

OBITUARY.

Death at Frankfort, Ky., of Ex-Gov. Blackburn—A Sketch of His Life and Work.

Frankfort, Ky., Sept. 14.—Ex-Gov. Luke P. Blackburn, the greatly beloved and revered philanthropist, passed quietly away at 2:30 p. m. today, surrounded by loving relatives and old friends, after a lingering illness. His death has been daily expected for a month. Five days ago, it is said, Gov. Blackburn predicted he would die on a certain day at a certain hour, and his prediction was verified almost to a minute. Last Saturday, in his delirium, he uttered a few intelligible words: "I tell you G. n. Cleburne, it is impracticable," doubtless alluding to something in his army experience in Mississippi when on the staff of Gen. Price, and when he and Gen. Pat Cleburne were the warmest and most devoted friends. The last words he used distinctly, were uttered on Sunday morning, when he said: "Oh, the beauty of religion." Dr. Blackburn's death was brought on by a combination of diseases, Bright's disease of the kidneys and ossification of the valves around the heart. Thus passes from our midst a man whose memory will be treasured for all time to come as one of nature's noblemen, and to whom Kentucky can ever point with finger of pride.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

The death of no man in the South will cause a throb of sincere sorrow to thrill through more hearts than will that of Ex-Gov. Luke P. Blackburn. His has been a life of sacrifices in the interest of suffering humanity, which has endeared him to all Southerners. Born eighty-two years ago in Woodford county, Kentucky, he has passed safely through a bloody war, seventeen yellow fever epidemics, two cholera epidemics, and has been connected with more plans for the relief of human misery than any man probably now living.

Luke Blackburn received his education in Transylvania university, the most famous institution of learning west of the Alleghanies. He began the practice of medicine at Lexington, Ky., soon after his graduation. In 1835, cholera broke out at Versailles, Ky., and a call for help was sent to Lexington. Dr. Blackburn at once responded, and worked night and day with the suffering and dying. So nobly did he render aid to the plague stricken people that he won their hearts, and when the black cloud rolled away the citizens who survived compelled him to remain with them. He settled among them, and for four years was exceedingly prosperous. In 1843 he was elected to the legislature. In 1846 he removed to Natchez, Miss., where he speedily worked up a successful practice. In 1848 he had his first experience with yellow fever. While the scourge was devastating New Orleans he was health officer of Natchez, and established a rigid quarantine which kept the disease completely shut out. He was so impressed with the suffering of sailors and river men that he built a hospital for them at his own expense. Albert J. Brown, then a congressman, called attention of the government to this act, and the result was the establishment of the present complete system of marine hospitals throughout the country. Again, in 1854, he protected Natchez from yellow fever by his quarantine. He was at that time the most noted authority on yellow fever in the world. In 1855 he visited Europe, going through all the noted hospitals of the Continent.

In 1857 he returned to America and located in New Orleans. At the breaking out of the war he went into the confederate army as surgeon of the staff of Gen. Sterling Price. After the war he went to Canada, and subsequently, at the solicitation of the governor-general, to the Bermudas, where cholera was then raging. Here he worked so hard and accomplished such good that the queen personally thanked him and offered him honors and wealth, but he modestly declined all. He never

accepted compensation for his services in epidemics.

In 1873 he returned to Kentucky and settled in Louisville, where he practiced his profession. When the yellow fever broke out in Memphis in 1878 he at once left for that city, where he remained until the plague was under control.

On the second day of May, 1879, an enthusiastic democratic convention nominated him for governor of Kentucky. Then, in the midst of his canvass, with the election but a few weeks off, he gave up everything to go to Hickman, Ky., where an epidemic of yellow fever had appeared. Here he remained for weeks helping the ill and easing the dying. The election found him still at his post in Hickman. He was elected by more than 40,000 majority.

Of his career as governor but little need be said. He found the state prison a veritable "black hole," where pestilence was bred and miserable human beings died like hogs. Between 1,200 and 1,300 men were confined in accommodations intended for 600. To remedy this evil he used the pardoning power with amazing energy, and it is estimated that he must have turned out 1,000 convicts during his four years in office. After the expiration of his term he came back to Louisville and established the darling scheme of his old age—the Blackburn Sanitarium. For two years he devoted his time to this, but it failed through lack of popular support. Then his health began to fail and for more than a year he slowly sank away. Some six months ago he removed to the home of his nephew at Frankfort, Ky., where he remained.

Gov. Blackburn was a brother of Senator J. C. S. Blackburn. He had been married twice. Dr. Carey Blackburn of Louisville being his only son.

Eighty-Two Miles An Hour.

Wonderful improvements are going on in railroad rolling stock. The Globe-Democrat of Monday says: "Prof. Kline, of the Lehigh University, has succeeded in driving an engine with five cars behind it on the Lehigh Valley Railroad at an equivalent of the extraordinary speed of eighty-two miles an hour. This gentleman has been making a study of the Lehigh company's fast engine, H. S. Godwin. He saw what he thought was a mistake in its mechanical construction, and with the view of remedying this he had the valves changed for the express purposes of increasing its speed. The valves were reset the other day, and a trial trip was made. The run was made from Easton to Perth Junction, fifty-five miles in seventy-six and one-half minutes. The actual running time from Perth Junction to Easton is an hour and seventeen minutes, which includes three stops and a "slow up." Between Pattenburg and West End there is a heavy grade, but the Godwin easily ascended it and made up two minutes lost time while doing so. She arrived at Easton a half minute ahead of time. In some part of the run the rate of speed reached eighty-two miles an hour. Railroad men consider the achievement as something wonderful."

Within five years the State of Kansas will be bankrupt. Nine tenths of her counties are now upon the verge of insolvency. There is scarcely one farmer in ten whose land produces enough to make him a living and pay his taxes. With her vast burden of debt, what is to become of Kansas when the tide of immigration ceases? When the flow of money from the East no longer feeds the state and the population falls back on its grain crops, the only source of sustenance, the income will not be sufficient to pay the interest on the public debt.—Chillicothe Constitution.

A Tennessee country editor who went off for his summer vacation left the following notice on office door: "Will be gone for several days and have left matters in charge of the office boy. People who wish to pay subscriptions will see our wife. Those who have complaints to make will please go to the devil."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

A Few Words in Defense of His Moral Character.

The assault upon William Shakespeare, his life, and the writings which he did not write, recalls a similar assault made by Mr. Ignatius Donnelly some years ago upon Mr. Elihu B. Washburne. Curiously enough Mr. Washburne survives. So may Shakespeare. Some idiot started in similar pursuit of Sir Walter Scott the other day. But Scott's actuality made sufficient answer, and the would-be sensationalist was driven back into his hole. Nevertheless these things make one tired.

There are books to prove and disprove everything. Once a good argument was made to establish the fact that Napoleon Bonaparte had never lived. Did Herbert Spencer write Dicken's novels? Who was the author of Junius' letters? who struck Billy Patterson? who? But what is the use? If everything that is, is not, and nothing that has been ever was, why anything? The true solution is to abolish the interrogation point altogether.

Far be it from any purpose of mine, either here or now, to lay any of the ghosts raised by Mr. Donnelly. The name of William Shakespeare is at least secure. It was not born to die. It is immortal. Even Donnelly cannot efface it from the tablets, or the title pages, or the memory of men still living. But there is in the attack upon Shakespeare's moral character a meanness which ought to be rebuked. The man is down—how far down we shall never know, since no one dares to open his grave—dead as Julius Cæsar. Under such a state of case, to call him a thief, a libertine and a drunkard is downright infamy. I should not think safe for Mr. Donnelly to visit Rowan county, Kentucky, after jumping in this way upon a man who lies hors de combat and has no friends. Craig Toliver is not there, it is true. But what would be the matter with Cook Humphrey?

Perhaps Bacon did write the plays of Shakespeare. Perhaps he didn't. That is not the important part in this controversy. The real questions are: "Did Shakespeare drink?" and "Will the coming man use wine?" You see, it is, at the bottom, one of the new issues to be sprung by the Prohibitionists, of whom Mr. Donnelly is a leader. If it can be clearly shown that Shakespeare drank, argal, he was a thief, argal, he was a debauchee, and—by a parity of reasoning—the coming man will not and shall not use wine! Don't you see.—Henry Watterson in Courier Journal.

Thousands of cures follow the use of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. 50 cents.

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Dr. Pierce's 'Pleasant Purgative Pellets' are both preventive and curative.

Whisky and Beer. Government statistics find that since 1840 the use of whisky has fallen off one half in the United States, while the use of wines has increased from 1.36 gallons per capita in 1840 to 11.01 gallons per capita in 1848. This may be considered a favorable showing, as there is choice even of evils. Were those addicted to the drinking habit to abstain entirely from the use of whiskey and confine their libations to the wine cup or the beer mug drunkenness would be less frequent than it now is. It is asserted that the police records of large cities show that the number of arrests for drunkenness has decreased quite steadily since 1840.—New York Commercial News.

Rheumatism Cured. W. K. Powers, 2933 Thomas Street, St. Louis, Mo., states: Ballard's Snow Liniment cured me of Rheumatism of 4 years standing. I bless the day when I was induced to try it.

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