

FUNERAL OF BENJAMIN K. PHELPS.

LARGE ATTENDANCE AT THE SERVICES IN THE BROADWAY TABERNACLE,

The funeral of the late District Attorney Benjamin K. Phelps took place at the Broadway Tabernacle yesterday. At an early hour the audience began to gather at the church, and by 2:30 o'clock every seat was occupied, not only by personal friends and acquaintances of the late District Attorney, but by the leaders and many of the other members of the political party to which he belonged. Among those present were Vice-President-elect Chester A. Arthur, for a dozen years the law partner and steadfast friend of Mr. Phelps, Edwards Pierrepont, Ex-Gov. Hoffman, Judge Miles Beach, Chief-Justice Charles P. Daly, Joseph H. Choate, William Laimbeer, Charles S. Smith, Charles A. Whitehead, Theron R. Butler, Francis F. Marbury, C. B. Waite, Leonard Hazeltine, Charles G. Landon, C. N. Bliss, Jackson S. Schultze, Jordan L. Mott, Abram Wakeman, William H. Wickham, Judge Charles Donohue, Recorder Smyth, Ex-Judge Roosevelt, Judge Horace Russell, Daniel G. Rollins, Dr. E. G. Bartlett, Gen. Joseph C. Jackson, Isaac H. Bailey, Hugh J. Hastings, Gen. Alexander Shaler, Judge Larremore, J. Pierpont Morgan, Edwin W. Stoughton, Luther Horton, A. J. Dittenhoefer, James Talcott, John D. Lawson, A. L. Wood, ex-Mayor Cooper, Judge John R. Brady, Henry Bergh, City Judge Rufus B. Coving, Salem H. Wales, Hamilton Fish, Sr., Hamilton Fish, Jr., Dr. James R. Wood, Surrogate Calvin, J. L. N. Hunt, Police Justices Otterbourg, Flammer, Hugh Gardner, and Solon B. Smith, Police Commissioners S. B. French and Joel W. Mason, and ex-Police Commissioners Wheeler and Erhardt, Collector Merritt, Congressman Einstein, Justice Jacob Patterson, State Senators Eldman and Strahan, Charity Commissioner Jacob Hess, Civil Justice Langbein, Rufus F. Andrews, Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, John Hoey, P. Van Valkenburgh, Theodore Weston, Locke W. Winchester, and many others. From the criminal courts, in which the late District Attorney practiced, there were Clerk John Sparks, Deputy Clerk Edward Hall, and Peter Seaman, of the Court of General Sessions, and a delegation of lawyers, consisting of William F. Kintzing, John R. Follows, Charles W. Brooke, and James D. McClelland.

At 2:30 the carved oaken casket, surmounted by a black velvet pall, was born up the aisle upon the shoulders of eight men, the pall-bearers following in a body. These last consisted of Judge John R. Brady, Judge H. A. Gildersleeve, Mr. M. W. Cooper, Corporation Counsel William C. Whitney, Elihu Root, Gen. Harland, one of the deceased's classmates; Chauncey M. Depew, and Police Commissioner Joel M. Mason, all old friends or associates in professional or official life of the late District Attorney. While the casket was borne up the aisle, Mrs. Christopher, the organist, played a movement of the Seventh Symphony of Beethoven. At the base of the pulpit the coffin was deposited upon a handsome bier and banked at the sides with ferns and exotic plants, and flanked at either end with broken columns in flowers, a floral cushion, and other tributes. Two wreaths, one of lilies and white roses, rested upon the velvet pall that covered the casket. Upon the silver coffin-plate was cut the inscription, "Benjamin K. Phelps. Died Dec. 30, 1880." In the seats near by sat the three orphaned children, Mr. Dudley, and Misses Anna and Mary Phelps, in deep mourning, together with the deceased's unmarried sisters, Mr. Julius Catlin, his brother-in-law, and several others. A delegation of the New-England Society, who had met the casket at the house and walked down with it, occupied seats near the pall-bearers. The choir chanted "Our days on earth are as a shadow," and then the Rev. Dr. Taylor read selections from Scripture, and followed with a short funeral address in which he bore eloquent testimony to the good qualities of the lamented dead. He said that in his ministry of 30 years this was one of the saddest bereavements he had had to encounter. It was only a few days ago that they had gathered to carry forth the remains of his beloved wife and now they had assembled to do the same for him and all that was mortal of him. They had been lovely and pleasant in their lives and in death they had not been divided. "Those who knew his home life," continued the Pastor, "knew that he had a Christianized conscience. I think I knew him. He was one who could truly say with the great apostle, 'I glorify mine office.' I believe that whatever records come to light he never shall be shamed. A fitting epitaph would be, 'Here lies a noble life well ended.'"

The Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, of the Union Theological Seminary, followed in a short address, in which he bore testimony to Mr. Phelps's estimable qualities. It was a great thing, he said, to have led a clean life up to the last. The larger ideal of the legal profession was the judicial quality and eminence, and in this the deceased largely shared. Many of the legal profession coveted the distinction gained in defending the weak and criminal, but he had more sympathy for the lawyer who served the Government by prosecuting guilty persons with judicial fairness. Though he had been in office so many years no charge of unfairness or cruelty had been made against him. He performed his whole duty from first to last. Miss Henrietta Beebe then sang "One Sweetly Solemn Thought." Dr. Taylor concluded the religious services by an eloquent prayer, in which he asked Divine protection and blessing upon the orphaned children, who would one day meet those who had loved and cherished them, but whom they had now lost. At the close of the prayer the choir sang the *Integer Vitæ*, accompanying it with the following lines written by the late District Attorney for the funeral of a lady on Dec. 16, 1866, and also sung at the funeral of his wife, Dec. 24, 1880:

"Fair are these houses, fairer far the dwelling
Built by the Master. Death, the gentle angel,
Tenderly leads us, throwing wide the portal,
Bidding us enter.

"Blessed is life here, tho' by new afflictions
Saddened each moment; there beyond the river
Happier the sainted: theirs the bliss unending,
Knowing no sorrow.

"Gloomy for us now, paths they tread no longer;
Kindly the hand Christ stretches through the darkness,
Clasping it stand we, waiting till the summons
Calls us to follow."

At the close of the singing Dr. Taylor said the remains would be taken to Woodlawn for interment. The funeral train left the Grand Central Depot for Woodlawn shortly after, where the remains were deposited by the side of those of Mrs. Phelps.