

Rev. Solomon Vonnieda.

Rev. Solomon Vonnieda was born of German and highly respectable parentage, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, March 24th, 1809. He died in Dayton, Ohio, July 22d, 1880, aged 71 years, 3 months, and 28 days.

Bro. Vonnieda spent his youth and early manhood in the occupation of a miller, and was regarded as one of the most intelligent and enterprising citizens of the community in which he resided. When he was twenty-eight years of age he was joined in marriage to Miss Elisabeth Fry, a resident also of his native county. The fruit of this union was two sons and three daughters. The wife of his youth and life's journey and three of his children survive him, and mourn the demise of one of the best of husbands and fathers.

In 1840, when he was thirty-one years of age, he became deeply interested in his own salvation, and after a struggle of penitent and trustful seeking he was clearly and moot happily converted while engaged in the wheel house of his mill. Soon after his conversion he realized the quiet movings of the Holy Spirit, that he should seek the salvation of others by devoting himself to the work of the ministry; and in December, 1844, he received a quarterly conference license to preach. He joined the Pennsylvania Conference on the 17th of February, 1845, Bishop J. Erb presiding, and on the 28th of February, 1848, he was ordained an elder in the Church by Bishop J. Russell. From 1845 to 1853, he devoted his whole time and powers to the itinerant ministry, and grew in favor with the people of God wherever he exercised his office. He traveled extensively over the mountains and through the valleys of eastern Pennsylvania, often being absent from his home and family many weeks together. He filled important charges with the highest acceptance, and served in the various offices of the conference, always to the complete satisfaction of his brethren. His preaching, was chiefly in German, and was characterized by directness, soundness of doctrine, system, and spirituality. His services were frequently sought by the various German Protestant churches in Dayton; and the wide acquaintance which this brought him gave him a hallowed influence over many Germans in our city. His departure is

therefore lamented by hundreds, outside of his own communion.

He was a delegate to the General Conference of 1853, held at Miltonville, Butler County, Ohio. At this conference his reputation as an efficient businessman, as well as an ability as a worker in the vineyard of Christ, led to his election as publishing agent of our Printing Establishment. The same General Conference ordered the removal of the establishment from Circleville to Dayton, Ohio.

The first task which Bro. Vonneida had to perform after his election was to carry into effect this order; and in the month of August, 1853, twenty-seven years ago, he arrived in Dayton with the scanty outfit then belonging to our publishing house. His charge of the finances of the concern continued several years, when he was elected editor of our German paper and of the Children's Friend, in which he did good service until 1869, since which time he has served as book-keeper and correspondence clerk, bringing his labors up to Friday evening, July 16th, 1880, when he met with the hurt which cut short his earthly existence. His life in Dayton during all these twenty-seven years is known of thousands, and needs no apology or praise from those who survive him.

He was a Christian and gentleman of the highest order. His integrity and faithfulness in every trust committed to his charge were never questioned. He sought carefully to mind his own business, and to mind it well. His attention to business was so regular and constant that his absence from his post for the briefest time excited wonder and inquiry as to its cause. He had mastered the details of our large and intricate business as few men can, and devoted himself to its care as if it were his own private interest.

He was benevolent to the Church and the poor to a fault. Situated as we have been, where many calls for aid are presented, he seldom failed to respond to the full extent of his ability.

He was progressive and broad-minded in matters of religious, political, and social interest. He kept abreast with the years in which he lived. Forms and methods were nothing with him, only as they served the betterment of men and things. He was a man of taste. His work, his raiment,

his home—in short, all the minute details of his life were of the finest order consistent with his means and skill. He possessed extraordinary diversity of skill. He was apt in mechanical arts; ready in understanding the ingenious parts of machinery.

A lover of music and poetry, he played on instruments and composed hymns of real merit, one of which, set to the tune of "Sweet By and By," was sung at his funeral. There was a vein of genuine wit and chaste humor in his conversation and writings, rendering his communications peculiarly interesting.

His religious life was of a high order—diligent in the study of the Bible, constant in family devotions, and never absent from the house of God when strength would allow. Evangelical in faith, and a firm believer in a thorough work of grace and change of heart, he doubtless died in favor with God and rests in heaven.

A season of severe illness in the early part of last winter hastened upon him the infirmities of age, and his coming to his work was often attended with pain. He at times spoke of his need of rest, and on one occasion said he would like to retire from labor if he could afford to do so. During the day on the evening of which he received his fatal hurt, he seemed more than ordinarily cheerful, and we parted at the close of the day's labors' in the best of spirits. It was the last time. He came no more to his accustomed seat by my side, where for sixteen years I had known him only as brothers know each other. It is difficult to realize that his absence will endure' forever. Wherever we turn in our counting-room we meet the fresh marks of his recent presence and work. We must toil on without him. He has found rest from his labors, and an everlasting furlough is his. It was as good a time as any for him to die. He had served his generation faithfully and well. His years were full of honor and good fruits. His departure is a denominational bereavement. Thousands throughout our church remember his long and useful life with joy, and learn of his death with sorrow. His memory among men will be forever the memory of the just.

W. J. SHUEY.

Dayton, Ohio, July 27, 1880.