

Death of H. G. Blake.

Medina has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of its most prominent and influential citizen, Hon. H. G. Blake. The event of his sickness and death has been so sudden — his withdrawal from the familiar places where he has been so constantly seen, is so recent and unexpected, we cannot yet ~~we~~ begin to realize that he has passed from amongst us forever. It seems impossible that he is dead! The familiar form, the friendly face, the good cheery voice which had been seen and heard and loved so long and well, ~~was~~ ~~missed~~ ~~but~~ ~~one~~ ~~short~~ ~~week~~ ~~ago~~ ~~that~~ that it had become almost as much a part of the daily life of the village



as sunrise and <sup>2</sup> sunset, was missed  
but one short week ago, ~~It is~~  
~~hard to ima~~ believe it will never.  
Only one week ago, and ~~more~~ ~~come~~ ~~back~~, ~~Scarcely~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~had~~ <sup>the</sup>  
sound of his voice died out of  
~~our~~ ~~ear~~ hearing or his form  
when we are called up ~~from~~ ~~it~~ ~~to~~ ~~appear~~.  
faded from sight, where he  
moved amongst us <sup>to follow his body to the grave.</sup> from day <sup>by</sup> day  
~~and~~ It is hard to believe he will  
never more come back. Only as  
the days and weeks and ~~two~~ years  
months go by shall we gradually  
learn not to expect him. Only as  
time runs its ceaseless course shall  
we fully ~~appreciate~~ understand  
the ~~words that now fall from~~  
<sup>meaning of the</sup> ~~fact from one to another words~~  
all <sup>now</sup> ~~are~~ ~~now~~ ~~are~~ <sup>all</sup> speaking in  
a ~~stunned~~ ~~and~~ wondering sort of  
way - Blake is dead! The ties that  
have bound him and this community  
so closely for forty years are



3  
sundered <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ social, political  
and business relations of the  
community ~~feel a pang of~~ are  
profoundly affected, <sup>and</sup> ~~perman-~~  
~~ently changed.~~ To such an ex-  
tent ~~does~~ does the influence  
~~and~~ character of an active,  
self-reliant and upright man  
<sup>control</sup> affect the interests and affairs  
of his fellows.

It is too soon to estimate  
the effect upon ~~community~~  
public affairs which, <sup>unforeseen</sup> the  
death of Mr. Blake, ~~will~~  
cause ~~can~~ and it is  
not necessary here to <sup>do</sup> more than  
allude to it as something inevit-  
ably to occur. This much, however,  
may well be premised: that as his  
~~influence~~ the influence which ~~has~~  
~~arises~~ <sup>is derived from his wide living</sup>  
strong character, ~~has~~ ~~always~~ ~~exerted~~  
<sup>who</sup> has ~~to~~ always ~~been~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~right~~



good strong for good, the  
 impress left upon the men and  
 affairs, now that he is dead, must  
 continue to ~~continue to~~ yield good  
 results for good. ~~While, therefore, we~~  
 realize, or try to) the great loss we  
 suffer by his departure,

"The good that men  
 do lives after them," ~~the~~ ~~evil~~ ~~is~~ ~~his~~  
 death breaks up long-continued  
 habits of trust <sup>in numerous matters</sup> ~~repose~~ formed by  
 the energy and integrity of his ~~own~~  
 operations and character; ~~the~~ ~~and~~  
<sup>the general</sup> ~~very~~ society of which he was a  
 genial, ~~sound~~ wholesome, loving  
 member, will feel bereft, and, in  
 its bereavement feel something of the  
 keen anguish which has fallen  
 upon the ~~narrower and~~ ~~the~~  
~~reduced~~ ~~circle~~ ~~of~~ ~~this~~ ~~land~~ ~~which~~  
~~his~~ ~~affection~~ ~~and~~ ~~hospitality~~ ~~and~~ ~~his~~  
~~made~~ ~~about~~ ~~a~~ ~~model~~ ~~and~~ ~~rendered~~



upon the Sacred Circle of the  
 home where his fidelity, affec-  
 tion and hospitality will  
<sup>henceforth be only</sup>  
 blessed memory.

We sketch his biography and  
~~his~~ Services, in another and de-  
 scribe the closing scenes of his  
 long, eventful and useful life, in  
 another article. Here, ~~in~~ <sup>but</sup> we seek to  
 find ~~fitting~~ expression, as all his  
 neighbors and ~~for~~ friends are doing, for  
 the tribute which <sup>fitting</sup> a tribute to ~~the~~  
 recollection <sup>of</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>the</sup> generosity, good nature,  
~~eminent~~ and all the commanding  
 qualities of <sup>character</sup> ~~his character nature~~,  
 which are so ~~still~~ <sup>too</sup> ~~just~~ <sup>fresh</sup>  
 and vivid, <sup>that they</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>to</sup> they have ~~not~~ <sup>not yet</sup> be-  
 come recollections of ~~born in poverty~~  
<sup>as he was</sup>  
 widely known  
 as a public man, and <sup>as he was</sup> highly esteemed  
 for the solid ~~and~~ solid services  
 to the country in the Councils of the



State and Nation, and deferred  
to and trusted as he was as a  
man of affairs, ~~he was still~~  
~~better known, more truly trusted~~  
~~and~~ <sup>of all</sup> it was, as a private  
Citizen, as a neighbor, ~~and~~ friend  
and companion, that ~~he formed~~  
~~the strongest attachments, and~~  
~~as the~~ ~~friend~~  
~~of the poor,~~  
that he will be most and  
best remembered. His personal  
~~friendships~~ <sup>attachments</sup> were strong and  
enduring, and his friends ~~were~~ are  
numbered by troops. For forty years  
he has lived and worked here;  
~~and~~ the successful, self-reliant,  
~~and~~ whole-souled, generous  
man of business, politician, ~~and~~  
lawyer; ~~and~~ and his relations  
with all classes of ~~of~~ the people  
of the County during ~~xxx~~ these



years have been of the most  
intimate and personal nature.  
It has fallen to the lot of but few  
men to sustain ~~himself~~ themselves  
so grandly well through such  
a period, ~~and~~ of time, under the  
difficulties of <sup>in Chicago</sup> poverty, self-edu-  
cation, <sup>in youth,</sup> and the building of a  
substantial fortune in mature age.  
~~He conquered all difficulties, and~~  
~~tailed this he said~~ He was noted  
for his liberality and charity; the  
poor have always had a good  
friend in him; he probably gave  
away to assist others, and in  
enterprises for the public good,  
a fortune equal to the handsome  
competence which ~~his~~ thrift,  
prudence and industry enabled  
him to accumulate, leave for  
the benefit of <sup>to</sup> his own kin. Hospitality  
was second nature <sup>to</sup> him, and ~~the~~



as well as <sup>his</sup> excellent com=  
<sup>and marriage</sup>panion, the wife of his youth, and  
the latch-string of their ~~home~~  
door was always out. He  
was foremost in every good work;  
always ready with good counsel,  
strong encouragement, <sup>or</sup> "maternal  
aid" & whenever his help was  
sought for public or private <sup>good</sup> use,  
by friend or enemy. His patriotism  
was lofty and unflinching, and his  
political influence - from youth up -  
was ~~not~~ exerted for the emancipation  
of the slave, for honesty, econ=  
omy and ~~just~~ ~~large~~ ~~justice~~ purity in  
the administration of the ~~national~~  
~~affairs~~ government, and for the  
~~more~~ elevation ~~of~~ ~~the~~ enlight of  
the masses. The death of such a  
man, in the maturity of his powers  
and at the height of his usefulness,



is a lap <sup>9</sup> to the whole  
country, and a calamity to  
the narrower circle in which he  
lived and moved. ~~His intense~~  
~~application to business of late~~  
~~years, accompanied by the habits~~  
~~of ~~of~~ ~~imperfect~~ punctuality, <sup>and industry</sup>~~  
~~which grew upon him as~~

Had he been  
less controlled by the ~~of~~ habits of  
punctuality and industry, which  
of late years increased his ~~intense~~  
application to business intensely, and  
taken something of the leisure and  
recreation which his years and  
position demanded, he might have  
been spared to a green old age.  
But ~~what~~ <sup>what</sup> now are, ~~some~~ regrets, and

(While  
he lived, he lived to some purpose;  
he lived to support and strengthen  
those who needed such care;



he lived to ~~be~~ brighten and  
and enlighten the world around  
him; ~~be the circle of his influence~~  
~~was large or small;~~

he lived a good example  
in all essentials. Whatever were  
his failings - and no one was more  
conscious than himself of the weak-  
ness of poor human nature see=  
less constantly upheld and sus=  
tained by ~~the~~ that "something not  
of ourselves that makes for  
righteousness" - ~~whatever were his~~  
~~weaknesses~~ we may truly say  
that "even his failings leaned to  
virtue's side." He lived well, and  
he died peacefully, surrounded  
by all who were near and dear  
to him. The town where he spent  
his life, is draped in mourning at  
his death; ~~and of the hundreds~~  
and as the grave closes