

[Dutton, Charles Heman]

Obituaries of Ministers Deceased During the Year

XI. REV. CHARLES HEMAN DUTTON, son of Augustus M. and Elmira Dutton, was born in Ogden, Genesee Co. [now in Monroe Co.] Oct. 5, 1823, and died in Hamilton, Ohio, July 17, 1877, in his 54th year. His opportunities for education were limited to the common school of the neighborhood until the removal of the family to Rochester when he was 17 years old. He was however, for a time—how long we cannot say—a student in the Rochester Collegiate Institute, which stood very high as an academy, and of which the late Professor Chester Dewey, D.D., was Principal for many years. Whatever finish he received, before commencing his ministry, he received in this academy<sup>1</sup>. His thoughts had been at an early age turned to the ministry through the magnetic preaching of the late Rev. J. M. [James Munroe] Cook, who exercised a great influence over him. His studies preparatory to the ministry were very meagre; a few months were spent with Rev. Mr. [Charles] Hammond of Rochester and a few more with Rev. S. R. [Stephen Rensselaer] Smith, then of Buffalo. He was licensed as a preacher at an Association held in Sherman, N.Y., in 1843, when he was scarcely 20 years old. He was ordained in Aug. 1856. His labors were for some years confined to the vicinity of Rochester, where he was regarded as a very promising and more than ordinarily gifted young man. In 1850 he was married to Miss Frances L. Spencer of Springville, Erie Co., N.Y., and removed to Essex, Mass., and successively to Canton, to Marblehead, to Lowell, in the same State. In 1860 he returned to the vicinity of Rochester, by reason of ill health, purchased a home, and devoted himself to outdoor pursuits; but still continued to preach in the vicinity. In 1868 he removed to Leroy, N.Y., and in 1870 to Joliet, Ill., which place he was obliged by the state of his health to leave, going to Hamilton, then to Springfield, then to Marietta, in Ohio, and finally returning to Hamilton to finish his days. He was credited, in the various places of his residence, with a vigorous intellect, superior pulpit talents, gentlemanly manners, and the conscientious and faithful performance of his duties as a minister of the Gospel. He leaves a wife and son, whose loving care did all that was possible to ease his sufferings which were severe and very unusual. For more than 15 years he had struggled against fearful obstacles, having been a great sufferer from bronchial and throat difficulties, and in later years from a nasal polypus, which occasioned excruciating distress, and finally, after several ineffectual surgical operations, caused his death. He was a man of extreme neatness and sensibility, which traits still clung to him in the hour of death. His faith in the Gospel of God's impartial grace grew stronger and stronger as the outward man failed. To a ministering brother, a few days before his death, he said, "Tell my brethren for me that Universalism comprehends everything

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that is necessary in this hour; that the faith I have preached I would preach again more earnestly were my restoration probable." Again he said, "If any one does not believe in the all-sustaining grace of Christ Jesus in the hour of trial and suffering, bring him to me, for I can testify to its power and truthfulness."

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1878, pp. 92-3

Transcribed on 24 Jul 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

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<sup>1</sup> Until 1839 it was known as Rochester High School.