

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1886.

Died.

FRANCIS—In this city, 25th inst., at his residence, Rhode Island avenue, Dr. Samuel Ward Francis, aged 50 years, 2 months and 27 days.

Funeral at Trinity Church at 12 noon Saturday, 27th inst.

SAMUEL WARD FRANCIS, M. D.

Samuel Ward Francis, M. D., was the youngest son of the late Dr. John Wakefield Francis, who was a practicing physician in the city of New York for more than fifty years. His eldest brother died in infancy, the second son, John Ward Francis, was a graduate of Columbia college and died one month before he was to receive his degree of doctor of medicine from the University Medical College of New York, the third son, Dr. Valentine Mott Francis, resides in this city. The subject of this obituary was born in New York city December 26, 1835, in the old Ward mansion, the residence of his uncle by marriage, corner of Bond street and Broadway, and which was one of the finest houses at that time in the city. Its owner the late Mr. Samuel Ward, after whom the deceased was named was the founder of the house of Prime, Ward & King, which for many years was one of the leading banking firms of the country. He was more delicate than his brothers and received instruction at home during his youth. From twelve to seventeen he was at the day school of one of New York's most worthy teachers, Mr. Joshua Worth. At seventeen he passed his examination for entrance into Columbia College. In the spring of the year and during the summer of 1853 he visited Ireland, Scotland, England and France in company with the late Charles Carville, Esq., a well known merchant of New York, and in the fall commenced his collegiate course. He was graduated from that old institution of learning in 1857, making the fourth member of the family who had done so. During his college course he received a number of prizes in the mathematical, rhetorical, and linguistic departments. He was chairman of the catalogue publication committee of Columbia College and president of his class for many years. After graduation his attention was for a time given to mechanics, and after great expense and study he brought forth his first invention, known now as the "type writer," but called by him at first the "Francis printing machine," and afterwards "the type writer and caligrapher." This was his first and greatest invention, and he was unjustly deprived of his rights and lived to see others making fortunes out of his beloved and wonderful machine. During his life he obtained seventeen patents on different inventions, and his family possess a list of over a hundred which he had originated but not patented. He was the real original inventor of the "type writer." To please his father he concluded to study medicine and after an honorable course of two years received his degree for doctor of medicine from the University Medical College of New York, he not being obliged to study more than two years, having studied chemistry and physiology for two years previous to entering the medical college. He also received a certificate signed by the medical and surgical boards of Bellevue hospital for five months attendance on the practice of the medical and surgical wards. He also received a "certificate of honor" from the medical department of the University of New York for an attendance on the extra courses of lectures during a spring, summer and autumn, which was given to him (to quote the language of the medical board) "as an evidence of his having pursued a fuller course of medical instruction than that usually followed by students." He received an additional diploma for attending three full courses of medical and surgical instruction in the medical school of the late surgeon, Dr. William Rice Donaghe, and Dr. T. Gillard Thomas, and a diploma from the University of the City of New York for his proficiency and skill as an analytic and practical chemist. On graduating he received the Mott medal for the best report of surgical clinics made that year in the college. During his last year in the medical college he was a member of Dr. Valentine Mott's surgical staff. He practiced in New York and attended many families formerly patients of his father, and was appointed physician to the Northern Dispensary for head, abdomen and skin diseases. His health being impaired he removed to Newport in 1862 and lived for eighteen months in the Gardner Stevens house on Broadway. In the fall of 1863 he moved to New York and in 1866 returned to Newport where he had lived ever since. For the last thirteen years he had been in active practice in this city. During his rest from active practice he attended many poor, free of charge, and always kept up his medical studies. He was peculiarly successful in his treatment of scarlet and typhoid fever. For years he was correspondent of Dr. Butler's Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter, and had contributed articles to many medical journals for the last twenty years. As a writer he had been very prolific and ventured into the department of romance, having written two novels, one entitled "Inside Out, a curious Book by a Singular man," the other called "Life and Death" published in 1870. He published "Mott's Cliniques," biographical sketches of distinguished living New York physicians, also a lot of biographical sketches of the living surgeons of New York. His essay on "Water," a most laborious collucation of fact, is an important medical work. He also published "Curious Facts Concerning Man and Nature," "Reminiscences of Rev. E. M. P. Wells," "The life of Dr. Valentine Mott." In 1859 he published his first book "The Autobiography of a Latin Reader" (for children) and it is a very instructive little work. He had been correspondent of the Alabama State Sentinel, literary critic of the Home Journal, correspondent of the Clyde Weekly and of newspapers in different parts of the country. He published in 1885 an interesting case of cure of probable Epithelioma, but it would take up too much of your time to enumerate all of his writings and contributions to scientific and literay periodicals and enough has been said to show his great industry in this particular department. The newspapers of this city have not infrequently published articles of his pen. He was a life member of the New York Historical Society, and a member of the New York Ethnological Society. He was the first president of the Newport Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and member of the New York American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He took deep interest in the Boston Gynecological Society of which he was a member. He was a member of the Newport Charity Organization, of the Rhode Island State Medical Society and anniversary chairman for 1885 of the Newport Sanitary Protection Association, vice president of the Newport Medical Society, fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, vice president and founder of the Newport Natural History Society, member of the Victoria Institute or Philosophical Society of Great Britain and of many other learned societies. He collected many facts concerning capital punishment from all parts of the world, and was in fact a very busy man, hating to waste time, but very social and genial in his disposition.

He was a very humble minded Christian, full of faith, a firm believer in the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ and from his earliest boyhood belonged to the Protestant Episcopal Church. Kindly by nature and very gentle in all his ways he was very much beloved by those who became acquainted with him. He was very loyal to his friends, and forgiving to those who had wished or done him ill. As a physician he was much beloved by his patients and he possessed a power of diagnosis and prognosis most remarkable. He died as he had lived full of faith in the Saviour, and the last words he spoke to his family were "God bless you all."

The death of his wife in 1879 cast a gloom over his cheerful heart that at one time threatened to destroy his life. He inherited his wit and gentleness from his mother, who was remarkable for both, and he never could bear to speak of her death. He was her youngest and her Benjamin.

He took great interest in the Newport Hospital and was consulting surgeon to that most useful institution. His last public duty was delivering, on December 26 last, his fiftieth birthday, a lecture to the nurses of the hospital, on Neuralgia and on returning home took to his bed and from that time gradually lost his strength until at last death, whom he often said was a "kind friend," removed him from the scene of his labors and the bosom of his idolizing family. Truly might we say in the language of the inspired writer:—"A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth."