteristics of the deceased. A large number of people were present at the house to show their respect and esteem for the departed.

The floral tributes were beautiful, and consisted in part of the following: An anchor, bearing the words ex-Reeve, from the Corporation of Bradford; a harp from the Methodist Church Choir; wreaths from the Delta Upsilon Fraternity of Toronto, the Bradford A. O. U. W. and High School Board, besides others from friends.

Those from a distance in attendance at the funeral were:—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Glendinning, of Manilla; Mrs. Edward Brown and Mrs. Jno. Batting, of Toronto, sisters of the deceased; Mr. W. Maybee, of St. Catharines; Mr. H. Batting, Toronto; Mr. H. Brown, Toronto; Miss Bertha Graham, Hallock, Minnesota; Mr. D. McIvor, and Mr. E. Donald, of Harrisburg, Pa.