He spent two winters in Washington fruitlessly, urging this project upon members of Congress, and spent much time and money lecturing upon the subject before the boards of trade in the sea-port as well as inland cities.

Partly from opinion, and partly from fear that it would divert trade from Eastern channels down the Mississippi, it was called visionary. Its value to the commerce of the Lakes is now generally conceded, and the accomplishment of this enterprise seems to be in the near future. He left Washington discouraged, and, having met with further reverses and failing health, returned to Dubuque, and accepted the first thing that offered to give the old couple their daily bread—the position of a locomotive engineer. This was his last effort. After a lingering illness he d. Aug. 6, 1882, in his seventy-sixth year. He was a man possessed of great resources; could do anything and talk well upon almost any subject; was generally considered to be a good speaker,—always an interesting one. He won first prize in declamation at college. He was pretty large, with black hair, black or brown eyes, and a rather dark skin; was a handsome and commanding man; great in an emergency; bold, knowing no fear, and submitting to no indignities. He was a member all his life of the Congregational Church. He had no children. C. D. T.

136. FRANCES THOMAS[5] (dau. of William,[4] Dr. William,[3] Amos,[2] William[1]) was born Nov. 15, 1810, at Hardwick, Vt. She was very tall and erect; had reddish dark-brown eyes, and brown hair which, when left free, trailed upon the floor. Her face, though dignified and benign, was considered handsome. She left a void when she went out of her father's house, but entered a broader field, where, by her goodness and her kindness, she conquered all. She m. Timothy Graves in 1837 or 1838, and d. March 4, 1847. Mr. Graves was