

9 - Mrs. AMELIA J. HAMLIN, 1835

The funeral of Mrs. Amelia J. Hamlin took place yesterday afternoon from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. H. P. Proctor. A large number of relatives and friends of the family gathered at the place, and among them many early friends of Mrs. Hamlin and early residents of this city. Mrs. Hamlin was a daughter of Horatio Perry, one of the early settlers of Huron county, Ohio, and was born March 1, 1827. Jan. 25, 1848, she was married to Rev. Homer Hamlin at Elyria, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin resided in Ohio until 1854, when Mr. Hamlin, whose health was not good, came to Iowa and with Hon. J. B. Grinnell and Dr. T. Holyoke located the town of Grinnell. In 1855 Mrs. Hamlin rejoined her husband here, and her home was here with but one interruption since. Two children were born to them in Ohio and three here. ( 9-13-1885 )

Mrs. Hamlin, after her children grew up and were settled, went to Ohio to nurse her aged father, and lived there seven years, or until Mr. Perry died at the age of 101 years. She returned to Grinnell and continued to reside here till her death. She was active in all good work and helped organize the Congregational church here, contributing much by her musical talents to the services of the church. Three of her children survive her--George H., cashier of the Merchants' National Bank here; Charles E., a real estate agent at Pasadena, Cal.; and Mrs. Emma P. Proctor of this city.

Rev. E. M. Vittum conducted the services, assisted by Rev. Prof. Parker. A quartette, consisting of Mrs. G. M. Christian, Miss Kate Hibbard and Messrs. S. H. Herrick and J. C. Walker, sang the hymns selected for the occasion. Rev. Mr. Vittum read a passage of Scripture and Prof. Parker made a brief address, substantially as follows: Forty years ago three married men stepped on this spot where Grinnell now stands to locate a new town. The lives of these three men have been completed, and the second one of their wives, Mrs. Amelia J. Hamlin, is to be buried to day. She was born in Ohio sixty-eight years ago, was educated at Ipswich, Mass., under Prof. and Mrs. John G. Cowles. Near January 1, 1854, the attention of Rev. Homer Hamlin, her husband, was called to Mr. Grinnell's notice in the New York Independent of a plan to organize a settlement in the west where religion, education and reform should be leading factors. Mr. Hamlin was a semi-invalid; such a home for themselves and their daughters was tempting. In a few months he, and J. B. Grinnell and Thos. Holyoke founded this town. Mrs. Hamlin brought with her scholarly tastes, a somewhat poetic temperament, a musi-

cian's skill, a sincere generosity, the heroism of service, and a beautiful self-forgetfulness. Such qualities compelled her to be prominent in the young community, and made her most helpful. During her forty years of almost uninterrupted residence here her character lost none of its beauty or attractiveness, but bound to her such old and new friends as it is a perpetual honor to possess. During the first years of the town the Fugitive Slave Law made it perilous to harbor a runaway slave, but no family braved the terrors of that discreditable law so often and so unostentatiously as did the Hamlins. Her profoundest thoughts were uttered in life more than in speech. She honored her church membership by a beautiful service in all charity and religious activity. Her children may well call her blessed.

Mr. Vittum said when he received Mrs. Hamlin into the church after her absence in Ohio he did not know that she had been the leader of the music in the old church and in the city in the early days, so modest and unassuming was she in all that concerned herself. He came to know her better through her grand children, and through their love for her. This he thought was as she would wish it to be, to be known through those she loved and who loved her.

At the close of the services and after the friends and relatives had taken a last look at the well-remembered features, the pall bearers, Messrs. R. M. Haines, H. D. Works, E. S. Bartlett, C. N. Perry, Wm. Beaton and S. H. Herrick, bore the remains to the hearse and they were taken to Hazelwood for interment beside those of her husband.

A Tribute Mrs. Amelia J. Hamlin.

Rev. Homer Hamlin, the husband of our deceased friend, was one of the four who decided upon the location of the town of Grinnell in 1854. His family were then in Ohio and came after a home had been prepared for them here. They had two daughters, Mary and Hattie. On the arrival of Mrs. Hamlin it soon be-

came known that she was skilled in the use of the piano (here was the first one brought to the settlement) and her services were secured gratuitously to play the melody at our Sabbath exercises, where such aid was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Hamlin was consumptive and came west with the hope of prolonging life which end seemed to be secured, but it proved too late for permanent benefit. After a few years he passed away, leaving to her the care of five children. She was inclined to literary work and in the early days it was said of her that she was an excellent theologian. Her aged father had spent some time here with her, but wishing to live in his Ohio home and her children arriving at adult years she went there to care for him and remained until his death a few years since. Soon after his decease she returned here to live among her children and old friends, who gladly welcomed her and have greatly enjoyed her society. Her later life here is well known. She identified herself with all forms of work in church and Sunday school, was a member of Mrs. Magoun's class and sometimes taught in her absence, was actively interested in the Missionary Societies, both Home and Foreign, serving as secretary of the Home Missionary Union the past year. She was an officer of the W. C. T. U., also a member of the Literary Club and its secretary for a time. In all these gatherings she will be greatly missed. Kind and thoughtful as a neighbor, we bound with deep regret of her illness and hoped she would soon be able to join with us as before, but in all wise Providence has ordered otherwise and what in loss to us must be infinite gain to her. Especially do we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family--sons, daughter and grandchildren, commending them to the loving Saviour who knows the hearts of His own, and is afflicted in all their afflictions. May the angel of His presence be ever near to comfort and sustain. A lesson from her life is that of faithfulness to every known duty. She was talented and efficient and whatever she attempted to do was well done. Truly "the memory of the just is blessed."

9-17-05 Mrs. J. B. Grinnell.