

JPI (Darwin)

MRS. EMELINE FORBES, a very highly esteemed resident of Grinnell, Iowa, is the widow of Hon. Darwin Forbes, now deceased, who during life was more prominently connected with both public and local affairs concerning Grinnell than almost any other man of his day. Mrs. Forbes was born in Alexandria, N. H., February 21, 1810, which was also the birthplace of her father, Joseph, and her grandfather, Nason Cass. She was the eldest of the eight children, was reared in her own pleasant home in New Hampshire and there attended the common schools and at the age of eighteen went out as a teacher. For four years she followed that profession, but in March, 1833, married Mr. Darwin Forbes, and from that time her life was merged into his. As years passed on she was his hearty supporter in every good work, and when honors were accorded him, with the dignity of true womanhood she was prepared to take her proper place at his side.

Darwin Forbes was born in New Chester, now Hill, N. H., May 29, 1806, a son of Dr. Sethus B.

Forbes, a native of Connecticut, and a graduate of Dartmouth College. He practiced medicine in New Hampshire for many years and finally died there at the age of eighty years. The mother of Mr. Forbes was Ruth (Wells) Forbes, also a native of New Chester, now Hill, N. H. David was the second child of the family and was reared in his native State, where for seven years he successfully engaged in school teaching. In 1833, he engaged in the mercantile business in Alexandria, removing from there to Grafton, Hill and other places as the demands of trade seemed to warrant. For two terms he served as Representative to the New Hampshire Legislature, but in 1868 he removed to this State and bought a farm in Grinnell Township, consisting of one hundred and seventy acres of improved land, which he farmed for five years. During his residence in this city he became a very prominent man, being President of the Grinnell Savings Bank for some years, and a Director of the Merchants' Bank, and in 1884 was honored by the citizens of Grinnell by being elected to the office of Mayor.

Before leaving the East his sturdy qualities, common-sense and absolute integrity had gained for our subject many positions of trust, among them being that of Postmaster of both Grafton and Alexandria. He is also County Road Commissioner of Grafton County, and was soon after made an Alderman, which office he long held. For some years before his demise he engaged in the loan and real-estate business, connecting it, as he did all the enterprises of life, with a strict honesty that in these days is sometimes called old-fashioned. All of his life he was a strong temperance advocate and anti-slavery man, although a Democrat in politics. Both he and wife were members of the Universalist faith, he being a man of most liberal feeling, but despising hypocrisy and ceremonials of all kinds. His death occurred April 26, 1892, and then passed away one of the kindest and most sympathetic men that this city has ever seen. Many homes in Iowa and elsewhere owe to him their present peace and happiness, as he was a sincere friend, with broad benevolence and unbounded charity. However, as he was honest himself, he exacted integrity from

all around him, without being narrow, harsh or unreasonable. In business matters his standing and integrity were such that where others would have been required to give a bond, his word was sufficient. His bereaved wife was left alone, their two children having both been called away, Proctor in 1874, at the age of forty years and Mary Jane at the age of twenty-one, before coming West. Our subject is a lady most favorably known for her benevolence and charity, and is regarded by the people of Grinnell with the greatest affection.

connected with the building of the Central bridge over the Des Moines river at Eddyville.

Emeline Cass Forbes was born in the city of Alexandria, New Hampshire, on Feb. 21, 1810. Her early life was spent in her native place where she attended school and gained such an education as the place and time afforded. She studied to fit herself for teaching and engaged in that work for a time. In 1833 she was married to Darwin Forbes, which union remained unbroken until severed by the hand of death in 1892. After marriage they removed to Lawrence, Mass., where for a number of years Mr. Forbes was a prominent merchant. In 1869 she removed with her husband to Grinnell. They lived on their farm until 1871, when they came to town to reside. There were born to them two children, a son and daughter, both of whom died some years ago. Mrs. Forbes was the eldest of eight children, of whom are still remaining one sister, Mrs. Flanders, who lives in Highland, Cal., and two brothers, one of whom, Mason Cass, lives in Bristol, N. H., the other being a well known citizen of Grinnell, Mr. Lewis Cass, who was absent on a visit in New Hampshire at the time of his sister's death. Mrs. Forbes seemed to be in her usual health on Wednesday, Aug. 29th. She was engaged in her favorite occupation of knitting, being seated on her front porch on Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock, but at 5.30 her spirit had left its tenement of clay and gone to be with God. Her pilgrimage of ninety years was a long one, and in addition she had completed the greater part of another year, but ninety years, seven months and eight days seemed enough, so God gently touched her with His finger and she fell asleep. Mrs. Forbes was an active woman, a great worker, and possessed of a kind heart. Her benevolence toward the poor was manifested by many beneficent acts. She gave away to different objects thousands of dollars. Her husband likewise, was of the same disposition, and in all his giving he was heartily seconded by his wife. They gave to the city of Grinnell a house and lot, the rent from which was to be expended in behalf of the needy. There is also a sum left in the hands of the city council, the interest on which is to be devoted to the same purpose. She assisted the different churches of the town and the Sal-

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much to predict that he will rise just as high as these vast and intricate interests will let him rise.—Register 27th.

#### A GENEROUS ADDITION TO THE FORBES FUND.

Be it Resolved, That we the undersigned, Mayor and members of the City Council of Grinnell, Iowa, do hereby acknowledge the receipt of the gift of Emeline Forbes of three hundred dollars in cash, as an addition to the Darwin Forbes fund, the net income of which is to be used for the sole purpose of relieving needy women and children in the city of Grinnell, Iowa.

In behalf of said city we do hereby express our sincere thanks for this beneficent gift, and trust that this fund may from time to time receive still further additions.

Resolved, That we, as trustees of said fund, will do all in our power to carry out the spirit and intent of the donors, and will manage the same to the best of our ability, and in every way will exercise the same care and supervision as if it were our own.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be made and presented to Emeline Forbes, and that they also be printed in the GRINNELL HERALD and the Independent Signal, papers published in the city of Grinnell, Iowa.

Signed this 25th day of June, 1894.

E. W. CLARK, Mayor.

J. F. WILSON, City Clerk.

E. B. Wiley.

C. S. Barnes.

H. H. Robbins.

D. S. Morrison.

A. A. Foster.

W. A. Little.

H. W. Spaulding.

R. G. Coutts.

Aldermen.