

[Pratt, Alice Gibbs]

Obituary.

Mrs. Alice Gibbs Pratt died at her home in Sherman October 10, 1903, aged 62 years. She was born August 26, 1841, being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Gibbs, old residents of the town of Chautauqua. She was married to DeWitt C. Pratt, December 31, 1876. To them were born three sons, all of whom were at her bedside during her last hours. The funeral was held at the house Monday afternoon, Rev. R. R. Hadley officiating.

In the death of Mrs. Pratt we are made to realize the full force of the words, "Death loves a shining mark." In her decease one of earth's choicest spirits has been summoned to the realms of the immortal. She was a woman who met all life's vicissitudes and accepted them in the simple, yet strong faith that "He knows best." She was never strong, so she spent most of her time in her home with her family.

A thoughtful reader, she took a great interest in the forward movement of the world. She was a successful teacher for a number of years before her marriage, and for several years a devoted member of the Universalist church, as one time a teacher in the Sabbath school. Hers was the ideal home, every one who entered it was sure of a hearty welcome, her beautiful soul lighting up her face—even in suffering. No one could converse with her without feeling inspired for better life work. She was one of the few who "lived in deeds not years."

Though dead she will still live in the hearts of her friends. In early childhood she manifested those traits of love and self sacrifice which grew more beautiful each year of her life. The vain things of this world had few attractions for her, although she possessed an ardent love for the beautiful. The poor and needy have always found in her a friend. Many a needy child has been made the recipient of food and warm clothing from her hands. All who served her were as kindly and thoughtfully treated as though they were royal men and women. It may truly be said of her, "None knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise."

Her last sickness was one of intense suffering, which she bore with great patience, trusting in the loving Heavenly Father who doeth all things well. To the very last of her life she was thoughtful for the welfare of her devoted husband and three sons, who are left to mourn her irreparable loss. There is no compensation for such a life save in its fragrant memories, which will be so sacred to her family, sisters and brothers who so tenderly cared for her through her long and weary sickness. Her family and relatives have the sympathy of the whole community in their deep affliction.

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