

1894
Aug 21, 1894

JAMES B. VANDERVEER.

The funeral of Mr. James Barkalow Vanderveer took place Sunday, at 10:30 A. M., from his residence, two miles south of town, and was attended by a large concourse of relatives, friends and neighbors.

The services were conducted by Rev. Prof. Buck and President Gates of Iowa College. Prof. Buck took his text from Numbers 23:10; "Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his." The professor spoke of the two deaths—of the righteous and the opposite with the conclusion that to die the death of the righteous we must live the life of the righteous. In the course of his address he gave a short biographical sketch of the deceased. Mr. Vanderveer was born near Franklin, Warren county, Ohio, June 24, 1845, and died August 17, 1894. At the age of sixteen he united with the Presbyterian church at his native place. August 9, 1864, he was married to Mary A. Shaffer. There were born to them three sons now living, and one daughter who died ten years ago at the age of fifteen years. Mr. Vanderveer came to Iowa in 1877, and secured land a little south of the present home of the family where they lived till a few years ago. He was a devoted husband, a kind father and a genial and good neighbor, and a faithful christian. In 1881 he and his family united by letter with the Congregational church of Grinnell, during the pastorate of Dr. Sturtevant. He came of a large family, fifteen of whom grew to maturity. He, with his twin brother, now present, was the youngest of the family. Four brothers—Tunis, David, Uriah and Aaron; and five sisters, Mrs. Margaret A. Schenck, Day-

ton, O.; Mrs. Phoebe J. Wykoff of Middletown, O.; Mrs. Lydia Mote and Mrs. Sarah Stevens, of Greenville, O., and Mrs. Rebecca Paine, Edinburgh, Ind., survive. Three brothers entered the army, two dying of wounds and prison rigors in the south. The grandfather of this large family was born in Holland, and came to Ohio more intent on building up a christian community and church than in making a fortune for himself, and he ministered in the pulpit when a pastor was absent or lacking. He had the joy of seeing a stalwart church and he was not suffered to lack in worldly goods.

Our neighbor and fellow citizen and my brother in the church was called in comparatively early life. His last illness was of short duration with the sharp suffering which brings a strong man in a few days to the end of his earthly life. His utterances in the midst of pain were few. He expressed regret at the absence of his oldest son too far away to be reached by telegraph, and who has not to learn of the father's departure. He was heard to say "Thank God" and the last audible word was "peace." While we shall miss him and realize an earthly loss, let us, with christian courage and trust, think of his gain.

President Gates took for a text the verse from the 90th Psalm, that prayer that came to us from remote antiquity and the east: "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." He was reminded by the name of this neighbor and brother in the church of the origin of the family in Holland, and it recalled the name of a little book he had recently been reading entitled "Brave Little Holland," from which many things not generally found in history could be learned of that ener-

getic nation that held its country from the very grasp of the ocean itself. He spoke of the influence of Holland on the pilgrim fathers during the twelve years sojourn at Leyden before coming to America, and what we owed them through that source. But the chief thought was as to the purpose of life, what we are here for, and indicated it by the negative. Surely it was not alone to raise more corn, to build better houses, to make money, to manage a college. What would the answer of our brother be if he could speak to us looking at the universe from where he is now, as to the purpose of life, of it all? Would it not be that it was to form characters, to get something from life by which we could have a better influence on all about us; by which we could do good to others? He took a lesson from the life of this kindly, genial christian brother, and he invited all to do the same. Let us go home and treat our wives better, be kinder to our parents, our children, our sisters and brothers.

The pall-bearers were Messrs. I. B. Baldwin, L. P. Spooner, Wm. Bortalle, Hy. Pilgrim, F. Hyde and L. M. Smith, long-time friends and neighbors of the deceased. The remains were followed to Hazelwood by a long procession of carriages. The relatives present from abroad were a sister, Mrs. Phoebe J. Wykoff, and her son, Mr. Samuel Wykoff, of Middletown, O.; a sister-in-law, Mrs. John Vanderveer, of Andalusia, Ill., her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Connor of Blue Grass, Iowa, a brother, Aaron B. Vanderveer of Spring Hill, Kansas, Mrs. Lily V. Rains of Cedar Rapids and Mrs. Ada V. Anthony of Sheridan, nieces. The surviving family are his widow and three sons, Benjamin DeBoise Vanderveer of Washington, and Clinton and James B. Vanderveer, who are on the farm.