

## The Grinnell Herald

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### MRS. JOANNA FISHER WHITE.

It is rare, very rare, that all acquaintances regard the death of a person as a personal loss as they did that of Mrs. Joanna Fisher White last Monday, the 25th. Her life of about seventy-four years has been the charming product of New England intelligence and christian altruism. Her early home as a daughter in the Fisher family, in Chester, Vt., was one of plain living on a farm and generous thinking. Motherless at fourteen she became an academy student and a teacher for several years before she was twenty-one. She then joined the group of New England teachers that Governor William Stode of Vermont, was enrolling for the west. She was located at Noblesville, Ind., where she met George H. White, of whom she wrote to her daughter a few weeks ago that he had been her "blessed precious friend" during fifty years.

In 1855 she entered Mt. Holyoke seminary, in 1856 she was married, and in 1857, after spending six months with her husband in Aintab, Asiatic Turkey, they began their missionary work at Oorfa. Two years later they removed to Marash, a waiting field, and were stimulated to overwork by congregations of 800 to 1,400, and where she taught music and organized a day school for girls. In four years Mr. White had wrecked his nervous system and his wife needed rest. Reluctantly they turned back to America and more reluctantly as the years went by they concluded that the husband's health would not permit them to renew missionary work.

Their fourteen years in Chester and eighteen in Grinnell revealed their worth to us all. Mrs. White was liberal in the aid of Home missions and of every good work, while her heart was in the foreign field for which she loved to sacrifice, and which she served for many a year on the executive committee of the State. It was her perpetual joy that her son, born in Marash, could go back to Marsevan to become acting president of Anatolia College, to graduate thirty-six students this year, and to see one-sixth of all the college graduates in the christian ministry. In a true sense she was still a foreign missionary.

To all the burdened and the sorrowing she was an angel of consolation, but nothing could surpass the beauty of her relations in her own family which made the home with husband, and daughter, and even the son present all thought, a veritable Eden. She had no special religion for the outer world but a religion for all life, in all relations, and in her prayers there was special help. If Bunyan had called at that home in search of a living "Greatheart" he would have gone no further.

The end came after many a premonition through several years, from defective heart action. Her anticipations of life's impending close seemed clear oftentimes, yet at Monday noon as she sat down at the dinner table she appeared better than for many days. Suddenly she glanced upward and began to fall. Her husband caught her in his arms and she was gone. It was all as she would have wished.

The varied expressions of affection from friends in Chester and Sonora as well as Grinnell which came in during the later weeks and at the memorial service were very touching to the family and they wish to express their heartfelt appreciation of them all.

The memorial services on the 27th at Mrs. White's late home were conducted by her pastor, Dr. E. M. Vitum, and Prof. Parker. The beautiful day made the large attendance from Chester and elsewhere possible. A very large number of friends of long years standing were present to testify to the deep love they bore for her. The music for the services was rendered by a quartette, Mr. W. B. Olds, Mr. J. C. Walker, Miss Stella Bartlett and Mrs. Heidel. Friends who assisted as pallbearers were James S. Rutherford, A. R. Heald, former members of Mr. White's Chester church, R. N. Persons, formerly a member of Rev. G. E. White's church at Waverly, Professor Noble, W. O. Willard and W. G. Ray.