

[Bartholomew, John Glass]

OBITUARY RECORD

VI. REV. JOHN GLASS BARTHOLOMEW, D.D., was born in Pompey (Onondaga Co.), N.Y., February 28, 1834, and died in Newark, N.J., of Bright's disease, April 14, 1874, having just completed his fortieth year. His father dying in his infancy, he was brought up by an aunt, who was to him in all respects as a mother. His early advantages for education were, first, the common school of his neighborhood and afterwards a course at Clinton Liberal Institute, which he entered at the age of sixteen. At this time he is said to have been a tall, slender, handsome, magnetic youth, with his thoughts already turned toward the ministry. Leaving the Institute, where he had been a diligent and proficient student, in 1853, he soon after, at the age of nineteen, commenced preaching, with only a few months of special preparation. From his first entrance into the ministry his pulpit labors attracted attention by his happy elocution, his magnetic personal influence and his dramatic delivery. He was first settled in Upper Lisle, Broome County, where he remained four years. He was ordained June 12, 1856. For the next two years he was located in Oxford, Chenango County, then removed to Aurora, Ill., remaining there till 1859, when he went to Roxbury, Mass., living there six years and gaining recognition as one of the most effective preachers in the city and neighborhood of Boston. His six years in Roxbury covered the period of the War of the Rebellion, and he bore a conspicuous and honorable part in the maintenance of the Union cause in those trying times. From 1865 to 1868 he was settled over the Church of the Redeemer at Brooklyn, N.Y., removing in the latter year to Auburn, N.Y., where he labored for three years. In 1871 he went to Syracuse and, after a year's residence there, moved by considerations of health, he was induced to accept a very cordial invitation to Newark N.J.; but he was a victim of a malady which baffled medical skill and from which he was never to recover. He was installed at Newark March 26, 1873, the ceremony having been delayed to await the completion of the church edifice. He was ill when he went to Newark, but hoped to reap benefit from change of air and scene. He broke down, however, within a month after his installation, and from April to September did not preach at all. In the last named month he rallied somewhat and resumed his tasks, but with failing strength, and though he labored with unflinching resolution for two months, hoping against hope, the end was drawing near. He preached through the month of February and was, at the close of it, completely prostrated and never rallied, dying as above stated, in the noon of manhood, his unshaken assurance in the Gospel he had preached being attested by his last audible utterance, "There is no death, I am immortal." Mr. Bartholomew was for several years one of the trustees of St. Lawrence University, which conferred on him, in 1871, the

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honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. For two years, 1868-69, he was chosen President of the General Convention. He was married March 7, 1855, to Miss Frances M. Baker, who, with four children, two sons and two daughters, survives him.

In the twenty years of Mr. Bartholomew's ministry he made his mark on the public mind; not, however, as a molder of dogma or an originator of ideas so much as a popular, attractive, skillful pulpit orator. His eloquence, his tact, his strong, winning personal qualities gained him everywhere hosts of friends. It is somewhat difficult for those who did not know him personally and never heard him preach to understand the secret of his power. It was not profound reasoning and logical argument so much as wit, pathos, aptness of illustration, intuition and sentiment. He had a good voice, was by nature and taste an actor, and was master of the art of preaching. The death of such a man, in the height and vigor of his powers, with such a capacity for usefulness in his profession, leaves a large void in our church and brings home to us with great force the fact that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth. We are compelled by want of space to omit a part of the notice we had prepared of Dr. Bartholomew, and we would refer the reader for an analysis of his powers and a more full obituary, to the *Repository* for July, 1874, from the pen of Rev. I. [Isaac] M. Atwood.

The Universalist Register, Boston MA, 1874, pp. 128-9

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