

[Kelley, Blanche Randall]

MRS. WILL A. KELLEY

In the stillness and hush of the morning of September 18, 1936, Blanche Randall Kelley, wife of Rev. Will A. Kelley of Oakland, Maine, entered into that higher life of which we know so little but toward which our hearts are ever turning.

Born May 25, 1882 at Canton, N.Y. she was the daughter of Milton O. and Amelia Barber Randall.

Married to Rev. Will Arvin Kelley on June 12, 1905 at Canton, where her girlhood days had been spent, by Dr. James M. Payson, her cousin.

She is survived by her husband, two nieces, one nephew and two grand nieces, an aunt, Mrs. Della Barber Brickett of Portland, Maine, an uncle, Dr. Roscoe L. Barber of Canton, and several cousins.

The death of an adopted son, Charles, who passed away Sept. 13, 1928, was a great sorrow to her.

Wherever Mr. and Mrs. Kelley have been called to different parishes, she has been of great help to her husband in this work, having served two years as the president of the Woman's National Missionary Association of the State of Vermont, on the City Girl Scout Council for three years at Barre, Vt., and on the board of the Y.W.C.A. in Lewiston, Maine for several years. Since coming to Oakland six years ago she has been president of the W.N.M.A. and superintendent of the Cradle Roll. She was universally loved by young and old and being especially fond of children, was never happier than when working with them.

Ever cherishing the principles of Universalism, she exemplified her religion in every day life in service for others, and when physical strength failed, her faith never wavered and her spirit did not falter.

From her home went forth messages of love to many dear ones and her mind was busy planning the details of work others must do and she rejoiced that they were taking up the responsibilities which she could no longer share.

Endowed with rare personal charm, she welcomed all in her home from the oldest to the youngest with the kindly interest so characteristic of her life. No one came into her presence without feeling that they had been helped and no one left it without knowing that they had been in the presence of a woman of unusual sympathy, breadth of vision, and whose thought was only on the higher things of life. Her nature was genial, sweet and peaceful.

She endeared herself not only to the members of all the organizations connected with the church but also to the entire community.

To have known one as we have known Mrs. Kelley and then to feel that we can no more touch her hand or look into her sweet face gives a finite

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sense of loss. Our loss is her gain, but the presence of God into which our friend has entered, the higher life, the larger fellowship, gives us also an assurance anew of immortality.

Funeral services were held at All Souls Universalist Church in Oakland, Sunday afternoon, Sept. 20, at 2 o'clock, conducted by the Rev. Weston A. Cate of Auburn, assisted by the Rev. Wm. Dawes Veazie of Portland and the Rev. Milo G. Folsom of Pittsfield, all lifelong friends of the family. Prayer services will be held at Lawrence's funeral chapel, Canton, at 2 this afternoon, conducted by Prof. Herbert P. Morrell of St. Lawrence University. Burial will be made at Evergreen Cemetery.

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