

An Old Pioneer Gone.

Thomas J. Graffe, one of the pioneers of Mount Forest, Ontario, passed to his rest on the 10th October. Having been connected with the printing business himself, as is also his son at the present time, his demise calls for more than a passing notice. We are indebted to the Mount Forest *Examiner* and *Confederate* for the following particulars:—

"Mr. Graffe was born in Limerick, Ireland, of Austro-Irish parents, on the 4th April, 1808, and was consequently over sixty-nine years of age at the time of his death. He came to this country about the year 1818, residing in the city of Montreal for some time, finally settling on a farm near Merrickville, and afterwards engaged in school teaching. He was appointed School Inspector, and was also made Coroner for North Leeds and Grenville. He left Merrickville in 1855, and settled in Mount Forest. He opened a land and conveyancing office, and was subsequently appointed an associate coroner for Wellington. In 1862, on the withdrawal of the *Express* by the late Mr. Greenham, he commenced the publication of the *Examiner*, and continued to do so until he disposed of the business in 1867 to the present publisher and his associate, Mr. McAdams. Mr. Graffe was married at Merrickville to Harriet Covil, one of the Bay of Quinte U. E. Loyalist stock. She died in 1870. The deceased's remains were followed to the grave by a large number of persons. The funeral ceremony was conducted by Rev. D. Fraser, followed by the very impressive services of the L. O. L., of which he was a member, Bro. I. S. Armstrong acting as chaplain. By his removal disappears a notable link connecting the difficulties of the old pioneer days with the comparative comforts of the present. May he rest in peace. He leaves a son, Mr. F. T. Graffe, one of the publishers of the Lakefield *News*, who has our sympathy in his affliction.

A Tramp's Obituary.

A cotemporary, under date of September 24th, 1877, has the following touching story:

Two weeks ago to-day I assisted in paying the last tribute to the memory of one of the most noted printers on this continent. I allude to Mr. John G. Johnston—familiarily known as "Jac," *alias* "The Terror of the Lakes." He was killed on the Saturday before, while jumping aboard of a moving train: "Jac" was

perhaps one of the most extensively travelled printers in this or any other country, he having penetrated nearly all parts of the civilized globe. He was a first-class printer, a good writer on a newspaper, and an extremely jovial companion. Born in Canada (Toronto I think), he was always proud of his origin; but having spent most of his life in the United States, he was earnest and vehement in his eulogies of his adopted country and her institutions. His many friends and co-adventurers will be sorry to lose their old pard. He lived about four hours after the accident, scarcely conscious, until a few minutes before the final struggle, when he rallied for a few minutes. I asked him if he had any word to leave, and he replied, "No; only I would like my card buried with me." Almost his last words were: "I thought I would get mashed jumping a train sometime or other." Both his legs were completely smashed up. He bore the pain like a soldier of the line, and remarked at one time: "It's kind of hard, 'Rocky,' to pass in my checks in such an out-of-the-way hole as this." His life and adventures would fill a goodly volume, and no doubt your correspondents could give many interesting incidents and anecdotes relative thereto. Poor "Jac," he is gone. His last tramp on earth is over. An amiable gentleman, a kind friend, a hospitable craftsman and a genial soul, who can say but the Great Author above has seen more to forgive than condemn in "Jac's" eccentric career. He was buried in the village where he got killed—Hudson, Michigan, 184 miles from Chicago. I would that some abler pen than mine wrote the last kindly words for our old friend. *Requiescat in pace.*

Yours respectfully,
"ROCKY."

Any one acquainted with further facts in relation to the above will confer a lasting obligation by corresponding with Josh. T. Johnston, *Brant Union*, Brantford, Ont.

THE ONTARIO PRESS ASSOCIATION.—The following are the officers of the Ontario Press Association for the ensuing year: "President, James Innes, of the Guelph *Mercury*; 1st vice-president, J. Shannon, of the Kingston *News*; 2nd vice-president, A. Matheson, of the Stratford *Beacon*; secretary-treasurer, W. R. Climie, Bowmanville *Statesman*; assistant-treasurer, F. J. Gissing, Woodstock *Review*; executive committee, the officers, with the retiring president; H. Hough, Coburg *World*; J. B. Trayes, Port Hope *Times*; E. Jackson, Newmarket *Era*; James Somerville, Dundas *True Banner*; W. Creighton, M. P. P., Owen Sound *Times*; auditors, C. B. Robinson and E. Jackson.

SEND in subscriptions at once. Don't wait until you miss a number.