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THE LATE MRS. BALL.

Mrs. Ball, whose funeral was held last Sunday at the home of her son, Edward H. Brown, was born in Guilford, Vt., a few miles south of Brattleboro, Dec. 21, 1815. Her maiden name was Miranda Augusta Houghton, and her father was one of the substantial farmers of that prosperous Connecticut valley region. In addition to the school advantages she could secure at and near her home she took a course at Mrs. Willard's seminary in Troy, N. Y., the Vassar or Wellesley of those days. In due time she married Dr. Timothy H. Brown and settled in Milwaukee about 1845, when he made the third physician of the place. He died in 1854 and subsequently she married Mr. Ball, with whom she lived till his death in 1890. When her son moved to the Park in 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Ball rented their Milwaukee home and came here to live, and thenceforward her home was with her son till her death, wanting only a few days of being 83 years old.

She was a woman of rare physical poise and vigor, almost never ill and showing no signs of decay or failure of bodily or mental power, till her last illness of about seven weeks duration. Some five years ago she visited the home of her childhood in company with her son and his family and Mr. Brown assures us it was an event of rare delight to her, to go to the old farm, the little red brick school house and converse with the one solitary school mate of her childhood. She enjoyed the trip with scarce any fatigue, and here at home, went up and down stairs with the ease and agility of a girl, in spite of her more than eighty years.

She was an honored member of the Presbyterian church and it was a pleasure to hear her pastor, Mr. Pfanstiehl, speak in such high terms of her Christian character and moral worth, of her delight in the service and house of her God. She died Thursday, the 15th, and the funeral was Sunday afternoon at Mr. Brown's and the interment in the family lot in Lake Forest.

THE LECTURE COURSE.

The public is greatly indebted to the Highland Park Club for the entertaining and instructive course of lectures just closed, which it provided by Prof. Rolfe of the University of Chicago. The lecture platform is regaining slowly but surely, some of its old time popularity and favor. Forty to fifty years ago, it was a great and mighty institution, and scores of thousands of people listened to, were stirred, instructed and guided by the ablest and most brilliant men in the land, on the old lecture platform. We have seen immense audiences, packing the largest halls in the country, in those days, carried as by storm by such men as Henry Ward Beecher, John B. Gough, Wendell Phillips, and men of less renown, on great topics of national interest. Were they alive today they would stump the country from Cape Cod to the Golden Gate against annexing the Philippines, and imperialism generally, and defeat the evil in spite of all the jingoes in and out of Congress.

But Prof. Rolfe's lectures are on literary lines, to instruct and entertain: not to enthuse and stir the people and control national politics or public thought. They have been

very enjoyable and valuable in their chosen field. Prof. Rolfe is an ideal lecturer on such topics; it is a great thing to listen to such a lecturer. But with all his excellencies, and the excellence of the course, there are two things about a lecture course for which they do not provide. First they do not touch the popular, timely, instructive topics of the day, as "Imperialism" so called, the Philippines and Cuba: Spanish policy: the Colonial systems of the world, the successful and the unsuccessful ones: Currency problems: Municipal administration, and similar topics. That the people are and would be interested in such themes is evidenced by the audiences who listen to political campaign speeches, by partisan politicians, generally of the cheap variety.

A second thing is the expense. A single ticket to Prof. Rolfe's course \$2.00 for six lectures, or \$0.33 each. Now while that sum is not large and is as cheap as the Club could afford to sell them, it is too high by at least one-half, for perhaps a majority of our people who could be induced to attend a cheaper course. What we want is a course of good lectures of six to ten in number, by different persons, at a cost of \$1.00 per ticket for the course, or \$1.50 for a man and his wife or lady friend. Of course you can't pay your lecturers very high, but you can get a good course and not at excessive cost, even if you have to use some home talent.

The great point we now urge is, the people will turn out to good lectures on subjects which interest them at reasonable rates, that is rates that are reasonable to them. Can not these conditions be met in Highland Park? We believe they can, at all events, they should be tried.