

[Straat, Helen Adelia Eggleston]

MRS. HELEN A. STRAAT

Passed Away Very Suddenly at Her Home Sunday Morning

Friends of Mrs. Helen A. Straat of 58 Clinton-ave. who saw her in usual health on Saturday afternoon and evening, were greatly shocked on Sunday morning to learn that she had passed away shortly after the midnight hour.

For several years Mrs. Straat had been subject at intervals to a form of heart trouble which manifested itself in shortness of breath and a sort of asthmatic breathing, but for a number of weeks past she had experienced no difficulty with that. And yet the keen eye of her oldest son, F. Cyrus Straat of New York, who was in Cortland three weeks ago, noted a strange pallor in her countenance that was new to him and he was so troubled by the sight that he talked with one brother about it while here and informed his sister and other brother about it when he returned to New York. And two weeks later he felt impelled to come up to Cortland again to spend a Sunday with his mother. That last visit is now the greatest comfort in the world to him. But Mrs. Straat said that she was feeling unusually well and so expressed herself on Saturday evening.

At about 11 o'clock in the evening after all had retired Mrs. Straat arose and went to the room of her granddaughter, Ruth Straat, and said that she was not feeling very well and was having a little trouble in breathing. She thought that it would not amount to much, but perhaps Ruth had better call the wife of her other son, Mrs. Graham K. Straat, who lived in the other side of the house. Then she took the lamp and walked downstairs and lay down on a lounge in the sitting room.

The daughter came at once and applied such restoratives as had formerly been used with good results on such occasions, but in a few minutes she saw that they were not proving effective and quickly telephoned for Dr. Carpenter. The physician arrived in a few moments and thought perhaps it might have been a slight shock of paralysis [stroke] but her eyes were clear and in response to his request Mrs. Straat moved her arms and lower limbs with such freedom and ease as to convince him that this was not the case. Soon after midnight she seemed unconscious, and then, at the physician's request her neighbor, Mrs. A. D. LeRoy, said to her, "Mrs. Straat, do you know me?" Mrs. Straat opened her eyes at once with such a look of intelligence that it was evident that she had understood. She tried to speak, but could not do so. In a moment or two she lapsed into a state of unconsciousness that continued till the end came at about 1 o'clock, and during that last hour her breathing was so peaceful and quiet that the watchers by her bedside were hardly able to tell when the life passed.

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Helen Adelia Eggleston was born in Hamilton, N.Y., Aug. 29, 1832, and was the second of four daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Eggleston. It is a peculiar circumstance that the youngest of the four was the first to pass away, Mrs. E. M. Seacord, on Feb. 5, 1894; the next youngest next, Mrs. Pembroke Pierce of Homer on Dec. 14, 1901, now the next youngest, Mrs. Straat, and the oldest daughter survives, Mrs. S. M. Benjamin.

The deceased came to Cortland in early childhood with her parents who had purchased a farm near Polkville, east of this city, and there she grew to womanhood. On April 15, 1856, she was married to Cyrus G. Straat, who became one of the most prominent contractors and builders here in Cortland, and who died April 29, 1875. Four children had been born to them, who were left as little children for the mother to bring up. All have grown to an honored manhood and womanhood, which is one of the best testimonials to the mother's loving care, and all are now living, Frank Cyrus Straat of New York, Graham K. Straat of Cortland, Emma, the widow of the late L. K. Tenney, of Asbury Park, N.J., and Charles G. Straat of Asbury Park, N.J.

Mrs. Straat was a woman of strong character, a watchful and tender mother, who never thought it hard to do anything for her children, and one highly esteemed by a large circle of friends. She was a member of the Universalist church of this city.

The funeral will be held from her late residence, 58 Clinton-ave., tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The burial will be in the family lot in the Cortland Rural cemetery.

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