

[Jackson, Truman A.]

Rev. Truman A. Jackson, Co. E, 122d Reg. N. Y. Vols., died in Andersonville, Ga., October 26, 1864, aged twenty-nine years. He was born in Swanzey, N. H. After a careful preparation under Rev. S.H. McCollister, he entered Tufts College in the summer of 1857. He was destined to a life of sharp vicissitude. The mental strain soon proved too great for the frail tenement that held his fast growing soul. The hereditary tendency to consumption compelled him to relinquish his aim. He had not gone through the classics, but he had learned by heart both the religion and politics of our metropolitan liberal pulpits. Procuring the necessary books, he studied theology, and soon began to preach. For about two years he ministered every alternate Sunday at Marlboro' and Surrey.

In August, 1863, he was drafted into the army of the country. His parish at once generously offered to purchase his exemption; but his brave soul revolted at the thought. He was a thorough patriot; he had often encouraged enlistment; he had earnestly urged the importance of sustaining the government; he had even wanted to go as a volunteer; now it seemed to him that God had called him, and he did not falter or hesitate. He left all,—society, friends, home, and wife, and joined the army.

He was first stationed at Elmira, N. Y., and afterwards at Syracuse, Ohio, at both places being detailed for light duty. Efforts were made to procure him a chaplaincy; but he was young, a stranger to influential men in New York State, and of course the attempts failed. In the spring of 1864, his regiment joined the army under Grant; and in the battle of the Wilderness, on the 6th of May, he was wounded in the shoulder and taken prisoner. The wound soon healed, and he was able for a time to render much aid to the sick and suffering. Then for six months came no tidings. Rebel atrocity was doing its fiendish work. At last he died, we know not exactly when or how<sup>1</sup>. It was a wonder that the feeble body lived so long; and it is a mercy that his spirit has been liberated, and has gone where the weary are at rest.

The captain of his company was taken prisoner on May 12th, but the first lieutenant writes that "Mr. Jackson on the field of battle behaved coolly and fought bravely;" and further, that he had "gained the esteem of his officers and comrades."

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<sup>1</sup> He had been wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness the previous May and taken prisoner there. There was a funeral service on 15 Jan 1865 in Columbus, Chenango Co. NY by Rev. Benjamin S. Hobbs. Source: the *Christian Ambassador* (a Universalist newspaper), New York, 4 Feb 1865.

Transcribed on 3 Dec 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY