

5-29 MRS. JONATHAN CHILD, 900

On Friday last, Mrs. Jonathan Child passed into the eternal life, after years of failing health, but only a few days of acute illness. The funeral took place yesterday from the family home on Main street, south, Rev. Profs. Buck and Parker officiating. A quartette, consisting of Mrs. Heidel, Mrs. Christian, Mr. Albert Kendall, and Mr. A. C. Harriman, sang the following hymns: "Servant of God, well done!" "Immanuel's Land," "How blest the righteous when he dies." Prof. Buck read passages of scripture and gave the following outline of the life of the departed lady:

Martha Hutchins Walker was born at Bath, N. H., Feb. 5, 1825. She entered into rest at Grinnell, Ia., Aug. 25, 1900.

At the age of 16 her father died, leaving her mother a widow to care for the family. Though not the firstborn, yet by the death of one who preceded her, she was left the oldest in the family, her brother—our Deacon John Walker—the next in age and six years younger. Extraordinary responsibilities and cares thus rested upon her. She was energetic and resolute; could and did encourage and assist her brother in the care of the horses, and other duties outside as well as inside the house.

She united with the Congregational church in Bath when about 15 years old, which connection was transferred by letter to the Congregational church of Grinnell soon after her arrival here. For a time she attended a seminary in West Rutland, Vt., living at the home of her uncle, Rev. Aldace Walker. For many years she was a leading musician in the church at Bath.

March 4, 1846, she was married to Jonathan Child, and the new family lived at Bath, where six children were born to them, of whom two infants, a son and a daughter, died; two sons and two daughters survive and are with us to-day. In 1868 they came to Grinnell, which has since been their home. Their golden anniversary was celebrated in 1896, at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Hammond, where friends and neighbors, children and grandchildren, united to make an occasion, usually so rare, a memorable and happy one.

Although for many years Mrs. Child's health has not been firm, yet she has patiently and faithfully fulfilled her duties

as the homekeeper, always a kind and devoted wife and mother, so gentle that her children cannot remember an impatient word uttered by her. They rise up to call her blessed. Her brother John is the only survivor of their family. For many weeks her sympathies went out to her brother Charles, whose moans in his partially unconscious moments of pain she could hear through the opened window next door to her, and who died a few weeks ago.

Mrs. Child was a leading spirit in the life of any company of people where she was present. She will be greatly missed, not only by her bereaved husband, now nearly 80 years of age, but also by children and children's children, and sympathizing neighbors and a large circle of friends. It is a comfort to us all to know that her end was peace, and that she talked calmly and freely about that other life upon which she was soon to enter.

Prof. Buck also spoke of meeting Rev. Dr. Boardman, a professor in the Chicago Theological Seminary, a relative of the Child and Walker families, and Rev. Dr. George Leon Walker, of New Haven, a cousin of Mrs. Child. He also spoke touchingly of the 54 years of married life now ended.

Prof. Parker spoke of the religious character of Mrs. Child, who we should expect to be a leader. She held her religion strongly, intelligently, and desired others also to enjoy the same hope, which with her was an assurance of the life beyond. While her religion embraced the world, it was very tender in the home. It was not one of mere formal observances, but was from the soul. It came first from the heart, not from the head. It was a vital force in the soul. It touched those near by and every duty in the family, and gave depth to all the relations of family life. She said only a few days before her death: "I have tried to help everybody; to do some good to everybody." Some hold that there are angels ready to be embodied in this world. We sometimes meet with those whom we must call angels; who come into our homes; who, the longer they stay, the more angelic they seem. This friend was one of these, who are most loved by those who know them longest. We need not shed tears for these departed ones: rather let us weep for those who remain.

The casket was borne to the hearse by Messrs. J. P. Lyman, L. G. Sanders, H. C. Spencer, G. H. McMurray, W. J. Rapson and D. S. Morrison, pall-bearers. A long procession of carriages, containing relatives and friends of the family, accompanied the remains to Hazelwood. Mrs. Child's surviving children—Mrs. E. S. Waring, Mr. Aldace W., Mr. Arthur L., and Mrs. W. F. Hammond—all live in Grinnell.