

Death of Prof. E. R. White

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DEATH OF PROF. E. R. WHITE.

We can scarcely realize the fact that we are now about to announce to our readers. It is but a short time since Prof. White returned from a visit to his family, who reside at West Union, Fayette county, in this State, and resumed his active duties as Professor of Gymnastics in the State University for the second session. His return was hailed with delight, not only by the faculty and students of the University, with whom he was more immediately associated, but all classes of our citizens who had been so fortunate as to make his acquaintance, welcomed him cordially back to our city, and looked forward to a season of pleasant companionship with him, little supposing that his labors on earth were so soon to be brought to a close. But now he is dead! After a brief illness, occasioned by a severe attack of pleurisy, during which he received the most assiduous attention, together with the most skillful medical attendance, he breathed his last, on Thursday evening, January 28th.

Prof. White was a true gentleman, affable and kind in all his communications with his fellow men—and during the brief period he had resided in this city, had secured the affections and esteem of all who knew him. Above all, he was a sincere Christian. But a short time previous to his illness, when speaking of his restoration from what he supposed to be the verge of the grave, to which he had some years ago been brought by consumption, he remarked to the writer that “he could not see how any person who enjoyed good health could avoid being a Christian!”

Painful to his family as the circumstances of his premature death must necessarily be, they can rejoice in the assurance that he died in the full faith of the Gospel and in the hope of a blessed immortality.

We take pleasure in appending the following merited

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the Faculty and Teachers of the State University of Iowa, it was resolved that the following obituary notice and series of resolutions be recorded in the College Books. Also, that a copy of the same be presented to the wife of the deceased, and to the editors of each of the Iowa City papers for publication :

With feelings of profound sorrow we would record the decease of our co-laborer, Elijah R. White, Professor of Gymnastics in this Institution, who departed this life at five o'clock P. M. on Thursday, January 28th, 1864, in the fortieth year of his age, after a severe illness of eight days.

We deeply mourn the loss which our institution and community and State have sustained by this afflicting providence.

The general character of Prof. White was unassuming, yet energetic, courteous and kind. During his brief residence among us, he won for himself the confidence and affection of all who enjoyed his acquaintance, and especially of those who were intimately connected with him in his professional duties. His association with us has been very agreeable in every respect, we shall long cherish with pleasure the memory of his excellencies. As instructor in Gymnastics, he was eminently successful in his career here. Impressed with the importance of well regulated exercise to our health, physically and mentally, he exhibited great enthusiasm in his department, and inspired his classes with a like spirit. His labors have been exceedingly valuable, and though brought to a premature close, we confidently believe their results will be of decided and permanent advantage, not only to our students who enjoyed their benefit, but through them to our entire State.

With this brief reference to his character and career—

Resolved, That while we humbly and submissively bow to the divine dispensation by which Prof. White has been so early removed from his sphere of usefulness with us, we yet feel that his death has been a severe affliction to ourselves, our institution and our State.

Resolved, That we, as Instructors in the State University, extend our warm expressions of sorrow and of sympathy to the friends and relatives, the orphan children and widowed companion of our departed colleague, and commend them to the favor and care of Him who alone can comfort in the hour of bereavement.

Resolved, That we recognize this Providence as an impressive admonition addressed to us, which we should receive by girding ourselves anew to the duties and responsibilities of our earthly existence, with a wise and constant reference to the retributions of eternity.

IOWA CITY, February 1st, 1864.

—*Press*.

PROF. AGASSIZ AND HIS LECTURE.

[[From the State Press, Iowa City, March 9, 1864.]

On Wednesday evening last the people of Iowa City were afforded the rare opportunity of hearing that profound student of Science and celebrated Naturalist, Prof. Agassiz. At an early hour University Chapel was filled with an intelligent and appreciative audience. After vocal music by a choir composed of young ladies and gentlemen, students of the University, the lecturer was introduced by Dr. O. M. Spencer. He surprised the greater portion of the audience by announcing the subject of the lecture to be on the "Coral Reefs of Iowa City," most persons having associated coral with the sea, and never thought that the earth on which we now dwell was once, during the infinity of the past, submerged by the waters.

The lecturer at once proceeded to his subject, with the same familiarity of manner as though he were about to instruct a class. His lecture throughout was illustrated by the use of the black board. He said it had afforded him much pleasure to have the opportunity of visiting this locality and observing for himself the coral formations of which he had heard in the East, and fully satisfying himself with regard to the geological character of this country. He explained the process of coral

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