

[Locke, Ruth S. and Locke, Mary T.]

DEATHS.

In Union, Broome county, December 12th, by the hands of their mother in a paroxysm of insanity, two daughters of Edmund H. and Samantha Locke.

During the last Winter and Spring, Mrs. Locke was quite insane. Every thing a kind husband could do for her comfort and recovery was performed. A journey was made with her to the East, from whence she returned this Fall with the hope that she was now restored to health and reason. From the evidence laid before the inquest, it appears that Mr. Locke and his two sons were absent from the home. One of the sons returned, and went upstairs to get some corn, and there saw his mother and two sisters in bed. The mother hurried him down as soon as possible. Soon after Mr. Locke returned home, and inquired for Mrs. L. The boy said she was up stairs playing with the children. He immediately went up stairs, and beheld a most appalling sight—his daughters both dead, and his wife gasping as if dying—the throats of all three cut, and the razor in her hands whence it was wrested only by the main strength of two individuals. Though Mrs. L.'s throat was cut in three or four places, it is believed she will recover. She had previously manifested some little wildness by here eyes. The verdict of the jury was "That RUTH S. LOCKE, and MARY T. LOCKE, came to their sudden deaths by the hand of an insane mother."

The funeral was attended on the Monday following, at the house of Mr. Locke. An application was made, by our friends, for the Presbyterian (or Union) house in the village of Union, but we were denied it, on the plea that "the Universalists were not evangelical Christians!"

It is due, in consideration of the circulating reports, to say that Mrs. Locke is a member of the *Baptist* church; Mr. Locke is a Universalist, and is consoled and comforted by his faith. The funeral sermon was preached by the writer.

Wm. M. DeLong

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Fri. 22 Jan 1841
[a Universalist newspaper]