

## [Fay, Anne Minifie]

Affliction of Br. C. [Cyrus] H. Fay

Seldom are we called to record a more truly afflicting dispensation than that which has taken from the home and family of our brother the wife and mother. Mrs. Fay had been ill for several weeks, her complaint being of such a character as to affect the brain very unfavorably; but no apprehensions were had that she was disposed to destroy herself. On Tuesday the 17th, Br. Fay, thinking that a short journey and a change of scenery might dissipate the melancholy which was preying so deeply on her mind, started with her in one of the steamers on a trip to Boston. When about fifteen miles from the city, it is supposed that she threw herself from some part of the boat and was drowned. No trace has yet been found of the body, though the most diligent search has been made. May our heavenly Father mingle in this cup of bitterness all the consolations of faith, the comforts of hope and the sustaining influences of submission and trust. Particulars next week.

*Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate*, New York, June 28, 1850

### DEATH OF MRS. FAY

We promised last week to give further particulars in reference to the loss of this excellent woman which has filled a large circle of relatives and friends with bitter anguish. Since the settlement of Br. Fay in this city, Mrs. Fay has enjoyed her usual health, attending with her accustomed cheerfulness and maternal devotedness to her domestic affairs exhibiting always a self-sacrificing and unremitted care over her children. Previously and subsequently to the removal of the family from their boarding house to Rivington-street, Mrs. Fay exerted herself in the arrangement and settlement of her domestic affairs, beyond the strength of one in her delicate situation [pregnancy], forgetting her own weakness in her efforts to promote the comfort and happiness of her family.

At the time of her confinement for a long time she lay prostrate in almost an insensible state scarcely conscious of what was passing around her. A stroke of paralysis had affected her whole frame materially injuring the brain. Her mental and moral faculties seemed to have been impaired, and it was truly melancholy to see the late watchful, careful, energetic wife and mother changed to a seeming indifference in reference to her household. It was evident the destroyer had done a direful work; she complained much of her head; and life at times seemed rather a weary load, than a blessed gift. Every effort was resorted to which a skilful physician could suggest, or an affectionate, anxious husband could render to restore her wonted strength and health: but all in vain. Gloom and melancholy, despondency and weakness were doing their paralyzing work, though no suspicions had been entertained that she would destroy her life. On the day in which Br. Fay and his wife started for Boston she was more cheerful than she had been for several days, and strong hopes were indulged that a change of air and scenery, and a visit to her former friends would remove the dark cloud that lowered on her spirit.

But the troubled soul, the shattered body has found a resting place, and no more shall pain and disease disturb the calmness of their everlasting quiet. Friends have been daily in search of the remains; but up to this time nothing has been seen of them. This is indeed a painful case, and we pray for our afflicted and stricken brother, that the confidence and trust, the submission and resignation which he so faithfully and feelingly commends to his people, may be vouchsafed to him in this severe and heart-rending trial.

B. B. H. [Rev. Benjamin B. Hallock]

*Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate*, New York, July 6, 1850

## [Fay, Anne Minifie]

MRS. ANNA M. FAY

Seldom has the sympathy of our denomination been more deeply moved, than by the tragic end of the amiable and excellent lady whose name stands at the head of this article. Of her...passing away as she had done, in so sudden and mysterious a manner, and under circumstances so peculiarly afflictive to her family and friends, I have thought that a more extended notice might not be unacceptable, or useless.

Her maiden name was Anne Minifie, and she was a native of England, but came to this country at an early age, with her brother William Minifie, Esq., well known as the author of an excellent scientific work entitled "A Textbook of Geometrical Drawing." With him she settled in Baltimore, Md., and my acquaintance with her commenced on my removal to that city, in the fall of 1838. She was a constant attendant on my ministry there, and had been a member of that congregation for some years previous to that time. It was in the following year that she embraced Universalism in the love of it. She often said to her pastor, during that year, "I know not how it is; I have long attended church, as others attended it. I have heard the Gospel preached, and have been comparatively indifferent to its claims. But now, I am deeply interested, and have learned to love the worship of God. Religion with her, however, was not so much a theory, as a prevailing sentiment of her soul. Warm and ardent in her attachments; full of the spirit of kindness, and ever ready to sacrifice herself for those she loved; the gospel of Christ found and approving response in her kindred spirit, and she loved it for its own sake. I saw her regularly in the sanctuary on the Sabbath, and often deeply moved. At my own fireside I met her almost daily; and finally, I officiated at that altar, where she gave herself, in love and trust, to her now deeply afflicted husband.

A purer spirit; more guileless and childlike simplicity of heart and manners; more deep and ardent devotion to God, to family, and friends, I have never known in any human being, than were combined in her. Both myself and family had learned to love her as a very dear sister; and a sad gloom came over our household when the news of her untimely end reached us.

It is due to her memory that the particulars of her mysterious demise should be recorded. They are as follows. Her body was always frail, and her constitution delicate. On the 5th of April last, she had an attack of paralysis, which affected the left side, and induced a stupor, in which she remained about 5 weeks. The day following this attack she was delivered of a son, and during her accouchement, as also during the time above named, she was insensible to pain, and imagined herself in another state of existence, receiving the attention of her friends. At length consciousness returned, and she began to realize her helpless condition. She became deeply despondent, and ardently desired to die—regretted that so much care had been bestowed upon her, and had no hope that she should ever recover. She said she was no longer of any use on earth, but should henceforth be only a trouble to her family and friends. At times she appeared more cheerful, but only with gloomy intervals of settled melancholy. Country air and change of scene were recommended by her physicians, and it was determined to visit Roxbury, where she had many dear and valuable friends. Accordingly she embarked for that place on board the steamer Bay State, on the evening of June 18th, in company with her husband. When about 15 miles from New York, she entered the closet in the Ladies' Saloon. After waiting a few minutes he sent the chamber-maid to look for her; but she was not to be found. The window of the closet was open and the curtain rolled up to the top, and the conclusion was that she must have thrown herself from the window, over the taff-rail, into the water. One of the hands employed upon the boat was standing near the stern, in a position to command a view of the rail. But he did not see her. The steamer Vanderbilt was not quite half a mile in the rear, whose pilot was attentively watching the Bay State, but he did not see her;

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though it is said that one of the passengers on the Vanderbilt saw the body floating; and that the pilot of the Knickerbocker also saw the body of a woman floating near the "Two Brothers." Had she been taken from the water by either of these two steamers, it is possible she might have been saved. But she has gone! gone down into the deep waters, and we shall see her no more on earth. May God comfort her heart-stricken husband, and bless her bereaved children. It is not presumed that she premeditated the act, nor can it be accounted for except upon the ground of her evidently deranged intellect. She was deeply attached to her family, and lived only for their good; and there probably was never a time when she would not have laid down her life for their good. The impression had taken deep hold upon her mind, that she was of no further use, but an incumbrance and a burden to them; and when she saw the rush of the waters, to her shattered senses it may have appeared that the time had come for her to offer herself as a martyr to the good of those she loved. At all events it is certain that she was in no situation of mind, calmly and rationally to reflect upon her course.

But it is past. In her the sincere Christian, the faithful wife, the devoted mother, and the beloved friend, has departed, and many tears will be shed at her loss. In all the virtues that should adorn the Christian, and in all the qualities that can endear one to the heart, she abounded. May her memory be sweet, and her virtues be cherished, though she has gone the way of all earth.

I. D.W. [Rev. Isaac D. Williamson]

*Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate*, New York, Friday July 13, 1850

### REMAINS OF MRS. FAY

It will be recollected that on the 18th of June last the wife of Br. C.H. Fay was lost from the Bay State, near Hurlgate. Diligent search was immediately made for the body and a reward offered for its recovery. A Committee from the Board of Trustees of the Orchard-street [Universalist] church was also appointed to take charge of the matter.

On Tuesday last the hands of the sloop Alida discovered a body floating near the foot of 54th street. The fact was communicated to J. Keen, keeper of the prison at Blackwell's island, who sent information to the above Committee. They promptly made all necessary arrangements for the disposition of the body, had it placed in a coffin lined with lead and sent to Roxbury, to which place several of our city friends went to mingle their sympathies with our afflicted Br. Fay, and to join in the solemnities of the funeral. The body though considerably decomposed was readily identified by the dress which Mrs. F. was known to have on at the time of her death. Great praise is due Mr. Keen and the Committee for the promptness and faithfulness which they have manifested in this truly afflictive affair.

From the *Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate*, New York, Friday Sept. 6, 1850

### RECOVERY OF THE BODY OF MRS. FAY

The readers of the Messenger are, doubtless, already aware that the remains of Mrs. Fay, so long and so anxiously sought, have been recovered. They were conveyed to Roxbury on Saturday morning, the 31st ult., and were accompanied by Messrs. Crane, Stickney, Polhamus, and Sackett, and Dr. Dodge, all of New York City. The body was deposited in Forest Hills Cemetery, by the side of the beloved Gertrude, their eldest daughter. It is not a little

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remarkable, that after so great a lapse of time, when her friends had well-nigh ceased to hope therefore, her body should be recovered, and her most cherished wish touching its final resting place should be granted. But so it is.

A large number of her friends in Roxbury assembled at the grave, where a brief address was made by Br. Miner, of Boston, and a very appropriate prayer offered by Br. Ryer, the successor of Br. Fay in Roxbury. In the remarks allusion was made to the high satisfaction afforded to our afflicted brother and his friends, by the recovery of the body. Though Christianity teaches us that the earthly part was but the instrument through which the loved spirit manifested itself, the earthly tabernacle in which the endeared companion dwelt, and which she had exchanged for a "building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," yet, like the home of our childhood, having been the seat of so many blessed affections, it will always present itself to our thoughts as the embodiment of those affections. We cling to those remains, therefore, as to that friend herself. And their recovery seems as a renewed request from the departed, that a resting place might be granted them in the hallowed ground she loved.

After the remains had been deposited in the grave, Br. Miner, at the request of Br. Fay, rendered his most hearty thanks to his friends in Roxbury, and to their pastor, for their very kind attentions to him, and warm sympathy since his affliction, and also to his friends in New York, both to those gentlemen who were present, and those whom they represented. Their untiring labors for the recovery of the body of his wife, together with their very great kindness to himself, merited and received his profoundest gratitude. Nor could he be content without giving to that gratitude this more public expression; assuring all his friends that he feels his obligations much more deeply than he can find words to express.

The exercises at the grave were closed by a benediction invoked by Br. Ryer.

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[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 19 Jan 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY