

[Cortright, William G.]

Pastor of the Universalist Church Passes Away After Long Illness.

The Rev. William G. Cortright, aged 45 years, pastor of the Universalist Church, passed away at his home, 5 Elm Street, Sunday morning at 9:45 o'clock. Mr. Cortright was operated on at the Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa., on August 23, 1915 and following the operation he gained sufficiently to be removed to the home of his sister, Mrs. L. A. Evans, who resides in Sayre. He remained with his sister until Oct. 13, when he was removed to his home in this city. The end was peaceful and the courage and spirit which characterized his life remained until death intervened.

Mr. Cortright was born in Laceyville, Bradford County, Pa., on September 4, 1870, and he received his early education in the public schools of that place. At the age of fifteen he became interested in telegraphy and learning the trade he secured a position as station agent and operator for the Lehigh Valley and P.R. & N.E. railroads. He remained there for twelve years.

On December 19, 1894, he was married to Miss Myrtie M. Wood of Athens, Pa., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Somerset Wood. Shortly after his marriage he engaged in the grocery business in Athens and continued this business until 1905. Selecting as his call the ministry, Mr. Cortright prepared for his future work at the Canton Theological School at St. Lawrence University and graduated from that institution in 1908. He was assigned his first charge at Friendship, N.Y. in December of the same year and remained at the latter place until April 1911, when he accepted an offer to take charge of the churches at Fly Creek and Cooperstown, N.Y. He remained at Cooperstown until Oct. 1, 1914, when he came to Cortland to assume the duties of pastor of the Universalist Church.

In the death of Mr. Cortright the city and community have lost a highly respected citizen and man. He will be missed by members of his own family, but in the church and the community his absence will be felt as well. He was the type of man that cast an influence of good and benefit wherever he chanced to be.

In his church he was faithful in his duties, never asking his people to practice those ideals which he did not make use of himself. He believed there was good in every man and he rejoiced to see a man trying to live the right life. A generous and open heart was his, and never did he fail a helping hand to those in need. He was broad minded in his beliefs and in his political he cast his vote for the man rather than the party. He was a man among men and he joined in their joys and sorrows at all times. In his home life no better father could be sought; he made his home an ideal in which to live and was always looking out for the interests of his wife and family. In the closing days

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of his life, he sustained that calm spirit of courage and patience which helped to make him so beloved by his people and those who knew him.

The deceased was a member of several fraternal organizations and in all of these organizations he manifested an interest that lent good to the orders. He was a member of the Masons and Eastern Star of Friendship, N.Y., the Maccabees at Cooperstown, the Odd Fellows at Fly Creek, an honorary member of the W. C. T. U. and the former president of the Allegany Ministerial Association. He was also interested in the ministerial association at Cooperstown.

He leaves his wife, two daughters, Angela and Adelpha, one son, Norman, all of Cortland; his mother, Mrs. P. [Philip] B. [Lucy Matteson] Cortright, who makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. N. B. McCoy at Towanda; three sisters, Mrs. L. A. Evans of Sayre, Pa., Mrs. N. B. McCoy of Towanda, Mrs. Albert Lewis of Sayre, Pa., one brother, Philip C. Cortright of Sayre, Pa.

The funeral will be held from the Universalist Church on Tuesday afternoon [November 2] at 3 o'clock. The body will be taken on the 9:19 train Wednesday morning [November 3] to Athens, Pa., for burial.

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