

[Libby, Daniel Leroy R.]

MORE WATERTOWN SLUSH

This Time it is Rev. D. L. R. Libby Who Has Fallen From Grace and Skipped

WATERTOWN, Aug. 25.—A sensation which is stirring society and church circles in this city to the very depths, and which has already caused a vacancy in the pulpit of the First Universalist church, was created when charges were made by Mrs. D. L. R. Libby, wife of the Rev. Daniel Leroy Libby, pastor of the church named, to F. B. Devendorf, treasurer of the board of trustees of the church, in which she formally charged her husband, the pastor, with adultery, naming as his guilty paramour the pretty young wife of a prominent business man.

With this announcement came the further statement that the Rev. Mr. Libby and his wife have separated for good, and that Mr. Libby has gone to Maine and will probably never return to this city, and that Mrs. Libby has commenced an action for divorce, retaining Messrs. Rogers & Atwell as her attorneys, alleging principal cause and naming the fair young wife of the business man as correspondent.

The charges made by Mrs. Libby against her husband and his fair enchantress to Mr. Devendorf, were substantially as follows: For some weeks past the Rev. and Mrs. Libby and their three children have been enjoying an outing on the "Isle of Rest," among the Thousand Islands, occupying two or three large and commodious tents. Among guests invited to partake of the hospitality of the "Isle of Rest" were a well known business man and his young wife; also a Mr. Shepard, of New Haven, Conn. About a week ago the Watertown business man returned to this city to attend to his business affairs here, leaving his wife at the island with the Libby's. Mrs. Libby soon became suspicious of her husband and their fair guest. On Monday morning she and her son Victor arose rather early, according to arrangements, to go on a fishing trip, leaving Mr. Libby reposing in his tent and the fair one sleeping alone in her tent near by. Mr. Shepard, who was one of the fishing party, went ahead to prepare the boats, leaving Mrs. Libby and her son still within view of the tents. Soon the wife and son beheld the reverend husband and father emerge from the tent clad only in his night-dress, and go into the tent occupied by the fair enchantress. At the end of a few minutes the reverend visitor returned to his own tent and shortly afterward appeared fully dressed, and again entered the tent occupied by the fair guest. Then Mrs. Libby and her son Victor, who is 18 years old, went into the tent where the couple were and found the young woman in bed, dressed only in her night clothing, while the Rev. Mr. Libby sat on the edge of her couch. The wife accused him of infidelity and left him then and there.

Upon Mrs. Libby preferring the above charges to him, Mr. Devendorf conferred with the other trustees of the church and a meeting of the board was held at Mr. Devendorf's store in Court street, at which the following was adopted:

"At a meeting of the board of trustees of the First Universalist church, held for the purpose of considering a matter affecting the moral character and reputation of the pastor of the society, it was resolved that the Rev. D. L. R. Libby be peremptorily discharged from further acting as pastor of the said church."

Rev. Mr. Libby has been in Watertown seven years and was a very popular pastor. He was prominent in all reform movements. He has been a popular lecturer, having delivered lectures on his travels in Europe in many cities and towns of the United States and Canada.

*Journal and Republican*, Lowville NY, Thu. 26 Aug 1897

[Libby, Daniel Leroy R.]

WRECKED BY SCANDAL

The Once Popular Rev. D. L. R. Libby is Raving Maniac

The Rev. D. L. R. Libby, who in August was deposed from the pulpit of the Universalist church in Watertown, as the result of charges of infidelity brought against him by his wife, the Rev. Myra Libby, was taken to the Ogdensburg state hospital for the insane last Saturday, a raving maniac, for whose return to reason and sanity there is little hope.

Ever since the scandal which deprived him of his pastorate and broke up and scattered his family, Mr. Libby has been a changed man. He came back from Maine, as soon as the scandal became public, to defend the reputation of himself and of Mrs. Fred M. Elmar, the woman involved, and manfully set about making a little home for his aged foster parents and his little son Leon, who alone, of all his family, clung to him. He rented rooms at No. 27 Baker street, and here his foster father died.

The laboring class of the city always loved the man, and on Labor day he delivered an address at Glen park to a large assemblage, at their request. That was his last public appearance. He began to show signs of his mental breakdown, and he rapidly developed into a raving maniac. The deplorable condition that their brother was in became known to the Corona lodge of Odd Fellows, and thenceforth nothing necessary for his care or that of his family has been lacking. Without letting the outside world know aught regarding the case, he was constantly watched during the last few weeks by members of the lodge. It is a sad ending to a once brilliant life, and carries with it a moral not only to the young, but to those of mature years.

*Journal and Republican*, Lowville NY, Thu. 10 Mar 1898

[Libby, Daniel Leroy R.]

REV. D. L. R. LIBBY DEAD

WATERTOWN, May 23.—D. L. R. Libby is dead; whatever may have been his share of blame for the scandal which drove him from the pulpit to a lunatic asylum, few can believe that his expiation has not been far heavier than his faults.

He was a popular Universalist minister, located in Watertown. A year ago he was charged with marital infidelity, by his wife. He denied the accusation, afterward became insane, and was taken to the hospital at Ogdensburg.

There, he remained until Saturday evening, when he secured his own from all restraint and from every trouble and care of life. An attendant, who had left him for a few minutes, found him on his return hanging cold and dead.

He is survived by his wife and three children, Victor, Leon and Miss Marion Libby.

*The Democrat*, Lowville NY, Thu. 25 May 1898

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