

29 Jan 1886

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Smith

THE DEATH OF MRS. SMITH.

THE ADVERTISER: One of the saddest deaths that ever occurred in this community was that of Mrs. Leslie Smith, who quietly breathed her last, on Friday, the 22nd instant. Some nine days previous, she was taken with a severe cold, but nothing serious was apprehended. Her case proved to be one of pneumonia, but even when this was known to be the fact, the attack seemed to be but a light one. Her friends were encouraged to believe she was getting better, she seemed resting so quietly and well; but Thursday night it was evident a change for the worse had taken place. We now believe that all along, she realized her sickness was critical, and unto death, but so anxious was she to spare her family any pain, she did not tell them her feelings. Thursday morning, as if realizing her end was near, she requested that her children be not permitted to go to school that afternoon, but remain near her, at home. She also requested that the undersigned, her pastor, be permitted to come into her room, and pray with, and talk to her, but this was deemed not best, in her weak condition. As the hour of noon drew near, it was evident she was fast sinking; and shortly after one o'clock, she quietly and peacefully fell into that sleep, whose waking is in the bright spirit world.

Few sadder sights are ever seen in this world, than the one which met our eyes, as we went up into her room about this time. A husband, so stunned and overwhelmed, that he scarcely yet realized the loss he had

sustained. But saddest sight of all, the seven motherless children, gathered about her bed—the oldest, yet a mere child, whilst the youngest was too tender in years to realize any of the meaning of the scene, or to even carry into the memory of future life, any image or recollection of mother.

Perhaps never was a death more sincerely mourned by an entire community. Sister Smith was well known, having lived here nearly all her life. It would not be expressing enough to say, no one had the slightest ill to say of her. Not only was this much true, but all had words of admiration and affection because of her beautiful, and noble, and consistent Christian character. Here must have been a life and character of vital Christian power, for under her influence her husband, and all her children as they came to years of accountability were brought to Christ. Almost her last words were, "All my hope, and trust, is in Jesus."

Her funeral was held, Sunday afternoon, at the Methodist church. As an indication of the esteem and love in which she was held, in the community where she had so long lived, before the hour appointed for the service to begin, the church was filled to overflowing, so that many who came later, unable to find room, had to be turned away.

We buried her in Walnut Grove Cemetery, but through our tears we saw the bright rainbow of Eternal Hope, and our hearts rejoiced in the glad assurance that there is a sweet meeting place in the Great Beyond, where pain and parting are forever strangers—

Beyond the flight of time,
Beyond the reign of death,
There surely is some blessed clime
Where life is not a breath,
Nor life's affections, transient fire
Whose sparks fly upward and expire.

There is a world above,
Where parting is unknown:
A long eternity of love,
Formed for the good alone:
And faith he holds the dying here
Translated to that glorious sphere.

C. M. HAWKINS.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, held at Mrs. John R. Walker's, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Our beloved sister, Mrs. Leslie Smith, has been called to the life of a more exalted sphere, leaving a desolate home, which her devotion and tenderness had made one of happiness, and her moral and social worth a center of influence for good.

Resolved: That we, her associates in the W. C. T. U. of Boonville, deeply feel our own loss, both as individuals and as a society.

Resolved: That we respectfully tender to her family and more immediate personal friends, our profound sympathy in their great bereavement.

Resolved: That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the afflicted family, be put upon record among the minutes of the Union, and published in the weekly papers.

MRS. DR. GIBSON,
MISS HARRIET C. HUNT,
MRS. JOHN R. WALKER.