

[Manley, William Ethan]

NECROLOGY

WILLIAM ETHAN MANLEY, D.D., born near Norwalk, Conn., 1812, died in Denver, Col., Sept. 28, 1896. The *Denver Republican*, in noticing his decease, said of him, "As a boy he was considered to be the brightest member of a large family and his parents decided to educate him for the Presbyterian ministry. The young man had strong reasons why he should oppose the Presbyterian faith with all its terrible views held in those early days, and he forthwith entered upon a close study of the Bible in order to evolve for himself a kindlier faith. After several years he blossomed out a Universalist, to the disgrace of his relatives and friends. An uncle of his, a Presbyterian minister, determined to win the erring young student back to the true faith, and for that purpose took up his residence with the young man for a whole year. That was a great year of religious debating, the young man pitted against his elder uncle, and both stubborn religious students. Young Manley won, and in doing so converted his Presbyterian uncle to the Universalist faith." He studied theology with Rev. Stephen R. Smith, at Clinton, N.Y., and was fellowshipped in 1832. For the first ten years thereafter he preached in various places in Central and Western New York. Rev. Nathaniel Stacy, who met Mr. Manley in 1834, in the extreme Western part of New York, found in him "a young man of uncommon talents and a scholar, ready to use all his influence and labors for establishing 'circuit preaching' in that section; and he did so with all the faithfulness and ardor of an inspired Apostle, until he broke down his health and manly constitution and was actually under the necessity of retiring from the field, and resting from his labors for a year or more, I believe, to recruit his health. It was truly astonishing to witness the zeal and to see the amount of labor performed by that excellent young man in so short a space of time." The young preacher had many incitements to his zealous efforts, and among them the fact that his own mother had been rendered insane by Presbyterian preaching on the sin against the Holy Ghost.

After preaching in various portions of the State of New York, he went to Illinois in 1842 in the hope of establishing a Universalist church in Galena, but stopping a short time in Chicago, was induced to make that his home, in 1843. Here he organized what is now known as St. Paul's Church, and remained its pastor between two and three years, when he engaged for a few years in teaching a select school, and in 1846, in company with Rev. J. M. Day, he started the publication of the *New Covenant*, now THE UNIVERSALIST. Leaving Chicago in 1850, he was for two years pastor at Richfield Springs, N.Y.; then two years in pastoral service at Tecumseh, Mich. In 1855 he removed to Chicago, where he resided—devoting himself to work on his "Biblical Review" or Commentary on the Old Testament, the five volumes of which were published 1859-1874—eleven years. In 1867 he went to Auburn, N.Y., to reside with his adopted daughter, where he had his home until 1883, when he took up his abode with his daughter in Denver, Col.

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1897, pp. 104-5