

[McKinstry, Robert]

ROBERT M'KINSTRY, ESQ.

One by one the Fathers of our city are passing away. We are called to-day to the painful duty of recording the death of our time honored, and much respected citizen and neighbor, Robert McKinstry. Though having reached the ripe old age of 76,—that to which few are permitted to survive,—he retained his mental vigor to the last. His physical strength 'tho greatly taxed during the past summer, did not fail him until his work would seem to have been nearly completed. The Orphan Asylum of this city originated mainly by himself and his benevolent consort, who has "gone before" to enjoy her reward, has [had] ever had his incessant care and watchfulness. During the past summer, in the hottest of the weather, has been laboring about the buildings and grounds of that Institution. It has ever been near to his philanthropic heart.

Robert McKinstry was a gentleman of the old school,—plain and unostentatious in his dress and deportment,—exact to a nicety in his business habits and transactions,—he acquired the confidence of all with whom he came in contact,—hating every thing like hypocrisy or pretention. He would sometimes express his aversion with deserving severity when such qualities came in collision with him, yet ye was habitually kind, genial and at times humorous. He was emphatically an industrious man,—never idling away his time in foolish or vain pursuits, or conversation. When the Mayor of our City many years ago, we well remember seeing him with hoe in hand superintending the repairing of our streets. Whatever he had to do, he did with his might, and did it well. He has held various other offices in our city and county, and in all of them conducted the business entrusted to his care with exactness and with entire satisfaction to the community. He has been an office bearer in the Universalist church of this city ever since 1817.

He has been engaged in active business in this city for more than fifty years, and has ever borne the reputation of a man of the strictest integrity and of superior business qualifications. Few men have lived more respected, and few die more lamented.

*Hudson Daily Star, Hudson NY, Fri. 28 Oct 1870*

[McKinstry, Robert]

The Late Robert McKinstry

Yesterday we made brief mention of the death of ROBERT MCKINSTRY, one of our oldest and most esteemed citizens. A correspondent furnishes us with the following additional tribute:

"The memory of ROBERT MCKINSTRY will be cherished by those who mostly participated in his charity. Mr. MCKINSTRY was born in Columbia County, and came to Hudson when a boy, as clerk for Abner Hammond. He engaged in business for himself during the early years of his manhood, and through a long course of active business life was distinguished for sterling integrity of character. During all these years of incessant application to business, he occupied the official positions of Mayor of the city of Hudson, Treasurer of Columbia County, and Member of Assembly. For a number of years he was Director and vice President of the Farmers' National Bank, and by his sound financial advice, added to its success as a banking institution. These public duties were performed with that assiduity for which he was so justly known.

Mr. MCKINSTRY was early in life identified with the Universalist Church of this city. A strong believer in its distinctive theology, he made manifest its creed by deeds of charity. During the greater part of his life he held office in the Church [as a board trustee] and largely contributed for the building of the new edifice.

Mr. MCKINSTRY was the founder of the Hudson Orphan asylum, an institution that has accomplished a vast amount of good in this city and county. In this institution, as one of its officers, he has always been ready with his advice and money to advance the establishment and work.

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