

[Lee, Day Kellogg]

THE REV. DAY K. LEE, D.D.

The Rev. Day Kellogg Lee, D.D., Pastor of the Third (Bleecker-st.) Universalist Church of this city, died at his residence, No. 23 Perry-st., on Wednesday evening. The Rev. Dr. Lee was born in Sempronius, Cayuga County, N.Y., September 10, 1816, and entered the ministry in 1835, preaching his first sermon in Ann Arbor, Mich. He has [sic] been settled as pastor of Universalist societies in Newark, N.J. [should be Newark, N.Y.], Salem, Mass., Southbridge, Mass., Williamsburgh, L.I., Ogdensburgh, N.Y., Auburn, N.Y., and this city, removing from Auburn to New-York in June, 1865. He received the honorary degree of M.A. from Tufts College, Mass., in 1864, and that of D.D. from the Theological School of St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. in 1868. Dr. Lee was an indefatigable worker not only in his parish and in preparing his sermons, which always contained something fresh and interesting, but also in many benevolent and philanthropic undertakings. He was also an extensive writer, contributing frequently to the Universalist denominational newspapers and other periodicals, and also preparing for publication a series of books under the general title of "Tales of Labor," comprising four volumes. He was of a fine poetic and highly sympathetic temperament, and possessed of eminent social qualities that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact, and was particularly popular with the members of the Bleecker-st. Society, which he has been greatly instrumental in building up. He was the founder of the Lee Literary Association, composed of members of that Society and of which he was President, and did so much to promote unity and harmony among the members of the Society, that he was looked on more as a father than as a pastor. The funeral will be from the church, corner of Bleecker and Downing-sts., on Sunday afternoon at 2½ o'clock.

*New York Tribune*, New York NY, Fri. 4 Jun 1869

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Biographical Record

Rev. Day K. Lee, died in New York City, June 2, 1869, aged 53. He was born in Sempronius, Cayuga County, New York. His early opportunities were limited, and his only academy, the country store. His studies for the ministry were pursued with Rev. G.W. [George Washington] Montgomery, and his first sermon was preached in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1835, at the early age of nineteen. He was settled successively in Newark, New York; Salem, Massachusetts (Second Society), Southbridge, Massachusetts; Williamsburgh, Ogdensburg and Auburn, New York, and since 1865, over the Bleecker Street Church [Third Universalist], New York City.

Mr. Lee was both a worker and a student. Few ministers ever obtained such a knowledge of books, whether of science, philosophy, or belles-lettres; and few knew so well how to extract from them their pith and point. Himself a poet of no mean quality, he delighted in all true poetry; and no one better profited by his reading, in the acquirement of forms of expression, as well as of fact. His studies were labor,—a labor of delight; and they told, as such studies always will tell, not only upon his intelligence, but upon his personal power. In science, as well as literature, he became expert. He was especially versed in astronomy, which was a favorite study with him' and specially cultivating his powers of memory, he came to lecture on this science, without notes, even of its various and complicated arithmetic. His pulpit efforts were a proof of what resolute and systematic labor would accomplish for anyone who perseveringly undertakes it. It was a well-deserved tribute to one who would never have sought it, when Tufts College, in 1864, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts; and again, when in 1868, St Lawrence University declared him Doctor of Divinity.

Dr. Lee's contributions to our literature were many and important. Making no pretensions to profound theological learning, he was deeply impressed with the religious spirit; and this often outflowed into our papers, in poetic or in simpler form. He was one of the editors of the "*Christian Ambassador*" for 1866, and did good service in its columns. Some years ago he prepared several volumes, containing Tales of Labor. These, bearing the titles—"Summerfield, or Life on a Farm," "The Master-Builder, or Life at a Trade," and "Merrimac, or Life in the Factory," are works of merit, and have a large sale.

In his departure our Church has suffered a great calamity. He was one of the ablest and best of its ministers. Many there are who mourn him as a friend and brother, sorrowing that they shall see his face no more, as one of the purest and most saintly of men. His modesty, his conscientiousness, his devotion to duty, his affectionateness, his religious spirit, all serve to make blessed his memory, and more poignant the suffering excited by his loss.

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They know what his faith was,—how childlike and devout. No one could be better prepared than he, by the study and experience of life, for the extremest emergency. In his sickness he was so patient, so trusting, and so little troubled with the affairs of this life that his departure was like the sun setting in its glory at evening. He surely passed from earthly peace to heavenly. “The memory of the just is blessed!”

*The Universalist Companion*, Boston MA, 1867, pp. 78-9

Transcribed on 26 Jul 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY