

[Hammond, Charles]

Rev. Charles Hammond, formerly and for many years a Universalist minister, died at his residence in Rochester, N. Y., on Sunday evening, July 10th. Br. Hammond was ordained a little less than thirty years ago, and had spent most of his time since in Western New-York. He was settled over various Universalist societies in this section, the last in Rochester, where he also published and edited a Universalist paper [the *Western Luminary*], and was always regarded as a very successful preacher. When the excitement in Spiritualism commenced, he became a firm believer in that; and so great was his interest in it, together with the opposition which he encountered from former friends, that he gradually withdrew from our ministry and preached to whomsoever would listen to the new doctrines. He desired, as he often said, to be utterly disconnected from all sects; and as far as possible, he was. He wrote one of the first books that was published on the subject of Spiritualism, which had extensive circulation. For the last three years his health declined, and he seldom preached or lectured anywhere. He was not confined to his house until a few days previous to his death. His disease was consumption. He suffered considerably during the last few hours, but he was patient, and assured us that he had full faith in God and a better future. So far as I know, his views of Spiritualism remained unchanged to the last moment.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the wisdom of his course in withdrawing from the ministry of Universalism, or in regard to the soundness of his late views, all who knew him unite in saying that he acted in a spirit of deep sincerity, that he was an upright citizen, a good neighbor and a Christian. Thousands of Universalists will remember his preaching, and his labors for the cause in former days, with great satisfaction, and perhaps will drop a tear at the thought that they shall see him no more in this world. A wife [Sybil] and a child [Seraph] who are left will especially mourn his loss. His funeral was attended on the 12th inst., when the writer was assisted in the services by Br. G[eorge] W. Montgomery.

J. H. T. [Rev. James Harvey Tuttle]

Christian Ambassador, Auburn, NY, 23 Jul 1859

[a Universalist newspaper]