

# A PATRIOT'S DEATH

John Fitzgerald, Ireland's Friend,  
Dies at His Home.

Death Was Expected and the Sufferer Was  
Fully Prepared.

## HEIRS INHERIT A LARGE ESTATE

In Him the Cause of Ireland, the  
Church, the Poor Loss a Munifi-  
cent Supporter—His Long  
and Active Career.

Hon. John Fitzgerald passed quietly out of this world at 2:20 yesterday morning. He had been gradually sinking for weeks and when the end came it was not unexpected. The change for the worse set in Christmas. Father Roche administered the sacrament of the dying Wednesday morning. At that time he appeared to have lost the use of his lower limbs. He suffered a good deal up to Saturday morning, but bore it all with wonderful fortitude. Saturday morning the sacrifice of the mass was offered up in his room and he prayed fervently during the service. He rallied somewhat during the day and appeared better than he had been for a week. During the day he called his children to him and gave them each a parting admonition. He fully realized that he was at the point of death. He remained calm, courageous and resigned, doing all in his power to console Mrs. Fitzgerald, who was a constant watcher by his bedside.

"God's holy will be done during the last day and night. He will reward me for all these sufferings. Mercy, my Jesus, mercy," were the last words that escaped his lips.

Mrs. Fitzgerald, although completely worn out, remained with him to the end. His brother, David Fitzgerald; his two sons, John and Paul; his niece, Mrs. Hallihan, and her husband; Mrs. Lang-



HON. JOHN FITZGERALD.

don, Mr. Kelly, his brother-in-law, and Fathers Roche of this city and Pantanello of Denver were present and kept watch with the sufferer until the end came.

He lost consciousness about half past one and remained in that condition, breathing almost as quietly as if asleep, and when the last sigh escaped those about the bed could hardly realize that death had really come.

### His Life.

John Fitzgerald was born in Limerick county, Ireland, April 29, 1839. Upon the eviction of his father from his farm in the old country in 1844, he came to this country and with the rest of the family entered into business.

After the death of their father in New York, John and Edward, his brother, turned their attention to the construction of railroads. Mr. Fitzgerald dates his life as a contractor from his arrival in this country. He was sixteen years of age when he went to work digging ditches for a farmer in New York state. After working by the day for several days he asked the farmer why he did not let the contract for the digging of the ditch. The farmer consented to give the contract to Mr. Fitzgerald and he made enough money out of the work to give him a fair start. What he lacked in funds was made up by the confidence in his ability to cope with the people, which he had gained in the contract with the farmer.

Important contracts were completed in New England during the war and then the brothers came west. Wisconsin and Iowa furnished vast fields for their work at that time and the brothers did a thriving business. Edward died and John assumed control of the increasing business. He built the greater part of the C. B. & Q. road and then crossed the river to commence work on the B. & M. and Union Pacific highways.

### In Nebraska.

Mr. Fitzgerald first came to Nebraska in 1869. He settled in Plattsmouth. His work on the railroads then commanded his attention, but he was able to find time to enter into the banking business. He became associated with S. Mallory and Martin Flynn in contracting, under the firm name of Fitzgerald, Mallory & Flynn. Together they built the Cincinnati Southern road through Tennessee, and later engaged in the construction of the Denver, Memphis & Atlantic in connection with the Fitzgerald-Mallory Construction company. The St. Louis & Canada road through Indiana is another reminder of their work.

### Faith in Lincoln.

Mr. Fitzgerald came to Lincoln from Plattsmouth in 1878. Since his advent he has been closely associated with the leading interests of the city. He succeeded Amasa Cobb as president of the

Merchants', afterwards the First National, bank and at the same time was greatly occupied with the railroad contracts of the Fitzgerald-Mallory Construction company. In 1886 he was elected president of the Irish National league and served in this capacity for four years. He always showed that he was interested in the welfare of his countrymen by his liberal gifts to the cause, both of money and unceasing labor.

His accumulated capital was invested in Lincoln property, as he always thought that there was a great future before the capital city. He was a Catholic and gave largely to numerous charities. Among them are the Holy Child Jesus convent, St. Elizabeth's hospital and the pro-cathedral school. His purse was always open to the poor and he performed many kind acts which never gained publicity.

### Gained Important Suits.

When the Fitzgerald-Mallory Construction company completed the Pueblo line for the Missouri Pacific in 1886, they commenced suit against the road for their pay. Only last summer they received a verdict in the district court of Lancaster county for \$480,000 against the road. Shortly after being compelled to bring this suit to get their pay the Fitzgerald-Mallory combine was broken and the firm became John Fitzgerald & Bro. This was another brother, David Fitzgerald, who now lives in this city. They have constructed the line for the Burlington to Edgemont, S. D., and have engineered the building of several roads in Colorado.

### Value of His Estate.

Mr. Fitzgerald leaves a wife and four children, Edward J., Paul, John Jr. and Lillian. He leaves an estate that is valued at \$2,000,000. It is understood that he left no will, but that he instructed his wife prior to his death as to what should be done with his property. It is largely composed of real estate scattered through Gage and Jefferson counties, while four thousand acres are located near Greenwood. He has something like thirty acres of land almost in the heart of the city. He owned interest in the West Lincoln stockyards and Lincoln hotel, was a member of the firm of Plummer, Perry & Co. and had a large number of houses and blocks which are rented out to tenants here. He has stock in the First National bank, the Greenwood bank and a bank in Plattsmouth. He also has a large interest in real estate in the last-named place.

### Stricken With Paralysis.

Mr. Fitzgerald was stricken with paralysis three years ago and since that time has been unable to take part in the affairs of life in which he was so much interested. He was compelled to abandon all of his enterprises and trust to his business managers to look after them. He suffered under this terrible attack, cared for by his loving family and attended by Dr. Giffen, until last summer, when he recovered the use of his limbs. The recovery of a part of his physical energies gave him a desire to again mingle with his friends and take part in the management of his business affairs. He was always an active man and no one but he knew how much he suffered in being forced to give up his energetic life.

He rose one morning last summer and informed his family that he intended to go to his farm near Greenwood. He was advised to abandon the trip, but he seemed to think he was strong enough to make it. The heat was too much for him and when he returned he sought the couch which he had only lately abandoned to endeavor to regain his health in the open air. While he was not entirely helpless from this time to his death, he sank gradually and it was more the decaying of the physical powers, or general debility, that carried him off than anything else.

### A Munificent Patriot.

Mr. Fitzgerald is said to have been distinctly an impulsive man. If he became angry he acted quickly, but when he had recovered his equanimity he was just as quick to make reparation for any injury done. He was kind to his family and his friends, and many young men have reason to regret his death. In the fight of his native land for freedom he was second only to the rich New York banker, Eugene Kelly, who died only a few days ago, in his gifts to the cause. He was always identified with the interests of the Irish National league and the acquirement of many rights by Ireland is due much to the liberality of Mr. Fitzgerald.

### A Friend of Mr. Marquett.

Mr. Fitzgerald was a close friend of Hon. T. M. Marquett, who died only last week. In fact, Mr. Marquett was Mr. Fitzgerald's legal advisor for years. A notable incident in the career of these two men occurred last summer, when they won the suit from the Missouri Pacific for a half million dollars. Had either of them been absent the suit would have gone against them and it was almost absolutely necessary that both should be present. The successful termination of the suit is said to have lifted a load from their shoulders, as they were greatly interested in the result.

### The Last Obsequies.

The funeral will take place from St. Theresa's pro-cathedral Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Father McGavney of Denver or Father O'Reilly of Detroit will officiate. It is expected that Mr. Fitzgerald's two sisters from Wisconsin and one from Plattsmouth will be present at the services, as they have been telegraphed the news of his death.

### Churchill Still Alive.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Lord Randolph Churchill's condition this afternoon was reported to be unchanged.