

**Death of Benjamin Franklin, Esq.**

It is with a feeling of sincere and profound regret that we are called upon to announce the death of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Esq., of this city—which event took place, not unexpectedly, this morning at 8 o'clock. Mr. FRANKLIN had been in declining health for many years past, but was during the greater part of that time able to attend to the duties of his profession, until about a week ago, when commenced the attack which terminated in his death.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was born in Tompkins county, New York, on the 26th of November, 1822, and was at the time of his death nearly 46 years old. His early manhood was devoted to the profession of teaching, but he abandoned the school room for the study of the law, in which he soon acquired more than the average proficiency. After practising in his native State for a number of years he came to Winona, in 1859. Here Mr. FRANKLIN at once took a leading position as a lawyer. He had not been here many months before he was admitted to partnership in one of the most prominent legal firms in the city, becoming the successor to Mr. WINDOM in the original firm of SERGEANT, WILSON & WINDOM. Subsequently, by the death of Mr. SERGEANT, the name of the firm became FRANKLIN & KEYES, remaining as such until the present time.

Politically, Mr. FRANKLIN, was a Democrat, but we believe that during the entire period of the rebellion he was a hearty sympathizer with the Union cause. In 1867 he was placed in nomination on the Democratic ticket, in this county, for the office of State Senator, to which he was elected. His services in that body were characterized by moderation and ability, and his opinions on general questions were held in the highest respect by his fellow legislators of both parties.

Mr. FRANKLIN possessed an unusually clear intellect and fine reasoning powers, and was consequently well adapted to the profession of the law, in which he held a high rank in this State. As a man and a citizen he was characterized by a quiet manner, a genial disposition, and by a simple dignity of demeanor which never forsook him under the greatest temptation. In his dealings with his clients, as with the business world in general, it is the testimony of all who knew him that he was the soul of honor.

—But our purpose was not to write a eulogy on the character of the deceased. That is a task which we leave to those who are better qualified to perform it. We merely join with the great body of our fellow-citizens in the expression of a deep regret at the sad event which we are called upon to chronicle, and in extending to the friends of the deceased our profound sympathy in their bereavement.