

[Lake, George Graham]

GEORGE G. LAKE

George Graham Lake, a well-known resident of this city and formerly a dry goods merchant, died yesterday morning at 3 o'clock at his residence, No. 851 Fifth-avenue. Mr. Lake was knocked down by a Sixth-avenue car on the afternoon of Dec. 12, while attempting to cross West Broadway. His leg was broken and received one or two scalp wounds. He was attended by his old family physician, Dr. Alexander Mott, and owing to his strong constitution rallied from the shock for a time. Several days ago, he relapsed, however, and grew worse, falling into a comatose condition, in which he died.

Mr. Lake was born in Brookfield, Conn., on Sept. 19, 1821. At the age of 12 he came to this city a poor boy and began his business life as an errand boy in a store on Catharine-street. He was first employed in the dry goods house of Ubsdell & Pearson, and rapidly rose in the house. While there he received an offer from the house of Spies, Crist & Co. at a salary of \$1,000 the first year, \$2,000 the second, and \$4,000 the fourth year. He refused this offer, having made a verbal contract to work for Ubsdell & Lake for \$416 a year. He would not break the verbal contract. On the death of the senior partner he became a member of the firm, which was known as that of Pearson & Lake, and in 1863 it changed again to Lake & McCreery, whose place of business was at No. 471 Broadway. The lot where the Methodist Book Concern now stands was purchased and the building erected. It was sold to the Methodists in 1869 for about \$1,000,000, and a year later Mr. Lake retired from business. He then became interested in gas companies, and was a Director in the Harlem and Williamsburg Companies. He was also a Director of the Dry Dock and East Broadway Railroad. Mr. Lake was a very benevolent man and known for his marked integrity. He was fond of music, always had a box at the opera, and took an interest in singers. Emma Abbott's musical education was obtained largely through his instrumentality, and it was at his home she was accustomed to visit during her stay in this city. He was an attendant at the Church of the Divine Paternity [Fourth Universalist] and much admired Dr. [Edwin H.] Chapin. Every Christmas his Pastor received a check for \$1,000, and his trips abroad were helped along by Mr. Lake. In 1876 the veto of the appropriation bill for money to frame the picture of Lincoln in the Capitol at Albany called forth a protest from Mr. Lake, and the protest was accompanied by a check large enough to put the picture in order. He was married three times. Five children and a widow survive him. The arrangements for the funeral were not decided upon last night further than that it will take place in the Church of the Divine Paternity.

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