

[Hayward, Sophia Healy]

DEATHS.

In Genoa, Cayuga co., Jan. 14, Mrs. SOPHIA H. HAYWARD, wife of Rev. H. [Henry] L. Hayward¹.

Though the *Ambassador* of the 21st ult. contained an announcement of the decease of this estimable lady, it is due, I think, that some further notice of her departure be taken. Mrs. H. was educated a Universalist. Still, the subject of religion seemed never to excite a very strong interest in her mind, until near the completion of her 18th year. About that time she attended a meeting of the St. Lawrence Association, the exercises of which stirred the very foundations of her being, revealed to her the excellence of Christianity, and the glory of a religious life. Henceforth to the day of her departure, she was a Universalist not in profession alone, but in reality. The doctrine of impartial grace was not only dear to her, but dearer than aught else below the skies. To her, moreover, was given...the opportunity to test its power, for she was an invalid for eleven years. She herself, as did many of her friends, many times expected that the hour of her release had come. Still she lived on, against the expectations of all who knew her situation. Since about the first of last March, however, she had had a constantly increasing cough, which, owing to the great soreness of her lungs, subjected her to indescribable suffering, rapidly wearing away her strength, and consuming her flesh. For about twelve weeks prior to her death she was confined to her bed; and as those who watched by her side can testify, they were weeks of intense agony. For a season prior to her departure, and while her excruciating pain seemed to be somewhat alleviated, she enjoyed a most heavenly frame of mind. Conscious that her death was near, she made, with her husband, all the useful arrangements for her funeral, spoke of the friends by whom she would desire to be remembered, and of the little keepsakes given them... Death had not a terror, and she spoke of it with as much cheerfulness as do people of the most ordinary event in life. Her departure therefore was exceedingly peaceful... It was literally falling asleep—falling asleep in Jesus. Her funeral was attended in the Universalist Church in Genoa, on the Tuesday following her decease... May our brother who has so often been called to minister consolation to others, be abundantly comforted in this his great sorrow... May the Society to which the bereaved husband ministers be abundantly compensated for their manifold kindnesses to him and his, and find this event sanctified to their highest good. The disease of which Mrs. H.—of which her mother and three sisters before her died, was consumption. Her age was 35 years and 7 months.

Christian Ambassador, Auburn, NY, 4 Feb 1854
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 29 Dec 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

¹ Married: In Canton on the 8th inst. by Rev. F. J. Briggs, Rev. Henry S. Hayward of Champion, Jefferson Co. and Sophia G. Healy of Canton. (*Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate*, Utica NY, 29 May 1840)