

DEATHS IN BEECHER FAMILY

Half Brother and Sister Pass Away on the Same Day.

Mrs. M. F. Beecher Perkins Lived at
Hartford and the Rev. Thomas
K. Beecher at Elmira.

Mrs. Mary Foote Beecher Perkins, the sole surviving daughter of the Rev. Lyman Beecher by his first wife, Roxanna Foote, died yesterday at the home of her son, Charles E. Perkins, in Hartford, Conn. By a strange coincidence the Rev. Thomas Kinnicut Beecher, the sole surviving son of Lyman Beecher by his second wife, also died yesterday at his home in Elmira, N. Y. Mrs. Perkins was the sister and Thomas K. Beecher the half-brother of Henry Ward Beecher.

Mrs. Perkins was ninety-four years and nine months old. Thomas K. Beecher was seventy-six. Another curious coincidence is that he, Mrs. Perkins, Henry Ward Beecher, and the wife of Henry Ward Beecher all died in the month of March. Henry Ward Beecher died on March 8, 1887, and on March 8, 1897, his wife died. There was only an hour's difference in the time of their deaths. He was in his seventy-fourth year and she was eighty-five years old.

Mrs. Perkins, the fourth oldest of Lyman Beecher's eleven children, was born at East Hampton, L. I., July 19, 1805. Her celebrated father was then in charge of a church there, with a salary of only \$400 a year. To eke out his scanty income he gave instruction in a private school which his wife conducted. Mrs. Perkins, with her sister Catherine Beecher, who never married, established a Female Seminary at Hartford. When Henry Ward Beecher was sent east to study at Amherst he spent a good part of his vacations with his two eldest sisters in this seminary.

In 1827 Mary Foote Beecher was married to Thomas C. Perkins, a prominent lawyer of Hartford. He died in 1870. They had four children, two sons and two daughters. One son, Frederick, died a short time ago. A daughter, Mary, became the wife of Edward Everett Hale. Mrs. Perkins is described as a strong and interesting character, outspoken but pleasant in her manner. She resembled her brother, Henry Ward Beecher more than she did her sister, Mrs. Stowe.

The Rev. Thomas Kinnicut Beecher died from paralysis, with which he was stricken on Sunday. He was born in the old Beecher homestead at Litchfield, Conn., Feb. 10, 1824. He graduated in 1843 from the Illinois College, of which his brother, Edward, was President, and was principal first of the Northeast Grammar School in Philadelphia and then of the Hartford High School. In 1852 he removed to Williamsburg, now a part of Brooklyn, where he organized and assumed charge of the New England Congregational Church.

In 1853 he made a tour of England and France, and in 1854 settled in Elmira, where he became pastor of the Independent Church, now called the Park Church. It was then weak and struggling. It now has 700 members and 1,000 Sunday school children, and occupies a fine edifice, which cost \$150,000. He continued as its pastor up to his death. In 1863 he was chosen Chaplain of the One Hundred and Forty-first New York Volunteers, and served with the Army of the Potomac four months. In 1864-5 he visited South America, revisited England in 1873, and in 1884 went to California. He married a granddaughter of Noah Webster. She survives him. They had no children. He was Chaplain of Baldwin Post, G. A. R. His body will lie in state in Park Church, with a guard of honor from the G. A. R. A memorial service will be held in the church Friday afternoon, after which the remains will be taken to Buffalo for cremation.

Mr. Beecher disliked to be known as a preacher, and always called himself a trader. He was a forceful speaker, and at different times was nominated for political office by Democrats, Republicans, Greenbacks, and Prohibitionists, believing it to be the duty of every citizen to accept the nomination to any office whether there was a chance of being elected or not. In personal appearance he was picturesque and handsome. He was fond of mechanics, and for years took care of the Elmira town clock, correcting its time and making the observations himself without cost to the city. When coming to New York he often would run the engine over the entire Susquehanna Division of the Erie Railroad. He was also fond of games, and played both billiards and ten-pins well. He was a lover of books and was the author of "Our Seven Churches."

He was one of the best known and most popular citizens of Elmira, and was called "Father Tom" by his congregation.

He wholly ignored sectarian feeling, and sought to promote a fraternal spirit among the various Christian denominations. For many years he edited a weekly "Miscellany," first in The Elmira Advertiser and afterward in The Gazette.

TEA EXPERTS AT DINNER.

Wu Ting Fang, Chinese Minister, Speaks
for a Countryman on the
National Board.

Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese Minister, and John Barrett, ex-Minister to Siam, were among the speakers last night at a complimentary dinner given by the tea trade of New York City to the United States Board of Tea Experts at the Waldorf-Astoria. One hundred and fifty tea merchants were present at the dinner, which was served in the East Room of the hotel. George L. Montgomery, President of the New York Tea Commission, presided. Besides the Chinese Minister and Mr Barrett there were seated at the speakers' table George L. Hewlett, Chairman of the Board of Tea Experts; Sadazuchi Uchida, Japanese Consul in New York; H. B. Woodruff of Boston, and E. A. Schoyer of Chicago.

Wu Ting Fang responded to the toast "China: The Greatest Tea-Producing Country in the World." He said in part:

"China is not only the greatest tea-producing country, but it was the first country to produce tea. You have a Board of Tea Experts that passes on all the tea imported from China. Now, does it not seem fair to you that China ought to be represented on that board by a Chinaman? I am not criticising the board as it is now constituted, but you want on it men of the best opinion and experience in regard to tea, and that man can only be the one who has been in a tea-producing country. Chinese merchants are complaining to me of what they call the unduly strict and severe way in which tea is being examined in San Francisco, and it is true that a large quantity of it has to be sent away."

The Chinese Minister thought it unreasonable that this country should tax tea, and hoped that that commodity would eventually be placed on the free list.

Mr. Barrett, who followed Wu Ting Fang, described the new feeling of respect shown toward Americans in the Far East. Speaking of China's future he said, in part:

"What is China herself going to do on her own part to take progressive steps, to respect the treaties, to resist assimilation by European powers through these spheres, and so keep the empire intact?"

"With no harsh criticisms intended and with all due respect for his Excellency and for his great country, we must admit that there are certain unfortunate, but not irremediable, conditions in the administration of government, law, and order in China that should be corrected if the empire would successfully work out its own salvation. Beginning with the central Government at Peking, it would seem that some reasonable changes could and must be effected in the near future if China would stand with strong moral force and right against, on the one hand, the forward selfish movement for territorial aggrandizement by some European powers, and with, on the other hand, the vigorous legitimate efforts of the United States to help her at a time when the latter is practically the only country that has not demanded that she shall alienate a portion of her sovereign dominion."

Mr. Uchida, the Japanese Consul, spoke on "Japan, the New Member of the Congress of Nations," and E. A. Schoyer spoke on "The Work of the Tea Commission."

ADMIRE MR. GUGGENHEIMER.

President Guggenheimer of the Council has received an invitation to a dinner to be given Saturday by the Tilden Club, an organization of boys residing on the east side, who are making a study of municipal affairs. In the invitation the committee says:

"The boys of the club would be delighted at the chance to express their appreciation of one whose public course they have followed with approval, and whose public honors they have viewed with gratification."