

[Clark, Walter]

DEATHS.

In Columbus, Chenango co., N.Y., on the 2d inst., Mr. WALTER CLARK, aged 89, son of Silas Clark, of Lebanon, Windham co., Ct. The deceased was a man of great goodness and worth. He founded his hopes of immortality on the love and paternal character of God. He had enjoyed the advantage of a religious education. His parents, being strict Presbyterians, always made it a practice of having the Scriptures read in the family on the Lord's day. Whilst his strength lasted, he was accustomed to lead the worship of this family. He joined in the singing on those occasions with a fullness and vigor that bespoke the earnestness and joy of his soul. His religious views were the result of thought and study. He was no bigot, but liberal in his opinions. His religious convictions were deep-rooted, and exerted a controlling influence over his life. He was one of our oldest and most respected settlers. A resident of Columbus for upwards of a half a century, he held a high position as an upright and honest man, and a kind friend. The habit of reading the Scriptures on the Lord's day, which he acquired in his father's house, never left him. And it is to this happy circumstance that we are to attribute the change in his religious opinions. The goodness and love of God were his conversation and delight. He could not reconcile the paternal character of God, as revealed by Jesus, with the dark and cruel dogmas of Calvin. Hence he renounced Presbyterianism, and embraced the glorious Gospel of a world's salvation; and for forty years he exhibited in his daily life and conversation the beauty and holiness of the doctrines he professed. The Rev. Paul Dean and the Rev. Hosea Ballou were the first Universalist ministers he ever heard. The preaching of these good men made a deep impression on his mind and heart. Afterwards he was accustomed to go to Hamilton [in Madison Co. NY], where he heard the two great apostles of Universalism, [Nathaniel] Stacy and [Job] Potter. He spoke highly of these clergymen, and also of Messrs. [Oliver] Ackley, [John] Flagler, Stephen R. Smith, Seth Jones and [Edwin] Woolley. Our departed brother was a subscriber to the [Evangelical Magazine and Gospel] Advocate and [Christian] Ambassador from the first. Although he had for some years withdrawn from the more active pursuits of life, yet he will long be remembered as a man of great goodness of heart. His last hours were calm and serene, soothed by every attention which loving hearts could render, and cheered by bright visions of his heavenly home.

R. C.

Christian Ambassador, New York, NY, Sat. 17 Mar 1860
[a Universalist newspaper]