

February 10, 1938

MRS. W. I. ERWIN PASSES TO BEYOND

ESTEEMED GROTON LADY SUC-
CUMBS TO PROLONGED
ILLNESS SATURDAY

Mrs. W. I. Erwin, an esteemed and highly respected Groton lady, who has been a patient victim of a malady medical science has been unable to combat, passed away at her home here last Saturday after suffering from the affliction since last August. Her death came peacefully and quietly, without pain and bore a striking resemblance to the unaffected, resolute life she had lived since October, 1858.

A woman's intuition, along in 1930, seemed to whisper to her that ere long she would be called upon to lay down earthly cares, and it was then she made all arrangements for her departure from this earth. Her funeral was to be held at the home, there would be few flowers and no singing and the pallbearers were to be Charles E. Adams, Chas. J. Lundberg, Ernest Meythaler, C. K. Neff, H. W. Jones and Randall H. Hall. And when her fatal illness struck last August and she and her family realized that the end was near, it was confronted and accepted with a full knowledge that a life well spent would find its reward in that Invisible Empire to which she had constantly directed her footsteps.

Mrs. Erwin was born in Martinsburg, Pa., October 13, 1858, as Miss Gabriella Martin. She came to South Dakota along in 1887, where she met her husband and a romance that ended in marriage began. She returned to her home but on July 6, 1892, she became the bride of the man she had met back on the western plains. They returned to Groton and have since made this city their home.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Erwin—John of Mitchell, who is practicing law at that place, and Mrs. Anna Jane Umland, of Dallas, Texas.

The funeral was held Monday afternoon from the home with Rev. C. B. Cedar conducting the obsequies, and the remains were laid to rest in Groton cemetery. Mrs. Erwin was a member of the Presbyterian church and an active worker in all of its departments.

During the seemingly endless days of her patient waiting for the end, friends she had known throughout her life in Groton, showered loving deeds and thoughtfulness upon her—acts which somewhat deadened the pang of expectation and for which the fam-