

[Van Schaack, Egbert]

Egbert Van Schaack

At his residence in Spencerport, N.Y., March 14th, 1862, Mr. EGBERT VAN SCHAACK, aged 45 years. On our settlement in the city of Albany, in 1830, Egbert was a youth engaged in the store of his father, Stephen Van Schaack, who was the prominent member of the Universalist church then recently established in that city. ...He was fond of music, and at an early age had charge of the choir, to which he gave most earnest attention. Soon after our removal from that place he was united in marriage to our youngest sister [Jerusha Amorette Williamson], with whom he lived until the day of his death and...for nearly a quarter of a century he was to us a very dear and well beloved brother. For some twelve years past he had been suffering under the ravages of consumption, and his case presented one of the most remarkable instances of ten

acity of life that ever fell under our observation. In the fall of the year 1853 he was given up by his physicians as past all hope of recovery, and as a last resort he went with us to Mobile, Ala.... But he rallied and returned to his home, and for some eight years continued to give his attention to an extensive business. But all this time he was a walking skeleton.... During all that time our constant expectation had been that the next news from him would be that of his death. But his energy of character was indomitable, and in our opinion it was that alone which prolonged his life for years. He was well aware that his disease was fatal, but he resolutely determined to combat it to the last, and that he did to the astonishment of all who knew him—.... We had long looked for his death, and yet when the news came, we mourned....But we mourn most of all for a dear sister, in the loneliness of her widowhood. Nevertheless we feel that instead of repining we ought rather to bless God for his precious gift.... The wonder is not that he died, but that his life was prolonged, through years, beyond all human calculation or probability.

I. D. W. [Rev. Isaac Dowd Williamson]

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 30 Aug 1862

[a Universalist newspaper]