

[Tomlinson, Charles Welden]

CHARLES WELDEN TOMLINSON

Rev. Dr. Charles W. Tomlinson passed from the labors of life, after a week's illness, at his home in North Chicago, Ill., at the age of eighty years.

Dr. Tomlinson was born in Philadelphia August 28, 1828. His father was of the Universalist faith. His mother, Mary Styles, born a Quaker, but reared a Baptist, was a strong type of woman.

Rev. Asher Moore became pastor of the old Lombard Street [Universalist] church in 1844. He was a strong doctrinal preacher, such as was demanded by the times, and young Tomlinson became enamored with the interpretation of Christianity which Mr. Moore eloquently and forcibly maintained. Soon he made known to his pastor his desire to enter the ministry. He attended the Universalist State convention at Athens in 1850, and there made arrangements to settle at Homer, N.Y., where he was pastor for three years, preaching frequently in Cortland and towns throughout the association. Here he was ordained to the work of the ministry October 13, 1852, though he was licensed to preach by the Philadelphia Association May 1, 1850.

In Homer Mr. Tomlinson met and married, September 12, 1852, Mary L. Newcomb, whose parents were devoted supporters of Universalism. She was a helpmeet in every sense of the word, a faithful wife and mother, and an assistant in her husband's labors for almost half a century. Three children [Frank, Cora and Emma] were born to them.

During 1852 Mr. Tomlinson preached at Hannibal, N.Y. and in August, 1854, became pastor in Cooperstown, where he remained for a dozen years. In January 1886, he became pastor in Hudson, where he remained for a dozen years, and they were years of growth and permanence of influence. The many offices of the church flourished, and when he removed to Galesburg, to enter upon his duties at Lombard college, there was great regret. Mr. Tomlinson engaged with President Nehemiah White to establish a Divinity School and he to occupy the chair of Biblical Interpretation. Sickness prevented the carrying out of this most beneficent scheme. He soon accepted a call to the church in Pawtucket, R. I., which pastorate of seven years was most successful.

While a resident of Cooperstown a painful accident befell Dr. Tomlinson in the loss of an eye. But in spite of this misfortune, he continued at his labors, and served on important committees of the General convention and as a leading writer in the columns of The Christian Ambassador. Lombard college in 1882 conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In feeble health he took residence on a farm to the south of Auburn, N.Y., but soon his wife died and his home was broken. But a faithful sister came

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to his aid and, with improved health, he began to supply the pulpit in Newark, N.Y. His Newark pastorate was of five years duration. His last seven years of pastoral service was spent at Huntington, L.I. His eighty years began to bear upon him, and he removed to North Chicago to reside, to await the summons of the Father in Heaven. This came to the veteran man of God Monday, January 18.

There were simple and brief services at his home, conducted by his friend Rev. MR. Chichester, a Presbyterian clergyman, and remarks were made by his neighbor, Father Finn of the Catholic church. The interment ere many days will be at Cooperstown, N.Y., where a service will be conducted in the Universalist church by the Universalist pastor.

These words are penned in grateful memory of one of the noble men in the ministry of the Universalist church.—The Universalist Leader.

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Transcribed on 26 Mar 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY