

G. H. Iowa, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 1903

MARGARET JANE COOPER.

Memorial services of the late Mrs. Margaret Jane Cooper were conducted at the Congregational church at three o'clock Sunday afternoon by Prof. S. J. Buck, Prof. L. E. Parker, life long friends of the family, and Rev. E. M. Villum, their former pastor, who had loved the kindest hospitality of

Colonel Cooper's home during the early days of his pastorate here. The music was furnished by Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Heidel, Mr. Harriman and Mr. Walker. The bearers were Dr. S. A. Cravath, J. P. Lyman, G. H. Hamlin, W. O. Willard, E. S. Bartlett, and D. S. Morrison.

The husband and companion for more than fifty years, who had traveled across plains and over mountains for a distance of two thousand miles with the body of his wife that he might be present at the memorial services and at the grave when the body was consigned to its last resting place, was unable to be present on account of sickness.

Margaret Jane Loughridge was born at Mansfield, Ohio, Aug. 31, 1829. Her death occurred Dec. 18, 1903, at Campbell, Santa Clara Co., Calif., aged 74. Her mother died when she was about eight years of age. She lived at Mansfield till she went to college at Oberlin, Ohio, at the age of about 18. In her college course she was the companion and intimate friend of Mrs. Sarah C. Parker, and they often sang together in the large choir at Oberlin.

She had very nearly completed the course of study in the institution when

the circumstances and exigencies of her self-support rendered it impracticable for her to remain and take her diploma. In later years she studied French and German while her husband was U. S. consul at Glasgow, Scotland; so that by any estimate of fair equivalents, she had more than fulfilled the conditions of graduation at Oberlin. The degree was offered but not accepted. It happened there she met, as a college classmate, Samuel F. Cooper, and when he had graduated in 1857 they were married by Prof. James Monroe, Aug. 28 of that year. Mr. Cooper became principal of the public schools of Youngstown, Ohio, and Mrs. Cooper was elected by the board of education to be the assistant in the high school. They taught two years at that place and then were similarly employed at Akron, O., for the next two years, 1853-5. They came to Grinnell in 1856 where they taught for one year.

This place since then has been the real home of the family. The crisis of '61-65 called her husband into the service of his country. Leaving the army as a colonel when the war was over, one year was spent as judge of the military department of Arkansas, and three years afterward as clerk of U. S. district court in the jurisdiction of an old army friend and comrade, Judge Caldwell of Little Rock, Ark. This time of four years was spent by Mrs. Cooper in Arkansas. Then followed four years while Col. Cooper was U. S. consul at Glasgow, Scotland. Some of this time was spent by Mrs. Cooper on the continent. Four times she crossed the Atlantic during that quadrennium.

August 29, 1901, was the date of their golden wedding, the fiftieth anniversary. A few guests who found it inconvenient to take seats in their parlor in Campbell met here in Grinnell at the same hour that a loving cup was presented them in behalf of Grinnell friends, as we were credibly informed, very much to their surprise.

Although not blessed with children of their own, yet they adopted a young son and a daughter who grew up in their home to years of maturity.

They have aided a goodly number of young people to secure an education. Many of them and a host of friends will mourn the loss of this good woman who after more than threescore and ten years has at last been gathered home.

Few now live who have been so long identified with our town as have the Coopers, fewer still whose names and helpful service have been so wrought into all the steps of city progress. The Merchants National Bank is a monument to Col. Cooper's business sagacity. The "Cooper School" is a memento of their early educational service in town. Their benefactions to individuals and to institutions have been constant and generous. Oberlin and Iowa College have been eminently favored by them. Neither they nor their generous deeds can be forgotten while the history of the town is remembered.