

**DEATH OF HON.  
SAMUEL HOOPER**

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Death of Hon. Samuel Hooper by Anonymous

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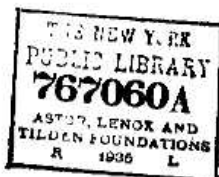


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S. H.

FEBRUARY 14, 1875.



DEATH OF HON. SAMUEL HOOPER.<sup>oc</sup>

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Mr. E. R. Hoar.* In the death of SAMUEL HOOPER, the last of our associates who has been summoned from the scenes of his earthly labors, we have been called to part with a member of this body, one of the oldest of our number, one of the longest in continuous service, and one of the most generally esteemed and respected.

He was born in Marblehead, on the third of February, 1808. His father and grandfather were merchants; and he came of that sturdy race of men who for two centuries

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have peopled the shores of Massachusetts Bay, making it the nursery of seamen, the home of ship-masters, and the birthplace of so large a proportion of those whose enterprise and sagacity have whitened every sea with the sails of American commerce,—the men of courage, endurance, clear heads, and large hearts, who have gathered wealth in every field of commercial adventure, to pour it out freely in response to any call of patriotism, of public spirit, of religion, education, learning, or public or private charity.

His father was the president of the old Marblehead Bank, one of the solid moneyed institutions of an elder generation. He was thus by birth and training fitted for the employment to which most of his life was devoted, that of a merchant and financier, in which he achieved such eminent distinction

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and success. In his early life he went as supercargo in his father's vessels to Cuba and Russia and Spain. He married a daughter of William Sturgis, and thereupon became a partner in the house of Bryant & Sturgis, and engaged in the trade with China and the north-west coast. On the dissolution of that firm, he became a partner of William Appleton, his predecessor in Congress, continuing the large and varied business of the house, after the death of Mr. Appleton, under the name of Samuel Hooper & Co. By inheritance and marriage he had a considerable property, which he increased to the dimensions of a large fortune. His wife, two daughters, and several grand-children, survive him; but he had borne the heavy sorrow of the loss of his only son.



His public life consisted of three years' service in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, a single term in the State Senate, and the fourteen years in which he has represented one of the Boston districts in Congress.

Mr. Hooper first attracted notice in connection with public affairs by the vigor with which, when a member of the Whig party, he addressed himself to the defence of the doctrine of hard money and the stringent regulation of whatever substitute therefor might be devised, which brought him for a time somewhat in affiliation with the Democrats. He became early a member of the Republican party, and during his whole term of service in Congress represented that party upon this floor.

To most of those of us who are members

of Congress for the first time, Mr. Hooper's position and strength in this House are very much matters of tradition. But with his large experience, with his native shrewdness, with his clearness of mind and uprightness of purpose, he brought to the public service here, when he first entered upon it, qualities of conspicuous value. As a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and as a member and chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, he has exerted a most important influence upon the legislation of the country.

He was the trusted adviser and friend of Chase and Fessenden and Boutwell. He was a friend and confidant of Stanton and Sumner and Lincoln. And, Mr. Speaker, I may say that his friendships and his valuable influence extended far beyond the region of

his party associations. He was a friendly man; he was a thoughtful and considerate man.

He could clearly perceive and could clearly express what he thought. He had none of the graces of oratory, but in the time of his strength he was combative, forcible, energetic in the maintenance of the views which he believed sound.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is as we remember him so recently among us, rather than as the man of business or the politician, that I desire to speak of him to-day. His modest and simple nature would have shrunk from any thing like public eulogy; but his affectionate heart would have rejoiced in every thing that spoke of kind and friendly remembrance. I think that we all of us have felt, as we have looked upon that silvered head, that, whoever