

PONTIAC BILL POSTER

July 8 1885
Death of Christopher R. Mabley.

News reached this city early Tuesday forenoon, of the death early in the morning, at his residence in Detroit of C. R. Mabley, of a complication of brain and kidney diseases.

His immediate death was not expected by his family, as a consequence the exact hour and minute of his death is not known, passing away in his sleep without a recognized struggle by his attendants.

Mr. Mabley, and all his intimate friends have for some time been aware of the precarious condition of his health, and all that money, care, and medical skill could do to check disease and cure the fatal malady was done. Mr. Mabley in person consulting the best physicians in this country and Europe, all proving unable to restore the waste the management of so large a business has imposed on the mind and nervous system of the diseased.

Mr. Mabley was very near to Pontiac by social and business ties. His generous nature and liberal charities endeared him to all classes. He embarked in business in this city in 1859, and it has been truly said of him that he made the people stare at his first opening, which was in a dull and deserted portion of main street, in a building where Hicks & Cowles livery stable now stands. His effort then was the prelude and key to the success of his business career. He had the happy faculty and tact to draw business, and where Mabley was there was business commotion. As a business man he has performed a herculean task, establishing and successfully managing the largest retail business in this state, perhaps in the west at his death leaving a fortune ample for the comfort of his family, and the rewarding of faithful employes.

Mr. Mabley was born in Cornwall, England, Feb. 22, 1836. His father was a merchant and kept a general store. At the age of 11 years Christopher left school and went to work in the tailoring department of his father's store and after three years he took charge of the custom department of the store. In 1849 the fam-

ily moved and settled in Toronto, Canada, where was established a clothing business which in time became the largest in the Dominion. Mr. Mabley was soon at the head of the trade there. After two years he felt the need of a larger field of business, and acting on the advice of friends traveled over most of the United States then eligible for his business, in search of a suitable location. Milwaukee was his choice. A fire burned him out after he had been doing business there about a year, and being unable to secure another location in Milwaukee that suited his ideas, in 1859 he moved to Pontiac and commenced business on a scale that in those days made the people stare. He established branch stores in surrounding towns. His ambition craved for a larger field still, and in 1870 opened up in Detroit a business that in its growth has been marvelous, from one store it has increased to fifteen stores at the present time, including sixty-two departments.

Mr. Mabley has owned stores in many of the principal cities of Michigan. Besides his fifteen stores in Detroit he was interested as a partner in the clothing manufacturing firm of J. Lowenstein & Co. of Jefferson avenue. He withdrew from the Louisville store several years ago, after putting it on a paying basis for the young man who managed it. In Cincinnati his partner is J. T. Carew, formerly of Detroit. The Cincinnati firm has eight stores on Fifth street, one of the principal business thoroughfares. Two stores are operated at Baltimore, a branch of the Cincinnati house. The firm name in Toledo is C. R. Mabley & Co., John N. Mockett being partner and manager. Two stores in Iowa are managed by Andrew Graham, formerly of Detroit. An incident of Mr. Mabley's business life was the fierce opposition between him and "Little Jake," another clothing merchant at Pontiac, in which both were financially injured. They finally signed a written agreement not to again infringe on each other's territory.

In Mr. Mabley's active life he never lost sight of his family, providing them with a very fine home, embellishing and adorning it with all that money could purchase. The welfare and comfort of his family were the dominating purpose of his life. He carried a large life insurance, amounting to \$40,000, as an emergency fund for the benefit of his wife and children.

Mr. Mabley was a member of a number of secret organizations, and although he supported them strongly he took no active part in the meetings. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Ancient Order of Foresters, and the Knights Templar.

In accordance with the wish of the deceased, the funeral was held from his late residence 1105 Woodward avenue, Detroit, Thursday morning, in a quiet unostentatious manner, being confined exclusively to the immediate family and relatives. A brief ceremony was held at the residence at 10 o'clock, when the mourning company took special cars for Pontiac, arriving here at noon, and were met by relatives and Dr. Jaccokes who assisted in the last sad ceremonies to one whose memory will be revered for his many good qualities of mind and heart.

The remains were taken to Oak Hill cemetery, and deposited in the Bascom vault with appropriate burial rites.