

Henry Gilman.

Jan 21 DIED. 1890

LITTLE.—At her home in Grinnell, Ia., on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 1890, Fidelia M. Stoddard, wife of Hon. Henry C. Little, aged 74 years and seven months.

She was the daughter of Simoon B. and Lucy (Kellogg) Stoddard, and was born in Newington, Conn., June 29, 1815.

Her Pilgrim ancestry and careful Christian home training early developed a spirit of consecration to God and devotion to his service. She has always dated her conversion from the time she was nine years old, when, a timid, shrinking child, having listened to the wonderful preaching of the famous Dr. Nettleton, she offered herself with others of maturer years for membership in the village church. The good pastor, with the cold caution of those days which too often guarded the sheep only and left the lambs to stray, advised delay. It was some years later, in another state, that she became outwardly identified with the church.

By her marriage, in 1836, Mrs. Little was taken from the quiet and sheltered life of her New England home to share the privations and hardships of pioneer life in Illinois. These were endured with the cheerful, uncomplaining spirit which has dominated her whole life. Forgetful of self, she gave thought, and time and strength always for others. How many were comforted and helped by her ministrations only One knoweth, but many a grateful testimony has come to her in later years from those to whom her gracious giving of generous hospitality, of motherly sympathy and guidance, of stimulus to that which is highest and best, has been ever after a cherished memory. But her life has been a blessing to the world not so much for what she did as for what she was. Her Christian experience was of a life hid with Christ in God, but irradiating all her long years with a serene and quiet beauty, whose source none who knew her well could ever doubt. Amid all the varied trials of a checkered life her soul dwelt always in an atmosphere of peace which no storm could disturb. The heart of her husband could safely trust in her, and her children arise up and call her blessed.

The great grief of her life was the loss of an only son, in 1863, at the age of sixteen, but the sorrow only deepened the gentleness and sweetness of her character.

Mr. Little removed to Grinnell in 1867, and here the weary years of his wife's failing health have been passed. She accepted the increasing burden of weakness and suffering which have brought her repeatedly to the very gate of the heavenly home, with the same patient submission with which she received everything from her Father's hand, but she longed earnestly for her release that she might enter into the rest that remaineth for the people of God. She greeted the final summons with the brightest joy, and every mention of her speedy going home caused a happy smile to spread over the pale face, and often during the last days her lips whispered sweet words of trust and love.

The husband and four daughters who reside in Grinnell watched with the failing wife and mother to the end, and the remaining daughter, Mrs. Alvord, of Battle Creek, Mich., arrived with her husband and daughter on the following day.

The funeral exercises occur this afternoon, and the interment will be in Hazelwood cemetery.