

[Sheldon, Harleigh W.]

Death of Harleigh W. Sheldon

On Tuesday evening of last week, dispatch came of the serious illness of Harleigh W. Sheldon, of Neillsville, Wis. His father-in-law, Dr. R. R. Sherman, of this village, took the first train west and on Saturday evening returned the sad intelligence that Mr. Sheldon died at four P.M. of that day. It is not known with what disease he was afflicted. It is expected that his remains will be brought here for burial, that they will arrive Wednesday, and that the services will be Thursday, conducted by this masonic lodge of which he was a member.

Mr. Sheldon's parents reside in Lisbon, from which town he came to this village in the fall of 1869 to attend the [St. Lawrence] University, being a member of the class of 1873. The other members of the class are Miss Annette J. Shaw, Mrs. Bernhard J. Pink, Miss Lois I. Witherbee, Messrs. F. L. Backus, H. A. Merrell, F. W. Spicer and C. L. Simmons. In 1872 Mr. Sheldon commenced the study of law in the office of Sawyer & Russell, but continued his studies at the University, graduating in 1873. He then took a post graduate course of one year without dropping his law studies. In the summer of 1875 he left the law office and went to Neillsville, Wis., where he formed a law partnership with James O'Neill, formerly from Lisbon. Mr. Sheldon was not admitted to the bar in this state, but was at once admitted on reaching Wisconsin. In his business with Mr. O'Neill he was very successful and at the end of the first year returned to Canton, and was united by marriage to Miss Ida Sherman. She returned with him to Neillsville, where they have since lived. Their time was passing pleasantly, he was hard at work, and one child, a boy now in his second year, had lent additional attraction to the home. Mr. Sheldon, though not of romantic disposition, lived much in the future, and it was his fond dream that in a few years he might acquire such a competence as to allow him to remove from the section he had selected and return to the older and more settled portion of the country where he and his family might enjoy more advantages than may be secured in a new country.—This hope so earnestly worked for and which with good health seemed likely soon to be realized is now ruthlessly broken.

It was the fortune of the writer to spend a few hours at Mr. Sheldon's home during the past summer, and his recollections there gathered are among the most pleasant of his many pleasant experiences in the West.—Mr. Sheldon was a royal good fellow, and we know that his many friends here and everywhere will as they year of his death turn to each other and say, "There is one less good fellow in the world." He was every inch a man, a strong, reliable, practical man, self-reliant and successful—such a man as the world needs, and it is not strange if some do in the sad moments of such a loss darkly question the ways of Providence.

Harleigh W. Sheldon is the first graduate of the College Department who has been called to his last rest. Thus far the ranks have been unbroken. Not again at our annual reunions will he return. Our brother has gone, and it is with sad thoughts of the future and pleasant recollections of the past that we offer this tribute from our heart.

A. A. S.

St Lawrence Plaindealer, Canton NY, Thu. 20 Mar 1879

[Sheldon, Harleigh W.]

FUNERAL OF H. W. SHELDON

Dr. R. R. Sherman, accompanied by his daughter, arrived with the remains of Mr. Sheldon on Wednesday evening of last week. The Masonic fraternity conveyed the remains to the residence of Dr. Sherman. [On] Thursday at one P.M., the relatives and friends of deceased, the College students and his brother Masons gathered at Dr. Sherman's, whence, after a brief prayer by Dr. Weaver, they proceeded to the Universalist church. President Gaines, in compliance with Mr. Sheldon's dying request, conducted the services and delivered the address. He alluded in feeling terms to his relations with the deceased when he was a student at the University and the pleasure with which he had witnessed his labors and his success since his graduation. While the near relatives suffered in the death of Mr. Sheldon the loss of a near and dear friend, it was to him, in a different sense of course, a loss from his little family of Alumni that has been forming by yearly additions since he became President of the college department. And it was the first loss he had suffered. Dr. Gaines also gave a just estimate of Mr. Sheldon's character and ability, and spoke of the lofty aim of all his endeavors. It was a fitting eulogy, clothed in simple, earnest words, and deeply impressed all who were interested in Mr. Sheldon.

When Dr. Gaines concluded, the masons, Rev. D. B. White acting as Master, conducted the usual masonic service. The procession was then re-formed as before, the masons preceding the hearse, and the mourners, the University Faculty, the Alumni and the students following it in the order we have named. At the new cemetery the concluding services were performed by the masons.

We learn from Dr. Sherman that Mr. Sheldon died of inflammation of the bowels and that he was sick about two weeks. Some three weeks or so previous to his death he visited a lumber camp located twenty miles from his residence. While going there his horse broke through the ice. He got thoroughly drenched and was obliged to continue on to the camp nearly frozen. There he was made as comfortable as possible, and returned home but was badly chilled on the return. He held up for a few days but was finally compelled to stop work. He grew rapidly worse and died, as we have stated, on Saturday, March 15th, the day after Dr. Sherman arrived.

On Tuesday of last week a meeting of the Union Alumni Association of the University was held at the office of the President of the Association, Dr. D. M. Robertson, Esq., in this village. A committee, consisting of A. A. Smith, L. P. Hale and N. L. Robinson, was appointed to consider what action should be taken. On its report the following, as expressive of the feelings of the Association, was adopted:

"The Union Alumni Association of St. Lawrence University enters on its records to-day the death of Harleigh W. Sheldon of the class of 1873. In his death we recognize for the first time the mournful event which has stricken from our number an *alumnus* of the College of Letters and Science. The sad intelligence has fallen upon us with the weight and sorrow of a personal affliction. We have lost a genial and sincere friend. His work has ended almost before it was begun, but we cherish among our richest treasures the memory of his life, to us and to his family so hope-inspiring and precious. In the character of our deceased brother were blended the most generous impulses of humanity. His heart was noble; his hand free. We cannot too earnestly commend the

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energy and untiring perseverance of his example; and we trust that in our worthy imitation of him his memory may find its most enduring monument.

“We tender our heartfelt condolence to his afflicted family, and venture to ask that they allow the bitterness of their grief to be softened by our sympathy. We join in their sorrow, and with many mourning friends we unite with them in expression of sincere regret at their and our common loss.”

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