

Editorial Notices.

DEATH OF WILLIAM MATTHIE, ESQ.

It is with feelings of deep regret that we record the decease of this excellent man, who departed this life at his residence, in Brockville, on the 9th November, 1855. Notwithstanding that Mr. Matthie had been for several years in a state of feeble health, he was enabled, in consequence of his aptitude for business and great decision of character, to conduct successfully a large commercial establishment, of which he was the head; while he continued to evince an unabated interest in whatever promised to promote the interest of his locality or the welfare of the country. From his well known patriotic spirit and liberal views and feelings, Mr. Matthie (although never, we believe, practically engaged in farming) was chosen President of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada in 1853. Ill health, at that time, prevented him doing all that he desired, but his munificent donation to the funds of the Association, during his period of office, will be long and gratefully remembered. The writer of this short and very inadequate notice, had abundant means of knowing the deep and abiding interest which Mr. Matthie felt in the welfare of the Association; and during the recent exhibition at Cobourg, he received from the deceased a telegraphic message stating that he was too ill to attend, but felt desirous of knowing whether the show was progressing satisfactorily.

The removal of such a man in the prime of life is an irreparable loss to his family, his friends, and his country. His example however, will continue to live; and it is one peculiarly calculated to animate and guide the young. The following facts and remarks, taken from the *Brockville Recorder*, will interest not a few of our readers:—

Mr. Matthie was a native of Alloa, Scotland. He came to this country, while yet a boy, with his father, who settled near Larark, in the Bathurst district. In 1827 Mr. Matthie, then a lad of only 15 years of age, came to Brockville, a friendless stranger, to push his way in the world. He commenced his active career as a clerk in one of our mercantile establishments. In that capacity he continued, giving the greatest satisfaction to his employers, until the year 1835, when, with no capital except his character for inflexible integrity, he embarked in business on his own account; and since that time he has been widely known as one of the most enterprising and honourable merchants in Canada. Like most men in business, he had, at times, great difficulties to contend with, but his

indomitable energy of character carried him through them all, and his reward was a handsome competency, which, however, in the inscrutable dealings of the Almighty, he was not long permitted to enjoy.

In the death of Mr. Matthie this community has sustained a loss well nigh irreparable. In every project for the improvement of the town and surrounding country he took the lead, and there was no charity to which he was not the first contributor. In times of difficulty, when almost daily appealed to by business men and others for advice, he would cheer them on by recounting his own experience in life, and enjoining on them frugality, diligence, and self reliance. Fervid and unwavering in his attachments, his friends found no limit in his exertions to serve them, and nothing appeared to gratify him more than to aid the deserving poor, in whose welfare he always manifested a warm solicitude, and by whom the loss of his counsel and its elevating influence will be severely felt.

In politics, Mr. Matthie was a reformer, and his purse and person were ever ready, when required, in forwarding the interests of the Reform party, of which he was an energetic and talented member. In every leading question of the day, Mr. Matthie took a warm interest, and the late ministry were frequently under obligations to him for advice in relation to commercial matters.

In the agricultural progress of the country, the deceased always took an active interest; an interest which continued unabated till the day of his death, and was strongly evinced in a conversation he had with the editor of the *Recorder* the last time the writer ever saw him alive.

No man can pass through the scenes of an active life faultless, yet we believe whatever faults Mr. Matthie possessed will speedily be forgotten, while his virtues will live embalmed in the hearts of the many friends he has left behind him, so long as the lamp of their lives holds on to burn. Peace be to his ashes. Take him all in all, we may not look upon his like again.

Mr. Matthie was in the forty-fourth year of his age. He has left a wife and four children to mourn the loss of an affectionate husband and a kind and tender father.

His funeral took place on Monday afternoon; the procession of carriages was the largest we ever saw in Brockville, and, while the funeral procession passed through the town, every store was closed.

THE POTATO ROT.

The rot this year is very general in this part of Canada, and threatens to ruin a large portion of the crop. The old varieties are the most affected. The Pinkeyes are almost a total failure except on dry soils, and in most places they are very small. Judging from what we hear the crop in the townships near this city will be two-thirds less than an average. This will tend to keep up the price of flour, and provisions generally. We may remark, as a point of