

# DIED IN BABI FAITH; ORIENTAL FUNERAL

Mystic Ceremony Followed by  
Babi Brotherhood for Dr.  
Chester Thacher.

WAS A 'BEAUTIFUL BROTHER'

And He Will Now Rise to the Realm  
of "The Greatest Name"—Epis-  
copal Service, Too.

A double funeral service was held yesterday morning over the body of the late Dr. Chester I. Thacher, a retired physician of Chicago. The ritual for the dead of the Babi, one of the sects of Persia, was first read, and, following this, the simple Episcopal service.

Dr. Thacher was one of the leaders of the Babi faith in this country, hence the Oriental ceremony. The doctor's son, Fielding J. Thacher, also a physician, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. J. A. Cozzino, of 56 West Fifty-third Street, in whose house the funeral services were held, are Episcopalians. It was in deference to their wishes that the more orthodox service followed that of the Babi.

The doctor's son, Fielding, and his nephew, W. J. Toomey, both of Chicago, reached this city on May 15, concluding a trip around the world. Dr. Thacher came on from Chicago to meet them. He died suddenly on Friday evening.

Among those who gathered in Mrs. Cozzino's home at 10 o'clock yesterday morning for the funeral services were about a dozen members of the Babi faith. One of these was Arthur S. Agnew of Chicago and another Howard McNutt of Brooklyn, both Babi brothers.

The Oriental ceremony was begun by placing upon the finger of the dead man a plain gold ring with a stone setting—the emblem of Babi brotherhood. Brother McNutt then mentioned "The Greatest Name" in Arabic, this being the Babi reference to the Eternal Power. With the members of the faith slowly intoning after him, Brother McNutt repeated "The Greatest Name" nineteen times, a mystical number which expresses the name of the Deity, and is also the number of the Babi prophets.

Brother McNutt then read the burial service from the Holy Book of Bab. This is a solemn adjuration to the faithful and a profound tribute to the dead, "who have been raised up to the beautiful, out of the twilight of human understanding, to meet the glory of peace and eternal bliss at the hands of his Creator." The service continues:

Oh, Beautiful Brother, thou art raised up to thy rest; thou art taken from among us that thou mightest be glorified by Him who is all powerful and brought to a heavenly abiding place.

Oh, Beautiful Brother, thou art called to higher things, to the mountains above the loftiest clouds, to the realms where rules the Infinite, the Maker of all peace here on earth, and from whence all glory and power comes.

Death is not death, but life.

Brother Agnew then read the prayer of the faithful:

Oh, Beautiful Brother, thou art a part of thy Creator, thou art His follower, and now thou art with Him, and the dust thou hast left behind is as nothing when thy soul has flown.

This concluded the Babi ceremony. The Episcopal service was read soon afterward by the Rev. Dr. Wasson, assistant rector of St. Thomas's.

The body was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, with only the Episcopal service at the grave.

Dr. Thacher adopted the Babi faith when it was introduced into the West during the Congress of Religions held at the Chicago World's Fair. There are now about 6,000 of the Babi sect in Chicago. The faith has since spread to other cities, New York having several hundred believers, who gather for worship weekly.

The Babi derived their name from "Bab," (gate,) the title assumed by Seyed Mohammed Ali, the founder of the faith. His first appearance in public took place about 1843, when, on his return from a pilgrimage to Mecca and after a prolonged course of meditation in the ruined mosque of Kufa, he presented himself in his native city with a journal of his pilgrimage and a new commentary on the Koran. The practical tenets of the faith are hospitality, charity, and generous living, tempered by abstinence from intoxicating liquors and drugs.

## F. AUGUSTUS HEINZE SUED.

The Canadian Pacific Wants Him to

Perfect Title to 600,000 Acres.

An action involving some 600,000 acres of the richest timber land and coal fields of British Columbia will come up for hearing before the British Vice Consul at the British Consulate in this city on Monday next. The hearing was scheduled for yesterday, but was adjourned for one week.

The suit was brought by the Canadian Pacific Railway against F. Augustus Heinze in an effort to compel the latter to take title to this land, which is being held in trust for him under a trust deed that makes the land non-taxable until 1911. The indeterminate title belongs to Mr. Heinze, and there is a question whether the land would remain non-taxable until 1911 if title were taken at this time.

The land comprises a small empire in itself, and the timber and underlying coal fields, all of which are absolutely undeveloped, form one of the most valuable properties in all Canada. The object of the railroad in seeking to compel Mr. Heinze to take title is that the railroad may then proceed with the development of other adjoining property after Mr. Heinze has designated the exact boundaries of his property.