

[Bruce, Albert W.]

Rev. A. W. Bruce. Mr. Bruce died, very suddenly, on Saturday, August 19, 1871, while in attendance on the annual meeting of the Upper Wabash Association, at Woodville, near Logansport, Indiana. He left his home in Lafayette, Ind., only the day before, in the best of spirits, and in his usual good health. He attended the business meeting during the day, and did not complain of any illness until at the time of the evening service, when he was taken with congestion of the stomach and bowels, and was quite sick during the night. The next morning he felt so much better that he got out of bed and dressed himself, and gave some advice in respect to the business of the Association. But soon after his friends, who had been in consultation with him, had left him for the morning services at the Church, they were summoned back to the house, but not in season to see him alive, for at 10 1/2 o'clock, in a moment when no one was looking for any such thing, he passed away quietly and without pain.

Mr. Bruce was born in Bennington, Vt., in the year 1812, making him about 59 at the time of his decease. His parents were Methodists of the strictest sort, and in their faith he was early taught and trained; but when about eighteen years old, he began to read and investigate for himself on doctrinal points, and soon reached the conclusions that he has stood by ever since. In his early manhood he studied medicine, and practised a short time, and then entered the ministry. He had been well and widely known in the Denomination as a consecrated and indefatigable worker, who, by his persevering and self-denying efforts, has done much to give tone and shape to our Denominational affairs. He was ordained, August 13, 1843. He has had settlements in some of the Eastern States, also in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, and in all he was "a man of good report." In Lafayette, the place of his residence and labor at the time of his death, he had wrought faithfully and effectually, and endeared himself not only to Universalists but to people of all denominations. Our church at Lafayette is largely the result of his fidelity, and the fact that he had entered upon the fourth year of his pastorate with brighter prospects than ever, indicates the strong hold he had upon his people.

Upon the occasion of his death, after numerous and persistent but unavailing efforts to secure the service of a Universalist minister at the funeral, it was conducted by resident clergymen of the Methodist and Baptist Churches in Lafayette, and in a very appropriate, impressive and acceptable manner. His remains were escorted to the church and cemetery by a procession of Masonic, Odd Fellow and Temperance Societies, and at the grave the several orders opened their ranks to permit the Sunday School children (of whom he was so proud and who so loved their pastor) and the congregation to pass through to witness the last sad rites paid to the remains of their beloved shepherd.

He leaves a wife and daughter in Lafayette, and two daughters by a former marriage [to Malvina Mendall, eldest daughter of Isaac Mendall Esq. of Ellisburg NY], who reside in the East.

*Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1872