

HON. ABEL HARWOOD

Died at Champaign, Ill., in his 78th year, of pneumonia, brought on by an attack of la grippe. He was buried at Bloomington, Ill.

Mr. Harwood was born in North Brookfield, Mass., Nov. 23, 1814. He was born on the farm of his father, where he remained and assisted in the work until he was 17 years. He was also employed as a clerk in a store about two years. He entered Amherst College, where he studied hard and graduated in 1841. Soon afterward he was united in marriage with Mary D. Batcheller, daughter of Deacon Tyler Batcheller, of North Brookfield. Soon after his marriage he and his young wife started for Illinois, but before reaching this state they changed their mind and went to Shelby county, Ky. He taught school there for some time, but on a better offer went to Lexington. Here his health failed and he was compelled to quit teaching. He subsequently engaged in the boot and shoe business, in which he was quite successful, and at the end of 9 years had accumulated considerable money. He had occasion to visit Danville, in 1852, and was at once greatly taken with Illinois. Consequently, in the next spring he came back and purchased 3000 acres of prairie land in McLean, Champaign and Piatt counties. He afterward bought 2000 acres more. He took up his residence in Bloomington in 1853, where he opened an extensive shoe house. In 1856 sorrow came to his home, in the death of his wife, she leaving five young children. Two years later he married Miss Isabella D. Boyd. This admirable woman is still living. By his first wife he had six children, Mary, wife of George W. Harwood, of this city; Emma, whose husband, W. O. Cady, who lived in Bloomington, is now dead; Ella, wife of J. C. Stevenson, also of Bloomington; Ida, who died only a few years ago and who in infancy was taken into the family of Dr. T. F. Worrell, of Bloomington; Martha who died in infancy, and Lucretia, who died in 1882. The second wife is the mother of five children, as follows: Isabella, who married Judge C. C. Staley and was the mother of three children, Isabella, Eliza and Annie. Mrs. Staley died a few years ago, and since that time the children have made their home with their grandparents, Wilson, who died at the age of ten years, Caroline and Francis died in infancy and the other before receiving a name. In 1866 he removed with his family to one of his farms in Newcomb township. In 1870 he purchased the elegant home on South State street, where he has since lived. Some years ago he began to dispose of his farms, as he was getting old and desired to live a quiet life. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and was never absent from his pew at services. He rightfully earned the title of "Honorable" in 1869 and 1870, being a member of the convention that framed the present constitution of the state, represented in that convention the counties of Champaign, Piatt, Moultrie and Macon.

In his death Champaign has lost one of its most influential and valuable citizens. The life of Abel Harwood, from boyhood, was one filled with noble acts and was a good, worthy pattern for young men. He was dignified in demeanor, courteous to all, and faithful to every duty of life, and leaves a name to be held in worthy memory for all time.

ness, and their
successful business at once.

Upon the re-organization of the firm, Alfred H. became the managing partner, and by his untiring energy and industry it was carried to a very high eminence.

William C. King retired from the firm in 1865, and Ezra Batcheller died in the fall of 1870, leaving only Alfred H. and George E. in the firm.

The death of the father was a sad blow to the young men, for they always recognized his many virtues and upright business methods, and his loss in their councils was very much felt.

The great Boston fire in November, 1872, was a financial disaster, which whitened the hair and in a few months added years of apparent age to Mr. Alfred H., but the buoyancy of his will soon carried him above his losses with credit unimpaired.

Three years later his brother George E., died. This loss of a brother and trusted partner, with its accompanying weight of responsibility, seemed for a time nearly to crush Mr. Alfred, but he wisely called to his aid and counsel some of the ablest men in his employ, whose fidelity helped him very much to carry forward the business. No doubt he might have retired at this time from business with a competency equal to that of any subsequent period, but for the sake of his sons and other family connections, and not least the town of North Brookfield, which had invested one hundred thousand dollars in a Railroad, (with his factory the only industry in town) he was compelled to take up and carry on for ten years a business of Two Million annually. He never relinquished his activity in the business, until his illness in the winter of 1888.

Mr. Batcheller from the first, took a high rank in the boot and shoe trade of Boston. His upright business methods and genial manners, won for him a host of friends in nearly every state in the union. After the illness alluded to above, his health was never again restored; he spent his summers in North Brookfield with some benefit to his health; but with the hope on the part of his family of more permanent benefit, he went to the Jackson Sanatorium at Danville, N.Y., about two months since, where for a time he seemed much better. His letters expressed that such was his own feeling, as well as his enjoyment in the place and the treatment. But a change came, and on the morning of December 22, 1891, Alfred H. Batcheller passed away, and with him the second generation of the upright, honest business firm of the Batchellers was ended. F.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the New England Shoe and Leather Association, held Monday to take action upon the decease of the late A. H. Batcheller, resolutions were unanimously adopted to the effect that they are called to mourn one who for more than a generation was one of the most prominent and respected men in their trade. His many estimable qualities commanded their love and admiration. Having known him and been associated with him for many years, they testify to the rare business ability and sagacity, the dignity, generosity, urbanity and kindness of heart, and to the high sense of mercantile honor which he always displayed, as well in adversity as in prosperity.