



SAUNDERS \* ALFRED CENTRE  
FRIENDSHIP, N.Y.



In Memoriam.

*FUNERAL SERVICES*

OF

*Rev. A. V. Hull, D. D.*

HELD AT

*ALFRED CENTRE, N. Y.,*

SEP. 7, 1881.



ALFRED CENTRE, N. Y.:  
American Sabbath Tract Society's Print.  
1881.

# Funeral Services.

---

The services took place at 2 o'clock P. M., Sept. 7th, 1881, beginning with prayer at the house, by Rev. J. Summerbell, pastor of the Richburg Church. In the introductory services at the church—which was packed to overflowing—an anthem was sung by the choir, followed by the reading of the seventeenth chapter of John, by Rev. Mr. Steele, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Almond. The choir then sung, "Servant of God, well done." Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Maxson, pastor of the Second Alfred Church, followed by singing, "Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep." The closing prayer was of-

## FUNERAL SERVICES.

---

ferred by Rev. Dr. Niles, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Hornellsville, followed by the anthem, "Let not your heart be troubled." The services at the grave were conducted by Rev. H. P. Burdick. The deacons of the Church, assisted by deacons from adjoining churches, served as pallbearers.

The pulpit, the Bible, and the surroundings were appropriately draped. Upon the coffin rested a cross of flowers, a crown and an evergreen column standing at the head, and a sheaf of wheat at the foot.

# SERMON.

---

BY J. ALLEN.

---

TEXT:—"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Tim. 4: 7, 8.

This Church, called on to-day, for the first time in its history, to bury a pastor, we, its members, meet in a new, most touching, and most testing service. For over thirty-five years, he who now lies peaceful before us has been, not only our pastor, but likewise personal friend, and brother, and father, all in one. He has gone out and in before us, as our undershepherd, leading us by the still waters of peace and prosperity. He has, in times of affliction, oh, how often, been the divinely-appointed means of restoring our souls with heavenly consolations, ever lead-

## SERMON.

---

ing in the paths of righteousness, and how many, as they walked through the valley and shadow of death, has he enabled to fear no evil, by helping them to firmly grasp the divine rod and staff that comforteth and supporteth, and to look to the heavenly hills whence cometh help. We all had learned to repose in him as a tower of strength, as a wise counselor, a safe guide, a friend ever to be relied on. We have seen, lo, these many years, not only the members of this Church, but a great cloud of witnesses, as well, in all the regions round about, how bravely, how valiantly, how sacrificially, and how well he has fought the *good* fight to the very end, and our tears of sorrow are illumed by the joyful assurance that to him has been given the crown of righteousness.

What is thus to you all an epochal day in your lives becomes to me personally the most trying one in my experience save the one, perhaps, when I was called to perform a like service for the late President Kenyon. Taken, at once, into his confidence, when he be-

## SERMON.

---

came pastor of this Church, he has ever been to me an elder brother. Coming to me in all times of doubt and difficulty and despondency, as well as in times of joy, consulting freely on textual interpretation and doctrinal points, rejoicing together over many a new book of value—thus closely bound together in all the joys and sorrows and labors of life, when he made known this, his last wish, it seemed impossible to fulfill it; but remembering that having performed the like service for the companion of his youth, and having officiated at that fortunate and blessed marriage altar whereby he was united to her who now here weeps a widow, and remembering that it was the last service I could perform for him, I tremblingly replied, I will try; and I now beseech your sympathies and your prayers.

On thus consenting, I inquired if he had any memoranda of his life and labors that might be used, he replied, not a scrap. His aim through life had been to go forward in



## SERMON.

---

whatever duty came to him, uncaring for his name in the future.

I have gathered, from other sources, the following brief data: He was born, October 18, 1808, in the town of Berlin, Rensselaer county; 1814, moved with his parents to this town; 1829, became a member of this Church, in the twenty-first year of his age; November, 1830, preached his first sermon; I have not been able to learn the time of his ordination; July 7, 1830, was married to Miss Phalla Vincent of Almond; 1833-1846, he was pastor of the Clarence Church, Erie county, thirteen years; May 1st, 1846, he became pastor of this Church; 1848-1862, President of the Trustees of Alfred Academy and University, thenceforward Vice President; 1858-1877, President of the Education Society; 1868, appointed Professor of Pastoral Theology in the Theological Department of Alfred University; 1872, appointed editor of the SABBATH RECORDER, entering upon the duties of the appointment in June; September 9, 1872, he was married to Mrs.

## SERMON.

---

Lura A. Hartshorn; May, 1881, preached his last sermon; at midday, September 5, departed this life.

Such is the meager outline of a great life. Let us, as best we may in these brief moments, consider some of the more salient points and characteristics of this life, and draw lessons of inspiration and guidance therefrom, for no teaching is so potent as great and noble living.

Our pastor, as if by a wise prevision, was endowed with a physical constitution, eminently fitted for the arduous labors which, under Providence, it was his mission in life to perform. He was a born athlete. Standing six feet in height, symmetrically and strongly built in every limb and fiber—with face of Grecian type and sculpturing—if he had lived in the days of Paul, he could have easily become a winner in those athletic exercises, or endured the hardships of the Roman legions whose tread shook the world, from both of which the apostle was wont to draw such frequent illustrations and en-

## SERMON.

---

samples—our text among the number—for the Christian athlete and soldier. As it was, he was, in his boyhood days, a leader wherever agility and strength was required. It was the same in early manhood in all work. He could easily cut and pile four cords of wood between sun and sun. He worked with this masterful swing and stroke all through life. Work was his joy, his life. He said to me a few days ago, "It seems to me that I have done the work of three to five men all these years. I have carried to the uttermost pound of my strength of the world's burdens. I have not knowingly shirked a single ounce. I have not known, for these many years what it is to be rested of the wearisomeness that overwork brings. In it I have been reminded of the saying of John Quincy Adams, that an old man has no time for rest. Time is too precious. But my work is ended. I must go." It was this unremitted overstrain that shortened his days, lengthened as they were; for with his physique, there was no natural reason why

## SERMON.

---

he might not have lived on yet several years.

Our pastor was likewise a mental athlete, strong, agile, ever alert; quick to see, grasp, appropriate and express a new truth, a prime gift for the preacher, in the requirements enumerated by Paul, and which our pastor gave early proof of as a common-school teacher, bringing, according to the testimony of his pupils, order out of chaos, and lighting up the whole school with a new and great enthusiasm for learning. As a dialectician he was adroit, supple, ingenious, quick to parry, prompt to attack, watchful of opportunity, being thus well fitted to become, as he did, not only a sleepless watchman on the walls of Zion, but likewise the chosen champion of the denominational faith and practice.

With a will, indomitable, masterful, self-reliant, giving power to stand squarely on both feet, and the ambidexter use of all his faculties, he was fitted to become a dominant power among men, a leader among leaders, a prince in Israel, whose regnancy had the

## SERMON.

---

express approval of nature's divine signature and seal.

Added to these attributes of strength and power, he possessed what is seldom in strong natures—a most delicate sensibility, an emotional nature, sensitively alive to loveliness in nature or life. To “the inquiring love of truth,” as Dr. Arnold expresses it, “there went along a divine love of beauty and goodness,” and gave him “that considerate sympathy and refined courtesy which invest with a peculiar attractiveness a few superior natures.” Shrinking with all the high, chaste delicacy and sensitiveness of a woman from the coarse, the low, he was attracted lovingly to the beautiful and good everywhere. Witness his lively appreciation of the beauties of nature, as expressed in the sculptured hills and valleys of this region; witness his sympathy with all gentle, sweet, noble living; witness his intense love of innocent, artless childhood; witness his tender loving treatment and care of animals; witness the simple neatness and order of his ap-

## SERMON.

---

parel, his model home with all its surroundings and appointments; witness the delicate amenities he carried into all the relations and activities of life. In short, he was a refined Christian gentleman, of the old school, if you please, a school fast disappearing in this age of rush and sharp incisive activity.

Thus endowed and panoplied by nature, when lifted by the divine life to a higher plane of living and thinking, and especially when the call to preach came, he gave himself utterly to the work. It was to him, from the very first and continually, not a profession merely, but a divine enthusiasm and joy—his life. From the start, and always, he had the same assurance of his divine call that Christ had respecting his teachings—"the common people heard him gladly." Commencing his ministry in an age when people believed more implicitly than now in a special divine call to preach, it was no unusual thing to hear those who had listened to him remarking, "Well, I guess there can be no question about *his* being a called

## SERMON.

---

preacher." "Not a bit of it," was the quick response. The approving seal of a common Christian consciousness was, from the first, set upon his ministry.

At the time of his entering upon this work, it was the common practice of preachers, through this region, to divide their time and labor between the ministry and some industrial pursuit. He said that he resolved at once to live by the gospel alone. Whether with bread or without it, whether he lived or perished, he would give himself entirely to the preaching of the Word. He accordingly set himself at once to the carrying out of Paul's injunction to Timothy: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine." "Do the work of an evangelist; make full proof of thy ministry." In addition to the duties imposed upon him as pastor of the little Church at Clarence, he traveled much and wide and far as an evangelist, at the promptings and lead of the Spirit, or the call for help from distant

## SERMON.

---

fields. These labors were greatly blessed. A notable illustration of this was his work as an evangelist in connection with the Hopkinton Church, R. I. Going there in midsummer, he appeared among them, as described by some that heard him, as the flaming prophet Elijah. With coat off, with countenance radiant with enthusiasm and the glory of his theme, he swept everything before him. Haying was stopped, the people flocked in crowds to listen. What was known to the older people as the "eight days' meeting" was held, continued there and in surrounding communities for two or three months. As the fruit of these meetings, nearly one hundred and fifty were added to the Hopkinton Church, while the whole number of converts including those of surrounding communities was variously estimated from three to five hundred.

He was occasionally employed by the Missionary Society. The following appears in its minutes for the year 1837: N. V. Hull was employed for the missionary year 1836,



SERMON.

---

tion, in intercourse with men, in travel, in books—wherever obtainable. Being one of those natures that readily and easily take on the polish of society, the transforming influence became quickly marked. My first remembrance of him is of his appearance in the pulpit when he first began to preach. Clad in coarse home-made garments, with coat off, with action angular, sharp, intense, as if chopping his daily four cords of wood, with voice keyed on the high monotonous pitch, popular in those days, with his mobile and expressive countenance radiant with enthusiasm and streaming with perspiration, he carried the audience literally by storm, moving, swaying it as he listed. After an absence of a few years he returned, and I could scarcely realize that it was the same man. The polish, the ease, the grace captivated, held me enthralled. The transformation from the rude, uncultured youth to the model gentleman was complete, and seemed to me nothing less than miraculous.

The mode and course of his theological

## SERMON.

---

studies were quite different from that laid down in the schools, nevertheless, very effective, and with many fine results. He made the Bible, and especially the New Testament portion, the initial point and the pervasive element in this study. Using the house of worship at Clarence for his study, he retired to it whenever opportunity permitted, and there memorized verse after verse, chapter after chapter, book after book, of the Bible, rehearsing them aloud, interspersing the exercise with song and prayer. He said this meeting-house became to him a very Bethel, wherein some of the most blissful moments of his life were past, frequently losing all note of time or place, so rapt became he in the entrancing study. As a result, the leading portions of the Bible became so a part of his mental being that, seldom or never, was he at a loss for a quotation, making it instantly and without the necessity of turning to the passage, giving, not only verses, but whole chapters, without the least apparent hesitancy. Often have I

## SERMON.

---

had occasion to note this facility, not only in the pulpit, but in discussions in his library, when, on any Bible thought or passage coming up, he could immediately give chapter and verse and context. This facility had, doubtless, somewhat waned in his later years.

In addition to this direct Bible study, he used all the side light attainable, for its elucidation. He prosecuted the study of Greek sufficiently to read the New Testament in the original. He gathered about him all the best commentaries, works on theology, and so far as his means would allow, all the leading books and publications of the day likely in any way to help him in his work. He unremittingly strove to keep pace with the age, well abreast of the thoughts and investigations that were shaping human progress, and to this end sought every book that would help on. His library is rich in works of this kind, being one of the best libraries for a minister we know. He did not, however, confine himself to books in seeking aids in his work. He mingled with men

## SERMON.

---

with this object in view. In his earlier years, he was wont to visit courts of justice to study human nature as related to crime and justice, and especially to witness the effect of argument and appeal of lawyers upon juries.

On assuming the pastorate of this Church, his labors became manifold and arduous. In addition to the care of this large Church, spread over a wide region, he soon established outlying preaching stations in various directions. This practice he has kept up through most of these years. For many years he was the regular and favorite preacher to the students. From the first, he took great interest in them, and they in him. One of the severest taxes upon his time and strength was the number and range of the funeral services he was called upon to perform. Being a favorite preacher of such sermons throughout a wide region, he was sometimes called upon to preach three such sermons in a day, frequently two, often having to travel far in this mission. The bright side to this pict-

## SERMON.

---

ure was that he was called equally wide and far to officiate at the marriage altar.

Coming here without any children of his own, he, at once, took to his heart all the children of his flock, adopting them as his own. Being the very embodiment of Christian courtesy and sympathy to all, his tenderness and love of children was very touching. Like a true and loving shepherd, he carried these lambs of his flock very close to his great and loving heart. He watched over, and prayed for, them with unremitting solicitude; rejoiced in their well-doing, followed them, and wept over them, in their waywardness, often more anxiously than their own parents. Many a sleepless and tearful night has he thus spent. Thus has grown up a generation that had learned to love him as a father. The active members of the church when he became its pastor, he has mostly buried; he has baptized most of the present active membership.

As a reformer, his labors were, likewise, manifold. In the early days of temperance

## SERMON.

---

and anti-slavery—those days that tried men—he was an acknowledged leader; and frequent were the calls upon him for lecturing and other labors in these fields. His eloquent and stirring appeals in behalf of temperance and liberty, had much to do in shaping public sentiment and moving to action.

He has been identified with all of the denominational enterprises—the Missionary, the Tract, the Publishing, the Educational—from their earliest inception to the present. Holding in them official positions almost continuously, they have received his earnest support, anxious solicitude, giving freely of time, labor, and means, for the advancement of their interests.

As editor of the SABBATH RECORDER, for the last nine years, both his labors and the circle of his influence have been greatly augmented. His pen has been a constant and effective defender and promulgator of the denominational faith and practice. The Sabbath, in special, has received his untiring attention. His discussions connected there-

## SERMON.

---

with have been marked by great candor, great courtesy, and great ability. His gracious words of counsel, of admonition, and of comfort, on various points of experimental religion, have touched responsive chords in many a soul.

The text reads, "and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." This was the great object for which Paul had made his good fight. It was not simply or chiefly for his own personal salvation and crown of righteousness, but for that of others, he had sacrificially lived and fought. Such also was the good fight made by our pastor. His warfare was a sacrificial one. His life was a libation, poured freely, even joyfully, for others. That others may be crowned with the crown of righteousness was the one great end of all his labors. As a good undershepherd, his life was motivated and inspired by the Great Shepherd, ready to lay down his life for the good of the sheep.

"I have kept the faith." This was the

## SERMON.

---

great motive power. Knowledge is power, but faith is a greater power. It lifts above all earthly influences and forces; above all fitful gust, or sweeping storm, to the calm regions where sweep with an even, perpetual flow, the balmy breezes of God. His was a living faith in Christ, as his personal Savior, and in God, as his reconciled Father. This living faith was the motive, the power, not of the earth, earthy, but of heaven, and supernatural—a living, divine energy, a vital force shaping his daily life as well as his public ministrations. The Word of God was the well-spring of life whence he drank perpetual drafts. It gave rule and guidance to his faith. He loved with an undivided heart its teachings, its commands, its doctrines. You have, for years, the ensample of a life of faith, actively, conspicuously, loyally lived out in your midst, based upon the Bible, ruled by its teachings, motivated by its spirit—both a pledge and a proof of the divinity of its origin, and of the religion it reveals. Whatever his infirmities, none saw



## SERMON.

---

them more clearly, lamented them more sincerely, or prayed over them more earnestly than himself. And he "grew in grace and the further knowledge of the truth" to the very end. His life grew more winning, beneficent, and tender, in its personal expression; more rich, instructive, and gracious, in its public ministrations to the end. The halo of a serene and benignant old age crowned him. He had become, indeed, a Father in Israel, whose words, by voice and pen, were reverently waited for.

Yes, he has fought a *good* fight—good, because fought, not for self-seeking or worldly, but for unselfish and divine, ends; good, because fought, not with carnal, but with spiritual weapons; good, because fought, not for earthly, but for heavenly, righteous crowns. But this good fight, thus bravely, unselfishly, righteously fought, is all at an end now, and the good soldier, "ready to be offered," has been called up higher to an exceeding great reward. The long pastorate has been closed, not by action of pastor or

## SERMON.

---

people, but by the Great Shepherd, who has bidden his faithful undershepherd to higher and diviner fields of usefulness and blessedness.

In passing, he has let fall his armor of God, his spiritual weapons—the mantle of charity, the helmet of salvation, the red-cross shield, the breastplate of righteousness, the girdle of truth, the sword of the Spirit, the sandals of the gospel of peace. Gather, ye, up these, reverently, lovingly, one by one, and panoply therewith him whom you may choose as his successor, praying that a double portion of his spirit may be both upon him and upon us all. And now may the benedictions of the All-compassionate Father descend and rest evermore upon the widowed one, upon all stricken relatives. upon this Church and people, and upon all whom this bereavement shall reach. Amen.

