

SECRETARY FOLGER DEAD.

HIS FATAL ILLNESS DUE TO OVERWORK,
FATAL DAYS AT GENEVA—UNWILLING TO
ALARM HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

GENEVA, N. Y., Sept. 4.—Secretary Folger died at his house on Main-st. in this village at 4:35 this afternoon. He came to his home from Washington two weeks ago last evening, prostrated in health. He left Washington when not feeling well, intending to go to Boston for a few days with friends in order to seek rest and quiet. At New-York he was physically necessary to recognize the limitations upon his own powers, and to divide the duties, he still to the last tried too much to have personal knowledge of the minutiae details of all cases, great or small, and under the burden of this routine his health broke down. There are other Cabinet officers who pay close attention to the duties of their offices, but there never has been one who devoted more hours or was more indefatigable in studies to the subject before him than Charles J. Folger. He never realized that his office in the Treasury was no legal chamber or depository, but that it was necessarily the duty of every officer to personally attend to each detail every case. Accordingly, a certain charwoman who felt aggrieved that she was not paid enough for work received the same considerate attention as the claimant himself. And it was in great detail that Mr. Folger gave his instructions to his friends. Folger had a great desire to go to Boston, but fearing he was to have serious illness he telephoned to his Boston friends that he could not go there. He then sent for two New-York friends, who, with his servant, accompanied him to his home in this village. Dr. Smith, his family physician, was immediately summoned when the secretary reached his home. He stated that Mr. Folger was physically prostrated. His friends were shocked at his greatly changed physical condition. A few months before he had left Geneva in average health on his return his countenance showed care and hard work; his eyes were sunken, his face was pale and his step was tottering. Several of his old friends then stated that they believed their old townsmen had come home to die. The Secretary himself was alarmed at his illness. Drs. Smith and Law carefully examined him and found that he was a complete wreck physically from overwork. His breathing was labored and heart beat feeble. He was unable to recline and was compelled to sit in a chair the whole time. His physician suggested sending for his children, but the Secretary refused, saying that the public would hear of it and become unduly alarmed at his illness. Besides, he feared his daughter Jenny, who also ill in the Adirondack Mountains, would suffer if she knew of his condition. This wish was faithfully adhered to. For three days the Secretary was confined to his room, and only very intimate friends and his physicians were admitted to see him. On the Sunday after his return he had so far revived as to be able to drive out for a short time with his daughter, and it then began to be believed that perhaps he would recover. Each day for two days after he took a short drive about Geneva. During this time he spent an hour or two every day in answering and dictating answers to important messages from the Treasury Department.

GRADUALLY GROWING WEAKER.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

Last Thursday morning he suffered a relapse and was again confined to his room. Toward night he grew rapidly worse and local physicians spent nearly the whole night at his side. He was unable to sleep. It was then believed that the Secretary would be confined to his room for many weeks, and that there was danger of death at any moment. Hemorrhages occurred several times and great quantities of blood were lost. The Secretary said he had three hemorrhages before his return to Geneva, but had kept at work by sheer will. His heart beat feebly and students were posted to him Saturday morning. The Secretary's sister-in-law, Mrs. A. Hart, of Auburn, was sent for to attend him. He steadily refused to have his children summoned and regretted that they should have heard of his illness through the newspapers. After Sunday the Secretary grew gradually worse, but at times he gave such exhibitions of strength that it was hoped he would improve after a few days. He remained in good spirits and showed great coolness. He often expressed great weariness at having to sit so long in bed, where he was certain he could get his long needed rest. Last evening it was seen that he could not live more than two days, and it is thought the Secretary himself saw that his death was near at hand, although he did not allude to it directly. He expressed unusual confidence in his old family physician, Dr. Smith, of this village, and would not have physicians summoned from New-York, as was suggested to him.

This morning Mr. Folger showed unusual feelings and those about him saw that his death was a matter of only a few hours. His heart beat very feebly and his breathing was labored. He was calm and collected, however. During the morning asked for Dr. Foster summoned from Clifton Springs, and once or twice he spoke of Treasury matters at Washington. At 10 o'clock he began to sink slowly, but his mind remained perfectly clear. Three physicians were with him constantly, and he asked for an increase of stimulants. During the afternoon he said to his old friend, Captain Joe Lewis: "Joe, in my left hand coat pocket in the closet you will find two drafts, and under some books on the bureau you will find another. I want you to sign my name and your own to these." "Small I deposit in the bank," said Captain Lewis. "No," said the Secretary, "draw the money at once." At 4 o'clock he asked if it was not train time, meaning that he expected Dr. Foster.

His FINAL MOMENTS.

A moment later his breathing became more labored and his heart beat very slowly. He said his eyes were closing. These were his last words. Dr. Foster arrived a moment later, but the Secretary was too far gone to recognize him. He grasped several times and died sitting in his chair at 4:35 p.m. There were present with him Captain Joseph Lewis, Dr. H. L. Knapp, Dr. A. D. Smith, Dr. M. Foster, Mrs. A. Hart and his servant James.

News of his death went like wildfire through Geneva, and before 6 p.m. most of buildings were draped in mourning and the flags about the village were at half mast. Hundreds of telegrams have poured in to the bereaved relatives here, from all parts of the country. The following is the full text of the telegram was:

PRESIDENT ARTHUR.

The President was greatly shocked on learning of the death of Secretary Folger. While knowing of his illness, he had no idea it would terminate fatally and was wholly unprepared to dispose of the accumulated business before him, and was compelled to remain at the desk until the arrival of Dr. Smith.

Mr. Folger was for many years a friend of President Arthur, and on October 27, 1881, he accepted a seat in the Cabinet, becoming Secretary of the Treasury. In the fall of 1882 he became the Republican candidate for Governor of this State. During the canvass nothing was said reflecting upon Mr. Folger's character or personal worth, but a large majority of the people of this State were dissatisfied among Republicans as to the manner in which the convention which nominated him had been managed, and the secretaries to vote at the polls.

Mr. Folger was a most careful business man, attending to the minutest details of his office. His close application to the duties of the different public trusts imposed upon him cannot be better told than by a story current in Washington. A friend once called on the Secretary, and, finding him busily engaged with the minor details of the office, said: "Judge, I find you are very busy, especially with your hands up, and people look to me to do my duty." Only this morning, when he saw death staring him in the face, he insisted on knowing the contents of letters received in the morning mail, but fortunately none demanded answer.

RECEPTION OF THE NEWS IN WASHINGTON: THE TREASURY TO BE CLOSED AND DRAPED—MISSES FOLGER'S CLOSE APPLICATION TO BUSINESS.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.—The announcement of the death of Secretary Folger was received in a private dispatch to Acting-Secretary Coon about 6 o'clock this evening. It stated merely that Judge Folger died at 5 o'clock. The announcement was not an entire surprise to Mr. Coon, for the reason that, notwithstanding the newspaper reports that Judge Folger was rapidly improving, it was known that he had been managed and the secretaries to vote at the polls.

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and he sought as much as possible to conceal his feelings from the world.

Judge Folger entered upon his duties of his great office here with an unusual degree of enthusiasm for a man of his years. It was unfortunate for him that he brought with him the judicial and not the executive faculty, and when he discovered that it was physically necessary to recognize the limitations upon his own powers, and to divide the duties, he still to the last tried too much to have personal knowledge of the minutiae details of all cases, great or small, and under the burden of this routine his health broke down. There are other Cabinet officers who pay close attention to the duties of their offices, but there never has been one who devoted more hours or was more indefatigable in studies to the subject before him than Charles J. Folger. He never realized that his office in the Treasury was no legal chamber or depository, but that it was necessary the duty of every officer to personally attend to each detail every case. Accordingly, a certain charwoman who felt aggrieved that she was not paid enough for work received the same considerate attention as the claimant himself. And it was in great detail that Mr. Folger gave his instructions to his friends. Folger had a great desire to go to Boston, but fearing he was to have serious illness he telephoned to his Boston friends that he could not go there. He then sent for two New-York friends, who, with his servant, accompanied him to his home in this village. Dr. Smith, his family physician, was immediately summoned when the secretary reached his home. He stated that Mr. Folger was physically prostrated. His friends were shocked at his greatly changed physical condition. A few months before he had left Geneva in average health on his return his countenance showed care and hard work; his eyes were sunken, his face was pale and his step was tottering. Several of his old friends then stated that they believed their old townsmen had come home to die. The Secretary himself was alarmed at his illness. Drs. Smith and Law carefully examined him and found that he was a complete wreck physically from overwork. His breathing was labored and heart beat feeble. He was unable to recline and was compelled to sit in a chair the whole time. His physician suggested sending for his children, but the Secretary refused, saying that the public would hear of it and become unduly alarmed at his illness. Besides, he feared his daughter Jenny, who also ill in the Adirondack Mountains, would suffer if she knew of his condition. This wish was faithfully adhered to. For three days the Secretary was confined to his room, and only very intimate friends and his physicians were admitted to see him. On the Sunday after his return he had so far revived as to be able to drive out for a short time with his daughter, and it then began to be believed that perhaps he would recover. Each day for two days after he took a short drive about Geneva. During this time he spent an hour or two every day in answering and dictating answers to important messages from the Treasury Department.

THE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN.

MEETING OF THE STATE COMMITTEE.
REPORTS OF THE MEMBERS—MR. DERRICK'S PLACE
NOT FILED.

The Republican State Committee met yesterday at the Gilsey House for the purpose of learning the condition of the canvass and of taking such steps as may be necessary to bring it to a successful conclusion. The committee had not met before for several weeks. The meeting was therefore an "experience" one member after another stating the actual condition of the Republican party in his own Congressional district. The reports of the members were as follows:

CONGRESSMAN BURRIGH, who was acting as proxy for John A. Quisenberry, said he thought there was some danger of Republicans becoming over-sanguine. The cause was in such a highly popular state that Republican organizations might relax their campaign efforts. The Democrats would sacrifice everything to carry the state for Cleveland. The Legislature, and all local offices, it was evident to him, also the Democratic party were encouraging the Prohibitionists. That was to be expected, but yet Republicans must take the Prohibition vote into account in their estimates. The state, in his opinion, would give a large majority for Blaine and Logan, but to do it every Republican must work. It was to be no holiday campaign. John W. Vrooman, the secretary of the committee, and Andrew S. Draper, the chairman of the Executive Committee, described in detail the work that had already been done. It was unanimously approved.

The committee also considered the proposition to put some other person in the place on the electoral ticket now held by the Rev. W. B. Derrick, a colored clergymen. It is feared that Mr. Derrick is ineligible. A committee of colored men, consisting of Dr. T. Johnson, Sam. Samuel Stobey, Abram Trotter and David Lee, was in attendance at the committee meeting. Messrs. Van Cott, Parsons and Nicolet of the State Committee had a conference with them in relation to providing some substitute for Mr. Derrick. The colored men were unable to come to any agreement on a colored man to succeed Mr. Derrick. This fact Messrs. Parsons and Van Cott communicated to the State Committee. The suggestion was made that Mr. Derrick be reelected. All the working force of the Treasury became attached to him, and his loss will be regretted from the humblest chairwoman to the highest Bureau officer.

Acting Secretary Coon will probably act as Secretary until the 16th inst., when a temporary appointment for ten days or a permanent appointment must be made.

THE PRESIDENT SURPRISED.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

SECRETARY'S ILLNESS.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.