

## Needed Funeral Reforms.

By Rev. A. M. Williams.

When the Oregon Funeral Directors Association met in McMinnville recently, the address of Rev. A. M. Williams, pastor of the local Presbyterian church, was unanimously endorsed and ordered spread on the minutes of the body. It was also decided that the press of the state be asked to use the address. THE MAIL is glad to use part of the address and to condense Mr. Williams' recommendations as to how these reforms should be introduced. The minister spoke in part as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen: "Carrying coals to New Castle" is not in it as a measure of audacity—along with the presumption of my talking shop to you on the subject of "needed funeral reforms." Did a preacher ever see an undertaker who couldn't entertain him all the way from the church to the cemetery—even tho the cemetery is two miles distant—on this subject? But, then, it may do you gentlemen good to have a little advice along this line, on the theory that the sauce which is good for the goose is also good for the gander.

As I see it, the funeral service from first to last is a combination of three elements,—the physical, the aesthetic and the religious. The minister has very little to do with the first two but the undertaker is concerned with them all.

I shall first speak of some needed reforms, not pausing to classify them according to the criterion suggested, and then I shall raise the question, How to install these reforms.

### SOME THINGS TO BE DONE

1. As to the Place. Of course, this is largely a question of taste. And you may be surprised to hear a minister say it, but I very much prefer, other things being equal, a home funeral. But just as frankly, the home is no place for the average funeral in the country, nor in the city if the rooms and corridors of the home are so small to accommodate the attendance. If a funeral is anything more than a solemn mockery, provide a place for it which will accommodate the guests at least with standing room. Some will say, the church is the only place. I do not. It all depends. But let it be both decent and adequate, wherever it is.

2. In the matter of "viewing the remains," I have something to say. The custom of standing everybody up and marching him solemnly by an open casket has but one redeeming feature that I can see: it is a painful pantomime of the truth that we all are in possession from the cradle to the grave. But if everybody heard me say this there would be more reluctance to take up this solemn tread than even now. There are some bodies which ought not to be viewed for reasons which you know. But tyranny of custom is mighty. Who will rise to dispute its sway? There are some people in every funeral crowd, who for various reasons known to us all, ought not to look upon even a good looking corpse. And there are very many who thro no superstition but intelligently and because they are decently lacking in morbid curiosity, and who also have the sense that he is not here—he is gone, and why gaze at his dust—many for many reasons do not want to view the remains. It is an offense against all such to require it. Let the body lie in state certain hours for all who care to see it. Let these hours be announced on the funeral notice. And let the "last look" be taken only by those who have a right to see—the family of the deceased.

3. The rate of speed to the cemetery should be materially increased, on the average. It is a crime against the living to compel everybody in the long cortege to face the cold or chew the dust for twice or thrice as long as necessary.

4. I think certain little things which we do about the grave are open to serious criticism and are actual absurdities. It may be more respectful to stand with uncovered head about the open grave in December or July.

I think it shows a want of both godliness and gumption. It may be necessary to stay till all the cobble stones have rolled in and made that hollow sound on the coffin lid—but it is a necessity born neither of love or reason. It may be necessary for certain orders to take funerals occasions for advertising by their extended forms. But you admire the lodge man who if he orders anything concerning these rites, gives directions for simplicity. Our nation's late fallen chief's simple funeral without even a flavor of the military or the spectacular is a lesson in point.

5. The length of funeral services is too great, at least in the country. There is rarely to much singing and rarely enough scripture and rarely little enough speechifying. I can remember funerals when an hour's service was justifiable, but very few. It is mercy to the living to shorten them.

6. The trend of minister's remarks at funerals is open to serious criticism. I do not rise to condemn my brethren of the cloth more than myself. But candidly, I am coming to feel that laudatory remarks at a funeral are in bad taste; I am sure that exhortations whose only fitting close would be to "call for mourners" are as untimely as they are futile. And yet the service should not be perfunctory—God forbid. Better no religious service than one which is a hollow form, for "what so ever is not of faith is sin."

Let the service be characterized by the presence of God, the sense of Immortality, the feeling of man's frailty, the beauty and strength of a child like trust in our Father—and then the exhortation will not be spoiled by having to be made. There may be things worthy of comment in a man's life—but let them be made not on parade. Any man who needs to be praised from the pulpit after he is gone, does not deserve praise; any man who deserves praise, it is needless to praise. Any people who are not living right before God and who wont attend church or read God's word to learn his will, aren't going to repent and be converted as a result of a funeral sermon on "Prepare to meet thy God." You might as well turn the hose on them and yell Trinity and call that baptism. But to the high-toned, spiritual, reverential and comforting service, let us all, ministers and funeral directors, commit ourselves.

In the second part of his address Mr. Williams suggested how these reforms should be introduced: gradually, not abruptly and by way of evolution rather than revolution, remembering that there are people with other views which must be respected; the National Funeral Directors' Association could take up the whole subject with Theological seminaries, securing more thorough instruction to young ministers in this art; the secular and the religious press should be used; ministers associations and undertakers should have an understanding and should work together for needed reforms.

The address closed with the following:

Reform for reform's sake would be ridiculous and wrong. But reform for humanity's sake, to the end of making the service we render physically, esthetically and religiously wholesome—such reform is worth our working at patiently and persistently."

### Petition.

We the undersigned legal voters of Horeb Precinct Marion County State of Oregon respectfully petition the Hon. County Court of Marion County to grant a License to T. B. Riggs to sell spirituous Malt and Vinous Liquors in less quantities than One Gallon in Horeb Precinct Marion County State of Oregon for the period of Twelve Months and in duty bound your Petitioners will ever pray James Welch, S H Thacker, H W Harris, L T Dike, Henry Joost, G W Anderson, Thos. J. Winters, G L Randern, E C Hester, J K Morrow, Wallace Hachard, E A Hester, H Winkley, E. W. Hall, G L Savage, E S Chase, S C Sorensen, Henry Carmady, Grant Smith, Conrad Miller, R H Shier, Charles W Thomas, J H Church, Charles Gonzales, John Johnson, R Joost, W N Thomas, R G Pierce, L A Harris H Bartos

Notice is hereby given that T B RIGGS will on the 3rd day of September 1908 Apply to the Honorable County Court of Marion County State of Oregon for License to sell spirituous Malt and Vinous Liquors in less quantities than one Gallon in Horeb Precinct Marion County State of Oregon for the period of Twelve Months. T. B. RIGGS.

25-30

## New To-day.

HOP PICKERS wanted for the Holmes yard. One of the largest and best yards in Oregon. Excellent camp ground, wood, water, etc. Store, meat market and restaurant free phone and all modern conveniences. Register NOW. T. A. LIVESLEY & Co., Salem, Oregon.

WANTED—Good gentle horse, that will drive single; weight between 1100 and 1200 lbs; 6 to 9 years old 24 tf. U. WHITNEY.

### OBITUARY.

Marie Schaefer was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, June 27, 1848 and died on Sunday, July 26 1908, aged 60 years, 1 month.

In 1860 she came to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wichert, and two sisters. They made their home in Illinois. In 1865 she was married to Carl Schaefer. They spent fifteen years in Illinois and came to Oregon in 1880, where they purchased the place that has been their home ever since.

To this union were born twelve children, seven of whom were born in Illinois. One daughter passed away when only sixteen months old, while another daughter Mrs. Carrie Archambeau died in 1899 at the age of 22 years.

Mrs. Schaefer had been in poor health for several years, but took to her bed last Thanksgiving and has been under the care of physicians ever since.

Deceased was a member of the German Lutheran church the greater part of her life. She was a devoted Christian and beloved by all who knew her.

She leaves to mourn her death a husband and ten children. They are: Charlie Schaefer, who lives on the home place; Mrs. Emma Fleischman, of Silverton; Mrs. Lizzie Henline, of Salem; Mrs. Rosa Bachman, of Ill.; Will Schaefer, of Clem, Oregon, Ed. Albert and Ben Schaefer, of Stayton; Mrs. Anna Overholdt, of The Dalles, and Bertha Schaefer, who is still at home.

She also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Croisan, of Lyons, Ore., and Mrs. Herman of Kansas.—Statesman.

### Guardian's Sale.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of an order of the County Court of the State of Oregon for Marion county, duly made and entered of record on the 27th day of July, 1908, in the matter of the estate and guardianship of Helen R. Brown, Paul N. Brown and Scott M. Brown, minors and heirs at law of N. S. Brown deceased, the undersigned guardian of said estate and said minors will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand at time of sale and subject to confirmation by said court, on Saturday, the 29th day of August, 1908, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, at and on each separate parcel of land to be sold, situated in the town of Stayton, Marion county, Oregon, all the right, title, interest and estate of said Helen R. Brown, Paul N. Brown and Scott M. Brown, minors aforesaid, acquired as heirs at law of N. S. Brown, deceased, in and to the tracts or parcels of land described as follows, to-wit:

#### TRACT NO 1.

All of Block No Six (6) in Hollister's addition to the Town of Stayton, Marion county, Oregon, as shown by the plat thereof.

#### TRACT NO 2.

Commencing at a point 135 feet west and 60 feet south of the northwest corner of Water and Third Streets in the town of Stayton, Marion County, Oregon, thence south 30 feet; thence west 25 feet; thence north 30 feet; thence east 25 feet to the place of beginning, the same being part of Lot No. 2 of the Hammer survey of the said Town of Stayton as shown by the recorded plat thereof.

#### TRACT NO 3.

Commencing at a point 147 feet south and 20 feet west of the south east corner of Block No 6 in the Town of Stayton, Marion county, Oregon, as shown by the recorded plats thereof, thence westerly down the mill race of D. S. Stayton and meandering within two feet of the waters edge to a point making 29 feet due west of the place of beginning, thence south to the center of the slough; thence up said slough easterly to a point due south from the south west corner of Cyrus and Alexander Clark's water lot, thence north to the section line between Sections 10 and 15, T 9 S Range 1 west of the Willamette Meridian and still north from thence 1.2 links to the Mill race of D. S. Stayton; thence south 75 degrees west to the place of beginning save and except from the last above described tract a piece or parcel thereof on the east side of the same heretofore deeded by N. S. Brown and wife to A. L. Shreve by deed executed May 29 1901, and recorded at Page 372, Book 76, of the record of deeds for Marion county, Oregon.

#### TRACT NO 4.

Beginning at a point 60 feet south and 8 feet east of the southeast corner of Block No. 6 in the town of Stayton, Marion county, Oregon, as shown by the recorded plats thereof; thence west on the south line of Water street in said town 33 feet; thence south to the Stayton mill race; thence easterly up said mill race and meandering with the north bank thereof to a point on said race due south of the place of beginning thence north to the place of beginning.

Dated July 31, 1908.

ANNA H. BROWN, Guardian.  
W. H. QUEENER, Atty for Guardian.

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Notice for Publication.  
Department of the Interior,  
United States Land Office,  
At Portland, Oregon, June 23, 1908.


Notice is hereby given that James W. Imbler, of Mehama, Marion county, Oregon, who, on June 23, 1908, made timber and stone application No. 7793 Serial No. 0 65, for NE 1/4 of SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 and Lots 1 and 2, Section 6, Township 9 S, Range 2 E, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Register and Receiver, at Portland, Oregon, on the 26th day of September, 1908.

Claimant names as witnesses:  
Benjamin Kinsey, of Mehama, Oregon.  
Albert Titze, of Mehama, Oregon.  
August Zoellner, of Mehama, Oregon.  
W. M. Bushey, of Mehama, Oregon.

ALGERNON S. DRESSER, Register.

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