

**THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL LABOR CONVENTION.**—It has already been stated that William H Sylvis, the President of the National Labor Union of the United States, died on Tuesday, at his residence, in Philadelphia, of congestion of the bowels.

Mr. Sylvis has for twenty years been a prominent leader in the labor movement in the United States, and has aided in the organization of a number of co operative and other societies having for their object the benefit of laboring men. At the National Labor Congress, which commenced its sessions in New York city on the 21st September last, he was chosen president.

Mr. Sylvis was born in the town of Armagh, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, November 16th, 1828, of foreign parents, his mother being a native of Ireland and his father of France. His father was a wagon maker, poor, and in the financial depression of 1857 found it difficult to provide for his large family of ten children, and William determined to see if he could not help himself.

He went to work first upon a farm, and afterwards at a blast furnace—thus laboring until he was 18 years of age, when he began to learn the trade of an iron moulder. Until 1832, when he removed to Philadelphia and married, all his surplus earnings were sent to assist his father. In doing this he neglected his education, but managed to obtain considerable information from books, to which he devoted his leisure hours. He pursued his studies with assiduity, and profited by all that he read, becoming a man of considerable prominence among his fellows. In 1863 he was elected president of the Iron Moulders' International Union, and was re-elected five terms in succession. Mr. Sylvis became identified with the labor reform movement at its inception in 1853, and in 1857 took an active part in directing its operations. After the close of the war Mr Sylvis suggested the idea of calling a convention to organize a national labor union. Three men, himself one, met at his office and called a council of the presidents of the several labor unions to meet in New York in March, 1865. From that council emanated the call for the Baltimore Labor Congress in August, 1866, which he was unable to attend, by reason of illness. He attended the congress at Chicago, in 1867, and presented an able address.