

[Moss, Theodore Sherwood]

In Memory of T. S. Moss

As prepared and read before the Grange by C. W. Burton.

Worthy Master, Brothers, and Sisters:—

It is a beautiful and commendable custom, that devotes a short space to the memory of our deceased Brothers and Sisters. Their names have ben dropped from our roll, but their gracious and pleasing memories remain always with us.

It is a maxim older than language that we should say nothing of the dead, except that which is good.

THEODORE SHERWOOD MOSS was born in Washington County, October 22, 1822; Died in Brocton, October 17, 1892.

Was Supervisor of this town for four terms, Justice of the Peace for eight years, and for many years a successful business merchant and banker. Was a charter member and first lecturer of our Grange. Was never strictly confined to his manual, but was quite apt to extemporize in line with the spirit of his printed lecture.

As a Politian, like Daniel Bennett Hill, he was never ashamed to say "I am a Democrat." With the creed that all men [sic] are free and equal before the law, equal rights and privileges; no special favors; one man is as good as another if he behaves himself as well. He believed in neither aristocracy nor socialism; anarchy, duplicity, deceit or double dealing he held in special abhorrence.

I have heard him lecture in the school room in which he emphasized he necessity of always telling the truth. "Tell the truth under any and every circumstance." "Tell the truth though he Heavens fall."

I have heard him speak at funerals, words tending to carry consolation to mourning hearts with such feeling and earnestness as could only come from a heart filled with deepest sympathy.

In religion he was a Universalist, believing that sometime the last prodigal will return deeply repentant to the arms of the ever Merciful and Loving Father. "That Good shall fall at last, at last to all."

He was a power in the town, a born leader, and could not have been placed where he would not have dominated in a marked degree those around him.

His advice was always good, often sought, and freely given, his words short, crisp and to the point. He believed in rewarding merit and punishing sin in this world, here and now.

I will not deny that he had some faults, he would have been lonely here without some.

True to friendships, faithful to promises.

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He had strong convictions, and best of all, the courage of his convictions.

Although we have had, and have, many promising and aspiring young men among us, none have as yet arisen, that have developed the strong manly business shoulders, that could take up and wear the fallen mantle.

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Transcribed on 23 Oct 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY