

[Newell, Maxcy Barton]

REV. MAXCY B. NEWELL

Died, in West Brattleboro', Vt., Jan. 24th, by his own hand, Maxcy Barton Newell. The deceased was born in Bellingham, Mass., Sept. 23, 1807. He spent two years in Lenox Academy, Mass., in 1823-4. He began studying for the Universalist ministry, with Rev. Dr. I[sacc] D. Williamson, in Albany, N. Y., in 1823. He continued his preparation for the pulpit under the direction of Rev. Stephen R. Smith, and finished it at the Clinton Liberal Institute, Clinton, N. Y., in 1835. He preached his first sermon September 14, 1834, at Duanesburg, N. Y., from I Tim. iv: 9, 10. His first settlement was in Amsterdam, N. Y., and continued from 1836 1839. He was subsequently settled in Phillipston, Mass., preaching part of the time in Shutesbury and in neighboring towns; in Annisquam, Mass., from 1842 to 1844; in Brewster, Mass., from 1846 to 1848. In 1849 he moved to West Rumney, N. H., preaching there and in the vicinity for two years. He preached a few months in Dover, Me. in 1851. In 1852 he went South, and preached for shorter or longer periods in Reading, Pa., Baltimore, Md., Norfolk, Richmond, Lynchburg, and Belle Haven, Va., and Charleston, S. C. In 1853 he was in Perry, N. Y., whence he moved to West Haverhill, Mass. In 1854 he went South again and preached in Florida and in Burnt Corn, Ala., some time at the latter place. He settled at Westmoreland, N. H. in [18??], and preached there and in Paper Mill Village for two years. His first settlement in this State [Vermont] was in Guilford Centre, about ten years ago, when he supplied half the time in West Brattleboro'. He has since preached in South Royalton, East Randolph, Marshfield and Williamsville.

After thus itinerating far more than most clergymen in any denomination, in 1864 he bought a farm in the west part of this town, the pleasantest region, in his view, he had ever seen, where he hoped to spend the remainder of his life, with his children in a quiet home. But in this he was disappointed. He was inexperienced in farming and therefore did not pursue it profitably. Its labors too severely taxed his strength. At a period of his life when he needed repose, he was summoned by his business to increased activity. He was overworked, and his health failed. Two weeks before his decease he was operated upon surgically for a species of dropsy. In this condition of bodily infirmity he was seized with the idea that his property was slipping away from him, and though possessed of a competence enough for support of himself and family without labor, he imagined that he was about to become a town dependent. His apprehended difficulties robbed him of sleep, and for two weeks before his death he was without this sedative of nature. The result was, his reason reeled, his judgment was dethroned, and he turned his hand against his own life.

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No one disapproves of this act more than he did of similar acts when he was himself. When a neighbor of his, within the past year, resorted to self-destruction, no one condemned his course more strongly than the deceased. We would have had his death otherwise—natural, peaceful, in harmony with that Gospel he had formerly preached. But we will not judge him; we do not know the severity of his trials, the depth of his troubles, the height of his sufferings, the breadth of his anguish. We leave him in the hands of One who “knoweth our frame, and remembereth that we are dust.”

The subject of this sketch possessed some of the virtues conspicuously. He was a man of strict integrity. He had an imperturbable temper. No provocation angered him. He was always cheerful, humorous, quick at repartee, and therefore companionable. He was free from low envy. There was no malice in his heart; he hated none, cherished no ill will toward any. Others' success did not disturb him; he did nothing to detract from the good estimation in which they were held. He was charitable in his judgment of others. While in the ministry he was the friend of all his clerical brethren. He was a lover of peace. No word or act of his encouraged discord or faction. He was kindly disposed toward all.

The deceased was twice married—to Marcia A. Burton, while he was settled in Amsterdam, N. Y. She died in Annisquam, Mass., Aug. 2, 1844. His second wife was Mrs. Margarett M. Atkins. She died in West Rumney, N. H., July 5, 1850.

J. E.
Brattleboro', Vt., Jan. 20, 1868

Christian Ambassador, New York NY, 15 Feb 1868
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 14 Jan 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY