

From the Sentinel.
IN MEMORIAM.
W. M. TURNER.

William M. Turner, who died in this city on the afternoon of March 9th, was born in Belfast, Ireland, July 15, 1828. When he was four years old his parents emigrated to the United States, settling in Utica, New York, where he resided with them and was educated, until 1846, when the family removed to Delaware county, Pennsylvania. In 1850 he joined the tide of emigration to California, and during the fifteen years residence in that State he was variously occupied in mining, clerking and the newspaper business. Appointed Assistant Federal Assessor for the northern counties of California, under Lincoln, he resigned the position in 1865, when he came to Oregon. Arriving in this State, he resided first at Salem where he was elected assistant clerk of the State legislature, and afterwards in January, 1866, he came to Jacksonville and took charge of the telegraph office and assumed editorial charge of the Oregon Sentinel. On the 18th of April, 1867, he was married to Mrs. Emeline Overbeck, with whom he lived most happily until his death. In 1877 he was Indian agent for the Malheur reservation, and in 1883 he was appointed United States Gauger and Storekeeper for Southern Oregon, which position he was compelled, by failing health, to resign in the fall of 1886. He joined the Presbyterian church in June 1886. Such, in brief outlines, are the main events in the life of one of the best and most honored citizens whose death this community has ever been called upon to mourn. For more than twenty years Mr. Turner was a resident of this county, and during that time he was prominently identified with every matter of public concern. His active intelligence led him to apprehend with unusual readiness, the salient merits of a cause; and a cause once espoused, his strong and ardent nature led him to advocate it with unflinching energy and enthusiastic zeal. He gave to nothing a half hearted or lukewarm support. Whatever he undertook, he did with a will, which, so far from faltering at obstacles, but grew stronger and braver as difficulties increased.

For several years Mr. Turner was prominently active in politics—being one of the Republican leaders in this part of the State; but, though an earnest and enthusiastic Republican, so high was the esteem in which he was held, that he was once elected school superintendent in this strongly Democratic county. During his connection with the Sentinel—which he was joint owner with the late Frank Krause—the paper was notably fearless and outspoken on all questions, and many of his pungent paragraphs and powerful articles were widely copied by the press of his and other States.

As a writer, he was ready, fluent, versatile. His bright flashes of wit, his keen strokes of sarcasm and his deep notes of pathos, never failing to win him a smile for his wit, a wince for his sarcasm, a tear for his pathos. But neither his wit nor his sarcasm, though keen the one and trenchant the other, were ever used for merely personal effect, but were always employed for the upholding of right or the downfall of wrong. Earnest, outspoken, honest—he feared neither God nor his own conscience, and hated nothing but wrong and the oppressor. "Be what you seem" was his motto, and his whole life attests the faithfulness with which he followed it.

Strong even to a passion in his friendship—his ardor naturally drew reciprocation, so that but few men have had better or warmer friends than he. And yet, he could forgive an enemy and forget a wrong. For almost a year Mr. Turner suffered from the malady which caused his death, and for many, very many weary weeks and months the brave spirit that had won from life many a hard fought field, fought now the slow battle with death. The uncomplaining patience, the still rallying courage which he ever brought to the stern encounter, showed, perhaps, more than all the rest of his life, the real heroism of the man. This heroism was born of a profound appreciation of the duty life—an appreciation so profound, that months of suffering seemed scarcely to trouble the calm serenity of the soul that bravely bore the life—that is, that hopeful waited the life—to come.

He left a widow and two children who, in their affliction, have the consolation of knowing that they have the deep and earnest sympathy of this entire community. In the death of Mr. Turner, his family have lost a kind, loving, indulgent husband and father, and our city a good true, brave and earnest man. Peace to his ashes! rest to his soul.

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