

[Ball, Lyman]

(Deaths.) In Cooperstown on the 11th ult., Mr. LYMAN BALL, aged 47 years. Scarce any event could more have astounded this community, than the self-destruction of Mr. Ball. Our village journals attribute his death to temporary derangement, a supposition supported by the fact that not a few of his friends had, within a brief period, observed in his conduct a degree of absent-mindedness.—But I am more inclined to believe that it may be recorded as one of the most distressing cases of somnambulism that has ever occurred. Years ago he was subject to sleep-walking, any tendency to which his sickness of several months would be calculated to develop. He was more than usually ill at one o'clock of the fatal morning. He had just added to his business, already sufficient, the vocation of butchering, about which his mind was not at ease. He had done his first slaughtering on the previous evening. We can readily perceive how these circumstances might have led to his suicide whilst in a somnambolic [sic] state. But the fact that he tied himself closely to the bed-post in a sitting posture, seems strongly to confirm this view. Whichever supposition be correct, at least we have as near a certainty as any case would admit of, that the act was not for a moment pre-meditated by Mr. Ball. He was in easy pecuniary circumstances, had met with no losses that gave him concern, shared the affections of his entire family, and was on the best terms with the world. He was a Trustee of the Universalist Society in Cooperstown, which office he had filled for years. He was a consistent Christian, a kind husband, and an indulgent father. May his widow and children cherish the faith he entertained.

C. W. T. [Rev. Charles W. Tomlinson]

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 28 Oct 1854
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 14 Mar 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY