

[Bartlett, Milton P.]

In Stratford, Fulton co., N.Y., on the 18th of April, MILTON P. BARTLETT, aged 19 years, 5 months and 8 days. He came to his death by the discharge of a gun, the muzzle of which seemed to have been placed against his breast, and probably fired by some voluntary action, under the influence of insanity. He had suffered from nervous debility, and doubtless congestion [sic] of the brain. Last June, he became quite deranged. He experienced a severe and distressing headache, and was for many days confined to his bed. He attempted, during the continuance of derangement, in several ways, to destroy his life; but the friends vigilantly watched his movements to prevent such catastrophe. Although he partially recovered, still his health continued poor; and there had frequently been manifest indications of derangement. Sickness had again this spring frustrated his calculations, and depressed his spirits; and mental aberration is the only known cause of the rash act and distressful occurrence. Being for a number of years an only son, he had received a good common school and academic education, in the hope that he would be able to superintend an extensive business. He had been bred up in steady and virtuous habits, and was much esteemed by a large circle of acquaintances. He had joined the Sons of Temperance, was much attached to the principles of the order, was considered a valuable acquisition to the 'Division,' and young as he was, he had delivered some very able lectures. More than a hundred of the 'Sons' honored him at his funeral, by appearing in regalia with appropriate badges, and by the performance of their funeral services. Notwithstanding the day of burial was cold and rainy, an unusually large concourse assembled, and in a procession of some two or three hundred persons accompanied the remains some five miles to the place of interment. The writer was called to minister devotion and resignation to Deity, and consolation to afflicted humanity.

A. P.

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 17 May 1851

[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 17 Oct 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY