

[Paine, Lyman]

DEATHS. In Auburn, Jan. 31, Hon. LYMAN PAINE, aged 81 years. It would be alike disrespectful to the departed, and unjust to the living, to suffer the demise of such a man to pass without something more than the ordinary announcement; for good men are not so plenty that they can be spared from among us without regret. Mr. Paine was born in the State of Connecticut, whence, some fifty years ago, he emigrated to Central New-York—to what was then little better than an unbroken wilderness. Auburn, where he settled, had not then a name; and where is now a city of ten thousand inhabitants, there was then but some three or four rude dwellings. He saw, therefore, the entire growth of his adopted home, and contributed not a little thereto by his energy, public spirit, and soundness of judgment. The subject of this notice was of puritanic origin, and in him were blended all the best elements of the puritanic character: firmness, decision, conscientiousness, and religious principle; united however with gentleness, and sympathies as tender as a woman's. Throughout his long life, Mr. Paine maintained an unsullied name. It has been remarked to the writer since his decease, that not a lisp could ever be breathed against him. That he stood high in the respect of the community, is evident from the fact that although no political brawler, or bigotted [sic] partisan, he was called to occupy not only the ordinary offices of trust and responsibility in the community, but the station of Senator for the county, and of Magistrate for the city. The latter office he held at the time of his death. Mr. Paine was also a religious man. He was not indeed a loud mouthed professor... He said comparatively little upon what lay nearest to his heart. He remarked to his Pastor, therefore, a few days before his decease, "My life must speak for me; if men will not believe that, they would not any thing which I could say." He was, however, exceedingly firm and unwavering in his religious convictions. It was in his house that the first Universalist sermon that was ever preached in this vicinity, if not in the county, was delivered. It was his house, when Universalism was small and despised, that its preachers ever found a welcome home. It was his family that was first to identify itself with the cause of Universalism in this region. And what he thus early and openly espoused, he never afterward forsook. The storm of infidelity which burst upon the infant Society when one of its pastors [Rev. Abner Kneeland], who has since boxed the circle of creeds, was swept away by it, did not dismay him. He knew in whom he had trusted, and did not doubt that after the whirlwind had passed, a calm would follow, and the truth would again flourish... Always he was in his place in the congregation, until the infirmities of age so increased upon him as to render him unable to be there... Failings he doubtless had. Perhaps they might be indicated, were an effort made. But wherefore [why] should they be, since it is not so much by the portrayal of the faults of the departed that men [sic] are to be scared into goodness, as it is by the description of their virtues that others are to be won to the service of truth and love. But he has gone—the consistent patriot, the honest man, the sincere Christian. May the richest consolations of our religion abide in the hearts of his venerable companion, children and all who mourn...

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 12 Feb 1853