

[Jenkins, Lydia Ann]

OBITUARY  
Rev. Lydia Ann Jenkins

Rev. Lydia Ann Jenkins, wife of Rev. E. S. Jenkins, of Binghamton, N.Y., departed this life on the 7th inst. at 3 o'clock P.M., aged 49 years. She was taken down soon after the burning of her residence, which gave a terrible shock to her nervous system, and died after an illness of seven weeks. Mrs. Jenkins not only prepared herself for being an acceptable preacher of the Gospel, at a time when lady preachers had to encounter a strong prejudice, which she effectively overcame, but she studied medicine and graduated at a medical college in New York City, and had to encounter and overcome an equal prejudice and opposition on that score. In both departments she was a pioneer; but, looking upon her course as right by judicious and persistent effort, she at length triumphed over every difficulty.

I need not speak of Mrs. J. as a physician. That female physicians are a necessity to attend on those of their own sex, is generally conceded. But as a preacher she was very successful. Some of us remember that, fifteen years ago, Mrs. J. would call together crowds into churches in Central New York, where the ordinary congregation that met to hear the regular male preacher was but a fraction of the number. The Gospel she preached to others was a source of comfort to herself in the hour of sickness and death. The body was brought to this city [Auburn, NY] to be interred in Fort Hill Cemetery (her father and family residing here) and appropriate services were held in the Universalist church, on Sunday, the 9th, at 2 P.M. The pastor, Br. Keyes, offered a beautiful and appropriate prayer. The writer read selections of Scripture and delivered a sermon from Matt. v.4, "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." It is hoped that others, who knew Mrs. J. more intimately, will give the public more particulars of her life and ministry. May the Gospel of glad tidings, which she preached and adorned, be a source of abundant consolation to her surviving husband [Edmund S. Jenkins], aged father and other friends, in this hour of trial.

W. E. M. [William E. Manley]

Auburn, N.Y., May 17, 1874

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