

[Gage, George W.]

George W. Gage

Mr. Gage was born in New London, New Hampshire, in 1816, and at the age of eighteen entered an Academy at Canandaigua, New York, whither his family had removed when he was ten years old. He bore from his teacher certificates of scholarship of the first order, and in the ensuing year entered Clinton Liberal Institute. Here he mastered the Greek, Latin and Hebrew languages, and was recommended by Dr. T. Clowes as a student of superior merit, both mentally and morally.

At the age of twenty-one he commenced preaching: first at New Hartford, New York, and then at Poughkeepsie, New York. In 1840 he was settled in Manchester, New Hampshire. His friends and correspondents became numerous, and were among the first in the order. He was enthusiastically devoted to his calling. At one time he was Assistant Editor of the *Star of Bethlehem*, published in Lowell, Massachusetts, and he was a contributor to other periodicals. He acquired a knowledge of the German language and furnished some translations from the German for their columns.

After preaching in Manchester four years he married and settled in Chicopee, Massachusetts. While living here his health became impaired, and on the death of his wife and child, of whom he was bereaved two years after marriage, he was forced to desist from regular pastoral work, and became an itinerant. But a bronchial trouble at length obliged him to quit preaching altogether for two years. In 1850, his health reviving, and having an unwavering attachment to the Gospel ministry, he settled in Fort Plain, New York, but finding active exercise in the open air and rest from public speaking necessary to the preservation of his vocal organs, he retired to his father's farm in Canandaigua, preaching however in that vicinity as often as health and opportunity permitted. In 1852 he married again.

When no longer a regular preacher, he became active in the Sunday School. Here he made himself a home which expressed the elegance and taste of his refined and cultivated mind, overcoming obstacles which many stouter hearts might have declined to encounter. But he was not content to live for himself or his own family, merely, and though still frail at the lungs, was tempted to accept an invitation to settle over the society in New London, Connecticut, one of the most arduous undertakings of his ministerial life. His labors there, with constant exposure through the winter of 1869, brought again to light the long concealed germs of incurable consumption. Among his papers there is a valuable MSS. history of the War of the Rebellion, occupying 700 pages, which is considered by good judges who have examined it, to be one of the most accurate records of that war that

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has been written. It was the fruit of years of labor, and three times rewritten. Want of means has prevented its publication. From the learning, ability and industry of the author we doubt not that its publication would be serviceable to the cause of truth, and form a creditable monument to the memory of the writer.

"There were large intellectual and moral powers in the man," writes his cousin, Mr. Almon Gage, "and his scholarly attainments were good and his general information vast. The gifts and graces that make a popular preacher were not his in a very large or marked degree, and yet he was a good writer and sermonizer. I was with him some days before and at the closing scene. He was calm in the contemplation of death and unshaken in the faith he had preached. I asked him how he felt as to the future. He replied instantly and with a degree of rapture, 'I trust in the Infinite Love,' and added, with a pleasant smile, 'Is not that all-sufficient?' He was a good man, and gave heart and hand to every movement for reform, education, and the bettering of the condition of his fellow men." Thus peacefully, and in the triumphs of faith, he went to his rest at Canandaigua, New York, October 5, 1869, at the age of 53.

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