

12-3 SUMNER BIXBY 1878

A few weeks ago, a simple notice of the death of Deacon Bixby appeared in the HERALD. It seems due to his memory, to his family and friends, and to the cause of Christ, which, from early life, was so dear to his heart, that something further be said respecting him.

He was born in Norridgewock, Maine, in the year 1805, and was one of a family of twelve brought up under Christian influences. At the age of 20 he became a Christian and united with the Congregational church. A few years after he was chosen one of its deacons. He was naturally reserved, quiet, unpretending. Grace sanctified all his natural traits and made him a Christian of sterling worth. With him it was emphatically, "Once a Christian, always a Christian." He lived on the farm where he was born till 1851, when, at the age of 46, he came with his family to Grinnell and cast his lot with others who started this settlement on the open prairie. His manner of life here is known to all the older residents. He was not a man to seek notoriety, or to make himself conspicuous any where; but his integrity was unquestioned, and many will call to mind his earnest exhortations and fervent prayers in the weekly devotional meetings.