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Solon Nickerson, the Carpet Man.

FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS HE SLEPT IN HIS STORE, DINED ON THE CHEAPEST OF FARE, AND SMOKED SIX FOR A QUARTER CIGARS-HIS SISTER WILL ENJOY HIS FORTUNE.

THE towering form of Solon Nickerson, who was found dead in his chair yesterday morning, will be missed by the business men in the vicinity of Madison street and Fifth avenue, who regarded the ancient carpet dealer as one of Chicago's landmarks. At 7 o'clock the young man whose first daily duty it was to open the carpet store at 178 and 180 Madison street entered the office and found his employer sitting upright in a chair, and, as he thought, sleeping. The gas was burning at the time, as was also a lamp on the desk. The young man moved around quietly so as not to disturb the slumbers of Mr. Nickerson, and after extinguishing the lights he went about his usual avocations. Presently he thought that customers might be coming in, and that it would not be seemly to have a man sleeping in the store during business hours. Accordingly he returned to the office, and was shocked to find that his employer was wrapped in the sleep that knows no waking. James T. Durant, brother-in-law of the deceased, and other friends were promptly summoned. A post-mortem examination disclosed the fact that death was caused by heart disease. The body, which, after the Coroner and his jury had viewed it, was given in charge of an undertaker, lay all day in the office of the rear part of the store. The visitors to the scene of death were few, and those who came found no one to whom it was necessary to offer condolence. The employés, in holiday attire, moved around quietly and received those who called to view the remains or to inquire the cause of death. The only evidence of mourning to be seen was a bunch of crape on the outer door. There was no tears shed over the bier, for Mr. Nickerson had no relatives from whom this demonstration of affection and regret at his death might be expected. He was unmarried, and the only heir to his property, which is estimated at \$750,000, is his sister, Mrs. James T. Durant, of St. Charles, Ill. Solon Nickerson was born in Athol, Mass., in 1819. His early days were spent in his father's store at that place. In 1840 he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and four years later he arrived in Chicago. Those who remember Mr. Nickerson as he appeared then describe him as a man of a remarkably fine presence. He was over six feet high, well built and weighed 200 pounds. He had an auction store on Lake street from 1844 to 1860, when he removed to 178 Madison street and engaged in the sale of carpets. The building was destroyed in the great fire, but it was rebuilt and was reoccupied within sixty days after its destruction. There he continued

The only one of his acquaintances who offered an explanation of the reason that prevented him from doubling his joys and dividing his sorrows and his fortune was Mr. Durant, who stated that Mrs. Nickerson used to say of her son when he was not more than fifteen years of age: "Solon is a confirmed bachelor." The words were then used only in a prophetic sense. They were entirely applicable in later life. So far as known, Mr. Nickerson was never jilted, hence his bachelorhood cannot be attributed to any romantic ideas. Those who knew him for years, slightly, are of opinion that he was willing to double his joys and divide his sorrows, but that he was deterred from so doing by the knowledge of the fact that he would also have to divide his fortune. In early life Nickerson got hold of the old saving, "Take care of the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves," and that advice he hugged to his soul until his death. He was

always just, but there is no one to speak of

his generosity or of his charity. It would not

take long for his right hand to reckon all that

his left hand ever did in the way of charity.

to conduct business until his death.

mediately over the store and took his meals at a restaurant. His room was taken care of by himself, occasionally assisted by one of his employés. He rarely left the store, except to get his meals. When he wanted a suit of clothes or a pair of shoes the tailor or the shoemaker was summoned to the store, and the articles when finished were there delivered to him. He was moderate in eating, drinking and smoking. His check for his meal rarely exceeded 30 cents. He could enjoy a good cigar when given to him by a friend, but when making his own purchases of the weed he generally considered six for a quarter good

Sunday evening Mr. Nickerson had supper at Henrici's on Madison street. After the meal, while conversing with a friend, he complained that he had been troubled for some weeks with a pain in the region of the heart. Soon afterward he left the restaurant and went to his store. That was the last seen of him alive. It is supposed that he died between the hours of 10 and 12 Sunday night. The remains will be taken to-day to St. Charles, Ill., for burial.—Chicago Herald, Dec. 20.

OHIO ROMANCE

Kansas Stock-Dealer Goes to the Buckeye State to Get a Wife But is Greatly Disappointed.

A WELLSVILLE, O., dispatch says: Romance follows romance in rapid succession in this part of the country. Only a few days ago was reported the consummation by marriage of a love episode that had its inception through a correspondence between the young couple, who were strangers to each other. The sequel to the following romantic story proves this case did not end as auspiciously for all concerned as did the first one. Carrollton is the county seat of Carroll, an adjoining county situated in what is known as the Tuscarawas valley, a rich agricultural region in one of the garden spots of Ohio, noted for its beautiful women and fine

A. P. Mortland is one of the principal attorneys in the place, a man of large means, undoubted influence and prominence, and the father of a beautiful daughter named Linda, who had just graduated from a well-known boarding-school. Miss Linda, as has been noted, is really a handsome girl, highly accomplished, and the possessor of a voice of rare purity and power.

Like many of her sex, the idea of securing unknown correspondents seized her, and the pastime for a period was very fascinating Disappointment, keen and cruel, has resulted to at least one of the principals in the affair

Her correspondent proved to be a Mr. James Wright, of Chetopa, Kan., a stock-dealer and a man reputed to be worth at least \$50,000 The correspondence continued for some time, when Wright formed the notion of taking his fair unknown to fill a void in his western home What the nature of the correspondence was is, of course, a mystery; but a few days ago Miss Linda Mortland, of Carrollton, was very much surprised to have ushered into her presence James Wright, of Chetopa, Kan., in whom she saw her unknown correspondent, who came to wed her. When she saw him she was seized with caprice, and evidently experienced a revulsion of sentiment, for she refused to marry him, declaring she would never do so.

There the matter rests. Mr. Wright, who is a young man of intelligence, honor, and in tegrity, was accompanied to Carrollton by his sister, a well-known and estimable lady of Cincinnati, whose presence was intended to vouch for the gallant, and to be a witness that his intentions were honorable and serious This of itself made many friends for the disappointed lover, who left Carrollton for his sister's home in Cincinnati somewhat crest fallen but by no means discouraged, as he declares he will yet win the young lady in spite of all, an intention, he says, that became irresistible when he first saw the object of his

The affair has created no little stir in the humdrum village, and the case has been the one topic of conversation for days past. The manly part Wright has borne in the matter and his standing in the world since his position and wealth have been revealed have somewhat overcome the prejudice existing against the means in which the affair was brought

The young lady's actions and her refusal to marry Wright are mysteries, and whether the result of impulse or caprice or a yielding to the entreaties of her family can not be learn. ed. The villagers are watching the case with Never extravagant, in late years he hoarded his wealth like a miser. He occupied a room im-

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