

[Burbank, William]

DEATH OF WILLIAM BURBANK.—If any additional gloom were necessary to make the late steamboat catastrophe more sadly memorable in the minds of the people of Brooklyn, such addition comes in the news that WILLIAM BURBANK, an Alderman of the 8th ward of this city, is among the persons killed by that accident. Late last evening, (29th) the corpse of Mr. B. was brought over the L. I. Railroad, and conveyed to his residence at Gowanus. To the unspeakable anguish of his family, and the vivid grief of his friends and neighbors, we forbear to make more than this passing allusion. It was, (the first-mentioned) an anguish beyond the power of tears, or shrieking—one that “would not be comforted.”

William Burbank was a man in whose character resided many stout virtues, beautifully softened by gentleness. Sincere, firm, and honest-hearted, he still never forgot his courtesy and his evenness of temper. He was well beloved. He aided the poor. Moreover he had that ample scope of compassion—the heaven-mantled virtue, “greater than all the rest,” in its higher sense, beyond the mere giving of physical alms. And it was singular that amid the multitudes of his duties and his quite extensive business, every thing was done so quietly, so unpretensively, and so completely. He employed a great many workmen, whose hearts were his, more than their hands.

The last time we looked on the manly face of our sincerely grieved fellow-citizen, he was even then full of one of those schemes of public improvement, the progress of so many of which he has been instrumental in here for years past. He conversed with us on that, and on other similar topics, with the usual earnestness of his mind. Alas! that we are to see him no more among us! that his action, his example, and his extended goodness, are blotted out, in the existence from which they sprung!—Alas, for the death of a *good man!* for we have few such to spare.

Mr. Burbank was at the time of his death President of the Board of Aldermen of Brooklyn,—in which place he was respected, as in all his public life, not only by members of his own party, (our readers doubtless know that he was a Democrat,) but equally so by members of other parties. He was winter before last in the House of Assembly, from this county. He belonged to the Universalist Church (the Tabernacle.) He was about forty five years of age; and leaves a wife and several children. His funeral will take place from the Tabernacle, cor. of Fulton and Pineapple st. on Wednesday, at 1 o’clock.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Brooklyn NY, Mon 30 Nov 1847

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[Burbank, William]

DEATHS.

FUNERAL OF ALDERMAN BURBANK, OF BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Among the passengers who were lost by the wreck of the Atlantic, was Wm. Burbank, Esq., of Brooklyn city, and a most devoted member and officer of the Universalist society in that place. His body was recovered, and his funeral attended on the 2d inst. [2 Dec 1846], services being performed in the Universalist church. Previously the City Government held a meeting, and by a series of resolutions expressed a high sense of the worth of the deceased as a man, a citizen, and a member of the City Government. They also voted to attend his funeral in a body, and invited all the clergymen of the city to be present on the occasion. But so consistent were the Endless Miserian clergymen with their spiteful and cruel doctrine, that not one of them appeared, to mingle sympathies or express sentiments of respect, with friends and fellow citizens.

(Ch. Freeman)

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Fri. 1 Jan 1847
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 7 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY