

WINTHROP S. GILMAN DEAD.

AN ORIGINAL ABOLITIONIST AND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN AND BANKER.

Winthrop Sargent Gilman, head of the banking house of Gilman, Son & Co., of No. 62 Cedar-street, this city, died at his Summer home in Palisades, Rockland County, N. Y., on Friday, age 76. Mr. Gilman was known as a business man in nearly every State of the Union, as outside of his career as a New-York banker he had been interested in many commercial ventures throughout the country. He was a very successful man and leaves a handsome fortune. He was one of the original, though not outspoken, abolitionists, and in the death of the Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, killed by a pro-slavery mob at Alton, Ill., in 1837, he figured as the defender of the fourth press of Mr. Lovejoy—a printing press that cost the outspoken abolitionist his life.

Mr. Gilman was born in Marietta, Ohio. He came East at an early age, and as a clerk in Philadelphia and New-York laid the foundation of a thorough business training, on which he steadily built until the day of his death. In 1830 he went West with considerable money in his pocket and engaged in the wholesale grocery business at St. Louis, with branch houses in surrounding towns. At Alton, Ill., he had a large storehouse. It was this storehouse that he opened in 1837 for the reception of the last press of Mr. Lovejoy, and he was one of the few men left who defended the building on the night of the Lovejoy riot. In a letter to Mr. Henry Tanner, now of Buffalo, who was an outspoken abolitionist in Alton in 1837, Mr. Gilman wrote:

"It is well known that in 1838 the abolition of slavery in the Southern States became a subject of intense feeling. As the eyes of the Northern people opened to see the evils of slavery they began to discuss the subject and to form Abolition societies. This provoked the hostility of the South, and the right of discussion, the right of petition on the subject, and the right of sending Abolition publications through the mails were denied. * * * In those days Elijah P. Lovejoy suffered the loss of two or three printing presses at Alton, after having passed through the same trial with his *St. Louis Observer*, a Presbyterian newspaper, published first at St. Louis and afterward at Alton. Lovejoy was a conscientious Christian and able writer, moderate in the expression of his views, but a perfect Martin Luther for firmness. His publications were objected to, by many abolitionists, as of too mild a type. Slaveholders, on the other hand, demanded that there be no discussion of the dreaded topic; but he, fearless and conscientious, declined to banish the subject of slavery from his columns. The result of his labors was that friends shipped him a new press to take the place of the last destroyed at Alton. They were determined that his mouth should not be gagged.

"I resided at Alton at that time, though I was not a member of an abolition society. I knew nothing of this fourth press until after it was shipped, but opened our warehouse at midnight, Nov. 6, 1837, * * * and had it snugly packed away in our third story, guarded by volunteer citizens with their guns. All arrangements were made with the Mayor's sanction. He told us he would make us special constables and would order us to fire on the mob if we were assailed. * * * The result is a matter of history."

The warehouse was assailed by a mob, and, as Mr. Gilman said, it was a mob "with arms and hootings, with tin horns blowing, and plenty of liquor flowing among them." Mr. Gilman appeared at a second-story window of the besieged warehouse, in response to calls, and declined to give up the press as demanded. The warehouse was fired upon and the fire returned. One of the mob, a man named Bishop, was killed. The crowd returned to the assault, and with the next volley Lovejoy was killed. A flag of truce was then sent into the warehouse. The defenders agreed to give up the press and were to be allowed to leave unmolested. As they left, however, they were repeatedly fired upon, but all escaped uninjured.

"What confidence can be placed in an agreement made by a mob?" indignantly questioned Mr. Gilman in his letter to Mr. Tanner. "Their eyes were holden that they could not see that Lovejoy's bed of shame was his real glory, and their exultations over him were their deepest disgrace." Public meetings were held in the North to condemn the murder. "At the grave of Lovejoy," said Mr. Gilman, "no remarks were made lest the mob should disturb the last rites."

Mr. Gilman came East after the questions of slavery were settled forever, and in 1860 established a banking house at No. 47 Exchange-place—the same house now doing business in Cedar-street. In appearance he was an extremely delicate man, but his works showed him strong. His brain was out of proportion to his delicate body. In youth he was very handsome. He was an earnest Presbyterian, and his labors on behalf of the five-million fund will always be gratefully remembered by that denomination. That so delicate a man lived to such an age in the full possession of his faculties was yesterday a subject of remark among Mr. Gilman's late associates in business.

Mr. Gilman was married in 1835 to Abia Swift Lippincott, daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Lippincott, of Alton, Ill. She survives him, as do nine children—five sons and four daughters. Of the sons Winthrop and Theodore are members of the banking firm, Arthur G. is a literary student at Cambridge, and a "Life of Chaucer" is among his work; the other son, Benjamin Ives Gilman, is also known in the world of letters. Mr. Gilman's funeral will occur at Palisades next Tuesday.