

[Cook, Theodore Dwight]

SAD TIDINGS FROM THE WAR

It is with great sorrow that we have to announce that our friend and brother, Rev. Wm. B. Cook, pastor of the Universalist Society in Newburgh, N.Y., has been called to offer a son upon the altar of freedom. THEODORE DWIGHT COOK was killed in the battle near Manassas, on Sunday, the 21st ult., aged 22 years. A few weeks since, he enlisted in Albion, N.Y. in Company K, 27th Regiment New York Volunteers. On arriving at Washington it was expected the Regiment would remain there a few days. But they were permitted to tarry in that city but the night, and were hurried to Virginia, and to the field of battle. In the first engagement Theodore fell, bravely and nobly, fighting for his country....

By permission of Br. Cook, we copy the following letter from Lieut. W. H. Coan, announcing the fall of his son:—

Camp Anderson, Washington D.C.
July 28th, 1861

Mr. Cook—

Dear Sir:—It is with reluctance that I communicate to you the particulars...in relation to the death of one of our noblest, bravest and most respected men, your son, Dwight Cook...in the memorable battle before Manassas....

We had passed bravely through the first charge, rallied to the second, when as we were about to fire upon the rebels who were passing before us, the command was given not to fire—that they were our own troops from Massachusetts. We did not fire; but as they advanced under cover, a shower of bullets came down upon us from them, like hail, which was promptly returned. At the same time a masked battery opened upon us, and we were ordered to retreat, which we were in the act of doing when your son, who was one of the last to retreat, and who was at the time placing a cap upon his gun, was shot by a musket ball, which entered his body at the base of the breast-bone, passing through him and killing him almost instantly....

The rebels have refused to accept a flag of truce to remove the dead, and it is with the greatest pain that we were obliged to leave them on the field. They sent word that they have been properly taken care of, but the truth of that statement we are of course ignorant of.

In his loss, be assured, my dear sir, that the officer and members of this company, each and every one, sorrow with you. He was universally loved and respected by us all, and no braver, truer soldier filled a place in our ranks. I should have written you immediately on our arrival here, but did not learn till yesterday of you or your whereabouts... With a heart full of sympathy, I am, dear sir, your friend,

Wm. H. Coan, 1st Lieut., Company K, 27th Reg. N.Y.V.

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, 10 Aug 1861
[a Universalist newspaper]