

[Wallace, Jonathan]

IX. REV. JONATHAN WALLACE, M.D., was born in Peterboro, N.H., March 20, 1784, and died in Potsdam, N.Y., April 6, 1873. He was of Scotch descent. With his father, Matthew Wallace, he went to Berlin, Vt., in 1795, where he received a good common-school education, and for several years was engaged in teaching. He was naturally studious, a close, original thinker, and very tenacious of his opinions. In early manhood he studied medicine, and for a while practiced as a physician, and so got the title of "doctor" by which he was familiarly designated by his friends in after-years. He soon abandoned the healing art, however, after his attention had been turned to religious subjects, and embraced with enthusiasm the Universalist doctrine, which, it is said, he always held and preached on the ground of "the vicarious atonement" of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the theory of Relly; though he did not accept the doctrine of the trinity, nor the supreme Deity of Christ, but regarded him as properly the Son of God. He commenced preaching in 1815, laboring for the most part in Richmond, Williston, Jericho, and other towns in that part of Vermont. In March, 1820, he was married to Miss Lucy Brownson, daughter of Judge Brownson of Richmond. In the winter of 1822-3 he moved to Potsdam, N.Y., where for several years he stood almost alone as a preacher of Universalism, his circuit reaching from Ogdensburg on the west as far as Chateaugay on the east, and preaching more or less in Potsdam, Canton, Madrid, Pierrepont, Hopkinton, Malone, Bangor, and other places in that region. He was pastor in Potsdam over twenty years. In 1837 he commenced, in Potsdam, the publication of a semi-monthly Universalist paper, but at the end of six months, as it did not pay expenses, the subscription list was transferred to the *Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate*, at Utica, and for a time he was an associate editor of that paper. In 1828, he went to Boston to be treated for epilepsy, to which he had long been subject, remaining there about a year, and preaching in the meanwhile for Rev. Paul Dean in the Bulfinch Street Church. After the death of his wife, which took place some half dozen years ago, he lived with his son in Potsdam, where he died at the time above mentioned.

Dr. Wallace left many MSS. behind him. Besides sermons, there is a volume of miscellany in prose and verse, written in 1811; also a volume of original hymns (402 in number) designed for use in public worship. Among them are many good hymns, a few of which have appeared in print, as for example the 12th, 273d and 437th in Streeter's Collection. For the last 20 years Dr. Wallace has preached but seldom on account of feeble health. From early manhood he had been subject to a falling sickness, which would sometimes come upon him in the pulpit, but he would generally quickly recover himself and resume the thread of his discourse at the precise point where he dropped it.

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Quite a number of preachers prepared themselves for their work under his guidance, and they bear testimony to the native strength of his intellect, the earnestness and firmness of his religious convictions and the excellence of his heart.

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