



LORD CECIL'S
DEATH.



LONDON :

G. COOPER, PRINTER, 24, CLOUDESLEY ROAD,
ISLINGTON, N.

12 Copies, post free, One Shilling.

Lord Cecil's Death.



As several newspaper notices have appeared more or less defective as to details touching the boating accident on the Bay of Quinte, near Picton, which so suddenly terminated Lord Cecil's life, the following narrative, which appeared in the *Napanee Beaver* of the 22nd inst., is reprinted in answer to numerous inquiries for information from Brethren throughout Canada, the United States and England; its authenticity being vouched for by eye-witnesses of the mournful occurrence.

J.L.

Toronto, June 24th, 1889.

Last week there was neither time nor opportunity for getting full and reliable particulars in regard to the unfortunate accident by which Lord A. P. Cecil met his death.

Early in May, as was his usual custom when suffering from physical exhaustion consequent upon his incessant labors, he came to the quiet home of Alex. Smith, Esq., south Napanee, to seek rest and renewed strength. During his stay he was at many

meetings in the town hall, and his friends enjoyed with him a season of social and spiritual intercourse which will long be held in loving remembrance.

Such an ardent spirit as his could not endure a lengthened season of inactivity, and he felt that he should be about his Master's business. Contrary to the wishes of Mrs. Smith, he left on Saturday previous to engage in work at Brockville. From there he wrote that he would go into camp for a week at Adolphustown and asked Mr. Smith to send his things to the station. Instead, Mr. Smith went personally to the depot and urged him to change his plans and continue to rest at his place, but he would not. On Tuesday, Lord Cecil left Belleville in his skiff in company with his attendant, Mr. Churchill. The latter is a cripple in both feet and has no knowledge whatever of the management of a boat; this will explain what has been a strong subject of conjecture with many, as to his inability to render assistance to his companion when drowning. Tuesday night was spent at the home of Mr. Isaac Powless on the Indian Reserve, and next day they continued their trip. About 4.30 p.m. they were opposite Pull's Point and within sight of their destination. The wind was blowing half a gale, and by some means the tackling

of the sail had become disorganised and the sheet was flapping in the water. Lord Cecil handed the tiller to his companion with the remark that he would go forward and pull the sail up. As he was passing forward the overloaded boat gave a lurch and the unfortunate man toppled over into the water. Then was displayed in the very presence of death that nobility of heroism and utter unselfishness which so distinguished Lord Cecil's nature. Evidently fearful for the safety of his companion, who being a cripple, unskilled in the management of a boat, at the mercy of the gale and the water, deceased, nerved by anxiety for his fellow, struck out with the steady stroke of a practised swimmer in pursuit of the craft. After going some distance, Mr. Churchill succeeded in turning the boat upon the other tack; Lord Cecil observing this turned and struck out for the shore. Mrs. Cole saw all this transpire and gave the alarm, Mr. Pull was also quickly on the shore but was helpless for want of a boat. They saw Lord Cecil tread the water while he divested himself of coat and vest, and then he struck out again, first swimming upon his face, and at times turning upon his back to rest. He was, however, encumbered by a heavy pair of lace shoes which he could not get off; but for this, and his physical weak-

ness, he would undoubtedly have made shore. Or if he had struck out for land when he first fell into the water he would have reached it in safety, as he swam more than the required distance when seeking to reach the boat, and render assistance to Churchill, whom he considered in more imminent danger than himself. Mr. Pull called encouragingly to him as he was making his last struggle for life and he heard feebly the response "No" as he went down. It is certain that he was overtaken with cramp, the result of cold and severe exertion in his weakened physical condition.

On Thursday morning Mr. Smith received a telegram from Picton announcing the accident and its result. He immediately set out for Adolphustown and found many willing hands assisting in dragging the bay. There seemed to be no prospect of success owing to the enormous quantities of weeds which clogged the hooks. At last a piece of long barbed wire was secured and a number of hooks placed thereon. One boat made a circle about the place where he went down while another kept an end close by the shore, and at the first attempt the body was hauled up. Mr. Smith brought the remains to Napanee, arriving about 12-30 a.m., when Messrs. Gibbard and Son embalmed the body, which

will keep for several months. There were no marks or discolouration, and the deceased looked as natural as in life. The body was placed in a strong oaken casket, metal-lined, after which it was conveyed to Mr. Smith's residence to await interment or consignment to England, as might be determined upon.

A cablegram was sent to friends in England announcing the death, and enquiring what disposal they desired should be made with the remains. A reply came, asking that an authentic certificate of the death be made out. This request was at once complied with, and Mr. Richardson, photographer, was successful in obtaining a good likeness, which has been mailed.

Notices were issued announcing that the funeral would take place from Mr. Smith's residence on Saturday noon, and from thence to the Napanee cemetery vault. The news had spread among the several assemblies of Brethren with which deceased was connected, and on Saturday representatives were present from Montreal, Ottawa, Picton, Belleville, and Adolphustown. Among these may be mentioned Mr. Vankoughnet, (of the Indian Department, Ottawa,) and his wife; Mr. McKinnon, Ottawa; Messrs. Critherford and Aird, of Montreal; Mrs. Backus, Mr. White and others, of Picton, and Mr. Heighoe, of

Belleville. The services were all marked by that simplicity which characterizes the Brethren.

Hymns were sung, scripture portions were read, and very impressive addresses were given by Mr. Alexander Smith, of Napanee, and Mr. Heighoe, of Belleville, both of whom had for years been associates in Christian work. Mr. Smith based his remarks principally on a hymn used by Lord Cecil in his last service in Napanee, the Friday evening previous to his death, the first verse of which is as follows :

“ In heavenly love abiding,
No change my heart shall fear,
And safe in such confiding,
For nothing changes here.
The storm may roar without me,
My heart may low be laid,
But God is round about me.
And can I be dismayed?”

Just before the body was deposited in the vault a second cablegram was received from England requesting that the body be interred. There was a short consultation among the friends and it was resolved to return again at four o'clock for the burial, which was done. Deceased belonged to a military family, whose custom has been to have their dead buried wherever death might overtake them. Al-

though the deceased had no relatives among the large number who attended upon his obsequies, yet seldom has there been witnessed greater evidence of sincere mourning than was manifested on this occasion. The Brethren were unanimous in their devotion to him, and esteemed him in love for his work's sake as an humble and sincere servant of Christ Lord! Cecil was a voluminous writer, being author of over 100 pamphlets, besides being the founder of the tract depot, Montreal.

—*Napanee Beaver.*