

[Stewart, John G.]

Death of John G. Stewart

Residents of the city were unable for a time to believe the report which quickly passed from one to another last Saturday that John G. Stewart was dead, and by his own hand. No man in the city had a more pleasing personality, more genuine good humor, a more cheery greeting for a friend, or more friends to greet. His never failing wit, his effervescing optimism and his genuine kind heartedness made him the welcome guest in every circle, and marked him as the last man who would be expected to give away to the impulse of self destruction. But for some months past his health had not been good. He had felt compelled to exercise unusual care and suffered more than he was willing to admit [to] be the case. For some twelve or more years past, he had been in the employ of Armour & Co. as a travelling salesman, covering territory in the northern part of the state. He was recognized at the head office of that great firm as one of the efficient men in its employ, was an honor man in the sales contest and received personal commendation and favors from J. Ogden Armour himself.

Some months ago, however, a new manager took charge of this territory and is reported to have come with the idea of releasing all of the old men in the employ of the company. This fact, in addition to his ill health, preyed upon Mr. Stewart's mind and spirits, and when, on the morning of the day of his death, he received a curt letter dismissing him from his employment, it was more than he could bear and he took the first opportunity to commit the rash act. His family knew nothing of the letter until after his death when it was found in his room. On Friday evening he returned from his weekly business trip and was apparently in his usual good spirits.

[On] Saturday forenoon Mrs. Stewart came down town to do some shopping. She was away from the house not more than an hour and on her return found her husband's lifeless body hanging in the cellar. It is one of the saddest cases that it has ever been our lot to record, and it cannot be explained on any other theory than a temporary giving away of the mental powers. John G. Stewart was a good citizen, kind and considerate in his home, loyal to his friends and ready by all means in his power to promote the welfare of the city in which he lived. He was 65 years of age, the son of a Universalist minister [Rev. John H. and his wife Annie (Talcott) Stewart] and was born in the town of Watertown, N.Y. About twenty years ago he came from Fort Plain to this city and has resided here since that time. He was a member of Little Falls Lodge No. 181, F. & A. M., and of Rockton Council No. 337, Royal Arcanum. In January, 1878, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Munson at Fort Plain, N. Y., by whom he is survived. One son, Frank A Stewart, who for many years has been employed in The

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Little Falls National Bank; one daughter, Miss Irene Stewart, a teacher in the St. Lawrence University at Canton, N. Y. Two brothers, Talcott Stewart of Watertown and William Stewart of Rome, N. Y., also survive him.

Funeral services are to be held at the home on Monroe street at two o'clock today and will be in charge of Little Falls Lodge of Masons. Rev. Arthur J. Wyman, pastor of the Presbyterian church, assisted by Rev. George A. Gay, pastor of the Universalist church, will be the officiating clergymen. Interment is to be made in the family plot in the Fort Plain cemetery.

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