

## DEACON JOHN P. WYCKOFF.

Winter is death's harvest time with the old and almost weekly we are called upon to chronicle the demise of some aged veteran in life's battle.

There is a consolation in the thought, or rather fact, that death in age is the natural outgoing, and temporal end of the human soul. We can therefore mourn and grieve over the fall of an aged father or mother as over the going out of a light that has been our guide in the intricate, troublesome paths of an earthly pilgrimage. This light, if it has been effulgent in good deeds, and bright with kindly christian acts, is not blotted out at death, but will live to guide and lead us to a land and home where there will be no more suffering or parting.

Such a light has gone out in the death of Deacon John P. Wyckoff, which occurred at his home on the turnpike, two miles north west of Pontiac, Friday morning at 3 o'clock, of disease of the heart and lung complication, aged 70 years, 9 months and 24 days. For some two years the family discerned a gradual decline which culminated in his prostration and confinement to the house from about Christmas time; from this condition he did not rally. He seemed to be impressed that January was an eventful month to him, and this feeling was strengthened by the fact that many of the more important events of his life occurred in January. He would frequently recall the facts that he united with the Presbyterian church at Romulus, N. Y., at the age of eighteen years, January, 1835. He was married on January 25, 1837. He moved to Michigan January, 1846. His jubilee or golden wedding was celebrated January 25 of last year, 1887. During his illness as he recalled these events he became impressed with what the sequel proved to be a fact that his earthly career would end in January.

John P. Wyckoff was born at Romulus, New York, April 3, 1817. He was married to Mary Ann Henlon, January 25, 1837. He came to Michigan and the farm where he died, January 1846. He with his wife and two children drove from New York, with team, being two weeks on the road. On reaching Pontiac, before driving to his home he stopped in front of the Gazette office, Pontiac, and subscribed for the Gazette, and had been a continuous patron since. He purchased the farm upon which he died of the brother of Horace Johnson, an early resident of the village of Pontiac. The farm had become very much impoverished, and the buildings dilapidated by neglect. From this depressed condition Mr. Wyckoff had made it one of the most productive farms in the county. Immediately upon his arrival here himself and wife united with the Pontiac Presbyterian church. In 1864 he changed his church relations to the Congregational society and for a quarter of a century had held the office of Deacon, and in the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church was a devoted worker in his chosen Zion. From the age of eighteen to his death he had been a professed follower of Christ, and so lived as to merit the approval of all with whom he mingled as a citizen, friend and neighbor. In the intimate home relation he was a true husband and devoted parent; self-sacrificing and true in example. word