

[Libby, Daniel Leroy R.]

REV. D. L. R. LIBBY DEAD

WATERTOWN, May 23.—D. L. R. Libby is dead; whatever may have been his share of blame for the scandal which drove him from the pulpit to a lunatic asylum, few can believe that his expiation has not been far heavier than his faults.

He was a popular Universalist minister, located in Watertown. A year ago he was charged with marital infidelity, by his wife. He denied the accusation, afterward became insane, and was taken to the hospital at Ogdensburg.

There, he remained until Saturday evening, when he secured his own from all restraint and from every trouble and care of life. An attendant, who had left him for a few minutes, found him on his return hanging cold and dead.

He is survived by his wife and three children, Victor, Leon and Miss Marion Libby.

The Democrat, Lowville NY, Thu. 25 May 1898

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[Libby, Daniel Leroy R.]

THE CLOSING CHAPTER

Rev. D. L. R. Libby Takes His Own Life in the Asylum
He Was Once the Popular Pastor of the Universalist Church in Watertown

Rev. Daniel D. R. Libby, ex-pastor of the Universalist church of Watertown, a patient in the St. Lawrence state hospital, committed suicide by strangulation Sunday. He was committed to the institution last fall, suffering from melancholia, and for a time it was thought his case was curable. Of late he has been extremely melancholy and at times grew very revengeful, during which spells he threatened violence, and a special watchman had to be placed over him. He was confined in a ward in the central west group and for some time Sunday morning conversed pleasantly with his watchman. The latter left Rev. Libby's room, stepping into the corridor for a few minutes, when the latter jumped from his bed, snatched a scrim curtain from the window and, standing on a chair, fastened one end into the ventilating register in the side wall about seven feet from the floor. The other end he fastened about his neck and stepped off from the chair. The watchman was absent from the room about 20 minutes, all of which time he was not over 80 feet from the door, but so noiselessly was the work done that no alarm was raised.

A year ago Rev. D. L. R. Libby was pastor of the Universalist church in Watertown and one of the most popular and widely known clergymen in northern New York. Within the few years that he had lived in Watertown he had built up and strengthened his church, drawn new members into his congregation and had almost entirely paid off the church debt. His wife, Myra R. Libby, was also an ordained minister of the Universalist faith, a woman of exceptional mental attainments. She supplemented and seconded her husband's work with apparent loving care and supplied his pulpit if he was ill or absent. They had three children, two of them grown almost to manhood and womanhood, and their lives seemed to observers to be one of almost idyllic happiness and usefulness. Within a few days all this was changed. Accused by his wife of heinous immorality, Mr. Libby was cast out of his pulpit and his home, and penniless, homeless, bereft at one stroke of profession and reputation, he was deserted by all but a few staunch friends. The story of how this came about is a sadly familiar one.

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