

[Cone, Orello O.]

DR. O. CONE DEAD

Found Dead In His Room—Died Apparently While Sleeping In His Chair

Dr. Orello Cone was found dead [in Canton, NY] in his study chair Friday afternoon by his niece, Miss Grant, who had been the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Cone since commencement. Mrs. Cone, who was out, was at once sent for.

For some weeks Dr. Cone had been very ill, suffering from blood poisoning. He had a weak heart and at times his life was despaired of, but he recovered although remaining weak. For a few days it had been known that he was not so well. On Friday he went to the hotel for his dinner. Returning he rode to the depot and walked from there to his home alone. Mrs. Cope had remained down town. About four o'clock Miss Grant returned to the house and upon going into the study she found him sitting in a natural attitude, his glasses on, a paper in his hands and a partially smoked cigar conveniently at hand. He appeared to be sleeping peacefully, but as he did not awaken when she entered she became anxious, and speedily discovered the truth. Mrs. Cone was at once notified, and Edward Cone, the only son, summoned by telegraph.

The funeral was held at the house on Monday, Rev. G. M. Gerrish, Dr. J. M. Payson and Dr. H. P. Forbes conducting the services. The interment was in Evergreen Cemetery.

The following sketch of Dr. Cone's life was written for The Laurentian by Dr. H. P. Forbes:

Rev. Orello Cone, D.D., was born in Lincklaen, Chenango Co, on November 16, 1835. He was educated in the academies at Woodstock and Cazenovia, and at St. Paul's College, Mo. He entered the Universalist ministry in 1864 and was first settled at Little Falls. In 1865 he was called to the Professorship of Biblical Languages and Literature in St. Lawrence University, which position he occupied for fifteen years. In 1880 he was elected President of Buchtel College at Akron, Ohio, where he remained for sixteen years, when he resigned his office and spent a year in prosecution of his Biblical studies at Berlin, Paris, and London. Returning, he was called to the pastorate of the Unitarian Society in Lawrence, Kansas, where he resided until he was elected to the professorship of Biblical Theology in St. Lawrence University. The scholarly tastes and abilities of Dr. Cone, which led to his selection as professor in the early days of St. Lawrence, soon became known to the entire denomination through his contributions to its publications. For many years there was scarcely a number of the Universalist Quarterly which did not contain some evidence of the wideness of his theological investigations and of a rare gift of critical acumen. Although he had become well and favorably known as a writer and critic within the limits of his own

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denomination, the wider fame of Dr. Cone began with the publication in 1891 of his "Gospel Criticism and Historical Christianity," which was declared by competent critics to be the ablest work in that field of investigation written on this side of the Atlantic. This was followed in 1893 by a work on New Testament entitled, "The Gospel and its Earliest Interpretations."

While resident in London in 1898 he gave to the scholarly world as the ripest fruit of his extensive studies a volume entitled "Paul the Man, the Missionary, and the Teacher," which has had a world wide sale, and won from Dr. Holzmann of Strasburg, himself a prince of German criticism, the encomium of being the ablest monograph of Paul ever published in any language.

In 1899 he was elected to the Richardson Professorship of Biblical Theology in St. Lawrence University, and returned to Canton. During the six years of his residence here he wrote a volume in the series of "International Handbooks on the New Testament," edited and in part translated from the German a volume of essays by Dr. Pfeleiderer, of Berlin, under the title of "Evolution and Theology," and published a volume entitled "The Rich and Poor in the New Testament". His critical contributions to the "New World", of which he was an editor and to other periodicals, such as the "American Journal of Theology," were regarded as of the highest quality; he furnished articles for the famous "Encyclopedia Biblica;" in 1902 he was honored by election as Professor in the Harvard Summer School of Theology. In 1877 he received the degree of D.D. from Lombard College, Galesburg, Ill.

In 1864 he married Miss M. N. Pepper, of Little Falls, N.Y., a lady of kindred sentiments and aims, who has made his home an abode of taste and intellectual companionship as well as of wifely, loving endeavor. Two sons were born to them, one of whom [William Channing Cone] died in early boyhood, the other, Edward F. is chemist in the American Steel Foundries, Chester, Pa.

A man of robust intelligence, of keen critical insight, a scholar who loved the quiet and severe tasks of learning, a theologian of wide reason and rational conviction, he brought honor and fame to himself, to St. Lawrence University, and to the Universalist denomination.

*St. Lawrence Plaindealer, Canton NY, Wed. 28 Jun 1905*

Transcribed on 26 Dec 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY