

[Ross, James M.]

CHENANGO COUNTY
Our Special Correspondence

NORWICH, March 20.—The funeral of James Ross, who committed suicide, was held this afternoon at the Birdsall Street (Free Baptist) Church. Rev. Daniel Ballou, of Utica [a Universalist] officiated, assisted by Rev. Mr. Stone, pastor of that church. Mr. Ballou chose for his text Ecclesiastes viii: 8, "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death." The discourse was a very able effort, and of a most comforting and consoling character to the bereaved. Every sentence seemed to come from a heart overflowing with compassion, tenderness and love. In the course of his remarks the speaker put forth the pretty well established truth or belief, based upon the highest medical authority, that no man who took his own life was absolutely in his right mind. The tenacity with which we cling to life was cited as evidence that no man of himself would destroy it. He disabused the idea that every person who committed suicide was lost, that such could not see the kingdom of God. There were worse crimes than that of taking one's own life, the taking of the life of another, or a course of conduct that leaves one's name blackened and forever dishonored and disgraced. The sermon was full of interest throughout, and was listened to with the deepest feeling and attention, not only by the relatives of the deceased, but by a large audience of sympathizing friends. The singing was excellent, Albert Cary and Mr. Pease, with Miss Carrie Cary and Mrs. Charles Button, forming the quartet.

Morning Herald, Utica NY, Thu. 21 Mar 1878

Transcribed on 25 Jan 2019 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY