

The Grinnell Herald

W. G. RAY G. W. COWDEN
RAY & COWDEN, Editors & Proprs
OFFICIAL PAPER

Grinnell, Iowa, Tuesday, July 11, 1905

OBITUARY.

WALTER F. HAMMOND.

Walter Ford Hammond was born at Platteville, Wis., on December second, 1857 and died at his home in this city on July, 7, 1905, of Bright's Disease, after a lingering illness of many months. When but fifteen years of age he came to this city where he attended school for a short time and then taught school for about a year. Securing a position as clerk in the old firm of McIntosh & Proctor, he was enterprising enough to buy out one of his employers, F. O. Proctor, and the business was conducted under the name of McIntosh & Hammond until after a time it was changed to Hammond Brothers & James.

Just previous to this change he had been united in marriage to Miss Hattie M. Child in 1878 whom he met here and who was to be his faithful companion and helpmeet throughout a happy married life.

In 1883 Mr. Hammond moved with his family to Des Moines where for about seven years he conducted a jobbing and brokerage business but in 1889 he moved back to this city and purchased the clothing-business of N. D. Soper which he sold in 1893 to G. H. McMurray and at the same time purchased of Michael Snyder, the latter's share in the Grinnell Electric Light Company. Of this company he was the manager till 1902 when he sold out his interest in the plant and became one of the organizers of the Elliott Hotel Company of Des Moines of which he was, at the time of his death, the vice president.

His family, consisting of a wife and seven children, six boys and one girl, survive him. One daughter died in infancy in 1883. His mother and sister of Tiverton, R. I., and a brother, who lives at Waterloo, remain to mourn with his family in their loss.

The funeral services were held at the late residence on north Broad St., last Sunday afternoon at half past two and were conducted by the Rev. E. M. Vittum. Beautiful music was furnished by a quartette composed of Dr. P. E. Somers, Mrs. W. A. Heidel, Miss Stella Bartlett and Mr. E. B. Brande. The pall bearers were Messrs G. H. Hamlin, H. P. Proctor, W. C. Rayburn, J. H. McMurray, Jr., W. T. Moyle and D. S. Morrison. The remains were laid to rest in Hazelwood cemetery.

Those who were present for the funeral services from out of town were George S. Hammond, brother of the deceased, with his wife and daughter from Waterloo; Professor George Hathaway, nephew of the deceased, and wife of Tiverton, R. I., and Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Hedrick, the former being secretary and treasurer of the Elliott Hotel Company of Des Moines.

Mr. Hammond was not a man who courted public notice. He was a man of retiring disposition who preferred his home life to a public one. As a consequence he was not prominently identified with public movements in this city, yet there are few men who possessed a wider acquaintance or warmer friends among the business men than he. The story of his life is one of almost ceaseless business activity up to the time of his last illness and for this business life he displayed a marked ability and keen instinct and in it attained success. This success however has never carried any

disgrace with it and in addition to the material results which he leaves to his family he leaves also the more valuable asset of a name which carries no dishonor but only credit. In his business dealings he was fair and honorable. Said a prominent business man of this city, who has had a wide experience in dealing with men, when he learned of Mr. Hammond's death "I have been in a good many business deals with Walter Hammond and know him pretty thoroughly but I have never found any man who was more fair or just in all his relations than he was. He was always fair to the other man." Along with his business, however he found time for many other things. He was an inveterate reader on all topics and was a well posted man whose opinion carried weight with it. As a member of the Franklin Club he will ever be remembered by his associates for his geniality and good fellowship which never left him—not in the trying days of his last illness. But it was in his family life that his nature found its best expression and the deep love and faithful loyalty of a tender wife and a large family of seven children, whose welfare was his deepest concern, is the most eloquent testimony to his life of service for them and his constant devotion to their interests.