

and the leaves that bloom and wither in a day, have no frailer hold upon life than the mightiest monarch that ever shook the earth with his footsteps. Generations of men will appear and disappear, as the grass, and the multitude that throngs the world to-day, will disappear as the footsteps on the shore. Men seldom think of the great event of death until the shadows fall across their own pathway, hiding from their eyes the faces of the loved ones whose loving smile was the sunlight of their existence. Death is the antagonist of life, and the cold thought of the tomb is the skeleton of all feasts. We do not want to go through the dark valley, although its dark passage may lead to paradise; we do not want to lie down in the damp grave, even with princes for bed-fellows."

How true are these words as applied to all. While our friend looked upon death in a philosophical manner, and perhaps was as willing to die as are most men, still he did not want to die; but he was compelled to yield at the call of the grim messenger—death—and we are left a short time to mourn our great loss.

In my portion of the record made here at the present time, I shall confine myself principally to a recital, somewhat in detail, of the leading events in the life of our friend.

George B. Smith was born at Parma Corners, Monroe County, New York, May 22, 1823. His father, Reuben Smith, was a native of Rhode Island. His mother's maiden name was Betsy Page. She died when the subject of this sketch was but ten weeks old. Both father and mother possessed much strength of character, and the father filled many places of honor and trust, discharging faithfully every duty. In 1825, the family removed to Cleveland, Ohio, and in 1827, took up their residence in Medina, Ohio. It was in this place that our subject received a few years of schooling, and entered upon the study of the profession of law with H. W. Floyd, Esq., of Medina. In about a year thereafter, he entered the office of Messrs. Andrews, Foot & Hoyt, of Cleveland, where he pursued his studies with great diligence for about a year. Being a young man possessing much self-reliance—a characteristic that never left him in after life—his mind naturally turned to the great West, which was then