

[Clark, Henry E.]

Death of Henry E. Clark

BR. SAWYER: I beg a little space in the *Ambassador* to notice the sudden and very afflictive death of the young man whose name I have placed at the head of this article. My personal acquaintance with him was not very intimate, from the fact that soon after the rebellion took the shape of open and avowed hostility, he left all the attractions and joys of home, to serve the country in a position for which he was peculiarly qualified. Yet he was one in whom I have felt a deep interest from the constant and pleasant intimacy I have enjoyed in his father's house for the past three years, and from my uninterrupted intercourse with all the members of the family in the Church, in the Sabbath School, and in my own home.

He was the son of Br. William H. Clark, of this city, long a prominent member of the Universalist Society here, a liberal contributor to the support of the Society, a member of the choir, and for several years the superintendent of our Sabbath School. Since my connection with the Society, few persons have been more constant in their attendance at church, or at the Sabbath School, than Br. W. H. Clark, who still frequently officiates as superintendent, and loses none of his interest in the prosperity of the school—one of his daughter being a teacher in the school, and two others—all the children he has left—members of my Bible class.

Henry, the eldest of the family, has been connected with the commissary department in the capacity of clerk for a little more than two years, I think. At first he was stationed with the command of General Banks, in the vicinity of Harpers Ferry; from there he was transferred to the western department, stationed at different places, till he became the chief clerk, under Col J. D. Bingham, Quartermaster at Vicksburg. Here he remained till some time after the surrender of the place, when, finding his health somewhat impaired, he obtained leave of absence for a short time—whether with the intention of coming home, or only to visit some place up the river for the benefit of his health, is not yet known. He arrived at St. Louis, Mo., Wednesday evening, July 22, took lodgings at Barnum's hotel, called a physician the next morning, but was not regarded as very ill. Saturday morning, as the gentleman who roomed with him was going down to breakfast, Henry told him he need not send up his breakfast as he would soon ring for a servant and order what he wanted. In about half an hour afterward the physician went up to his room and found him dead upon his bed, with his clothes on, except his boots.

So suddenly has fallen this bereavement upon the family of which he was a beloved and cherished member. And it falls with peculiar severity, from the fact that it is scarcely more than six months since the parents were

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called to part with their only other son [Frederick] at the age of seventeen years. Now their eldest and only remaining son is taken, just in the prime of early manhood, at the age of twenty-four years.

It is some consolation in their great affliction, for the parents and relatives to know that, though among strangers, every attention was shown to the deceased while he lived, and all appropriate duties promptly and delicately discharged after his death. His remains were at once enclosed in a fine metallic case, and forwarded to this city by express. They were received by the mourning family, Thursday, July 30th, and the funeral services were attended the next day at the residence of his father, by a large concourse of sympathizing citizens. It was the melancholy privilege of the writer of this notice to administer the rich consolations of the gospel of Christ to a large circle of mourning friends, and the peculiarly afflicted family. May the assurance of God's infinite love, mercy and grace be found sufficient for them in this hour of their sorrow. Yours very truly,

A. R. ABBOTT

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