

[Packard, Harriet De La Hay]

DEATHS.

In New-York, on the 6th inst., HARRIET DE LA HAYE, wife of Capt. Elisha Packard. Mrs. Packard, as her name indicates, was of French extraction. She was born in Virginia, and was the second wife of her husband, who was early left a widower with an infant daughter. She never had children of her own, and all the affections of her nature became centred and absorbed in the child of her husband. I well remember at the distance of nearly twenty years, the profound grief which the death of this most amiable and excellent daughter occasioned her. She too left an infant daughter, as she herself had been left, and this helpless little creature became the charge of Mrs. Packard, as her mother had before. With how much solicitude and love she has discharged the high duties of mother in both of these cases, I need not say. With Mrs. Packard the writer first became acquainted in the Spring of 1830, immediately after his settlement in the city of New-York, and he recalls with a melancholy pleasure almost innumerable instances of her friendship and kindness through long years of parochial intercourse. Herself and her husband were, long before the period of which I speak, believers in the great salvation, and having become connected with the little Grand-st. Society [Universalist], they went with that handful of friends to Orchard-st., and continued their connexion with that Society, through its long course of trial and struggle.

Mrs. P. betrayed her French origin in the character of her mind and in her manners. She was independent in her feelings, speech and manners, and was therefore liable to be misinterpreted by those who did not intimately know her. Yet she was possessed of the most sterling qualities. She was an affectionate and faithful wife, and in the difficult duties of step mother, none could surpass her. As a friend, she was sincere and steady. Her kindness and generosity to the poor was most exemplary, and many have occasion for gratitude, and to mourn the loss of a benefactor. The latter part of her life has been filled with suffering, by a cancer, which at last terminated her existence. But she bore up under that formidable disease with christian patience and resignation, and at last surrendered her spirit without a murmur, into the hands of the great and good Being who gave it. Evermore will she be remembered by her husband and her grand daughter, now left alone, and long will they mourn the loss of one who was to them all that wife and mother could be. But with them will many sympathize who knew and appreciated her worth.—May the consolations of the word of God, which are neither few nor small, be vouchsafed to all those who are touched by this affliction.

T. J. SAWYER

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 21 Feb 1852