

Passing of a Prominent Citizen  
The Hand of Death is Laid On  
Hon. J. E. LaMaster.

With the closing of the day, last Monday, came the ending of the life of one of Tecumseh's most prominent citizens, and as the sun quietly and peacefully sank to rest, likewise did the end of earthly existence come to this venerable gentleman. After an illness of some four months Hon. Joseph E. LaMaster passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. A. Apperson. During the many weeks of sickness he had borne his suffering with much fortitude, and this termination was not unexpected neither by his relatives nor himself. Bright's disease, complicated with a liver trouble, are given as the cause of his demise.

Joseph Erwin LaMaster, was the son of Hugh and Lambe LaMaster and was born near Canton, Ills., June 18, 1880. The period of his youth was spent there and in Lewiston, Ills. In the latter town he attended the common schools and later took up the "art preservative"--the printer's trade. He was given a partial course in Knox college, Galesburg. Mr. LaMaster was a man of broad mind, and he possessed more than the ordinary intellect. His was a studious disposition and he spent much time with his books, and was especially well posted on the topics of the day. During the days of his early manhood he was employed in the mercantile business to Illinois. He was married to Miss Catherine E. Rice of Lewistown, Ills., in 1858. The union was blessed with four children, one son and three daughters. Of these two are now living--Mrs. Appertain and Hugh Lamaster, both of this city.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. LaMaster came to Nebraska and located in Nebraska City, where Mr. LaMaster entered the newspaper field. He was one of the founders of the Nebraska City Daily Press, one of the pioneer sheets of this state. Later he was associated with the management of the Daily Chronicle of that city.

In 1876 the family came to Johnson county, locating on a farm 2-1/2 miles north of Tecumseh. Here they resided some ten years. During the years from 1886 to 1890 the family home was in Lincoln and it was there that the death of the beloved wife and mother occurred. Since that time Mr. LaMaster has resided with his daughter in Tecumseh.

In the way of official recognition Mr. LaMaster was greatly favored. He was appointed United States revenue collector for the district of Nebraska in 1867 and held the position for five years. In 1870 he was elected contingent congressman from the state, but owing to an insufficient population was not called upon to serve. He represented the third district as state senator in 1874. For several years he was a member of the board of directors of the state normal school at Peru. In the disposition of the affairs of all these offices of trust he proved himself an able, conscientious and hard-working servant of the people.

During President Grant's administration Mr. LaMaster was tendered the position of consul at Coblenz, Germany. For reasons best known to himself he did not deem it advisable to accept, however.

Mr. LaMaster was a plain man, and those things that savored too much of display were

distasteful to him. He was a kind and indulgent husband and father; an unusually pleasant man in the home. In all his dealings with his fellowmen he was honorable, upright and not unmindful of the opinions and convictions of others. His cheerful disposition, his unfailing courtesy and his genial salutations are kindly remembered. His familiar form and cheerful greetings will be sadly missed in the little city he loved so well. While not a member of any church he was a man of deep religious convictions and a firm believer in a future life. He has passed over to the majority leaving behind an unsullied name and character, He will be sincerely mourned. He has left us at the close of a useful life—to some, perhaps, seemingly not long, but

*"That life is long which  
Answers life's great end."*

The funeral was held at the Apperson home, Thursday afternoon, at 8 o'clock, conducted by Rev. E. I. Davies of the Presbyterian church. Many of the friends and neighbors of the deceased attended, desiring to pay their tributes of respect. The floral offerings were profuse and handsome. Interment was made to the family lot in the Tecumseh cemetery.