

REV. ANDREW HEATH.

Enormous Attendance Expected At His Funeral To-morrow—Sketch of His Life—A Poetic Tribute.

The funeral of Rev. Andrew Heath, late pastor of the Fifth-street Colored Baptist church, will occur to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock from the Fifth-street church. Rev. Heath was a most prominent colored preacher, his long service and ability rendering him a leader in the church and social circles of his people. The funeral will probably be the largest ever accorded to any colored man in Kentucky. Mr. Heath was a prominent member of Mount Maria Lodge F. and A. M., and was once Grand Master of the lodge. His funeral will be attended by that order. The pall-bearers will be twelve in number, six from the lodge and six from the church.

The deceased was born in Henderson in 1833, and if he had lived one day longer would have been fifty-four years old. He was a slave, belonging to A. T. Heath, who shortly afterward removed to Louisville with the child slave. At the age of ten years his owner removed to Texas and he was sold to Knott, Wicks & Co., from whom he was able to buy his freedom when he was twenty-six years of age. When he was about seventeen years of age he taught himself to read and write, and afterward studied the Scriptures and began preaching in the Fifth-street church, of which nearly all his life he was a member. Twenty-one years ago he was ordained by Revs. Mr. Adams, of Louisville; De Baptist, of Chicago, and Troy, of Springfield. He was then appointed assistant pastor of the Fifth-street church, and three years later, upon the death of Mr. Adams, succeeded him, and was given charge of the church, which he retained until his death. His assistants at the church were Revs. Frank Hill and Philip Talbot. At an early age Mr. Heath married Lucy Hamilton, a slave belonging to Mrs. George Ormsby. The union bore eleven children, six of whom and the wife survive him. George Walker and James Taylor, leading men of their race, married daughters of the deceased.

About two years ago Mr. Heath was stricken with paralysis, but was able to attend to his duties until six weeks ago, when he took to his bed. He was voluntarily nursed by Rev. Richard Hatchett, who remained at his bedside night and day.

Mr. Heath was not only popular with people of his own race, but was much esteemed by the white Christians, who recognized his ability and who aided him in attaining his prominence.

At a meeting last evening arrangements were completed for the funeral to-morrow. Rev. William J. Simmons will preach the sermon, and most of the colored ministers in the city will be present and assist in the ceremonies.

A TRIBUTE.

The following tribute to the dead minister is offered by Benjamin N. Tyler, a member of his congregation:

"Long and faithful he hath labored
On the earth for Christ the Lord,
But no more, he hath ascended
To receive his great reward.

"Saturday was most delightful,
Bright the sun, God's heavenly fire,
When the summons came from heaven,
'Faithful servant come up higher.'

"It was early in the morning,
And the clock was striking seven
When the angels on their mission,
Bore his soul away to heaven.

"There was heard delightful singing
As they reached the pearly gate—
I will praise the Lord forever,
For His work on earth was great.

"Long he lingered, sore afflicted,
With his body filled with pain,
But his faith was strong in Jesus,
Who had died his soul to gain.

"Often hath he bid the wicked,
Leave off sin and come to Christ,
But no longer will he bid them
For he's now in Paradise.

"God the author, his Creator,
Sent His chariot from above
To convey him to those mansions
There to sing redeeming love.

"Be you faithful, his dear daughters,
For your time is coming too
When the angels from those mansions
Will with Christ come after you.

"He has gone to join that number,
Far above the starry sky,
Where the good are always welcome
When at last they come to die."