

Judge Pierson's Funeral Obsequies

The remains of the late Judge W. M. Pierson, who died at Hot Springs, Ark., last Monday, arrived here Friday morning, and were placed in the handsome hotel which he had just completed and expected to have rented, furnished and opened to the public before he left the city. The room was appropriately draped in mourning and a large anchor of crape covered with tarleton was represented on the wall, in the center of which was the words, formed of evergreen, "Rest in Peace." The casket, which was a fine metallic one, rested on a table, at the head of which the Rev. Mr. Merrill, the officiating minister, conducted the services. A large crowd of ladies and gentlemen occupied seats in the large room and listened attentively to the words of the minister, who opened the services with the well-known hymn, 'Rock of Ages.' After this a prayer was delivered and a portion of the burial service read from First Corinthians, 15th chapter. Mr. Merrill then made a few very appropriate remarks on the life and death of Judge Pierson and read the following

brief history of his life, furnished by an old friend of the deceased:

"Judge William M. Pierson was a native of Western Virginia. He was educated as a lawyer, but being of an adventurous spirit, commenced life as a captain and owner of a steamboat on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Not being successful in this enterprise he came to San Antonio, Texas, more than twenty years ago, and was employed by several of the largest mercantile houses there as bookkeeper, at which he was considered an expert, and in less than a year he made over \$4,000 at this business, and straightened the books of several other mercantile houses. In 1868 he came to El Paso as a law partner of Mr. Williams who was killed here. In their joint business they accumulated a considerable property in this town, which from the railroad facilities which have sprung up made a fortune for himself as well as for the Williams heirs. He was engaged in the civil war on the Confederate side, and belonged to Col. Baylor's regiment. Since 1868, the time of his arrival here, a part of his time has been spent as a resident of Denver, Colo., and a part in Silver City, New Mexico, where he was engaged in mining. He was 61 years old at the time of his death. His charity was unbounded. He seemed to look upon a speedy dissolution when he left here,

as a possible event, and during his meditations on one occasion, he remarked, "Well, if I have to die, I feel I have done more good than harm."

Rev. Mr. Carter then made a few remarks and followed with prayer, when the closing hymn was sung and all who desired to view the remains were requested to do so, after which the pall-bearers, Messrs. Magoffin, Julian, Harrison, Joseph Schutz, Judge Blacker, Maj. Zimpleman, Lane, Zollers and Larmour took charge of the casket and conveyed it to the hearse, whence it was taken to the vault near by the hotel, placed therein, sealed up and the cortege dispersed. And thus ends the final chapter in the funeral obsequies of Judge Pearson, who acquired a fortune of nearly a quarter million of dollars, and when this fortune had culminated, the grim destroyer lays hands on him and he joins the innumerable throng. Schiller once said the people of earth were but a vast funeral procession, one half of the world passing over the face of the earth to bury the other half. And thus it seems.