

[Tomlinson, Russel]

II. Rev. RUSSEL TOMLINSON was born in Newtown, Conn., Oct. 1st, 1808, and died in Plymouth, Mass., March 4th, 1878. His parents were David and Polly (Sherman) Tomlinson. They had a family of eleven children, of whom Russel was the youngest. Owing to the narrow means of his parents, his early educational advantages were quite limited. He made the most of these, however, and kept up a habit of study through life, becoming a thorough English scholar. His parents dying when he was quite young, he went to live with an uncle, and during his youth followed the trade of a carpenter. As he grew up to manhood, his thoughts were turned towards the gospel ministry, and he studied for a time with Rev. [prob. Hollis] Mr. Sampson. At what age he began to preach we have no means of knowing, but he was licensed by the Niagara Association, N. Y., Oct. 3d, 1832, and was ordained in 1833. In his early ministry, he entered the field as a Missionary in western New York, where he labored for two years, travelling on horseback hundreds of miles and preaching wherever opportunity offered, receiving slender compensation for his services, and often none at all. His first regular settlement was at Le Roy, N. Y. He was afterwards settled at Buffalo, Ridgeway, and Rochester. He accepted a call to Plymouth, Mass., in 1838, and removed there in May, 1839. He had a long and unbroken pastorate of twenty-seven years, working zealously for the advancement of all good enterprises and diligently practising the doctrines which he taught. He resigned his charge in 1866 and thenceforth devoted himself to the practice of medicine of the Homoeopathic school, to which he had previously given much study, obtaining a good deal of practice and considerable reputation. Mr. Tomlinson was married in Oct. 1849, to Miss Harriet W. May of Plymouth. His married life was very happy but brief, as his wife died three years after, leaving an infant daughter who survived her mother but a few months. Since that time, he has made a home for the father of his wife, who still survives at the age of eighty-six, caring for and ministering to him with true filial tenderness and love.

Mr. Tomlinson was a man of very dignified demeanor that sometimes conveyed to strangers an idea that he was cold and austere in his nature, but those who knew him intimately speak in the highest terms of his kind and tender heart, that was instant in response to any appeal from the unfortunate, the sick or the afflicted. Since his decease, instances of his unostentatious charity have come to light that were never suspected by his nearest friends. He did not allow his left hand to know the acts of his right.

He was a man of strong will, and when he had once come to a decision he was inflexible. If such rigidity of purpose sometimes made enemies, even they respected the man while they disliked his methods. If opposition seemed at times to create a spirit of antagonism in him, his own better

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judgment would not approve it. His early energies were enlisted in the temperance reform, and he was through life an earnest and unflinching worker in that cause. He was interested and active in educational enterprises, serving for many years on the School Board of Plymouth, and under Gov. Boutwell he was appointed a member of the School Board of Mass. As a man and citizen, he was highly esteemed, and his friends and neighbors for nearly forty years bear emphatic testimony to his high moral worth, his strict integrity, his benevolent disposition, and that he was pre-eminently a good man. He was through life a constant and discriminating student, reading much and wisely. He was an honest, devout Christian, and a preacher of no ordinary talent. A faithful worker in the Master's vineyard, he was an instrument in God's hands of leading many from the ways of sin into paths of holiness and peace.

Universalist Register, Boston MA, 1879, pp. 86-88

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