

## [Kinney, Aaron]

### Br. Kinney is Gone!

For the first time, the ministers of the truth of the impartial grace of God, and the believers in this consoling and cheering doctrine in this State [Illinois] mourn the loss of one of their preachers. Br. Aaron Kinney departed this life on the 20th inst., aged 48 years. His health had been poor, and the greater part of the time declining, ever since the severe sickness he had while attending the meeting of the United States Convention of Universalists at Akron, Ohio in the fall of '43. Sister Kinney expired on the 24 of Dec. last, and he followed her remains to the grave in a very feeble state of health, believing that he [w]ould soon follow her in death.

Br. Kinney was a native of New York; and in that State, commenced preaching the doctrine of Universal Salvation. He removed to Joliet, in this State, in 1837 and was instrumental in organizing in that town the first Universalist Society that was formed in this State. He removed from that Society to Farmington, June, 1841, and preached with the Society gathered there one-half of the time, employing the greater part of the other half in other places, and itinerating, till the past summer, when his declining health compelled him to relinquish almost wholly the labors of the ministry.

Br. Kinney was the oldest preacher of our denomination in this State, except Br. Gardner. He bore much of the burden and heat of the day in disseminating and establishing the truth, and of course passed through those scenes and trials that have been the lot of all our pioneers, such as the excessive fatigues of traveling and fording streams, even when attended with danger; a want of organization and unity of action among the believers; a coldness and indifference on the part of many professing to be friends; and an inattention to the temporal wants of the preacher and his family: embarrassments that would discourage, were it not for the importance and cheering nature of our faith, and the true and tried friends that aid and cheer those heralds of the grace of God in their labors.

Br. Kinney informed me that he received more from what time he found to work at his trade (he was a jeweler) than all he received from his labors in the ministry. But he lived to see those discouraging circumstances greatly improved; numerous societies sprang up around, and other laborers entered the field, and the cause so far advanced in this State, that the friends have only to use proper means within their power to see it advance rapidly and with a growth. He has left his Society in Farmington in prosperous circumstances, and enjoying the labors of Br. Gardner, who removed there some months ago to fulfill Br. Kinney's engagements with the Society.

Under his late bereavements in burying his companion, and during his sickness, he derived great consolation from the faith he had publicly taught (and notwithstanding reports to the contrary, which are as ungenerous as

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they are unchristian-like, and show the spirit of Partialism), supported our brother to the last, and he advocated it and defended it as long as he had sufficient strength. He dwelt with peculiar delight upon the hymn titled "All's Well," which he tried frequently to sing, but his strength was too far gone. When too much reduced in strength to converse, he referred a person to that hymn as expressing what he could not do for want of strength; and the last, or nearly the last words, he was distinctly heard to utter was a quotation from that hymn, "All's Well."

His funeral was attended on the 22d, when a discourse for the occasion was delivered to the mourners, the Society, and a very large concourse of people, from Hebrews xi, last clause of the fourth verse, by the writer.

F. J. Briggs

*Better Covenant*, quoted in the *Western Luminary*,  
Rochester NY, 15 Mar 1845

Transcribed on 10 Jan 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY