

LATE REV. JOHN GRAHAM.

In a recent number we gave a brief account of the melancholy death, at Cape May, New Jersey, founded on telegraphic information, of this eminent Congregational minister, formerly minister of Craven Chapel, subsequently of Sydney, and more recently at Brighton. Full details were afterwards published in the *Philadelphia Times* as follows, and we have no doubt they will be read with mournful interest:—

"The Rev. John R. Graham lost his life at Cape May August 1. His body was recovered by the brave efforts of Miss Gussie Graham, his niece, and Mr C. H. Ames, of Boston. Mr Graham is from Brighton, England, where he has a wife and son. Several weeks ago he came to this country on a visit, travelling through Canada, and finally reaching the house of his nephew, Dr. James Graham, of 1528, Spruce-street. A few days ago he went to Cape May for a brief sojourn at the sea shore. The bathers were beginning to accumulate on the beach when he plunged into the surface with his nephew, Archibald Graham, a young married man, of this city, and his two nieces, Misses Bessie and Gussie Graham. Once in the water the bathers became separated. They had chosen for their bathing ground a spot near Denizot's pier, the one nearer the Stockton House. Under either of the two piers the current always runs strong, and those who are well acquainted with the beach always avoid them. The current was setting very rapidly towards the north. The bathers had not been in the water long before Miss Gussie found herself beyond her depth. Her brother saw the danger she was in and immediately swam to her assistance. He reached her, and turned for the shore. Then came the struggle. He describes it as the hardest battle with the waves he ever had. Several times he was almost ready to give up, but he struck out manfully, and little by little drew nearer the shore. His strength had given out, and he was just losing all hope when his feet struck the sand. He reassured his sister, and told her that they were saved. Just at this moment the Rev. Mr Graham, who was perfectly at home in the water, came swimming up. In the excitement he had been lost sight of momentarily, and it is supposed that he started to the rescue. He swam in from the seaside and, on reaching the couple, grasped the young lady with an iron grip. Before going into the water he had complained of a severe headache, and it is supposed that just about as he reached the struggling pair he was stricken by apoplexy. Young Mr Graham lost his hold upon his sister. Completely exhausted, he saw her floating out to sea again with his uncle. His feelings at that moment were beyond expression. To see his sister drowning before his eyes while he could do nothing was agony. He shouted for help, and his other sister besought those upon the beach to go to their rescue. No one started. Either they could not swim or they were afraid to risk their lives. It would be more charitable to suppose that they were so excited that they did not know what to do. Out on the end of Denizot's pier Mr C. H. Ames, of Boston, who came to attend the sessions of the National Educational Association, was watching the bathers. His attention was attracted by an unusual stir on shore. Then he heard the cry 'Help! Help!'

Then he heard the cry 'Help! Help!' and a moment later he saw a man in the water throwing up his hands and shouting. Further out to sea he saw two heads in the water. One was that of a lady, the other that of a man. They were floating towards the pier. He took in the situation at a glance. On the pier was a long rope. He whipped out his knife, cut the rope free, and rushed to the railing. Pulling off his coat, vest, and shoes, he gave one end of the rope to the men on the pier, and lowered himself into the water. The young lady was then only a few feet away. She was struggling to keep her uncle above water, but, do all that she could, only the top of his head could be kept above the waves. Mr Ames speaks of the bravery of Miss Gussie as something that cannot be described. Her sole thought seemed to be to keep her uncle from drowning.

"The Misses Gussie and Bessie Graham, nieces of the unfortunate gentleman, were found next evening at their residence, 1528 Spruce-street. They had just returned from Cape May, and the body of the uncle, which had accompanied them, was in the charge of the undertaker, who was subjecting it to the process of embalming preparatory to removal to England. Both of the young ladies were anxious that the narration of the accident, as telegraphed from the Cape, should be correct, as it was full of errors. Miss Bessie, although quite overcome by emotion, briefly told how that her uncle, the Rev. John Graham, of Brighton, England, had arrived about five weeks ago in that country. After taking a trip through New York State and other localities, a visit was made to Cape May, the party consisting of the reverend gentleman, his two nieces, Gussie and Bessie, and their brother, Archibald. Miss Bessie explained how that the uncle was opposed to bathing, the American idea of both sexes entering the water together being contrary to his English ideas of watering-place propriety. His objections were overcome, however, by the argument advanced by the young ladies that inasmuch as he proposed to write a book on his American experiences upon his return to the mother country, it was a feature he should personally experience. He finally agreed to the proposition, and, after donning their bathing suits, the party of four went into the water. While on the pier, prior to taking his first dip, the Rev. Mr Graham complained of suffering from a headache, as he had the day previous. Mr Graham enjoyed the salt-water bath hugely, and the party was a very merry one, both of the ladies being fair swimmers. The brother, Archibald, suggested to Miss Gussie that she should try floating, and explained the operation. She did so, and after a brief interval her sister saw that she was going out to sea. Attempting to stand upright, Miss Gussie found that she was beyond her depth, and immediately struck out for shore. Her efforts were unavailing, and she was drifting out further, when her brother appreciated her danger and went to her rescue. Even with his assistance they could not make headway against the tide. Archibald then cried for help, and a young man came to their assistance, each of the men taking a hand of the lady, and all swimming for shore. They soon saw that their strength was unavailing, and that other means of rescue must be had. At

u their strength was unavailing, and that
o other means of rescue must be had. At
n this point the young man's heart (and
m Miss Bessie could not give his name)
w failed, and relinquishing the hand of the
k slight girl, with the miserable expression,
u 'I must look out for myself,' left her to
le perish while he sought safety in shallow
b water. Repeated cries from the brother
r attracted the Rev. Mr Graham's atten-
n tion, and he swam out to the two strug-
g- glers. He reached them, and taking the
of place of the young man, battled with the
st tide. Just here Miss Gussie took up the
at story, and in tremulous tones continued
he — 'I soon saw that unless somebody came
t- out to us that we would all be lost. As
long as we could keep together I thought

that we could support ourselves; but a
large wave struck us, and Archibald was
torn away from me, and I saw him no
more.' Mr Graham was buried in the
grave where his brother had previously
been buried in Philadelphia."
