

on Tuesday afternoon, the 27th ult. Services were held first in Hopewell Church and then at the grave, at West Branch, by the Free Masons, of which fraternity the deceased was a member. At the hour appointed, the remains of the deceased were conveyed in a hearse to Hopewell Church, accompanied by about 150 Free Masons, and many mourning relatives and friends. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the church was crowded, and many were unable to gain admittance. The solemn funeral service was conducted by the Rev. P. Galbraith, of West Branch, of which church the deceased was a member. In the beginning of his address Mr. Galbraith alluded to the deceased somewhat as follows :—

“My dear friends: it is little more than two months since we were assembled together in this church to pay our last respects to one of the foremost and most respected members of our community, Mr. Alexander McDonald, who was called away from our midst under the most heartrending and distressing circumstances. Again a deep gloom has been cast over our whole neighborhood by the removal from amongst us by death, of one who was no less respected and beloved, of one indeed, whom to know was to love, and of whom it can be truly said, he has not left an enemy behind him. Insidious disease had long taken hold upon that noble frame, but it was only within the last three weeks that his anxious friends saw good grounds for fearing any immediate danger. After being brought nigh to the gates of death, he so far rallied that last Lord’s day morning most of those in attendance upon him during those anxious weeks were enabled to leave him for a short time, and to join with us in this church at Divine Service. But that ominous knocking at the Church door, in the middle of our service, and the hurrying out of anxious

relatives, told us only too surely that a change for the worse had taken place, and prepared us for the sad tidings soon after, that his spirit had already fled. There he lies, after “life’s short and fitful dream,” ready to be borne away to his last resting place, like those who have gone before him.

You knew him well, most, if not all of you, longer, if not better than I did, for he grew up in your midst; and you know well, that for gentleness, for largeness of heart, for integrity of life, and for uprightness of dealing, he has left few equals behind him. Ill can we spare such noble and precious lives as those which have lately been taken from our midst; but God’s will be done, and it is for us to bow reverently to his decrees. In this last departure from amongst us, we have all lost a beloved friend and brother. But of what have those tearful and mourning relatives been bereft? Those venerable parents of a son who, I am told, never said nay to their will; and who as their first-born son, was their greatest stay and comfort in their old age; that weeping young wife of a loving and tender husband, and the fond parent of her now fatherless little ones; and those sorrowing brothers and sisters of a beloved and attached elder brother.”

The visible emotion to be witnessed throughout the large assemblage during the address showed what deep and heartfelt sympathy was entertained for those mourning relatives, all of whom were present. At the close of the service the brother Masons of the deceased took charge of his remains and proceeded with them to the grave in West Branch, followed by an immense procession, both on foot and in wagons. The solemn and interesting Masonic burial service was gone through at the grave, after which the large assemblage of mourners slowly dispersed.