

[Ransom, Lucy Stacy]

Obituary.

It is with indescribable emotions of profound grief, mingled with chastened joy and devout gratitude to the divine Author of our being, that I have seated myself to announce the departure of one long and favorably known to many, very many Universalists in Central New York, and especially, many of our early preachers in that region, and whose absence will be mourned by a numerous circle of admiring friends.

Departed this life, at the residence of her only daughter, in the town of Osage, Mitchell Co., Iowa, September 24, 1865, Mrs. Lucy Ransom, relict of Robert Ransom, late of Fenner, Madison Co., New York, just entered upon the 74th year of her age.

In the departure of Mrs. Ransom I experience an irreparable bereavement. She was the oldest child of my oldest brother [Rufus]; and from infancy, dear to me as a child of my own. She was the fond pet of my boyhood, the loving and beloved pupil of my riper years, and the Christian sister and companion of my age. With inexpressible delight I first taught her infant lips to pronounce her own name, the name of her parents and many others, and the name of the town, county and state of her nativity; she was born in the town of New Salem, County of Hampshire, and state of Mass. From childhood she manifested a quick and lively perception, great docility and aptness to learn, and a most vigorous and retentive memory, which she retained through life—she was a living record of passing events. She early manifested a religious inclination. God made her a Universalist. He had bestowed upon her a moral and spiritual constitution that could not be satisfied with limited views of His Wisdom, Power and Grace; and with what gusto did she drink in the evidence of the word of divine inspiration, and with what confidence did she trust in His promises, and with what satisfaction did she rest in the assurance of their fulfillment through the Divine Mediator!

She united with the church that I ministered to in 1817. And her life has been a practical illustration of the superior excellency of the doctrine she avowed. Her integrity won the confidence of all her acquaintances, her truthfulness commanded the respect of all, her kindness and benevolence blessed the sick, the poor, and the needy, and her Universal charity and love combined in one fraternity or sisterhood her numerous associates.

I brought her into the country—Madison Co., N.Y.—and married her to her husband, whom she buried eight years ago.

She has experienced a share of the trials, bereavements and sorrows incident to a mortal pilgrimage. Besides her husband, she had buried four [five] children [Polly in 1834, Lois in 1835, Erastus in 1838, Mary in 1839

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and Rufus in 1858], both parents, three brothers and three sisters! And her surviving children, seven in number, six sons [including Robert, David, Reuben, Charles, Anson] and one daughter [Lucy], all now having families, are widely scattered, residing in five different states.

But under all these trying vicissitudes she has [obliterated] inspiring resignation to the divine will, and a cheerful compliance with every known duty.

She remained in the house and on the property her husband left her, in the town of Fenner, Madison Co., until a year ago last summer, when her children all having left that section, and settled in distant parts of the country, she sold her property and settled up her temporal affairs, with a design to make each and all of them a personal visit once more in the flesh if possible. Kind Heaven smiled on her purpose, and gave her health and strength, and means to carry her design into successful execution. She had children settled in Buffalo, and in the states of Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, and other localities in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Minnesota.

Having completed her arrangements early in the Fall of 1864, she bade farewell to Fenner, where she had mostly reared her numerous family, and started on her lonely tour...

She spent a short season with her children in Buffalo; from there she went to my (then) residence in Western Pennsylvania [Columbus, Warren Co.] There she pursued her journey, travelling without any accompanying acquaintance, by short stages, from one station to another, ...making in her whole travel, after leaving Fenner before she got settled with her daughter, where she closed her travels and her mortal pilgrimage, more than 1500 miles! ...It seems that a mysterious Providence had directed her course (and she appreciated it) in bringing her to the spot where, in preference to all others, she would have chosen to finish her mortal race, the arms of her only daughter.

Her sickness was severe, but not of long duration. About three weeks before her final exit, she was attacked with the prevailing disease, dysentery, which was prostrating and sweeping off many from this mortal stage. Her constitution, naturally strong and vigorous, for a short season combated the disease and afforded trembling hope of final triumph; but age was against her, and the tears of affection, and the ardent prayers of loving hearts availed not...; nature yielded, and the immortal soul was liberated from its earthly, mouldering tenement. Though suffering most of the time with acute pain, she retained her reason, her faith and her hope to the last, appreciated her condition, spake freely of her approaching change, expressed her reconciliation and readiness to go, and quoted the words of the Apostle, "I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished my course." She conversed freely with her children present, one

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son and one daughter, in regard to her present feelings and future hopes; admonished them not to indulge in useless grief, but be reconciled to the divine will; and taking the hand of each in her cold dying hand, prayed devoutly for all her children, and blessed them...

The weather being exceedingly warm, and mortification immediately following death, it was impossible to obtain a Universalist preacher for the funeral, no one being nearer than 65 miles. The services were therefore attended at the Congregationalist church, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Smith, with whom she had formed a very happy acquaintance, officiating. His discourse was highly commendatory of the deceased, and gratifying and consoling to the mourners. He spake boldly of her as a Universalist, but at the same time as a devout Christian, whose life gave ample testimony to the sincerity of her profession, and of its sustaining and consoling influence.

Such, in brief, has ben the life and death of one of earth's most worthy inhabitants. She has left us the best legacy a mother, a sister or a friend can bestow, that of an example of a well spent life, and a peaceful and happy close.

We mourn, because we know not how to spare her; but with our mourning we rejoice that she is delivered from the pains of the flesh and the turmoils of earthly cares and perplexities. And in reviewing her whole life—the beginning, middle and close of her earthly pilgrimage—we feel ready to exclaim, "Let me live the life of the righteous, yea, let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his [hers]."

N. [Rev. Nathaniel M. Stacy]

Geneva, November, 1865

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[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 28 Oct 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY