

[Boynton, Lyman D.]

LEADER IN ADVANCED THOUGHT

The Rev. Lyman D. Boynton is a typical Vermonter, standing six feet two inches high with a face of striking intellectuality, he represents the best features of the new England character and physique. He was educated for the Congregational ministry and was ordained in that denomination in his 21st year. For ten years he preached in Congregational Churches, but his views expanding, he became more liberal and was received into the fellowship of the Universalist denomination as pastor of the First Universalist Church at Elgin, Ill., where he labored for seven years. He was then called to the Church of the Redeemer at Minneapolis, one of the largest liberal churches in the United States and largely attended by the leading people of that city. Here he was assistant pastor with the Rev. Dr. J. H. [James Harvey] Tuttle, then in failing health. The Rev. Mr. Boynton's experience there was of the most pleasant character, especially with the young people, and he organized a class of over one hundred young men and women which is still known as the Boynton Bible Class. Later he was called to the pastorate of the Second Universalist Church at Minneapolis and still later to the Universalist Church at Rochester, Minn., where he labored six years. He returned East on account of his health and was pastor of the Universalist Church at Bristol, N.Y., for four years. On the 1st of May, 1908, he became pastor of the [Woodbury] Universalist Church at Hornell, N.Y., and the church has since enjoyed a most prosperous period.

He married Miss Sara Hersey, a native of Bangor, Me., and three sons have been the fruit of the union. The Rev. Mr. Boynton is an active Mason and was Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota for seven years. He was also editor of the "Master Mason," the Masonic paper of the Northwest. Mr. Boynton stands with the conservative rather than with the radical thinkers and preachers of the day and one of his favorite remarks is that "The poorest church is better than none at all." He has never been an iconoclast, knocking down the beliefs of others and as a result his relations with other churches and pastors have always been of an intimate and friendly character. He has been especially fortunate in making friends among young people who have become his personal friends and backers. Indeed, it is said that where he has labored every kid in town has known him. Mr. Boynton has been in the ministry all his life and has become known as a man's preacher, his power of original thought and grasp of the practical side of religion always drawing not merely sentimental women[!] but also thinking men into his churches. At Hornell he has received the enthusiastic support of both his church and the community. Both Mr. and Mrs. Boynton possess to an unusual degree amiable and sunny traits of character and it is a pleasure to meet them.

*Star-Gazette*, Elmira NY, Mon. 18 Oct 1909

[Boynton, Lyman D.]

Rev. Lyman D. Boynton

HORNELL, Dec. 7.—Word was received here last night of the death in Minneapolis, Minn., of the Rev. Lyman D. Boynton, for 13 years pastor of the Woodbury Universalist Church here. He resigned his pastorate in June because of failing health and returned to his former home.

Dr. Boynton was 72 years old. He came here in 1908 from Bristol and became one of the most prominent clergymen of the southern tier. He had previously served churches in Rochester and Minneapolis, Minn.

He is survived by his wife and three sons, Howard, Guy and Frank, all of Minneapolis. Funeral and burial services will be held there.

*Evening News*, Buffalo NY, Wed. 7 Dec 1921

Rev. Lyman D. Boynton

The Rev. Lyman D. Boynton for many years a Universalist minister in New York State passed to the life beyond on December 5th. Mr. Boynton was a gentle and lovable man. As a scholar he ranked among the leaders and as a preacher he had rare ability. He served our church in Bristol for a number of years and was thirteen years minister at [Woodbury Universalist Church,] Hornell, resigning his pastorate there last June.

Mr. Boynton was seventy-two years old at the time of his death. He is survived by three sons, Howard, Guy and Frank and by his wife [Sarah]. He was buried in Minneapolis.

*Empire State Universalist*, Carthage NY, January 1922