

[Smith, Thomas Jefferson]

Death of Rev. T. J. Smith

In our last, we announced the death of Rev. T. J. Smith, which occurred at Cedarville, Herkimer co., N. Y. on the 10th inst. It was stated that his death occurred quite suddenly; but it appears from the following note, which we received from Br. Morgan of Cedarville, that his last sickness was of several weeks duration and very painful.—Our sincere sympathies are extended to the bereaved widow and family of the departed, and it is our earnest prayer that they may be sustained and comforted by the precious promises and hopes of the Gospel of Christ. Br. Morgan says: —

Mrs. M. and myself have had our time constantly taken up for the past few weeks, with that of Mrs. Smith, in taking care of Rev. Thomas J. Smith, who came here on the 26th ult. to give a course of lectures, but with miserably poor health. He delivered the first of the intended course on the evening of the 28th inst., and was taken worse. His disease (the Erysipelas) defied the power of medicine to arrest its course. He lingered along under the most intense suffering, until the morning of the 10th of Feb., instant, when his spirit passed from this, to that better world where pain and suffering are at an end.

We have also received the following from a correspondent (C. L. B.): —

The Rev. T. J. Smith, who has for the last twenty years been well known to the Universalist denomination in the State of New York, departed this life at Cedarville, Herkimer co., N. Y., on Sunday the 10th inst. He had recently removed to Ridgeway, Orleans co., intending that as his permanent home, where he owned a house, and a small portion of ground; and as a means of living he intended to devote his time and services to lecturing upon the subject of Spiritualism, in which he was a firm believer. At the time of his sickness he was on a lecturing tour, and had given the first course at Cedarville, and had also engaged to debate the question of Spiritualism with an opposer at Bridgewater. After his first lecture he was taken down with a renewed attack of a disease from which he has been almost a constant sufferer for years, and after a most painful illness of but a few days, departed this life, with the full assurance and belief of going to that "blessed home" which it was his greatest pleasure in life to meditate upon. His remains were brought to Bridgewater on Tuesday the 12th, where an address was delivered to a large concourse of friends, who had assembled in the Universalist church, after which the body was interred in the [cemetery at the] rear of the church. His afflicted wife, who had accompanied him from his

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home, was present during his sickness and death, and O! it was a most heartrending circumstance that this excellent mother and wife was called upon to pass such an ordeal. Only a few days before his death, they left their home joyous and happy—the future beaming before them; and then in so short a time to be called upon to have their *day* and *hope* darkened, was sad indeed.

Rev. T. J. Smith was a man of warm sympathies, a good friend, and an excellent counselor. He had many, many friends, who knew his virtues and appreciated his moral traits. He was a believer in modern Spiritualism. In this belief he had enlisted all his sympathies and energies, as he had believed himself to have received the most unmistakable evidences of its truth. His talents were of no ordinary kind, and as a speaker he had the happy faculty of commanding the close attention of his hearers. His death was calm. Fully conscious of his approaching dissolution, he hailed with a peaceful resignation of spirit...those crowns and glories which are enduring.

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 1 Mar 1856

[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 26 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY