

**DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH BENNETT.**—The death of any citizen of Worcester has seldom excited the sympathy of the community more generally than the very sudden demise of Mr. Joseph Bennett, who died at Henwick on Tuesday night from an attack of bronchitis. It was only on Thursday that the ward of All Saints elected him one of its representatives in the Town Council; on the following day he qualified before the City Bench, and on the fourth day he was removed from among us. Mr. Bennett was still only in middle life; and might have hoped in the ordinary course of nature to have been permitted for many years to enjoy the autumn of life in the bosom of his family, and in fulfilling the duties of house-father and citizen; but it had been otherwise appointed, and his premature removal holds out to all of us the old old lesson of the instability of human life. There was in the character of the man much that was so lovable that it is little wonder if the startling intelligence of his death fell with keen edge upon his more intimate acquaintance, but the community generally had just reason for lamenting his removal as partaking in some measure of a public loss. It could not yet have been forgotten by our fellow-citizens how greatly Worcester was indebted to Mr. Bennett for his wise and courageous conduct in the very responsible office of Chairman of the Board of Guardians at a time when Worcester was sorely smitten by an outbreak of cholera. At that time the Chairman of the Board of Guardians was virtually Chief Officer of Health, and his power under the statute for the prevention of contagious diseases was very extensive. How well and wisely he discharged the duties of that office, painfully exacting as they were, and often attended with personal danger, has been recorded by us in this journal. Whatever the most assiduous attention, bestowed early and late, could effect, when combined with intelligence and businesslike skill, he accomplished; and it was not a little due to his efforts that the visitation, although severe, was restrained within bounds. We are not surprised that our contemporary the *Chronicle*, in referring to this passage in the life of the deceased, should have committed the very pardonable mistake of stating that "his valuable services in this respect were acknowledged by a handsome presentation of plate." We are almost ashamed to say that no such acknowledgment took place, although all admitted the value of his unwearied services; and as these had been too intrinsically valuable to be rewarded in the way that it has now become customary to testimonialize almost everything and everybody, the public virtue was allowed to be its own reward. Mr. Bennett was highly esteemed, and indeed beloved, by the ancient society of Freemasons, and his loss to the craft will be severely felt not only among the brotherhood in this city but throughout a wide extent beyond its limits. Although an industrious man of business, Mr. Bennett never restrained his public spirit, accordingly we found him one of the first to promote the Volunteer movement in Worcester, and, as usual with him, he carried into the citizen-soldier avocation a resolute determination to carry out the intention of the movement with all his might. His well-known talent for organization rendered his services peculiarly valuable at the formation of the corps, and were accorded without stint. He was appointed Quartermaster of the 2nd Worcester Company, and on the formation of the regiment into battalions he received the Quartermastership of the 2nd battalion, with the rank of Lieutenant. Now his rank and offices must devolve upon others, but he bore them long enough to secure the good-will and esteem of the whole corps, every man of whom feels that by his death he has lost a valuable officer and a cheerful comrade. The family bereavement happily involves no special elements of bitterness, the youngest child of the deceased having nearly attained to maturity, and the natural grief by which the widow and children were overwhelmed at the first shock of the awful suddenness with which he, who was their head, guide, governor, and friend, was taken from them for ever, will be tempered by resignation and lightened by the Christian's belief that one day all will meet again where there is neither parting, nor sorrow, nor suffering. [The remains of Mr. Bennett will be interred in the family burial place in the crypt of St. Clement's Church on Monday, at twelve o'clock noon.]

**FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. BENNETT.**—The remains of this much-lamented citizen were interred in the family tomb in the crypt of St. Clement's Church, at noon on Monday last, with much more of a public ceremonial than has been seen in Worcester for many years. The attendance included the two Worcester companies of Rifle Volunteers, carrying side-arms only, and the band without instruments; both the city lodges of Freemasons, viz. the Worcester Lodge, 349, and the Semper Fidelis Lodge, 772; a number of the fellow parishioners of the deceased, invited by Mr. John Stallard, his brother churchwarden; and finally the relatives and intimate friends of the deceased. It had been the wish of the respected widow of the deceased that his remains should be interred in the most private manner, but the strong desire shown by a number of citizens and the intimate friends of Mr. Bennett, especially the Volunteer Companies and Freemasons, to be permitted to pay a last tribute of respect to his memory, induced her reluctantly, though deeply sensible of the sincere spirit in which the request was made, to accede to their accompanying his remains to the tomb. The funeral procession moved off in the following order:—

14th Rifle Company,  
Captain,  
13th Rifle Company,  
Captain,  
Semper Fidelis Lodge of Freemasons, youngest members next.  
Past Masters,  
Wardens,  
W. M.,  
2nd Worcester Lodge,  
Members,  
Past Masters,  
Wardens,  
W. M.,  
Clergyman—Rev. C. Dimont, 1st coach.  
Pall bearers—2nd coach.  
THE BODY  
Under bearers. Mourner.—3rd coach.  
Pensioners on foot.

Among the Freemasons were—Lodge 349, R. Wood, W.M., P. Hill, P.M., V. Woods, P.M., H. Hill, P.M., W. H. Wood, P.M., S. G. Pursha, P.M., S. M. Beale, S.D., J. Wood, M.C., W. Meredith, secretary, W. Webb, J. Stephens, A. W. Knott, W. Haight, J. W. Isaac, Lodge 772, F. W. Dyer, W.M., T. Hobbs, P.M., J. McMillan, P.M., W. Cobley, P.M., Sir F. A. N. Ischmere, Bart., P.M., E. Giles, P.M., T. Clifton, P.M., T. Baxter, P.M., T. M. Hopkins, P.M., Tabz Jones, P.M., T. Slade, P.M., W. Causar, J. Hickman, P.M., G. Cox (treasurer), R. Wood, J. F. Lowe, R. Grundy, George, Wilden, Read, T. G. Fuggle, Page, W. Holland, J. Goodman, Harris, Sanders, and W. Lovsey. Mr. Smith (Mayor's officer) acted as Marshal of the Masons. [Mr. Bennett was the first Master of 772, and has been the first removed by death from the Board of Installed Masters. All his successors in the chair were present on this mournful occasion except one.] The Volunteers were under the command of Captain Parker and Ensigns Jones and Pidcock. There were also present Surgeon Woodward, Sergeant-major Bex (drill instructor), Colour-sergeant Birley, Quartermaster-sergeant Simms, Sergeants Radford, Bodenham, Witherington, and Perrins.

The chief mourners were three sons of the deceased (the fourth is in India) and a son-in-law; and the pall-bearers were Messrs. Allen, Sweeting, Shirer, and C. C. W. Griffiths. Among the parishioners and friends of the deceased present were the Rev. Mr. Binns, Messrs. John Stallard, L. P. Maybury, S. Danks, A. Fenn, W. Rowlands, Lt. Parry, R. W. Binns, E. Gummery, J. L. Bozward, S. M. Tearne, J. Gardiner, sen., H. Hewitt, J. Waterworth, W. Stalworth, J. Fortey, S. Green, J. Webb, sen. and jun., W. Roberts, Wright, Johnson, Gregg, &c.

On the head of the procession reaching the church gate, the Volunteers and Freemasons halted in line facing inwards, to permit the hearse and mourners to pass on, and the body having been borne into the church, formed again in line, and proceeded into the sacred edifice.

The Rev. C. Dimont, curate of St. Clement's, was the officiating clergyman. Previous to the Volunteers being dismissed to their quarters, Capt. Parker addressed them in most feeling terms, recapitulating the many excellent virtues and good qualities of their late much-respected Quartermaster, and dwelling also upon the loss which the 2nd Worcestershire Battalion had sustained by reason of the sad and sudden bereavement they had suffered. The road from the residence of the deceased to the church was thronged with spectators, the greater number of whom evinced by their subdued manner that they participated in the feelings of those who took part in the mournful solemnity. In the neighbourhood and throughout the city a partial closing of window shutters was very general out of respect to the memory of deceased.