

[Harson, Jacob]

JACOB HARSEN, M.D.

In the death of Dr. Harsen, mentioned in the *Ambassador* of last week, not only the family and friends, but the whole community have suffered a great loss. Intimately associated as he was with Mr. [Abner] Chichester in his connection with the Universalist body, it seems befitting that a notice of him should go to the world on the same.

Dr. Harsen was born in this city. He was the eldest and only surviving son of the late Col. Cornelius Harsen, who, twenty years ago, stood among the foremost Universalists of New York. The son inherited the father's faith, and has been an active and efficient promoter of its interests. As is well known, Col. Harsen left by will \$6,000 to form a Universalist Relief Fund, for the benefit of sick and disabled clergymen in our fellowship and their families. Dr. Harsen was charged with the execution of this will, and was appointed President of the Board of Trustees, to whom was entrusted the care and disposition of this fund. In this capacity he has acted from the first, and with a promptness, a wisdom, and an energy which nothing but a lively interest in the fund and the denomination, for whose benefit it was designed, could have inspired. In all our denominational enterprises, Dr. Harsen has, for a quarter of a century past, steadily borne an honorable part. He has contributed to all our institutions of learning within the State, and some even beyond its limits.

As a son, a brother, a relative and friend, he was all that could be desired—dutiful, loving, kind and faithful. The widow and the fatherless have found in him a protector, while the poor have been the recipients of his bounty.

Dr. Harsen was a physician by profession, though his circumstances left him no time to practice. During the cholera in 1832, he devoted himself with great assiduity to the relief of the unfortunate, and never has he declined to give advice to the suffering, though he declined all pecuniary reward.

The following resolution passed, at a special meetin of the New York Academy of Medicine, will show the consideration in which he was held by the profession in this city:

Resolved, That in the decease of Dr. Harsen this academy mourns the loss of an honored Fellow, and this community, of a great public benefactor. Blessed by a kind Providence with large wealth, inherited from his ancestors, he dispensed it with a liberal hand in the promotion of the great interests of science and humanity. 'To raise the fallen, to succor the wounded and distressed, to minister to the neglected, to visit the forsaken, to remember the forgotten,' was the peaceful and pleasant mission of his daily life. His native city will long cherish the memory of one of her most worthy sons, while the memory of his distinguished philanthropy,

[Harson, Jacob]

his whole-souled benevolence, his conscientious charity, will enshrine him in the hearts of the profession of which he was an honored member."

At the New York Historical Society, "eloquent and touching remarks respecting the death of Dr. Harsen," were made by Mr. Gerard, Rev. Dr. Osgood, and Hon. Luther Bradish, President of the Society.

Dr. Harsen died on the evening of Dec. 31, 1862, at the age of 54 years. Dr. [Thomas J.] Sawyer performed the services at the house, after which, in accordance with the wishes of some of his friends, his remains were taken to St. Bartholomew's church, where the Episcopal service was read, and the body then borne and deposited in Trinity Cemetery.

Christian Ambassador, New York NY, Sat. 10 Jan 1863
[a Universalist newspaper]

from WEALTH FIFTY YEARS AGO III
A Half-Century-Old List of New York's Rich Men

THE SUN publishes to-day the third installment of the names of New Yorkers who fifty years ago were wealthy...

HARSEN, DR. JACOB.....\$800,000

Dr. Harsen is a very benevolent individual, and President of one of the city missionary societies. His father, Col. Cornelius Harsen, left a donation of \$6,000 as a fund for the benefit of the widows and orphans of deceased clergymen of the sect to which he belonged—Universalists—of which Dr. Jacob is also a greatly respected member.

The Sun, New York, Sun. 21 Mar 1897

Transcribed on 24 Jan 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY