

OBITUARY

Ziba H. Osmun, the subject of this brief sketch, was born in the beautiful valley of the Musconetcong, near Hackettstown, N. J., Oct. 12th, 1807. Of his early youth the writer hereof knows but little. He was twice married. His widow, and four sons by the first wife, survive him to mourn their irreparable loss, one of whom is Dr. S. R. Osmun, of Morristown.

He was converted in 1832, and joined the Presbyterian church of this place, of which he was a member for about four years. The doctrines and usages of the Methodist Episcopal church being more in accordance with his opinions and more congenial to his tastes, he withdrew from the Presbyterian church and connected himself with the M. E. church, of this town. He was appointed a class leader by Rev. Geo. Banghart, in 1844 or 1845, immediately prior to the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Tuttle, in 1846, which position he held until his death, which occurred last Sunday, Jan. 18th, 1880, at about 5 o'clock, P. M.

Time and time again he has expressed himself, that if it was the Lord's will, he would like to attend a good class-meeting in the morning, (he being the leader of the Sunday morning 9 o'clock class,) then listen to a good sermon, and attend Sunday school in the afternoon, then go home, lie down and go to Heaven.

If, as the Poet says:

"Prayer is the souls sincere desire,"

Then such was the prayer of our dear brother Osmun, and that it was literally answered we have the evidence up to the time that the spirit took its flight, and we can not doubt for a moment that while

"There was weeping on earth for the lost"

There was howling in grief for the ground
But rejoicing and praise, 'mid the sancti-
fied host,

For a spirit in paradise found?
Though brightness had passed from the
earth,

Yet a star was new born in the sky
And a soul had gone home to the land of its
birth,

Where are pleasures and fullness of joy?
And a new harp was strung and a new song
was given

To the breezes that float o'er the gardens
of heaven."

He had attended and led class in morning, which he seemed to enjoy greatly as usual, especially in seeing so many young converts present and hearing their testimonies and as was his custom on these occasions, he gave expression to his joy in songs and shouts of praise. He then attended public service at 10½ o'clock and listened to an excellent sermon by Dr. Higgins on the spiritual resurrection from Col. 3, 1.

Returning in the afternoon at 2½ o'clock he taught a class, and afterward was in conversation for a time with his pastor, after which he passed directly home, but complained of feeling unwell. Upon entering the house he laid down and in a few moments he "ceased at once to work and live."

Much could be said of his many noble traits of character, but space forbids. Suffice it to say, he was a man among the few of whom it may be said, all men speak well of them.

He was deeply pious, ardent and untiring in his zeal for the cause of the Master, devoted to the church of his choice and to her every interest, was always on hand and on time to attend his class and every public service, and whenever duty called, unless it was utterly impossible to be present. He greatly enjoyed every means of grace, but above all, the class meetings, upon which occasions he would shout and sing, often at the top of his voice and never wearied in the service, yet he was ever prompt in closing on time, as in opening. Who that has ever been present on these occasions can ever forget hearing "Uncle Ziba's:

"Now here's my heart, and here's my hand,
To meet you in that heavenly land, &c.

But he has gone, and in his death the community loses one of her oldest, best and most esteemed citizens and the church one of her most valued members. He was one of the pioneers of Methodism in this place, being at the time of his death in his 73d year.

The Church and the whole community extends to the bereaved family their heart felt sympathies, and rejoice that they mourn not as those without hope. May his mantle fall upon us who "a little longer wait."

The Hackettstown Gazette : 24 January, 1880

NAME: Ziba H. Osmun

DATE OF DEATH: 18 January, 1880

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