

OBITUARY

HON. STEPHEN C. LARISON.

An Honored Citizen and Public Servant
Passes Away.

Hon. Stephen C. Larison, one of our most respected citizens, died at his home on High street shortly before eight o'clock Wednesday morning. Death was the result of paralysis with which he was stricken in his bathroom shortly after nine o'clock last Saturday night. Mr. Larison attended to his business duties as usual on Saturday and was an interested spectator at the base ball game in the afternoon. He spent the evening with his family and started to retire about nine o'clock, going for his bath before retiring. It was nearly a half hour after he had entered the bathroom that his wife went to the room and found him unconscious in the tub. His eyes were closed and he was leaning heavily against the side but she noticed that he was still breathing and the neighbors were sent for as was Dr. Martin. He was carried to his room but all efforts to arouse him were unavailing. The left side was completely paralyzed, and while there were flashes of returning mental life, it is not thought that there was full consciousness up to the time of his death.

Mr. Larison had been in bad health for years, although able to give personal attention to the direction of all the details of his business. The conditions have been notably apoplectic and yet when the fear was realized it came as a shock to the community of which he was one of its most honored citizens. Mr. Larison was born in Morris county on October 16th, 1836, but his mature life has been spent in Hackettstown. He was for years owner and operator of what was then known as the Croton mill, and afterwards purchased the coal business which he has since conducted.

He was actively and honorably connected with the public affairs of the Town, county and State. He was a member of Common Council for a term of years and in 1876 was elected a member of the County Board of Freeholders, serving in that capacity until 1882. He was a dominant factor in the Board, taking a prominent part in the reform movement that culminated two years later in the unparalled exposure of official rotteness. The exposure depended on the election of a Director of the Board in 1878 and Mr. Larison was the candidate of the reformers and was elected. He was the storm center in that upheaval and performed his duty with marked intelligence and effectiveness. His prominence in the Board made him the logical candidate of his party for Member of Assembly in 1882 and he was elected by the small margin of 58 votes in the hardest legislative contest in the history of the county. He was re-elected for the full term permitted by party usage and he served his State with marked fidelity and intelligence.

Some years after his retirement from active politics he was chosen a member of the State Board of Education serving in that capacity for several years. His greatest public service to the Town, however, has been in connection with the public water supply. He has been a member of the Board of Water Commissioners for twenty odd years, and during most of that long and honorable service has been president of the Board. To no other public service has he given more of his time and business talents. He was devoted to and enamored of his position and the highly satisfactory condition of that important branch of the public ser-

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NAME: Hon. Stephen C. Larison

DATE OF DEATH:

(over)