

12-25 OBITUARY. 1906

CHARLES N. PERRY.

The death of the friend last Saturday whom we in Grinnell have known so long as "C. N. Perry" took from us a most valued citizen. He came to us in 1861 when he was about twenty eight years old. Most of those years had been spent in his native town of Manlius, N. Y. His young bride, formerly Miss Mary Louise Sickles, had taken his name a few months before at Manlius, Ill. (d. 12-22)

Forty five years ago young people were very welcome to our small town, a dot on a great prairie, and such young people pre-eminently as the Perrys were. With youthful enthusiasm, keen intelligence, and workful purpose he united public and private interests in his thoughts and efforts. His business as a dealer in farm implements was established nearly forty years ago and was successful. But he was not permitted to confine his efforts to his own private affairs. He was needed in our city council during several terms, as mayor of the city, and as county supervisor. In all these offices he rendered wise and memorable service. The county cannot forget and least of all can Grinnell do so, for he was our wise and fair-minded mayor when the cyclone of '82 brought such destruction of property and of life. The benevolence of the sympathetic placed \$150,000 in his hands and in the committee to be allotted to the sufferers. It was a delicate and difficult service. Suspicion of fraud or of unfairness was easy, but no such suspicion is remembered against Mr. Perry. There was no ground for any. His name must be connected with that cyclone in terms of honor in all the history of the town.

Mr. Perry was always and generously interested in politics for to him politics was not the avenue to office either state or national, but a name for good government in theory and in practice. He was a great reader through a great reign of thought. The volume on his desk at last for immediate reading was a translation of Herodotus.

Into his home came three children of his own, George M., Mary E., and Harriet B. A niece of his also was there from early girlhood till she became the wife of Mr. Leonard Walker, and two grand-children entered it after the death of their mother, the wife of Judge George M. Perry. To be in such a family was a rare privilege, in an atmosphere of intelligence, wide human sympathy, and a purpose to be helpful to one another and to those beyond the threshold. He was precious in his family, honored wherever known, and we shall remember him with gratitude.

All who had been members of his family were present at the funeral, Dec. 24th.

CHARLES N. PERRY.

In the passing of Mr. Perry, Grinnell loses a man who has for over four decades been one of its most prominent citizens. A man of strong convictions, he was quiet in the expression of them, and yet has always been a strong factor in molding the public sentiment of this community. It has been his part at various times to be a leading factor in settling perplexing public problems, and he showed himself to be a man of rare ability. As mayor at the time of the cyclone and chairman of the board of supervisors at the time of Rowe's defalcation, he found abundant opportunity to exercise

diplomacy and to decide problems of great difficulty. These he settled with great skill and to the satisfaction of all interested. In such matters he was one of a thousand, tireless, resourceful, diplomatic and uniformly successful in their solution.

Few men have made a stronger impress upon this community than he, and few will be missed more when it shall come their turn to cross the dark river. His life was one worth living and his death is a distinct loss to Grinnell.