

[Adams, Ira]

OBITUARY NOTICES

REV. IRA ADAMS

This young brother, who gave promise of great usefulness in the Gospel Ministry, died of consumption, at the house of his father, near Frewsburg, (Chautauque Co.) [now spelled Chautauqua] December 21, 1869, in the 29th year of his age. He was born April 5, 1841, in Newtonville, Massachusetts, and removed with his parents in 1847 to the house where he closed his eyes in death. He began to study for the ministry with Rev. I. [Isaac] George, in Dunkirk, New York, in the Spring of 1864, and in the autumn of that year entered the Theological School at Canton. He was the only member of the class of 1867, but by reason of ill health was unable to complete the course of study. In February, 1867, he made an engagement to preach in Stockton and Ellery, New York, one-half of the time in each place, and at once entered on his pastoral duties. On the 10th of the following July he was married to Miss Marcia A. Simmons, a graduate of that year from St. Lawrence University, who, with two young children, are left to bear the burdens of life alone. The courage, fortitude and devotion which she displayed during those brief years of trial, won the sympathy and respect of all who observed her in her bereavement.

Mr. Adams was ordained to the work of the ministry at Stockton, New York, September 26, 1867, and notwithstanding the discouragement of ill-health, he continued to perform the duties of his chosen profession faithfully and successfully until August, 1869, when he was compelled to close his regular pastoral labor. He proposed to enter into some light secular business, and to preach whenever his health would permit. But he was unable to carry out his plan. He preached his last sermon in Sherman, New York, August 8, 1869, from which time he sank steadily to his grave, leaving behind a name of good report wherever he was known. Those who were most intimate with him bear testimony to his fidelity to the Christian ministry, and speak enthusiastically of his purity, his modesty, his consecration of purpose, and of his genial qualities of character which raised up around him, attached firmly to him, a wide circle of friends.

*The Universalist Companion*, Boston MA, 1871, pp. 99-100