

[Hawkes, William]

DEATHS.

In Hannibal, Oswego co., on the 7th ult., Mr. WM. HAWKES, in the 79th year of his age. This aged servant was one of the early immigrants of the town of Hannibal, and of course endured the hardships and trials attendant upon the settlement of a new country.—He was a firm believer in the “restitution of all things,” and lived every way consistently with the spirit of that holy doctrine. Never was he solicited to give any thing for the support of our cause in vain. His heart and hand were ever open to the wants of the poor and needy. He longed for the time to come when he should [would] pass away to join the company of his wife, who left him about two years ago.. The funeral obsequies were observed at the Presbyterian church in Hannibal, when the writer, who endeavored to administer the consolations of the gospel, was assisted by the Baptist and Methodist clergymen of that place. In some respects it was one of the most interesting funerals that I ever attended. I bless God for the influence which caused those two brothers to occupy the desk with me. Such occurrences are full of interest, because they manifest a good, christian spirit, and betoken the “good time coming.” There was another interesting occurrence. While the mourners were taking their lasts view of the corpse, one of the bearers—they were all white headed old gentlemen—arose and said, “If it will not be intruding, I wish to say a few words. I have been acquainted with Mr. Hawkes 46 years. I know him to have been an honest and upright man; I never knew any hurt of him; never heard a person say any thing against him.” The second bearer said, “I have known Mr. Hawkes nearly as long; lived near neighbor to him, and we never had the first word of difficulty; not any unkind feeling ever existed between us.” The third bore the same testimony. I pretend not to relate all they said, but this is the substance of it. One of those men is Deacon of the Baptist church, the others are members of the Presbyterian church.—To me it was a rich scene to se them so interested in the character of an open defender of the Universalistic faith, and to hear them eulogize it so highly. Not a dry eye was in the house. Three sons and one daughter are left to mourn his loss, who may well be proud of the reputation their father gained, and the uncommon good he has left behind him. May peace be with them now and ever more.

J. W. B.

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 2 May 1857
[a Universalist newspaper]