

[Fiske, Theophilus]

DEATH OF THEOPHILUS FISKE

During our residence in New York, Theophilus Fiske, years ago very prominent among our most eloquent preachers, but of late years a layman, has been a frequent visitor in this office. A few weeks since, he entered the door with an expression that looked to us premonitory of serious illness. He had suffered something like paralysis, though it was not technically this. At his subsequent falls he appeared no better, yet he was hopeful that his complaint would lead to no serious results. On Friday, Dec. 13, a half hour after leaving the *Ambassador* office, Mr. Fiske dropped suddenly dead before his own door, on the sidewalk! This was just after he had purchased a ticket for an ocean voyage, to meet his family, who have been in France several months. How little do we know what a day may bring forth! We hope soon to publish somewhat in detail a sketch of his ministerial career. He will be remembered by our older brethren as one of the most effective of pulpit orators. We have known him only as a layman. But our intercourse with him has been peculiarly pleasant. We shall painfully miss his calls at our office. He was a most genial companion, rarely gifted in his conversational powers. He was 65 years of age. The funeral service, conducted by Dr. [Edwin H.] Chapin, was on Monday, the 16th.

Christian Ambassador, New York, NY, Sat. 21 Dec 1867
[a Universalist newspaper]

THEOPHILUS FISKE

Various communications in regard to the late Theophilus Fiske, somewhat conflicting in their estimates, seek publication in our columns. If we insert those of one character, it would seem that those of the opposite have an equal claim to publicity. We doubt not we shall wisely consult the feelings of friends if we suppress all occasion for controversy as to the merits of the deceased. In 1837 he withdrew in form, in a printed document over his signature, from our ministry. For thirty years he was a layman, and had little connection with the denomination. His ministerial career, prior to that period, has been very faithfully sketched by one who knew him well, and who, on many occasions, proved his friendship by acts most unequivocal. Here let the subject rest.

Christian Ambassador, New York, NY, 18 Jan 1868