

[Goodrich, John Temple]

Rev. J. T. Goodrich. This brother, it would appear, must have perished in the Great Fire of Chicago, October 7-9, 1871. It is known that he was to be in Chicago about the time the conflagration occurred,—he being engaged in business connected with the Chenango Silver Mining Company of Colorado. It was subsequently ascertained that he was staying at the time at the Metropolitan Hotel, (which was burnt) that his name was on the register and his bill unsettled. As he has not been seen nor heard from since, his fate can not be doubtful and his greatly afflicted family are forced to the dreadful conclusion that he was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire. We are without particulars of Mr. Goodrich's history, excepting that he had once been pastor of the Universalist Church in Oxford, N.Y., and that more recently he has lived in Wilmington, Delaware.

Universalist Register, Boston, MA, 1872

NOTE. [In the *Register* for 1872, we gave a single paragraph to the memory of a brother who perished in the great Chicago fire, of October 7, 8, and 9, 1871. We now add a few particulars concerning him, gathered from an extended and very cordial eulogy of him, by Rev. J. J. Austin published in *Oxford* (N. Y.) *Times*, of May 15, 1872.]

Rev. John Temple Goodrich was born in Middlefield, Otsego County, New York, May 28, 1815. In childhood and youth he resided in that town and in Cooperstown, laboring on a farm in summer and studying and teaching school in winter. His more advanced opportunities for study were at Hartwick Seminary and Clinton Liberal Institute. He studied theology with Rev. Stephen R. Smith, then in the zenith of his power and influence. In 1836, when less than 21 years of age, he was settled as a preacher, in Oxford, Chenango County, New York, where he remained some twelve years. In 1849 or 1850, he was called to the pastoral charge of our Church at Canton, New York, where he remained about five years. He organized the church at Canton, and assisted in the gathering and organization of the churches at Potsdam, and Madrid, as he had done before in Oxford. About this time an affection of his throat induced him to accept a call to Reading, Pennsylvania, where he labored two years, and where his influence was strong and extended, as it had been elsewhere.

After this he was persuaded to return to Canton, and take the agency of the new Theological School and College, projected at that place, and served in that capacity for five years, successfully; preaching in the meantime in Canton, and elsewhere, as occasion required. It was largely through his

[Goodrich, John Temple]

efforts that the New York Legislature appropriated \$25,000 to the Canton schools. Released from this work, he became pastor of the Eighth Street Church, Philadelphia, where he remained some three or four years, when he left them out of debt, and himself out of health. After an interval spent in traveling, he went to Wilmington, Delaware, and supplied that missionary station for about two years.

In domestic life he was fortunate and happy. His wife was Miss Margaret M. Bolles, daughter of Deacon Elias Bolles, of Oxford, New York. Of their five children, three died before the father.

While he lived in Canton, he held an oral discussion with Rev. Mr. Wheeler, Baptist, which continued several evenings, and was a marked success for our cause. In Wilmington, he held a written controversy with Rev. Mr. Hoffman, a Presbyterian minister; which was a success also. Years before this, he had held a written and oral discussion with Rev. Mr. Dyer, a Presbyterian, of Preston, New York, which gave the cause of Universalism an impetus in that place. Mr. Goodrich was not combative, and would not seek a controversy, nor would he shrink from one if duty called him to engage in it. He was devotedly attached to his family, and was anxious to close up all his secular concerns, and settle down over some parish where the labor required was such as his strength and health would be sufficient for. With this purpose in view, he left home on the 25th of September, 1871, went to Fulton, then to Watertown, to Rochester, and to Chicago, where he was seen by acquaintances, and where his name was entered on the register of the Metropolitan Hotel, for room No. 36, on the 5th of October, and where it remains, with bill unsettled. The most diligent search has developed nothing further. He with many others perished in that dreadful conflagration. Such is a brief outline of an active and useful life, and we felt constrained from the eminent service he has rendered the cause of Universalism, and from the peculiarity of his end, to add this note to the paragraph in our last issue, relative to Bro. Goodrich.

Universalist Register, Boston, MA, 1873

Transcribed on 16 Jul 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY