

With all local affairs of the town and village of Vermontville, whether of a moral, religious, educational social or political nature, he was more closely and intimately associated and helpful than was any other citizen for so long a period as half a century. By natural selection he became chief counsellor and advisor for the people, who knew him from boyhood in their troubles and business problems which perplexed them, and he never betrayed the confidence reposed in him. A ripened experience and sound judgment made him a wise advisor. He knew all about the lives of the plain people who are the bone and sinew of the country. With the life of the village and the town that has been his home for three score years and ten his own life was intertwined in the closest of human relations, and his clear perception and good judgment rendered his advise almost inerrant. Ever widening through a long career has been the circle of his influence, and greatly will he be missed. A man's final departure, when he has lived justly, is as Victor Hugo says, "like the end of a beautiful day."

Homer G. Barber was as honest and true to himself as he was honest and



HOMER G. BARBER

of true with others. The best years of his life were the mature years of his manhood. The closing hours of sunset and of twilight should always be the most beautiful part of this mortal life. Retrospect and prospect unite as dim mortality merges into clear im-

mortality. A life well lived here, a character well established here, is the basis and surety of continuous growth in the hereafter. Our departed brother belonged to no church, he accepted no religious creed in its entirety, he was tied to no party, and he upheld such policies and principles as he believed to be best and right. He saw the element of goodness in all things, and, believing in the church as an agency for the betterment of humanity, he held the office of trustee for the Congregational society many years, brought to the conduct of its affairs the same business methods that prevailed in his own personal interests, and was a generous contributor to its support. The general welfare was his motive.

A limited school education was supplemented by a wide reading of histories, biographies and works relating to modern science and thought. In all he was an independent thinker, being reluctant to bear upon current doctrine of business in his candid and independent judgment. He was an excellent conversationalist, a ready public speaker, and his success in business was achieved because by strict integrity he had gained the confidence of others. He never failed to give an honest answer when his opinion and advice were asked. Added to these qualities were mental alertness, systematic methods, a comprehensive grasp of details, and close devotion to work. What he could do himself he never asked others to perform. As those who knew him longest and best think over the record of his life and the good he has done in the sphere of his activity, the thought will naturally find expression in the sentence, "We ne'er shall see his like again."

Born in New England, reared amid and environed by the peculiar ideas of his time, he had the manhood and courage to think for himself, and he had the sincerity and courage to express his honest doubts, yet he was tolerant of the opinions of others, and gained their confidence while disagreeing with them. He was sincere, and sincerity is the perfect mirror of a just and fair mind. It reflects in speech and honest thought.

Within the compass of his life the world has changed. The railway, the steamship, the telegraph has made neighbors of all nations. Countless inventions have made the luxuries of