

CHAUNCEY E. WETMORE.

The subject of this sketch, whose death was recorded in our last issue, was born Dec. 28, 1818, at Middletown, Conn. His ancestors were among the earliest settlers of that town upon grants of land from the English government. His great grandfather, Judge Seth Wetmore, was a lawyer by profession, a Judge of the County Court, and represented that town in the Colonial Legislature for 48 successive years. Aaron Burr and Pierpont Edwards studied law in his office. His grandfather was a deacon in the Congregational church of that place for many years, and until the time of his death. His grandmother was a Brewster of the seventh generation, in direct line of descent from Elder Wm. Brewster of the Mayflower, whose descendants are among the best families of New England.

Among their connections may be mentioned Chief Justice Story, Rev. Jonathan Edwards and President Timothy Dwight of Yale College. His father was a farmer who was born in the old homestead which he inherited, built in 1746, and which is still preserved in good condition.

He (C. E. Wetmore) attended the common school until 14 years of age. After that he worked on the farm in summer and attended private school and the academy during the winter until 19 years of age. He then went to the city of New York and pursued a course of study and lectures in the State University, preparatory to the profession of teaching. After this he taught school for one term in Herkimer county, New York, and one year as the principal of the Central public school in his native town. He also taught a public school in the town of Wethersfield, Ct., where he became acquainted with Miss Mary M. Buck, to whom he was subsequently married. He then went to Andover and spent six months in the Teacher's Academy, pursuing a course of study with reference to teaching. He then accepted a position as tutor in Mt. Hope College, Baltimore, for one year, and afterward opened and conducted a private school in Baltimore, until his health began to fail from close confinement, when he sold out and engaged in manufacturing. He was married to Miss Mary M. Buck, of Wethersfield, Oct. 5, 1845.

Upon the acquisition of California by our government during the Mexican war he became interested in studying its resources, climate and productions. He was so well satisfied with the result of his investigation that he closed out his business and set sail for California with his wife, on board the ship Rhone, Capt. Hill, master, on the 22d of Dec. 22, 1847, bound for California and a market. After a passage of 97 days the vessel touched at Valparaiso in the month of March, and remained there two weeks.

Thence cruising along the coast of