February 10, 1905

FUNERAL OF MRS. A. BELL

It was thirteen years ago that The Independent chronicled the golden wedding of Mr and Mrs. Aaron Bell. It was a great event, children or grand-children as we remember it, being present from Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, California and Kansas.

Two years later occurred the death of Aaron Bell, a most worthy South Dakotan, and a staunch pioneer. Last Saturday evening the remains of Mrs. Bell arrived from Benton Harbar, Mich., in charge of Miss Atella Bell, daughter of the deceased.

Funeral services were held at the Cassels home, Rev. L. L. Lane in a short and impressive address paying a deserved tribute to the memory of the departed, and drawing wholesome lessons from her life. The body was laid to rest beside that of her husband in Union Cemetery. Full of years, honored by children, grand-children and friends, a noble spirit has gone to its reward.

A more extended sketch of her life is presented in the following:

A BEAUTIFUL LIFE.

Jane Collin was born July 20th, 1820 in Tiffin, Ohio, of English parentage. In 1842 she married Aaron Bell of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, where their oldest child, Mrs. Rosa Cadwell of Kanopolis, Kansas, was born. In 1844 they emigrated to White Rock, Ill., where the rest of the children were born, the family numbering ten in all, seven of whom are living: Charles Collin of Benton Harbor, Mich., John C. of Groton, Mrs. Trilla Young of Washington, D. C., Mrs. Cordelia Moore of Cleveland, Ohio, Mrs. Luella Merwin, and Miss Artelia Bell of Benton Harbor. In 1870 they moved to Niles, Michigan, and in 1889 came to Groton, South Dakota. During the last year Mrs. Bell visited all her children with the exception of Mrs. Young, going to Michigan, Ohio and Kansas, returning to Groton where she especially enjoyed being with her friends for a few weeks. In December she returned to Michigan to be with Mrs. Merwin, the youngest daughter, from whom she had never been separated during life but a few weeks at a time, and it was at her home Feb. 1st, 1905, that she passed peacefully during the night from the sleep of a night time to the last long sleep of eternity. Only those privileged to enter the inner circle of her life can appreciate the rare qualities of this most noble woman, wife and mother. With her Heaven was a habit, and her life was a preparation for the future by living as tho each day was the future. Her faculties seemed to brighten and increase with the dimunition of her physical forces, and her old age was made beautiful by her serene resignation and consideration of the rights of others. In all her walk through this mortal life she bore evidence of a soul strong, beautiful, radiant, whose brightness no sorrows, trials or burdens could dim, a spirit that nothing could break, whose aspirations breathed out upon her world peace and love. Her last words were "I shall rest well."

Her body was laid beside the silent form of her husband, and in death they were again united. The nobility of their lives will speak to the world thro all the future, and their crown of immortality is won at last.