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FUNERAL EXTRAVAGANCE.

The Unnecessary Cost of Mortuary Dis play in New York.

A gentleman of moderate means who has an extensive experience in American hotels, told a reporter of the sun, the other day, that when he applies for a room he asks the clerk to send him to one that is not elabo-rately furnished. "I desire," the gentieman went on to say, "to leave to my family all the money I can, without depriving either them or my self of what we ought to have in life, and I don't want an unnecessary ex-penditure at my death. If I die in a first-class hotel in this city, my estate must pay expenses according to the room in which the underta cer finds my remains, He will provide a maogany ice box and a whole conservatory of flowers, and perhaps meas-ure my body for a \$1,500 coffin if I am in a ten dollar-a-day parlor in a big hotel; but if my room gives him a hint that I was a man who practiced reasonable economy, his preparations for the arrival of my family will not be so costly. Then, again, the bill that the hotel will present against my estate will not be so large if I die in a room that is plainly furnished as it would be in a pretentious room. It is, you may know, a practice of the landlords to charge for fumigat ing the room in which any person dies, and the charge is based on the value of the furniture in that room; for it is assumed to have been destroyed as hotel furniture by a death in the room, and the item for fumigating in your bill is sometimes as much as \$100. This demand for \$100 for fumigating is not always insisted upon. I once heard of a reduction made by a first-class hotel in this city in favor of a woman who told the clerk that she could not find the money to take her husband's body to their home in the west if she paid more than \$50 for the fumigation, and upon this showing of facts the clerk graciously reduced the fig-ures accordingly. At another time I had the curiosity to ask an under-taker about this charge, and he laughed at the notion of death's destroying a room's furnishings, and said that he could rip up the carpets and turn a room up side down and furnigate it for \$5, and think himself liberally paid. I once heard of a man who moved out of a New York when he was nearing his end, saying that if he must die he would die where his family would not be the required to pay for the house in which he died. Indeed, knowing what I do, I am inclined to say that

taker that every room in a New York hotel in which a person dies is fumi-A clergyman said sted, the assumption being that every malady that ends in death is ford in mortuary matters. The ex-

ber: but when a wealthy member goes to his long home they understand that the dignity of our church is to be maintained by a showy funeral, and they look upon a big bill of ex-penses with approval. For example; within a year past I have buried two wealthy members of the congregation, and when I answered an inquiring brother that my bill in one case was \$650 and in the other \$700, the comment was that it might as well have been \$1500 in both cases. "'Is there competition?' you ask.

Yes. There are undertakers who pay physicians commissions for giving them early notice of a patient's being near the point of death, and they are sometimes in the house of death applying for the funeral before the body is cold. There was once an under-taker who spent the busiest part of every day in the coroner's office, and he did this for years, until we com-bined and took measures to oust him, just as the cottin factories here have elbowed out the Cincinnati firms that used to sell coffins here.

"'Do we get poisoned?' Sometimes. I know an undertaker who is so badly poisoned from a mere scratch on the hand that he can hardly get about. I usually wear a rubber glove; and as to infectious diseases, why, I fortify my system against contagion. I use a coarse towel when I get up every morning, and with it scour all the dead skin from every part of my body, thus giving the pores opportunity to do their work. Then I breakfast on oatmeal and milk, and other nutritious and easily digested food, and thus I am fortified against the attack of any disease. But if I am going where there is contagion, I take the precaution to put camphor into my pockets.

"'Do they ever beat us down?' you ask. None but the provident and weil-to-do. An instance occurs to me of a friend whom I know to be moderately wealthy. One of her friends who had been brought to New York to be operafed upon as a last chance of escape from death by a tumor, died under the surgeon's knife, and they charged \$1000 for killing her. My friend called upon me in a common woolen shawl that she had borrowed. We undertakers get to be observing you see She saw that I noticed the absence of the sealskin and camel's hair shawl that I knew she had, and she laughingly explained that she had come to me to be directed to an undertaker who would not know her ability to pay, and that she had put on cheap attire under impression that an undertaker would be more moderate in what I do, I am inclined to say that it was not all a joke when a New Yorker said that he was walking around to save funeral expenses." ing with a lady in seatskins and the monds. I ought in justice to her to add that the money she thus saved was not saved for herself, but for the use that is an under-A clergyman said: "Persuasive

"But the New York landlords are not so hard on you as they are in some cities, 'the undertaker continthe Stewart funeral, and scores of less showy displays, all fostered the feeling that I find everywhere, particularly among the poor, that there is evidence of civilization in mani-festing respect for the dead. Custom is beginning, however, to modify some of the evils in extravigance in funerals-notably in the introduction they cannot well do when the ceremonies are performed in the busy hours of the day. Evening funerals, followed by private morning burials, are likely to become fashionable; and if there is no other gain through them, they will be encouraged as dis pensing with the cost of a caravan of coaches. As to expensive flowers, I know that many persons would dictate their entire omission at their own obsequies. A case occurs to me of a lady who was by no means poor, and whose benevolence was evidence of anything but parsimony, and who in-variably carried a wreath to every funeral she attended. It was her express desire that, when the last words were spoken for her, there should be only a modest bunch of violets of be only a modest bunch of violets on her breast. And we complied trench in the Potter's Field. with her request." -N. Y. Sun. twin propellors and powerful machinup and down the coast doing duty for the railroad interests .- Albany Herald.



ued; "for in some other cities the body must be taken to an under. body must be taken to an under-taker's within an hour after death." "You don't favor cremation?" was asked. "Why should I?" the undertaker re-

plied. "Cremate, and half of my profits are gone. Cremate, and where is my percentage on a casket costing all the way from \$25 to \$1500? Where is my profit on flowers costing all the way from \$10 up to \$10,000? The way from \$10 up to \$10,000? The function in the introduction for al display at Alexander T. Stew-art's funeral cost \$10,000; his coffin cost \$1500. Cremate, and what be-comes of the six factories in this city men to attend funeral services, which comes of the six factories in this city each employing from 25 to 150 men at coffin making and making shrouds and other things pertaining to the grave? Oremate, and what becomes of a score of marble cutters whose sole busine as it is to sculpture monuments for the cometeries around New York?

"But the body perishes in time," the reporter ventured to interrupt. "Why should it not immediately after death be reduced to an inoffensive

powder?" "That is not our view of it. We undertakers look no further than to make a neat, respectable funeral, ac-cording to the means of the relatives. We could put a body away in the \$2.50 pine coffin of the commissioners of charities, and turn it over to the cost in a trench in the Potter's Field. But our customers invariably want the reverse of this. The poor the very poor especially pinch them-selves, and, indeed, run in debt, to give their relatives the most respect-able finneral that they can give. It is, they say, the last that they can do for their friends, and they do it in a far more costly manner than they can But our customers invariably want the reverse of this. The poor-the far more costly manner than they can afford. They saw the black silk vel-vet that covered the cedar of Com-and when not thus employed will run modore Vanderbilt's coffin, and when Horace Greeley's body lay in state in the governor's room, they saw the white satin with which his casket was lined, and they see flowers and cosches at ever funeral. They want Complete at ever funeral. They want as much of this as they can get, and some of them lay aside money for months and even years, to be ex-pended on an elaborate funeral with flowers costing from \$50 to \$100, and coaches costing from \$50 to \$100, and coaches costing from \$50 to \$100, and coaches costing from \$50 to \$100, and more. Now, I can get up a very re-spectable funeral for \$45, including an imitation rosewood or walnut spectable funeral for \$20, including an imitation rosewood or walnut casket, icing the body, a wreath, one coach, ferriage and the grave. Some undertakers would charge more for the same funeral. But it is seldom that we are asked to make such at common-sense funeral as I speak of. Instead, the widow who may have \$5000 coming to her, will insist upon s genuine rosewood or mahogany casket, even though I tell her that hemlock will last longer; and there must be a train of coaches, and then, as a final mark of affection, from \$250 to \$1000 of her means must go

S250 to \$1000 of her means must go up in marble over the grave. "Yes, we do make a difference be-tween the rich and poor of the churches to which we are attached. The congregation of the church of which I am sexton expect me to do things right down to the bottom dol-tar of profit when I bury a poor mem-

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Taut as a Bowline.

SOUTH AMBOY, N. J.-Capt. John Riley, of the Barge "Wm. H. Smith," of this place, says; "I have tried the great pain-conqueror, St. Jacobs Oil,

