

PONTIAC BILL POSTER

NOV 10 1886
Death of Col. John P. Foster.

The death of John P. Foster, last Friday evening at 7 o'clock, was an anticipated event. His sickness being caused by Bright's disease his death was considered certain at not a very remote day, and the family and friends were in a measure prepared for the summons; no more so than himself who talked of his departure and planned for his funeral as he would transact a matter of business. In conversation with his spiritual adviser he said if he told anything about him to tell the truth, dropping the admonition that there was more to live for in this world than the making of money.

The deceased by inherent energy and personal effort overcame the obstacles that obscure birth and moderate circumstances impose, and arose to local prominence and preferment in the social, civil and political associates of Pontiac and the county. In all these relations the credit, devotion and fidelity to obligation is accorded to him. Few men in the county were known in more homes than he, and in many cases acquaintance grew into attachment which manifested itself during his life in many demonstrations of regard and confidence.

He was much attached to his home and her who presided over it, and by mutual effort and parental sympathy their home was one of comfort and pleasure where love and peace prevailed and happiness reigned. To his children he was a kind and indulgent father, generous in gifts of affection, and substantial aid in meeting and filling life's relations and duties. He was a liberal entertainer of associations and friends with a home welcome for all who came. For worthy objects and purposes he was a liberal giver, bestowing with a free hand and generous heart. In business affairs, in his dealings with men he had the confidence of all classes, meeting every obligation and trust on the basis of equal and exact justice.

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In all matters pertaining to the welfare and growth of Pontiac he always put his shoulder to the wheel of progress, doing his full share in the advancement of the material interests of the city. His active and earnest efforts in public affairs led to his political preferment and he served as alderman one term, was township treasurer several years, when the duties of the office extended over the city, was several times elected ward treasurer, was also constable for a number of terms, and deputy sheriff under one or more administrations. His pet interest in the city government was the fire department which he patronized and served during his entire residence in the city, having been its head and chief some 27 years, resigning last season on account of poor health. To this department he devoted special attention, was its head in the change from the volunteer to a paid department, and in the organization of the present force, in the purchase of steam and other apparatus he was the leading spirit and manager, and may be considered the founder of the present efficient department. He always possessed the confidence of the firemen and in emergencies his orders were promptly obeyed and executed. In his death the boys feel they have lost their best friend and ablest adviser and leader. He was a permanent and respected member of all the masonic bodies in the city, and had been appointed in the order of high priesthood. In the local orders he had filled the offices of Master of the Lodge, High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter, and Eminent Commander of Pontiac Commandry. From the tessellated pavement to the temple he was an active and earnest worker, attached to the order and its principles. He was also an Odd Fellow but in late years had not been in intimate affiliation.

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