

loved him, and that by the wondrous gifts of memory we may still see within us his features, hear his words and possess his thoughts.

"Thy Cross laid down,
Receive a Crown,
My brother!"

William Leffingwell was born in Norwich, Conn., January 4th, 1799, and was therefore on the 23d inst (October, 1876), the date of his death, aged 77 years, 9 months, and 19 days. It is not a little remarkable that his spirit should have winged its departure at the very hour, 8:40 P. M., the Monday evening on which, fifty-five years and one month ago, Bro. L. was joined in the happy marriage union severed only in his dying hour.

Mr. L. continued to reside in his native village until 1824, having in the meantime (1816) learned and worked at the trade of ship builder. At the age of twenty-two he married Miss Fanny Rose Lewis (aged 19), who survives him. In 1826 he removed to the city of New York, where he spent four years, and thence removed to Sag Harbor, Long Island, where he continued to reside and work at his trade until his removal west with his family, in 1838. The first of April the following year he, with his wife, reached this city (then the village of Bloomington), but did not bring his family till the June following from Cairo, where they had remained in charge of their household goods, which they had floated down the Ohio river in a flat-boat, then the common mode of moving west.

Well do we remember the arrival of that little band of pilgrims from Connecticut, and how we, with all the villagers, sought to welcome them to our shores upon this farther bank of the Mississippi. Like all new comers, Mr., or as late years all have called him, Father Leffingwell, was soon stricken down with the prevailing fever of the time and country; and we shall never forget his patient resignation during those hours of trial, as night after night we (then a young man), watched beside his couch. Years, long years, have passed since then, but during those years we were closely and intimately associated as "men and brethren." Upon his recovery he removed to his farm near West Liberty where he resided four years, when he returned to this city to remain until his Heavenly Father called him hence.

Mr. Leffingwell was often called by his fellow-citizens to serve them in public office, and in proof of his eminent fitness for such services we need only state that he filled successfully the office of county commissioner, county assessor, clerk of the county and district courts, and mayor and treasurer of the city, in which latter office he was engaged when death overtook him. At an early period, when but eighteen years of age, Mr. L. united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and continued in its communion an active and useful member until 1852, when he and his wife attached themselves to the Protestant Episcopal Church, in which he zealously labored as warden, and in whose communion he died "a calm and peaceful death, a fitting end to a beautiful and consistent Christian life." Of him it has been worthily spoken, that in all the walks of life "no man ever more perfectly exhibited the character of the Christian gentleman and the true Knight without fear and without reproach."

Of his *Masonic career* we must speak briefly, as time is short.

Mr. Leffingwell was made a Mason in 1848, in Iowa Lodge, No. 2, his old friend Ansel Humphreys (whose remains he and we followed to the tomb from this sacred place three years ago), being Worshipful Master. Of the thirty members whose companionship he then joined, only Bros. Fimple, Richman (judge), Block, Couch, Reynolds, Fisher, Hunt, Husted, my brother Lafayette (of Washington City), and myself (nine), survive—all of whom, save two, I see before me, testifying by their presence their appreciation of our brother's worth. In due time Brother Leffingwell, was made a Royal Arch Mason, a Knight Templar, and a Sublime and Valiant Prince of the Royal Secret in the A. and A. Rite of Scottish Freemasonry.

Brother and Sir Knight Leffingwell was often called to preside over bodies of these respective grades, and over the Grand Council and Grand Commandery and Grand Consistory of the State. And as the Church and the State, so in every department of Masonry, no one surpassed in the zeal, energy and faithfulness with which he labored in the discharge of the duties devolving upon him, whether as a private or official member. In 1849 he served as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, but it was as Prelate that he ever felt he was most at home, the religious tenets of that office better comporting with his character, and he was most himself when leading his fellow-knights in their solemn devotions. With us, near a quarter of a century ago, in a great city of a neighboring State, he received the accolade of a Temple, and for more than half the intervening years he served as our Prelate or Grand Prelate, while it was our privilege to command. It was in these near and dear relatives that we