



O. T. BASSETT.

DEATH OF O. T. BASSETT.

Passed Peacefully Away in His Slumbers Last Night.

The city was aroused early this morning by a report that Mr. O. T. Bassett had died during the night. The news spread and by the time a HERALD reporter reached his rooms at the corner of St. Louis and Stanton streets, a number of prominent citizens were gathering there, and then it was found that the report was too true, for there lying in his bed as though in a peaceful slumber, lay the mortal remains of a pioneer citizen of El Paso; there with his head half buried in his pillow, his body lying on the right side, with his left arm partly extended, with not the contraction of a muscle or anything to show that death had visited there the night before, lay the mortal remains of one who came to El Paso when it was a village and saw the village grow into a city with a bright future. Men who knew him all these years, men whom he had assisted in the struggle with life, stood by with bared heads and dampened eye. These men wept deeply, but not openly; an experienced eye could see that despair was pulling at their heart strings. They wept over the mortal remains of as true a friend as this world produces; they wept because their loss could never be replaced; a friend had gone—and there will be none like him to them. Those who who felt most deeply their loss were Messrs. Maury Edwards, C. R. Morehead and Joe H. Frist, while other present felt deeply the loss.

Mr. O. T. Bassett was born in Vermont forty-eight years ago. He came west at an early day and settled in Clinton, Indiana, where he married. As early as 1880 Mr. Bassett made a trip over the stage line from Fort Worth to El Paso and returned. In 1881 he in company with his wife and Mr. C. R. Morehead again came to El Paso and he then established his lumber business here and acquired a great deal of real estate. His wife returned to Clinton, Indiana in 1882 and died there, leaving Mr. Bassett a widower with one son Charles N. aged 17 years, who is now at school in Clinton. His move to El Paso was a prosperous one and he began the accumulation of great wealth at once and he was at the time of his death interested in many of the large enterprises in this city and owned a large amount of property in his own name, not only in El Paso, but in Oklahoma and California. He has been a friend to contractors and builders when he took a liking to them, and while he worked on straight business principals, he has been very lenient to those in whom he had confidence. He was what was termed in the business world a "bear" on the market and was shrewd enough to take advantage of all financial and business situations and make a success where others failed. Politically he remained with the old element that ruled and governed El Paso in its early days and he was always consulted on all questions politically that came before the organiza-

tion of which he was a member. He did not mix with the crowds, but had a select coterie of friends for whom he could not do too much and all of whom loved him for his good qualities and forgot all his frailties. He had his faults, as all men have; he has quietly stood the sting of a rebuking press without a murmur and went on in the even tenor of his way satisfied with lot in this world of trouble and turmoil. He leaves an estate valued in the hundred thousand dollars. He has a great deal of property in El Paso the value of which cannot now be estimated. He also leaves two large brick store buildings in the city of Oklahoma and a large ranch in Los Angeles county, California.

On hearing of his death his political opponents were there to weep with his friends; all differences were buried and only a feeling of brotherhood remained in the breasts of the group that hovered around his death bed. He had fought his battle of life and passed peacefully "over the bourne from which no traveler returns."

Mr. Bassett was a member in high standing in the Knights Templar and that order will hold services over his remains tomorrow. The body was turned over to Mr. Negley and carried to the Caldwell undertaking parlors to be embalmed and prepared to be shipped tomorrow to his old home in Clinton, Indiana, over the Texas & Pacific.

It was difficult to tell just at what hour he died, but the physicians and undertaker decided that he must have died about 2 o'clock this morning as his body was rigid when removed.

Mr. Bassett had been sick for the past two weeks and was confined to his room. He complained of heart trouble and often became faint on ascending or descending the stairway to his rooms over his office. However, he had so much improved in the last few days that he was able to be about and even attended to business. Yesterday in talking to friends he said he was not well, but was much better than he had been, and to an old friend from Indiana he said: "You will soon have to send me back to Indiana a corpse. I have heart troubles and I will not be long before I am carried off." He retired last night at 12 o'clock. At 10 o'clock he said to Joe Frist, who was with him, that he was feeling all right and did not need any one to sit up with him. That he was not sleepy and would not go to bed for two hours. This morning when Joe came into the office he did not see Mr. Bassett and went up to his room to see if he needed any attention. As he opened the door he saw that his employer and friend was dead. He immediately notified Messrs. Maury Edwards and C. R. Morehead.

The remains now lie in a beautiful casket at the Caldwell undertaking parlors and have been visited by a large number of citizens who can hardly realize that all that is mortal of O. T. Bassett will soon go to their last resting place on earth.

The funeral of Mr. O. T. Bassett occurred today at the Caldwell undertaking parlors and the ceremonies were conducted by the Knights Templar, of which order Mr. Bassett was a member. The funeral procession was then led by the Knights Templar followed by the hearse with Messrs. C. T. Rabe, Joseph Magoffin, Maury Edwards, J. C. Lackland, C. R. Morehead and John Burton as pall bearers. The hearse was followed by a large number of carriages who accompanied the remains to the Texas & Pacific depot. Mr. Joe H. Frist will accompany the body to Clinton, Indiana, where it will be buried alongside that of his wife.

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