

[Austin, Lydia Anna]

Another Visitation of Death

Again has death entered my abode. My third daughter, LYDIA ANNA AUSTIN, aged 17 years, departed life on Tuesday morning, the 20th inst. She had been spending a few weeks in the family of Elbridge G. Barker, Esq., at Howlett Hill, Onondaga co., N.Y. and was there attacked with the typhoid fever; and after lingering three weeks, fell a victim to its power. In the morning of her womanhood, and in the opening bloom of life, she has been stricken down by death, and removed from a world of vicissitude to realms of light and love—leaving a void in my family and a sadness in my heart, which no language can describe. How hard—oh, how trying—to part with one so gifted, so joyous, so happy, around whom bright and fond anticipations of happiness in future years, had so long clustered. But what rivers of consolation and peace flow into my soul from the fountain of Christ's Gospel of impartial grace, the waters whereof grow sweeter as Affliction presses its hand the heavier upon me.—Strengthened by its sublime hopes, I feel able in this dark hour, to say with my divine Master—“Father, not my will, but thine be done!” Her sweet voice which gladdened so many of my lonely hours with its cheerful songs, I shall hear no more on earth; but there is joy in the belief that it even now is joining the glad hosannas of angelic choirs. Her spirit has met, with glad greetings, the loved ones who have gone before, and rejoices in their presence. Happy thought! It sends light and peace through my weary soul.

J.M.A. [Rev. John Mather Austin, Editor]

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 24 Sep 1859

Transcribed on 15 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY