

[Thelving: Calista Cash & Clement]

DEATHS.

In the town of LeRoy, in the month of June, the following four persons from the same family:—

On the 2d, CLEMENT D. THELVING, aged 15 years.

On the 9th, Mrs. CALISTA THELVING, consort of John Thelving, 2d, aged 36 years.

On the 10th, Dr. FRANKLIN BRAINARD, (a young man employed in the family.)

On the 12th, Mr. JOHN THELVING, 1st, in his 80th year.

A mystery hangs over the distressful circumstances leading to their deaths. Sometime in the month of May, the whole family, consisting of Mr. Thelving and his lady, six children, his father and step-mother, and a hired man, were about the same time taken unwell. For a few days they kept about, but were soon confined with a distressing illness. The best medical aid was sought, several physicians were called and held in constant attendance. From the manifestation of the disease by its symptoms, it was unequivocally declared by the physicians, to be a case of poison by *white lead*. The house was closely examined, if possible to detect some circumstance, which should [would] lead to a discovery of the way and manner in which the lead was administered. In the wood house [woodshed] chamber a room was set apart as a meal room, in which a box was found with a quantity of white lead, left in painting the house. Conjecture immediately said, that by some accident, by children or otherwise, a portion of the lead had become mixed with the flour. For weeks a scene of distress followed, rarely ever witnessed. Every member of the family sick and nigh unto death. Some lying in a sort of stupor, others from a more acute inflammation in the bowels, racked with excruciating pain and spasms throughout the body and limbs. The four above named died of the disease.

Mrs. Thelving was a daughter of Capt. Cash of that town. She was an amiable companion, a kind mother and a beloved neighbor. She was a firm believer, and well instructed in the doctrine of universal grace. She exercised unmurmuring submission in view of her family, bore her own illness with patience, and manifested throughout the consoling power of her faith, her strong and sustaining hope looked on death with calmness, and met her faith with resignation.

Deacon John Thelving was a soldier of the revolution. He had for fifty years been a member of the Presbyterian church. He at last sunk [sic] down to his grave like a shock of corn fully ripe.

Dr. F. Brainard had made no profession of faith—but he met his fate with the most manly and perfect calmness; and when told he must die, expressed his readiness, and yielded up his spirit in hope.

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Mr. Thelving and his family of five children, the oldest 13 years, and the youngest 3 years, are quite feeble, but are in a fair way to recover. A funeral in memory of wife, child and father was attended in the new church in Stafford, and the consolations of the Gospel tendered by the writer of this article, from Job xiii: 15, first clause.

A. P.

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Transcribed on 6 Nov 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY