

[Gage, Justus]

V. REV. JUSTUS GAGE was born March 13, 1805, in DeRuyter, Madison Co., N. Y., and died January 20, 1875, in Dowagiac, Mich., having entered on his seventieth year. He had no other schooling in early life than such as could be obtained in the district school during the winter months, excepting part of a term at Hamilton Academy in his native county, after he had been engaged for some half dozen years in teaching school. In the fall of 1832, he was licensed to preach by the Genesee Association, at its session in York, Livingston Co. In the fall of 1840, he renewed his labors in the ministry, and was ordained in the spring of 1842. Being at that time the only settled minister of our faith in Southwestern Michigan, his circuit was extensive, and his labors severe and exhausting; so much so that, in the fall of 1847, he was obliged by loss of voice to cease from preaching altogether, and from that time onward he devoted himself to agriculture. In 1852, he gave the annual address before the Michigan Agricultural Society; for eight years was the efficient chairman of the State Board of Agriculture; was appointed one of the executive committee of the Michigan Agricultural College; and for several years he served faithfully as a director of the public schools of Dowagiac. Nor did he fail in all these years to take an active and prominent part in sustaining the cause of Universal Grace, serving as clerk of the church and of the Board of Trustees, which offices he held at the time of his death. From about 1851, he was a great sufferer from a complication of infirmities and difficulties, such as few men are ever called to endure. For twenty years his wife was an invalid, and for a portion of the time quite helpless. Mr. Gage was a man of genuine goodness, had a clear and vigorous mind, was full of activity and enterprise, was the friend and helper of every good cause, always identified himself with the welfare of his people, and his sterling integrity and solid worth secured for him the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

*Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1875, pp. 111-112