

[Oakley, Zophar B.]

DEATHS.

In Huntington, L. I., Feb. 25th, Hon. ZOPHAR B. OAKLEY, aged 64 years.

In Huntington, L. I., Feb. 17, Col. ISAAC CONKLIN, in the 76th year of his age.

Zophar B. Oakley—Isaac Conklin

[slightly abridged]

BR. AUSTIN:—Although we have sent notices of the death of the two above named individuals, for insertion under the appropriate heading in the *Ambassador*, the prominent position which they have occupied among their fellow citizens, and especially in the Universalist Society in this town (Huntington, L.I.,) calls for a more extended notice. They have both been marked men, and have exerted a wide influence in this community.

Col. Conklin was born in this village, and has spent his life here, with the exception of a few years spent in New-York City.

Mr. Oakley was born at West Hills, in this town, about three miles south of Huntington village. His mother dying while he was yet an infant he was brought up by his maternal grandfather, Mr. Zophar Brush. Soon after he had attained his majority he married Miss [Charlotte] Chichester, sister of Abner Chichester, Esq., of New-York—removed to his village and entered upon an unusually successful career of mercantile life. He commenced business in a humble way, but continued to enlarge it from time to time, until he found himself master of, perhaps, the most extensive and varied establishment on Long Island. And what may seem so strange to many, and yet, it is no boast when applied to him, after having been engaged in business for over forty years, none can point to a *single instance* where he has swerved from the strictest honesty and integrity. He, and Col. Conklin equally with him, was honest from a deep-seated religious principle. Throughout his whole course of life he cultivated, successfully, the highest attributes of his nature, and was, in the truest sense, a good man.

They have both represented their native county, (Suffolk,) in the State Legislature, Col Conklin two terms and Mr. Oakley one.

During their long and useful lives the utmost good friendship and harmony has subsisted between them. They took sides with opposing political parties, but it never weakened for a moment their mutual confidence and respect.

At the organization of the Universalist Society in this town in 1836, they both took a prominent and active part. Col. Conklin was chosen Chairman of the first meeting, and was continued in that office for six years in succession. They were both members of the first Board of Trustees, Col.

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Conklin continuing to serve until 1852, and Mr. Oakley to the time of his death. They labored zealously for the prosperity of the Society while they lived—contributing liberally to defray its expenses—were constant in their attendance on public worship, and lived their profession; and Mr. Oakley, being possessed of more abundant pecuniary means, has left it a generous legacy which places it above the reaches of want.

In their death they have left us and the world a richer legacy in the testimony they have borne to the sustaining power of the doctrine of God's impartial grace. They died as they had lived—strong in the faith. We constantly pray, "Let my last end be like his."

...Mr. Oakley spoke often of his decease, with all the calmness with which he would have conversed on a journey of pleasure...He remarked the day but one before his death, that he knew, as he approached the lonely valley, that his faith had power to sustain him in such an hour, and he reaffirmed the same truth in the last words he ever uttered, except to speak the name of his son-in-law, Mr. C. D. Stuart, to call him to his bed-side.

The loss to our Society in the death of these two members is great. We miss them from the walks of life—the church, the communion table—we miss their counsel and encouragement, but we cherish the hope that they are this day praising God in "Mount Zion, the Heavenly Jerusalem"... and... are sitting at the feet of Jesus, the Mediator of the new Covenant. They "rest in peace."

S. J. [Samuel Jenkins]

*Huntington, L. I.*

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 20 Mar 1858  
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 8 Feb 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY