

[Payne, Elbert]

THE LAST TRIBUTE.

Funeral of Assemblyman Payne Largely Attended.
Solemn and Impressive Exercises in the Church—Masons and Soldiers
Do Honor to His Memory—Distinguished People Present.

Friday afternoon Hudson paid tribute to the memory of one of her sons, of whom with good reason she was proud. Long before the hour for the funeral services of Elbert Payne [age 28], the Universalist church, where they were to be held, was crowded, save the seats which were reserved. Crowds filled the church yard and the street, and hundred unable to gain admission turned and went sadly home. His old companions, the Masons and the Twenty-third Separate Company, stood in silent attention with bared heads, as the white casket covered with floral love tributes was carried into the church to which Elbert Payne had given so much of his life. It was a touching tribute, and told of the great affection in which the honored dead was held.

The exercises were conducted by Rev. A. [Arthur] A. Blair, pastor of the church and Grand Master of the Lodge. He was assisted by Rev. George C. Yeisley, D.D., pastor of the Presbyterian church. They were simple and impressive, the beautiful Masonic service being used. The address was eloquent, a summary of a tale that is told. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Aitkin added to the solemnity of the gathering by two beautiful duets.

Following the exercises an opportunity was given for a last look upon the face so familiar, so genial to Hudsonians, and then the coffin was closed, and escorted by those whom he loved so well, all that was mortal was laid to rest in the cemetery on the hill.

The floral tributes were many and magnificent, among them being a wreath from Court House friends, one from C. H. Evans Hook and Ladder Co., a beautiful pillar from the Assembly, a broken column from the Senate, and an emblem from Aquila Lodge.

The bearers were Judge Sanford W. Smith, C. F. Booth, Cortez L. Buckman, J. F. Berridge, A. P. Rainey and Douglas Hills.

Many distinguished guests from out of town were present, including Senators Ambler, Barnes, Wiley, Cullen and Downing, and Assemblymen Bennet, Hanford, Chambers, Snyder, Ahern, Scanlon and Fitzgerald, representing the two houses of the Legislature.

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