

**OBITUARY.**—The announcement of the sudden demise of Col. John C. Groome, on the evening of the 30th of November, cast a feeling of sadness over our whole community. The deceased had been indisposed for several months—the greater part of that time confined to his house—with chronic disease, but had, apparently, recently improved much in health. But from unforeseen exposure or imprudence in diet, was again taken violently ill a short time before his death, which occurred suddenly on the evening of the day above named. His remains were placed in a vault in the family lot in the burying ground of the Presbyterian Church of this town on Tuesday last, followed to the grave by a large circle of relatives and friends.

Col. Groome filled a large place in our community, having for the greater portion of his life made Elkton his place of residence. As a member of the Maryland Bar, the deceased occupied an advanced position among his brother members of the State, and by his devotion to the profession, legal ability and integrity, amassed a large fortune.

Not least among his shining qualities, and the one that endeared him most to the large circle of warm friends which were scattered throughout this and neighboring States, was his genial, social qualities. An hour in his company was an hour dedicated to enjoyment. To his inimitable courtesy and blandness of manner toward all whom he met Col. Groome owed much of his success in life.

When his standing as a lawyer and large acquaintance in all parts of the State are considered, he gave politics but slight attention comparatively. A candidate for Governor, in opposition to Gov. Hicks, is, we believe, the only time he was ever very prominently before the public as an aspirant for political honors. The harsh, stormy scenes of a political life, with its criminations and heart burning strife, had few charms for a sunny, social spirit like that of John C. Groome. He preferred to walk in those pleasanter paths of life where the thorns of public strife give way to the roses of affection and social happiness. It is no exaggeration to claim for the object of this sketch, when we consider his length of days—67 years—the majority of them devoted to the active pursuit of a lawyer, that few, if any in the State, made fewer enemies and a greater number of warm friends. His life is a lesson for those to study, who would prosper in business, and live the centre of a large circle of true, devoted friends.