

Mr. Meredith, who was absent from the House, on receiving a telephone message hurried to the scene, and listened with noticeable sorrow to the accounts of how his desk companion had been carried off.

For over an hour afterwards some of the members lingered in the chamber, unable to fully realise the terrible event that had taken place.

HOW THE SAD NEWS WAS SPREAD.

While the physicians were still bending over the unconscious man the sad intelligence was being flashed from the building by wire and telephone to all parts of the city and Province. The moment the reporters for the evening papers saw the seriousness of the case they rushed off to telephone the fact to their respective newspapers, and bulletins and special additions were soon telling thousands of the unlooked-for event. There are two telegraph operators in the building representing the Great Northwestern and the Canadian Pacific companies, and in a few moments they had sent the intelligence all over the Dominion. In addition, the dozen telephones scattered through the various offices were kept busy for the next hour in spreading the fact.

Mrs. Clarke was in the ladies' gallery Thursday evening, and Mr. Clarke spent some time in conversation with her, standing on the floor of the House and leaning over the railing.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral will take place on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock, from the family residence, No. 607 Jarvis street, to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. It is expected that it will be to a large extent of a public character and probably almost the entire Legislative Assembly will attend.

A SIMILAR EVENT YEARS AGO.

This was the second time that the members of the Assembly witnessed the awful scene of one of their colleagues dying in the House. On Feb. 11, 1881, and, strange to say, also a Friday afternoon, Dr. Harkin, Conservative member for Prescott, was seized with a paralytic stroke while the Speaker, Col. Clarke, the present clerk of the House, was reading prayers, and died about two hours afterwards.

CAREER OF THE DECEASED.

Mr. H. E. Clarke was born at Three Rivers, Quebec, on March 20, 1829, being the son of Henry and Ellen Clarke of Midhill, County Fermanagh, Ireland. He received a sound fundamental education from public teachers and private instructors, and at the early age of fifteen left home to push his fortune in the world. By the time he was eighteen he had learned the trade of saddlemaking and trunkmaking, and was employed in a large shop in Montreal. In 1849 he removed to Ottawa, then Bytown, where at twenty years of age he became foreman of the largest saddlery shop in the town, and here he remained for four years, working diligently and perfecting himself in his trade. In 1853 he returned to Montreal, and next year he was sent by R. Dean & Co. of that city to Toronto to open a branch trunk store for that firm. Mr. Clarke soon afterwards resolved to start in business on his own account, and within a year after his arrival in this city he bought out the local interest of Messrs. Dean & Co. He had little capital, but he was persevering and industrious, and he steadily progressed until he became the head of one of the largest trunk manufactories of the continent. Though an active man in business, Mr. Clarke always devoted a generous share of his time to public affairs, and his sound sense and sterling integrity invariably won him the respect and esteem of his associates. For eight years he was a director of the old Mechanics' Institute; in 1879 he represented St. George's Ward in the City Council, and in 1881, 1882 and 1883 he sat for St. Andrew's Ward. He was chairman of the Court of Revision in 1881 and of the Ex-

ecutive Committee in 1883. In the latter year he was elected member for Toronto in the Conservative interest, and was re-elected in 1886 and 1890. Mr. Clarke became a member of the Orange Order in 1849 and remained connected with it to the close of his career. He travelled extensively in 1878 and visited the capitals and other great cities of Europe, and on his return published a brief account of his trip in pamphlet form. In religion Mr. Clarke was a Methodist, and a member of the Metropolitan Church. He ceased connection with the firm bearing his name two or three years ago, though he had for some time previously been gradually relieving himself of business cares and responsibilities. During the last five or six years he has been a prominent figure in the Local Legislature, having been recognised until the end of last session as one of the principal lieutenants of the leader of the Opposition. To him was deputed as a rule the task of the criticism of the Provincial budget, and the fact that this year the work fell to other hands was of itself sufficient to show that his health had been greatly enfeebled.

To the last day of his career, however, he preserved his cheerfulness of face and mien, and only intimate friends and keen observers knew what his condition really was.