

[Aldrich, James]

SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JAMES ALDRICH

Mr. James Aldrich was one of the earliest settlers of the county of Chenango, having emigrated from the State of Rhode Island, the place of his birth, at the age of 23 years, and settled in the town of Sherburne, where he spent the residue of his earthly pilgrimage. He married [Sibyl] the only daughter of James Curtis, Esq., of Sherburne; and by their united labors, industry and economy, they acquired wealth equal to, or above, the mediocrity of farmers, and reared a family of children, seven of whom, two sons and five daughters, are still living, and fill respectable stations in society. They both embraced the doctrine of Universal Salvation at an early period of life, and gave their moral and physical influence to its propagation and advancement. And well did their lives—their industry, temperance, prudence, fidelity, justice and liberality evince the sincerity of their faith, the stability of their hope, and the expansion of their charity and love for our race—and bear living testimony to the purifying and elevating influence of a belief in God's universal, efficient grace. More than forty years ago I made their acquaintance; and from that to the present time I have fondly cherished that acquaintance, and have been proud of their friendship as active Universalists, and of his as a worthy member of the Masonic fraternity.

On the 14th Oct., 1857, he experienced a shock of palsy [a stroke]. From that, however, he measurably recovered, and kept about until the 13th Feb. following, when he received a second shock, and lingered until the 18th, when the Divine Deliverer raised him above mortal suffering. He was in his 78th year. I found his widow, though bereaved and lonely, still rejoicing in the belief of a world's salvation, and consoled with the reflection that her loss was his immense gain.

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 13 Nov 1858

Transcribed on 12 Feb 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY