

[Elwood, Augustus R.]

Death of Hon A. H. Elwood

Hon. Augustus R. Elwood, of this village, was killed at the American Hotel Friday morning of last week. He was one of the firm of the Walter Electric Burglar Alarm Co., and was assisting in putting in an electrical annunciator in the new rooms in the hotel. He was testing the wires from room to room on the ground floor, opening the doors with a pass key. While thus engaged he opened a door where a flight of stairs had been removed and fell headlong into the basement, rupturing a blood vessel and causing death in about 30 minutes. He leaves a wife and a married son.

The day previous, Mr. Elwood had cautioned people in regard to the stairway, and to make it perfectly safe he locked the door and placed a carpenter's "horse" in front of it. Friday morning as he was going from room to room, he came to the one referred to, took the "horse" and put it to one side, unlocked the door and stepped down to death. It seems that his mind was so much engaged in testing the annunciator that all knowledge of this particular room had passed from his mind.

Mr. Elwood was born at Richfield Springs October 18th, 1819. He entered the business arena as a merchant, and at the time of his death was one of the firm of Elwood & Tuller, merchants and bankers.—During the past forty years he has acceptably filled a number of public offices. He was Deputy Sheriff of Otsego county in 1844, Postmaster at Richfield Springs from 1842 to 1848, County Clerk from 1859 to 1861, and Supervisor from 1865 to 1858, being one year Chairman of the Board. He also served 4 years as Justice of the Peace. Mr. Elwood was formerly a Democrat, and acted with that party until 1848, when he supported Martin Van Buren, and was a member of the Free Soil Convention at Buffalo. He was also a delegate to the Saratoga Convention of 1855, and assisted in the organization of the Republican party [from the remains of the Whig party]. In 1856 he was a member of the Philadelphia Convention and voted for the nomination of John C. Fremont. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Chicago Convention, voting for Abraham Lincoln. He was elected to the State Senate in 1870, defeating John F. Hosch by a vote of 9,460 against 9,097. During a life residence of over sixty years at Richfield Springs, ex-Senator Elwood, by his genial temperament and kindly disposition, has continually added to the number of his friends in Otsego and adjoining counties, all of whom will sincerely mourn his sudden death.

Mr. Elwood was in religious belief, a Universalist, and was for more than forty years connected with the society of that faith in this village. During this long period he had charge of its choir, of which he was a thorough and an accomplished leader. A great worker in the Sunday School, and in every place where he could be instrumental in advancing the interests of the

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parish. He was esteemed and loved [unreadable lines] passed away, the church with which he has been so long identified, and for whose prosperity he labored so earnestly, that they have met a loss that is well nigh overwhelming.

The funeral of Mr. Elwood was largely attended at his late residence Tuesday afternoon. Among the many present from out of town we noticed T. R. Proctor and Erastus Clark, of Utica; Uriah Welsh, of New York; Floyd O. Shepard, of Ilion; Hon. S. S. Edick, Andrew Davidson, R. F. Cady, W. C. Keyes, C. R. Burch, F. L. Gilbert, J. F. Reustle, E. C. Bundy, D. B. Boden, B. F. Murdock, Wm. Cooper, and F. C. Parshall, of Cooperstown.

Bearers—E. A. Hinds, L. D. Gould, H. C. Walter, W. T. Bailey, Chas. Wilbur, N. D. Jewell.

The following gentlemen were Pall Bearers: Hon. Jas. S. Davenport, D. S. Manley, T. R. Proctor, Uriah Welch, Allen Bloomfield, M. Toller, Jas. A. Storer, N. Getman.

The services were conducted by Rev. S. R. [Samuel Roland] Ward, of this village, and Rev. T. D. [Theodore Dwight] Cook, of Utica [both Universalists]. The display of flowers was very profuse and elaborate, consisting of wreaths, a pillow, cross, sickle, harp, broken column, anchor, and crown. After pronouncing a fine eulogy upon the deceased, Mr. Ward said in allusion to these symbols: the cross is an emblem of the faith of him who has passed away from us, and the anchor, of his hopes of immortality. The harp is to us a symbol of the harmony which the deceased ever sought to maintain between his conduct and the laws of his moral nature, while the pillow reminds us of the rest promised to the weary and the heavy laden. The broken column represents to us the human life just broken in the midst of its usefulness; the sickle, the great reaper, death; and the crown is an emblem of the honors our brother wore among men, and of those fadeless joys which are to be his diadem amid the glories of the higher world.

The remains were deposited in our village cemetery.

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