

[Montgomery, Ruby M. Houghton]

DEATHS.

In Alexander, Sept. 24, Mrs. RUBY M., consort of H. [Henry] R. Montgomery¹, aged 34 years. In recording the departure of this amiable and excellent woman, we cannot let the opportunity pass without saying, that in her sickness and death we have a most striking illustration of the power of Christian faith to sustain and comfort the frail children of earth in the midst of the most severe and awful sufferings, and a triumphant refutation of the oft repeated saying that Universalism will do to live by, but not to die by. In faith, our sister was a Universalist, and had been for many years.... The sufferings of Sister M. were very great—her paroxysms of pain were severe in the extreme. Yet she endured all patiently, and without a murmur, often expressing much sympathy for those who had the care of her. On one occasion she had a most enrapturing and spirit-gladdening vision of the future world. It was about four days before she died, and after a very sever paroxysm of pain, and when she and her friends [e.g. family] thought she was dying. After the pain had ceased, she lay quiet a few moments, with her eyes closed. Suddenly she threw her hands on the bed two or three times, with a quick, joyous motion, and her whole countenance lighted up with a glad smile, as she said with much animation, "Good! Good! My time has come. Glory, Glory! My only one. Don't mourn for me! Be happy." As her friends stood weeping and lamenting around her dying couch, she said, with tone and emphasis indescribable, "Why can't you let me die when my time has come." After a moment's pause she said—"Angel sister, (a child she had lost), and sainted mother²." Referring again to her child, and three of her brothers, departed ones, and speaking of them by the familiar and endearing applications with which she addressed them while living, she said, "My own precious one—little bright hair—sweet baby, Anna, and angel mother—they all hold out their hands to me. I know now why this respite is given.—It is that I might tell you this." She then conversed with her companion and child [Edgar], giving the latter such advice as only a mother can give, and telling him that when he planted roses on her grave, to remember that his mother was in heaven. Such was the brightness and joyousness of our sister's vision of the future world, in the immediate prospect of death; and happy would she have been if her hour had indeed come. But it pleased God to spare her a little time longer, and to subject her to still more pain and suffering, perhaps that her friends might be more willing to part with her. Her reason continued to the last. She was patient and resigned at all times; and we have no reason but to doubt but that she died in full faith of the reality of what she saw in holy vision—in full faith of

[Montgomery, Ruby M. Houghton]

meeting all the dear ones that had passed away, and ultimately the unnumbered millions of our race.

May her last days be as peaceful, joyous and blessed as hers; and may the richest of Heaven's blessings be with all that mourn. The funeral was attended at the Universalist church on the 25th, and in accordance with the oft-expressed desire of the deceased, the services were conducted by the writer.

S. [Samuel] Goff

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 29 Oct 1853
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 23 Dec 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

¹ Married: In Alexander, Genesee Co. on 13 Oct 1841 by Rev. B. B. Bunker, Henry R. Montgomery and Ruby Houghton, both of Alexander. (*Western Luminary*, Rochester NY, 19 Apr 1842 and *Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate*, Utica NY, 22 Apr 1842)

² Martha Houghton