12-23 IN MEMORIAM 1886

Mrs. Nancy C. Holyoke, wife of the late Dr. Thomas Holyoke, died at her home in this city, at 10 o'clock A.M., on the 21st inst., reaching the age of 60 years, having lived in the city of a quarter of a century. Her death was attributed to inflammation of the stomach.

Dr. Wm. L. Holyoke, the eldest son, residing in Los Angeles, did not reach home before the mother's death. The other two sons, Dr. Edward L., of Lincoln, Neb., and Dr. R. A. Holyoke, of Pacific Junction, Iowa, reached home some days since.

After brief services at the house, by general request of friends, the remains were brought to the church, in charge of Mr. R. M. Kellom, and the pupil organs were C. H. J. Spencer, Prof. J. B. Buxton, W. S. Leake, D. W. Norris, Rev. J. M. Chambers and Frank Wyatt. The early settlers occupied the body of the church, and a quartet composed of Messrs. Walker and Ayres, Mrs. Christiansen and Miss Howell, with Miss Bosworth at the organ, furnished music for the occasion; Prof. E. A. Phelps of Chicago, being present, sang a funeral dirge. Dr. Magoun and the pastor spoke briefly as friend and pastor, and conducted the services. Mr. Grinnell made an address, the substance of which is here given in a biographical sketch.

ADDRESS BY HOM. J. B. GRINNELL.

When the prophet Samuel died, all the Israelites gathered together and lamented him. It is near ten years since our people were in mourning for the honored pioneer and beloved Christian physician, Thomas Holyoke. Today we are moved by the kindred griefs and solemnities of the occasion in the death of the wife of him who was a worthy companion on an eventful pilgrimage, which ended at the setting of the sun on Christmas eve, counting a life of 60 years, lacking 56 days.

Miss Nancy C. Clark was a native of Searsport, Me., and an attractive, vivacious lady, who at the age of 20 years, became the wife of Dr. Holyoke, a practical gentleman and skillful in his native town. In this city in 1864, he was a surveyor of the first to build a home, and held a most honorable position in our society in its formative, financial, political and church history, and in the service of a quarter of a century, found a worthy companion in her for whom we mourn today.

It was my fortune to be the companion of Mrs. Holyoke and Mrs. Anna Dixby with their infant boys from Iowa City to the grave where their husbands were meeting the first rude cabin. That acquaintance brought me inspiration and secured an admiration for qualities which fostered friendships, opening through all the joys and adversities of thirty-two years. Mrs. Holyoke was a quiet listener and singer at our first outdoor grave meeting at Oakley's. Her musical talent was welcome in church services at the long home and in her own home and church but not less welcome than a teacher in the first Sabbath school. Of the twenty names composing the first Congregational church organized in 1855, to be found here now called 60 a majority of that little band had have crossed the river. If the name of more conspicuous persons, of whom habits and health allowed 6, or service, I can think of none more eminent and devoted to the purposes in founding this settlement.

Nancy Holyoke
The Signal - Grinnell
Jan. 1, 1887

Another Pioneer Gone.

Mrs. Nancy C. Holyoke, wife of the late Dr. Thos. Holyoke, died at her home in this city on Monday last, the 26th inst., at the age of 60 years. Funeral services were held at the Congregational church, and largely attended by the old residents of the city. After remarks by the pastor and by Dr. Magoun, Hon. J. B. Grinnell delivered a touching eulogy and biographical sketch of the life of the honored dead.