

4-16 MRS. HARVEY BLISS 1901

Another mortal life has ended; another of the first settlers in Grinnell has ceased to occupy her accustomed place in the family, the church and the town.

Mrs. Harvey Bliss had seemed in usual health recently, joined her family in making a very pleasant half hour for the writer on Friday, came to church as usual on Sunday morning, gave cordial greeting to her former pastor, Rev. Mr. Fenney, after the sermon, passed into her Bible class room, and soon the fatal stroke came. In a few minutes she was gone. Her last look here was on very dear friends in the church she fondly loved; her first look above—who can tell of the greetings of old friends, the angelic salutations, the divine welcome?

Her earliest name was Elnora Roxy Rose, and she was born at East Grinnell, Mass., December 11, 1823. Her married life began fifty four years ago on March 17, at Springfield, Mass.

It was in 1857 that she arrived in Grinnell, after unusual hardships in crossing eastern Iowa in a wagon. Here still other embarrassments awaited her. The best house accommodation at first was a single small room, with limitations as to food, shelter, and social life that the present generation here can scarcely believe. Through those years of privation her bright smile and sweet spirit illuminated the home and added sunshine to all the activities of the place, in which she always bore a conspicuous part. It was a strange occurrence if she was ever absent whenever the Congregational church had a meeting, or the Sabbath school held a session, or the women united to promote any benevolent or religious enterprise. She said little, but her heart was in fullest sympathy with all that was best and her hand lent most cheerful assistance to the needy without regard to color or to culture.

Of her own children, Emma died in 1818; Frank was drowned near Storm Lake in 1878, and the three youngest survive, viz: Louis, now at Los Angeles, Calif.; Harvey S., in Grinnell, and Dr. E. C., at Radcliffe, Iowa. Her heart went out also to those not her own, and she adopted Mary Elizabeth Chamberlain, who became the wife of John Carney, Esq., and died in 1875; and a second who is now Mrs. Cash, and resides in St. Paul.

The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock in the Congregational church, Rev. E. M. Vittum assisted by Professor Parker officiating. Dr. Bliss and family and Mrs. Cash came from abroad.

Thus one has left us whose life was a benediction and whose religion was a perpetual inspiration to herself and a perpetual attraction to others.

"The Father's house is mansioned fair,  
Beyond my vision dim;  
Such souls are His, and here or there  
Are living unto Him."