

F. B. THURBER DEAD.

Well Known as a Lawyer, Writer, Politician, and Wholesale Merchant.

Francis Beattie Thurber, the lawyer, of 90 Broadway and 49 West Twenty-fifth Street died yesterday. His funeral will take place on Monday from his town house.

Mr. Thurber, wholesale grocer, lawyer, and publicist, was born on a farm near Delhi, Delaware County, N. Y., on Nov. 13, 1842. He was educated at the Delaware Academy, in Delhi, from which he was graduated in 1854, and at Union Hall Academy, where he took a post-graduate course in 1855 and 1856.

After several years of farming Mr. Thurber tired of agriculture and came to New York, where he obtained a position as office boy at \$2 a week. He afterward became a clerk in the establishments of Robert & Williams and T. M. Wheeler & Co., and here he picked up a thorough knowledge of the grocery business. He saved a few thousand dollars, which he later invested in the business of Pupke & Thurber, in which his brother, H. K. Thurber, was a partner.

Mr. Thurber early demonstrated the possession of an enormous capacity for work, and eventually, after a career as salesman and manager, became the active head of the concern, which was afterward known as Thurber, Weyland & Co., and, at one time had the reputation of being the largest wholesale grocery house in the world. He succeeded his brother as senior partner finally, and continued the business until 1894, when, through a superabundance of bad debts, the firm passed into the hands of a receiver.

In the meanwhile, however, Mr. Thurber had acquired a quantity of other property which was not affected by the crash. He had also written a book entitled "Coffee, from Plantation to Cup," and had become actively interested in public questions. On the advice of friends, he began to study law, and was admitted to the bar in 1899, with the reputation of having been the oldest law student in the history of the State. At that time he was 57 years old. Almost immediately thereafter he organized the New York State Anti-Monopoly League, which was largely instrumental in creating the State Railroad Commission, which passed out of existence last Monday. The league also had something to do with the creation of the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

Mr. Thurber joined several civic and National organizations, and frequently took an active part in current debates. As early as 1896, when William Jennings Bryan raised the question of exorbitant freight rates, Mr. Thurber took issue with him, and asserted that the danger of the freight situation at that time lay not in high rates but in unfair discrimination in rates.

In 1902 Mr. Thurber gained considerable notoriety in connection with the Cuban Reciprocity bill. He was summoned before the Senate Sub-Committee on Relations with Cuba and testified, after considerable questioning by Senator Tillman, that he had received money both from the sugar trust and the War Department to carry on a campaign in favor of the measure.

Mr. Thurber was at one time President of the United States Export Association and as such took an active interest in protection. He had considerable ability as a speaker and frequently spoke on tariff questions. He was a Vice President of the National Board of Trade, Vice President of the Irrigation Association, a life member of the National Academy of Design, a member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade and Transportation, and the American Economical Association. He belonged to the Union League, the Republican, and the Press Clubs.

In 1869 Mr. Thurber married Jeannette Meyer of Brooklyn, who afterward founded the National Conservatory of Music, and who practically organized the American Opera Company. They had two daughters, one of whom, Marianne Thurber, married Francis L. Pruyn last March. Later she appeared as an actress at Keith & Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre.

Mr. Thurber had a Summer home at Onteora Park, in the Catskills.

Obituary Notes.

CARL ROSENWALD, 36 years old, died of hemorrhage at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Henry Rosenwald, Elberon, N. J., on Wednesday morning. A clot of blood had formed on his brain in the night. Mr. Rosenwald lived in this city. He leaves a brother, Theodore Rosenwald.

Mrs. ROSA KLEBERG, aged 94, is dead at her home in Yorktown, Texas. Mrs. Kleberg and her husband were pioneer settlers, coming to Texas from Germany in 1835 before the State was established. Three sons and two daughters survive, ex-Congressman Rudolph Kleberg, Marcellus Kleberg, attorney; Robert Kleberg, capitalist; Mrs. Caroline Reckhardt, and Miss Lula Kleberg.

CONNIE MCGHEEHAN, the well-known former Holy Cross baseball pitcher, died at his home in Hazelton, Penn., Wednesday from consumption. After leaving college McGeehan pitched for the Philadelphia American League team, the Harrisburg Tri-State Club, and the Toronto team of the Eastern League. His sister, Miss Margaret McGeehan died two hours after his death from the same ailment.

Mrs. HENRY SONN died at Bad Nauheim about two weeks ago, of heart disease. Her body reached this port on Wednesday afternoon on the steamship Kaiser Wilhelm II. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman met the mourners and the coffin at Hoboken, where the funeral service was held at 5:45 o'clock, the same afternoon. Mrs. Sonn made her home at the Ansonia. She leaves a widower and children, Mrs. Sidney H. Rosenthal and Henry Sonn, Jr. She was 44 years old.

DR. RICHARD H. DERBY, the well-known specialist in eye diseases, died suddenly yesterday at his Summer home in Dark Harbor, Me. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1867, and after practicing in this city for some years became surgeon to the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. He was also connected with the Ophthalmological and Trinity Hospitals, and was a member of the County and State Society, the American Ophthalmological Society, and the Academy of Medicine. The funeral services will be held at Trinity Church to-morrow.

The Rev. Dr. WILSON D. SEXTON, pastor of the North Presbyterian Church at 525 West 155th Street, died on Wednesday evening at his home, 770 St. Nicholas Avenue, after a week's illness. Dr. Sexton was 54 years old, and was born in Hudson, Ohio. He was formerly pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Detroit. He had been in this city about five years, and had been in charge of the North Presbyterian Church for the last two years. He leaves a widow and one daughter. Funeral services will be held to-day at his late residence.

Major CHARLES R. KNOWLES died on the golf links of the Pittsfield, Mass., Country Club yesterday afternoon. He was born at Riverhead, L. I., May 16, 1839. He was educated at Riverhead Seminary and Greenville Academy. He studied law at Potsdam, N. Y., being admitted to the bar in 1867. At the outbreak of the civil war he organized a company of infantry at Potsdam, of which he was chosen Captain. He served with the Ninety-second Regiment, N. Y. S. V., and entered the naval service as Judge Advocate, Mississippi Squadron, on the staff of Rear Admiral Lee. At the close of the war he came to Albany, and in 1868 organized the New York State Department of the old Pennsylvania Company of North America, the Philadelphia Fire Insurance Company, and Philadelphia Underwriters. He served in 1880 as a member of the Assembly.