

[Lamb, Lydia]

DEATHS.

In Mexico, Oswego co., Feb. 24th, of consumption, Mrs. LYDIA LAMB, widow of the late Joseph Lamb, aged 66 yeas and 4 months. Mrs. Lamb had been for many years a Universalist, not only in theory but in practice a sincere, devout and consistent Universalist. In many trials and afflictions through life, it had strengthened and sustained her, and in the hour of death it proved a source of ample support, and enabled her to down to the grave with the full assurance that death would release her from all her sorrows, and that her freed spirit would wing its way to that eternal home above, where in the presence of God and his holy angels at the feet of Jesus, she [w]ould meet with all her loved and lost of earth that had gone before. She has left three sons to mourn her loss, but one of which was present at her funeral. Her second son is in Washington Territory, and of course has not yet learned the sad loss which he has sustained. The eldest is the Rev. Henry Lamb of the Methodist Episcopal Church... He was sent for on Monday previous to her death...and on Thursday, the morning after she died, was again sent for to attend the funeral, but he did not come, and Allen, her youngest son, was left alone to follow his mother's remains to the grave... [Later it would be learned that Henry had been seriously ill at the time of the funeral. Clearly there was animosity between him and the writer, who had been her pastor.]

She was anxious in her death as well as in her life to show to the world that she loved the glorious truth of a world's salvation. Her funeral was attended at the Presbyterian church in Mexico, on the 27th ult. At her request J. W. Bailey of Fulton [a Universalist] preached a funeral discourse upon the occasion. Rev. Mr. Davis, of the Baptist church, was present and kindly assisted in the exercises. The burial service in the Gospel liturgy, by her request, was also used in the church and at the grave. Fearful that some might say that she had wavered, and in the hopes, too, that she might thus reach the minds of some that otherwise she could not, she also prepared a lengthy letter addressed to her surviving friends, giving an account of her religious experience, which she put into the hands of the writer a few weeks previous to her death, and which was read from the pulpit at her funeral. A large audience was in attendance and listened with marked attention during the protracted exercises...

The Universalist Society of Mexico, of which she was a worthy member, have sustained a loss in her death which will be felt indeed. Yet we feel that our loss has been her gain, and though our hearts are saddened by her absence from our little assembly, we will rejoice that she has gone to rest in those "mansions not made with hands, eternal and in the heavens."

W. S. G. [Rev. William S. Goodell]

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 20 Mar 1858
[considerably abridged]