

[Whiston, Obadiah]

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DECEASED CLERGYMEN

VIII. Rev. O. WHISTON was born in Boston, Mass., in 1804, and died in Washington, D.C., April 21, 1881. His parents were Baptists, but in early manhood he was converted to Universalism. He began preaching while a resident of New York, in 1830, and soon after removed to Oswego, where he was ordained in Dec., 1831. He first settled in Cortland Co., and from there, about 1835, went to Cooperstown, where he lived twelve years. In 1848 he was employed as a missionary by the New York Association, and resided at Nyack. This year closed his regular ministerial labors, and he only preached occasionally afterwards. He next went to Monticello, N.Y., and became editor of a newspaper, and after a residence there of some nine years, receiving an appointment in the Custom House, moved to New York.

On July 4, 1830, Mr. Whiston married Miss Susan L. Jones, who became a faithful worker in the church. She was a writer of books for Sunday schools inculcating our faith, some of which are still in use; and, it is believed, originated the first Sunday school in Central New York. She died in November, 1865, and thereafter her husband found a home in the family of his daughter, Mrs. S. E. Fuller.

As a preacher, he was far above mediocrity. He seldom preached a poor sermon, and never one objectionable either in matter or manner. When his faith was assailed he proved a keen controversialist, but was always calm and courteous, preserving good humor even when he found it necessary to be severe. He maintained to the last his interest in the cause to which he gave his best years.

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1882, pp. 91-2