

ing the Gospel in various parts of his native country. He was absent nearly two years, returning home at the close of 1880. He was for some time a member of the Bishopric of the Sixteenth Ward, this city, being Counselor to Bishop Fred. Kesler, and was released from that position when he removed his residence to the Eighteenth Ward, in the summer of 1888. Mr. Cope was elected alderman from the third municipal precinct of this city in the spring of 1886, and served in that capacity with marked ability till 1888. He was at the time of his death a member of the Board of Directors of the Latter-day Saints College in this city.

Shortly after his arrival in Utah in 1869 Brother Cope accepted of an engagement offered by Hon. John W. Young, to work on a construction contract on the Utah Central Railway, acting as time-keeper, commissariat and general agent. At one time the company was in a straitened financial situation and consequently was behind in the payment of employees. A large number of them at work between here and Ogden threatened to leave in a body, and feeling ran rather high. In the heat of the difficulty Brother Cope appeared on the scene and by his pacific and gentle demeanor, combined with lucid explanations, at giving which he was remarkably adroit, the men agreed to remain and a strike was by his influence averted.

His ability in railroad matters was so marked, his fidelity to the interests of his employers so unflinching and his manners so engaging, that he kept on climbing from one position to another—from time-keeper and commissariat to the chief clerkship, station agent and train dispatcher, general freight and passenger agent, and finally the important appointment which he held at the time of his demise—General Freight and Passenger Agent of the Utah Division of the Union Pacific Railway. This appointment was a well-merited recognition of his eminent capacity and unimpeachable character. Many have held that in the matter of working ability as a railroad man he had no superior in America. Be that as it may, he was any way an expert in that line of business. His mind was remarkably adapted for it.

In the innumerable differences that arise between departments and different divisions and lines he was well nigh invincible, rarely ever falling short of gaining the point he

desired to establish. The reason for this was that in the first place he invariably aimed to be fair, and therefore always reached a conclusion regarding the justice of a controversy. The next part of the process was to consider all the plausible points that could be raised by the other side. He then set to work to reason them out of existence, concluding by setting up in a strong light his own points. The general result was that the other party surrendered.

Mr. Cope was as gifted socially as in business, to know him was to love him. To say that his manner was winning scarcely expresses it sufficiently strong. He had the rare faculty of being able to decline an unreasonable request made of him in such a way as to completely draw out the sting of refusal. As an incident in point, a gentleman who asked a railroad favor which could not consistently be accorded, remarked when it was declined, "Why, it is a pleasure even to be refused a request by you."

Mrs. Cope, who is stricken with grief at the demise of her husband, has been his faithful and sole attendant during his illness, never leaving his side to the last. Yesterday he said he wished to leave the sick room and go into the dining apartment. He did so and approached the mantel-shelf, placed his hands upon it, and gazed at the reflection of himself in the mirror. He then remarked, "My dear, I am going to die." He seemed to have had a premonition of the approach of the end for some time past. He had never manifested during his life any special desire to make money, but of late his mind seemed to take a sudden bent in that direction, because he wished, as he expressed it, to place his family in a better position financially. He also informed his wife that he would prefer to die rather than live and be sickly, as in that condition there seemed to be no special object in living, because it involved a cessation of usefulness. He expired peacefully, without even a tremor, merely ceasing to breathe, as the noble spirit left its tenement of clay. His is the third death that has occurred in the family in the last four weeks, two of his sisters having passed away during that time. His death created a profound sensation in railroad circles here, especially among his immediate associates, by whom he was held in the highest esteem.

He leaves besides his wife, eight children and one grand-child. The family are in the greatest distress at the departure of one of the gentlest of husbands and kindest of fathers. There will be much sympathy in the community for them in their bereavement.

Francis Cope was a gem of a man, capable in his operations, strong in his religious faith, just in his dealings, broad in his sympathies, gentle in his deportment and strong in his convictions, to which he was unflinching true.

The funeral service will be held in the Eighteenth Ward Chapel, at one o'clock on Wednesday, January 1st, 1890.

IN MAORI LAND.

We are enabled to present the following excerpt from a letter from Elder Heber S. Cutler, now on a mission. It is addressed to his parents and relatives generally, and dated at Taupo, New Zealand, November 27th, 1889:

This people have many peculiar customs which appear very foolish to us, but they consider it would be a disgrace to any of their tribe if they were to give them up. One very peculiar ceremony they have is the manner in which they mourn over their dead. As soon as a person dies, old or young, the tribe all gather together and have a cry, the duration of which is according to the rank or standing of the deceased. Sometimes they are quite long. When persons from one tribe visit another tribe, they always have a cry if one of their number has died since their previous visit. It matters not how long the person has been dead; if the tribe have not met since the death they will first engage in the cry and then extend greetings.

During the last month Brother Johnson has been with me considerable and the time has passed quite pleasantly. I also took a trip around Taupo Lake last week with the chief of this place, leaving here Saturday morning and returning Wednesday. The trip was an interesting one and I enjoyed it. I had been wanting to take this journey before but did not have an opportunity. I made the acquaintance of about one hundred and twenty natives, visiting four villages and was treated very kindly. I had several talks with them about the Gospel. They invited me to bring one of the Elders over who could thoroughly explain the principles in Maori, and I expect the President of this district will pay them a visit the first of next month.

It was only last week that I saw one of these ceremonies while on my trip. A death had occurred since the chief had last visited the natives on the Lake, and I was not allowed to say greetings till after the cry, which lasted about twenty minutes. The people who had lost