

Grinnell, Iowa, Friday, April 24, 1903.

#### HARVEY BLISS.

Another earthly life has closed. Another of those in Grinnell who was victor in pioneer days has fallen beneath the burden of the years.

Harvey Bliss came to the home lot of Grinnell in January 1856 when it was less than two years old, and he himself was 32. His earlier years had been spent chiefly in Springfield, Mass. He belonged to a family distinguished for industry, integrity, philanthropy and piety. Three brothers of his were foreign missionaries, two were business men in Chicago, one joined him here, and a sister was the wife of a home missionary, all of them now deceased. He had rendered service to the Merriams, the publishers of Webster's Dictionary, and had been in successful business for himself. He was an honorable representative of the New England spirit when New England was at her best.

The year 1856 is a very suggestive date for a typical New Englander. It will be remembered that in the years 1850, 1851 and 1856 Lincoln, in his great debate with Douglass, claimed that it was made manifest that a great conspiracy had been entered into by leaders in government in favor of the extension of slavery. The Kansas Conflict aroused North and South. Mr. Bliss proposed to take part personally in that struggle but was turned aside to Grinnell by what seemed to him a providential interposition. Here he was an earnest friend of the slave in every emergency. Fugitives seeking a residence in Canada were permitted to ride to Iowa City in his wagon going there for goods, and he would feed a poor, hungry black man even if he came to town with John Brown. He had seen how whiskey robs one of manhood, and became a radical temperance reformer. He believed that a genuine christian was the noblest type of man, and was intensely sensitive for the purity of the church and anxious for the diffusion of religion. He was eager to have Grinnell the best town in the West and his pocket book grew lean when money was asked to promote morality or to found Iowa College.

His piety never became asceticism. It was full, brimming full of humanity in all relations. In business on the farm near by, and again in retirement from active work in his later years, his sincere integrity was never questioned. It was manifest that his religion made him more zealous to bless mankind, and his philanthropy intensified his religion.

He was pleased with the good opinion of his fellows but never sacrificed an iota of conscience to gain it. He gained it, however, by his independent thought, his generous heart and his radical uprightness. His life has been a benediction. Grinnell needs just such men still. Honest men may not always agree with them in opinion. They will always be benefited by their presence.

His three surviving sons and his adopted daughter have a treasure richer than gold in the memory of his almost seventy-nine years, and of their

mother's precious life even though it ended so tragically some two years ago.

The funeral services will be conducted from the house at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon by Prof. L. E. Parker.