

[Porter, J. C.]

DEATH OF PROF. J. C. PORTER

DR. SAWYER: Dear Sir: It is with heartfelt sorrow that I am called to inform the readers of the AMBASSADOR of the death of Rev. J. C. Porter, A.M., formerly Professor of Mathematics in Clinton Liberal Institute. It is now more than two years since he resigned his position in this institution, and went to Danville Water Cure in the hope of regaining his health, which, by long-continued and excessive application to his studies had become much impaired.

After a few months' treatment he seemed in many respects, so much improved that his friends joined with him in the hope of his speedy and entire recovery. He had for some time been engaged in the preparation and revision of several important mathematical works; and he now resumed his labors upon them, at intervals, to facilitate their publication. But soon the symptoms of pulmonary disease, to which he had long been inclined, were more fully developed; his disease baffled the skill of his physicians, and his strength wasted away till in the early part of April last he started, accompanied by his wife and an experienced nurse, to pay a last visit to his mother and brothers in Farmington, Minn. The journey was performed in safety, but he continued rapidly to decline, and died in two weeks after his arrival, at the early age of thirty-seven.

Prof. Porter was a native of Maine, a graduate of N.Y. Central College, and for a dozen years previous to his death, a prominent educator and successful teacher in this State. His years are indeed few, but measured by the labor which he has accomplished and the good which he has done, he does not die young.

As a mathematician, he had, among men of his age, few equals and, perhaps, no superiors. He was a true and faithful friend, a man of strict integrity in all his business transactions, of great social worth, and many domestic virtues. Devoted to science, radical in politics, liberal and tolerant in religion, a believer in the co-education of the sexes and the improvement of the race through the elevation of woman, he was earnest and untiring in the discharge of his duties, and first and foremost in every beneficent work. The society at Clinton will long remember him as a zealous worker, and the Sabbath School as its faithful and efficient superintendent.

He had been, from his early youth, a firm believer in the efficacy of Christ's love to save to the uttermost all the children of men. In this faith he remained steadfast to the end; and it was his joy in the hour of death. A distinctive Universalist, identified with the interests of the school and of the denomination, he yet cherished a broad and truly Christian fellowship, receiving and heartily embracing the truth, whether it flowed to him through denominational channels or otherwise. He was a consistent, liberal Christian, and he has gone to his reward.

A. Z. A.

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