

# The Intelligencer

AN EVANGELICAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

Rev. J. McLEOD.

VOL. XXVIII.—No. 45.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1881.

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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### HOW THE PRESIDENTS DIED.

The death of Gen. Garfield amid such tragic and pathetic circumstances, may render interesting some brief and detached notes upon the deaths of the presidents and their predecessors in the presidential chair, and the scenes attending their inhumation.

Washington took cold during a five hours' ride over his plantation on the 12th of December, 1799, during the last two hours of which he was exposed to a heavy storm of snow, hail, and rain. The cold developed itself next evening, when he was very hoarse, but he made light of it. "I never take anything for a cold," he said; "let it go as it came." At 2 next morning he awakened his wife, but would not let her rise to send for a doctor. He said he should take cold. When the Secretary was called at daybreak, he found Washington breathing with difficulty, and hardly able to utter a word intelligibly. Doctors were sent for, and meantime he was bled and a gargle was prepared, but on attempting to do it he was convulsed and nearly suffocated. The doctor's remedies were not of more avail, and at 4.30 P. M. he sent his wife for his two wills, had her destroy one and entrusted the other to her keeping, giving her instructions as to his letters, papers and accounts. To his Secretary and servant he was courteous and considerate as ever, bidding the latter, who had been in the room standing by the bed nearly all day, to sit up. "I feel I am going," he said to the doctor; "I thank you for your attention, but I pray you take no more trouble about me; let me go off quietly. I cannot last long." Further remedies were tried without avail in the evening. "About 10," writes his Secretary, he made several attempts to speak to me before he could effect it. At length he said: "I'm just going; have me decently buried, and do not let my body be viewed in public. I am content." "I am dead," he said. He then looked at me again and said: "Do you understand me? I replied: 'Yes.' 'Dis well,' said he. About ten minutes before he expired (which was between 10 and 11 o'clock) he withdrew his hand from his neck, and he hid his eyes. I saw his countenance change, and spoke to Dr. Craik, who came to the bedside. The General's hand fell from his wrist: I took it in mine and pressed it to my bosom. Dr. Craik put his hand over his eyes, and he expired without a struggle or a sigh. The body was buried on the 18th, a schooner being stationed off at Alexandria in five minute-guns while the procession moved from the house to the vault. The troops, horse and foot, led the way, then came four of the clergy; then Washington's horse, with his saddle, holsters and pistols, led by two grooms in black; then the body borne by the Freemasons and officers, followed by the family and several old friends, among them Dr. Craik and some of the Fairfaxes; the Corporation of Alexandria. At the tomb the Rev. Mr. Davis read the funeral service, and delivered a brief address, after which the Freemasons performed their ceremonies, and the body was deposited in the vault. Such were the death and burial of the first and greatest of Presidents.

The second and third Presidents died on the semi-centenary of American independence, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the latter the writer of the Declaration of Independence, and the other the "pillar of its support and ablest advocate and defender." Adams died on the 7th of September, 1826, at 85 years of age, and Jefferson on the 4th of July, 1826, at 77 years of age. Both died on the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the other the pillar of its support and ablest advocate and defender.

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Abram Durfee, to Hollywood Cemetery at Richmond, Va., the occasion being memorable for the enthusiastic warmth with which New York's citizen soldiers were received by their Southern brethren.

John Quincy Adams, "the old man eloquent," was found by death where he could have wished its approach, in the halls of Congress. On Monday, February 21, 1848, he ascended the steps of the capitol with his accustomed alacrity and took his place in the house. While petitions were being presented, suddenly there came the cry of "Mr. Adams" and a rush of members towards his seat. He was rising with a number of petitions in his hand when he was struck with apoplexy and sank down, catching at his desk and falling into the arms of the member who sprang across the aisle to his assistance. He was carried into the rotunda, then to the Speaker's room. He attempted to speak, but his voice was a mere murmur, low and indistinct, though Mr. Ashmun, who was placing him on the sofa, thought he said: "Last of earth—last of earth—I am content." This is the last of earth—I am content." He was carried into the rotunda, then to the Speaker's room. 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