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DEATHS.

In Alton, Ill., Aug. 24, NATHAN SAWYER, aged 69 years.—He was elder brother of T. J. [Rev. Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer, D. D., of New York. He suffered for weeks from fever, and at last fell beneath its power.—He was a preacher in our denomination for several years, but deemed it advisable to leave the ministry for another business.—He was highly esteemed by community. In his last sickness and dying hour he was calm and resigned, and died in the faith of a world's salvation. His remains were brought to Bath, N.Y., where his family resides. On the 27th, the writer preached a funeral discourse to a large congregation, in the Presbyterian church, which was kindly offered for the occasion. He was assisted in the services by Br. Crane of the Baptist denomination. May God comfort the widow, her children and relatives.

G. W. M. [Rev. George Washington Montgomery, of Rochester]

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 10 Sep 1859

The Late Nathan Sawyer, Esq.

The death of the late Nathan Sawyer, Esq., at Alton, Ill., while on a visit to his friends [e.g. extended family], deserves something more than a passing notice of the event. His great moral excellencies and superior intelligence, his connection, for many years, with the ministry of Universal grace, and the respect he commanded wherever he was known, make it proper that some record should be made of his life and virtues.

Nathan Sawyer was born on the 22nd of August, 1799, in Reading, Windsor County, Vermont, and was an elder brother of Rev. T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer, D.D., of New York. He received a good common school education, and, at the age of 23 years, removed to Genesee county, New-York, where he engaged for several years, in teaching school, and in studying the profession of the law. His legal studies were pursued under the direction of the late Judge Harwood of that county. In 1828 or 9, he commenced the practice of law in Medina, and was soon afterwards married to Miss Loretta Moore, who survives him and with whom he has lived for 30 years, leaving her, the mother of seven children, to lament his departure before her to the spirit world. He continued the practice of his profession for seven or eight years, when he was induced, by his christian zeal, and the

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great demand for ministerial labor in the denomination of Universalists with which he was connected, to change his profession for the Christian ministry.

For thirteen years he labored in his new calling, and was widely esteemed and respected as an able and faithful minister of the New Testament. The scenes of his labor in the ministry were principally in Monroe, Orleans and Wayne Counties, New York. In 1850, finding his health impaired, he relinquished the duties and labors of his ministerial calling, and since that period has given his attention to his private affairs, and to some extent to his old profession, as a lawyer, filling several offices of public trust in the county town where he resided, and enjoying a large measure of public respect and confidence.

For the last eight months of his life he was on a visit at Alton, Illinois, where he has a brother and sister and their families and other relatives, with whom he was passing his time pleasantly, one of his sons being with him, and where, as he hoped, his health would improve under change of climate.—During the past winter and spring, he appeared to be quite well, and in the early part of summer, went out to the farm of his nephew (a son of his eldest brother, John York Sawyer, Esq., deceased) to witness the operation of farming in Illinois, a pursuit in which he had always felt much interest; and attempting to render some assistance, he was much overcome by the heat and sun, and returned to the residence of his brother-in-law, Dr. Pierce, in the city, quite unwell. In a few days a fever set in, and for seven weeks he was subject to its prostrating influence, it finally having assumed a typhoid character, when at last his constitution gave way, and he sank into a state of partial unconsciousness, his spirit taking its departure to another and better world. On the day previous to his departure (the 22nd of August) he was just sixty years of age.

During his illness he had the faithful and unremitting attention of his son, his brother-in-law and physician, Dr. Pierce, his sister, Mrs. Pierce, and his brother, Seth T. Sawyer, Esq., and his family, at whose house he died. Nothing was left undone that could alleviate his condition or restore him to health.

He was visited and consoled in his sickness, by Rev. J. G. Forman, the pastor of the united congregation of Unitarians and Universalists in Alton, whose church he attended, and who rendered a funeral service on the removal of the body to its final place of rest, in New York, and paid a parting tribute to his memory on the succeeding Sabbath.—From Mr. Forman's discourse, which was on the moral benefits of sickness and affliction, from the text, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted," we copy the closing portion, as a suitable conclusion of this notice.

[abridged]..."During the past winter, spring and early summer, we have often had the pleasure of greeting on the threshold of our church, the

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presence of our venerable friend, Brother Nathan Sawyer, of New-York, here on a visit to his friends, and of seeing him join us in our worship, and our meditations in the sanctuary. The noble cast of his head and countenance always betokened the profoundness of his thoughts and the sincerity of his devotions.—Now that we shall see his face no more in our earthly courts, nor meet him again in our accustomed walks, I cannot let the occasion of his sickness and departure from earth pass away, without making it a subject of notice in this place, and giving an expression of sympathy and affectionate remembrance.

“It is now about seven weeks since our brother was attacked with a fever, which ran its course for three or four weeks, and confined him to his sick room through the hottest part of summer. His sufferings during this period were very great, with the burning fever, and the heated atmosphere from 84 to 96 degrees in the shade. And yet he lay calmly on his bed, or sat in his easy chair, without a murmur or complaint, day after day and night after night, looking forward to his expected recovery, and his return to his family in Western New York, with hopeful views and a peaceful resignation to the Divine will.

“When it was supposed the fever had left him, he was conveyed from the residence of his brother-in-law to that of his own brother, hoping the change to a more airy situation would benefit him; but here in a few days he suffered a relapse, and for three weeks longer he endured, with uncomplaining spirit, the fever and the summer heat, always anticipating his recovery, saying that in a few days he should be better, until at last exhausted nature gave way, his weary frame sank under the waste of long continued disease, and his spirit went home to its heavenly rest and joy.

“He was a man of great intelligence and moral worth, of well balanced mind and judgment, too modest of his own abilities to press himself into the front rank of his fellow men, but capable, when called, of acquitting himself with dignity, honor and success in any post of duty, or in any sphere or moral and intellectual effort. An interesting proof of this was given last winter, when he was called, at the celebration of Washington’s Birth Day, to speak of the Father of his Country, on which occasion he surprised his hearers with the extent of his historical information, and the appropriateness and eloquence of his remarks.

“His mind was of a thoughtful and reflective cast, and he was accustomed to profound meditations upon religion and the great problems of human life.—In religious faith he was a liberal christian, connected by sympathy of views, and by long association with the Universalist denomination. He was a brother of Rev. Dr. Sawyer, of New York city, one of the most liberal and learned of the divines of that religious body. During a part of his life he himself had been a useful and honored minister of that denomination,

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though the earlier and latter portions of his life were devoted to the legal profession.—His warm interest in the Church and religion of Christ always continued active, earnest and unabated, and his character well befitted the christian profession. He was eminently a man of religious principle, and a sincere follower of Christ. During his visit among us, he has not only worshipped but sat at the communion table with us, and testified his love towards our risen Saviour and Lord.

“His views of Christian doctrine coincided very generally with that class of Unitarians who hold to a final restoration of all the human family to holiness and happiness. He was a Unitarian Universalist, and his sympathies embraced liberal Christians of every name. He concurred fully in the propriety and duty of union and co-operation between Unitarians and Universalists, in building up free, un-sectarian and liberal churches, on a broad and comprehensive basis of christian faith and fellowship, and expressed freely his disapproval of a narrow, bigoted and sectarian policy in any of the liberal denominations toward each other. I grieve over his departure, not only because of my personal friendship for him, but because such men are needed to help us carry forward the work of a broad and liberal christian church in this country, that shall unite those of every name, who worship God as a Father, who follow Christ as a Divine Teacher and Saviour, and the Son of the Living God, and who regard all men as brethren, and heirs of the eternal and unchanging love of God, through all future states of being, both here and hereafter.

“His brothers and sisters, and their families, his widow and children, and his kindred and friends every where, will mourn over his departure as the good brother, the kind husband and father, the upright citizen, and the exemplary christian, and will cherish his memory with the sincerest love, and the tenderest recollection. It was the will of Heaven that he should leave this world, and as we believe, he has gone to a better, and is set down with patriarchs, and prophets, and apostles, and martyrs in the kingdom of God. May his example of christian virtue be blessed to our growth and progress in the divine life, and may the blessing of peace of our Heavenly Father, and the love of Christ, our Saviour, and the consolations of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, be with his afflicted family and friends, and strengthen their hearts forevermore.

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 17 Sep 1859

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