

[Thornton, Ezekiel]

DEATHS.

In Fort Plain, Montgomery county, N.Y., on Thursday, July 4th, Mr. EZEKIEL THORNTON, formerly of Cooperstown, Otsego county, aged 28 years. He was, as stated in another column of this paper, the principal workman on the Universalist church there, and by a fall, already described, had his wrist injured. The skin and muscles were broken, the bones dislocated and protruded through the wound. These were replaced, and as he was not otherwise visibly injured, little danger was apprehended. The inflammation, however, being great, mortification [gangrene] at length set in. When surgical aid was procured, he was thought to be in a state which would render amputation not only dangerous, but fatal. The most judicious management and attendance proved ineffectual in producing a freeing action in the unaffected parts of the system, and the mortification extended so as to terminate his life.

Mr. Thornton was an industrious and skillful mechanic; a man of good person and amiable manners, an even temper, most engaging disposition, an excellent constitution and noble fortitude of mind. He has left a widow and two lovely orphans—a boy of five years, the image of his parents, and a girl of seventeen months.—He had been a member of the Universalist society at Cooperstown since its formation [in April 1831], and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal order. They had lived together for six years, in the most perfect harmony and affection; and when the trying moment came, both exhibited an example of fortitude and resignation, which none can realize but those who know the consolations of religion. The husband, desirous to live on account of his family, yet resigned to the will of God—the wife, anxious to retain the object of her affection, yet prepared to drink the cup administered by the hand of Wisdom and Benevolence. The writer visited him on Tuesday morning, and was requested by him to continue with him until he should leave the world, or give hopes of recovery. Knowing his life to be in danger, he was conversed with in regard to his state of mind... He then addressed his companion: "Maria," said he, remember me—bring up the children to good habits—see that William has sufficient opportunity for education. Be composed—be thankful that I was not killed on the spot, but have lived to converse with you in the enjoyment of my reason..." His wife was now overcome, but afterwards replied, that she should [would] endeavor to submit to the will of Providence, and comply with what he had requested in regard to the children... He was soon asked if he had any requests in particular to make, should he be called away; and at different times made the following that his boy, and other relatives, and the Rev. Job Potter, of Cooperstown might be sent for. That should he die, he

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might be buried at Fly Creek. This was promised, but he was afterwards told that should he die of mortification it would be impossible. He then wished to be disinterred and carried thither in the winter. He also requested that the Rev. J. Potter should superintend, as far as convenient, the education of his boy. He expired at six o'clock on Thursday morning, with apparently but little pain; and although for the last thirty-six hours he had been under the influence of stimulating medicines, he retained, when awake, the vigor of his mind, knew at sight those who called, and conversed with them rationally. He was buried the same day, in the afternoon, and the consolations of the Gospel were administered to the bereaved by Rev. J. Potter, in the presence of an attentive and sympathizing audience.

L. C. B. [Rev. Lewis Cresaba Browne]

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