



Reminiscences of Col. John Ketcham: Of Monroe County, Indiana (Classic Reprint)

T. M. Hopkins

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Excerpt from Reminiscences of Col. John Ketcham: Of Monroe County, Indiana

"One generation passeth away and another generation cometh, and it is a duty which each succeeding generation owes to its predecessors, to itself, and to posterity, to preserve all valuable reminiscences." It is to fulfill this obligation that the following facts are published.

In the winter of 1865, when horrid war was raging throughout our land, the inhabitants of Monroe county, Indiana, were called most unexpectedly to pay their last tribute of respect to an old and honored patriot, who one half century ago participated in similar strifes, and was familiar with garments rolled in blood. To him the Son of Man came in an hour when He was not expected. For a few day's before his death he had not been blessed with his usual good health and cheerfulness, but his condition excited no apprehensions whatever.

Arising from his seat with his usual, elastic step he passed out of the house never more to return. His lifeless body was found in a short time afterwards by his wife and daughter-in-law, - was brought into the house to be mourned over by a numerous band of relatives and friends, and to be prepared for its last resting place upon earth.

At the funeral, which occurred two days after, [February 9th,] the following was the substance of remark:

"God speaks to us not only in His Word, but also in His Providence. Events ordinary and extraordinary, have a significance, and it is our duty as rational and accountable beings, to discover as correctly as possible the precise meaning of any important event witnessed. Without this it is impossible to obtain that knowledge of the signs of the times, for the want of which our Lord upbraided the generation with whom He lived. The book of Providence, it is conceded, is more difficult of interpretation than the book of revelation; but the lessons it imparts are equally important and impressive.

"No occurrence is so suggestive of serious and solemn reflections as the death of our fellow men. When God takes from us one of those spirits with whom we have often sympathized, and by whom we have been influenced.

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