

[Crane, Stephen]

Death of Rev. Dr. Crane

The City Weekly, of Sycamore, Ill., March 23, contained the following, which is of interest all through this county, Dr. Crane being known widely:

"Rev. Stephen Crane, D.D., died at his home in this city Friday, March 14, after a sickness of two weeks. Although in poor health for some time he was able to perform the work attendant upon the pastorate of the Universalist church up to three weeks before his death. During the last two or three days it was seen he was gradually sinking, but previous to that it was thought he would live to continue his usefulness in the work to which he had devoted nearly the whole of his life.

"The funeral was held at the Universalist church Sunday afternoon, Dr. J. S. Cantwell, of Chicago, western editor of the Universalist Leader, conducting the services.

"Stephen Crane was born in Varick, Seneca county, N.Y., March 21, 1835. He was one of nine children, only one of whom, a brother living on the old homestead, survives. His early years were passed at the old home overlooking Cayuga lake. When 18 years old he began to teach in winter, attending school in summer. At the age of 23 he began preparations for entering the ministry, and in 1858 preached his first sermon in his native state. [On] April 9, 1861, he married Celistia Jane Wintersteen, a woman whose helpfulness and wifely devotion largely helped to make him a man and minister. Of the six children born to them, two sons and two daughters with the widow survive him. Jay is an attorney at Minneapolis; Sarah and Jane are teachers in the public schools in that city, and Emory is there also, reading law in his brother's office. George died when 9 years old, and is buried in Perry, N.Y. Mrs. Mary A. Gray died in Galesburg, Ill., seven years ago.

"Dr. Crane was, for more than 40 years, a clergyman. His 40th anniversary was celebrated in this city last October. He won renown both in the pulpit and as a writer on religious topics. 'His record,' said Dr. Cantwell, was one he might well be proud of. It has abounded to the love and usefulness of the Universalist church.'

"From New York Dr. Crane went to Michigan, then came to Illinois. His first pastorate in this state was at Galesburg, where the degree of doctor of divinity was conferred on him by St. Lawrence university at the request of the faculty of Lombard university. From Galesburg he went to Norwalk, Ohio, where, after a pastorate of four years, he was called to the churches at Earlville and Belvidere. He came to Sycamore two years later. In all these parishes he made an enviable record, both as a preacher and pastor. He was a clear solid thinker and a convincing reasoner. He dealt with principles

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in a clear specific way, one of his peculiarities being that of repeating words in order to convey plainly his meaning. Dr. Crane was the author of 'Jesus, the Christ,' and contributed frequently to the Universalist press, enriching the literature of that denomination. 'Some of us,' said Dr. Cantwell, would have been glad to have seen him at the head of one of our universities.'

"Dr. Crane continued his work almost until the last, and had plans for holding a series of meetings for the purpose of quickening the religious spirit in this city. Dr. Cantwell paid a glowing tribute to him as a man, preacher and pastor. There was a large attendance at the funeral. The remains laid [lay] in state at the church until 8 o'clock, when the body was taken to Minneapolis for interment, accompanied by his children, Jay and Sarah Crane.

"Within a few weeks Mrs. Crane will follow and make her home with her children."

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