

Note: This was obtained from the website (no longer active) of Jon Harshaw.

Obituary of REV. M. HARSHAW

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The death this eminent and devoted servant of Christ has bereaved an endeared family of an affectionate husband and father, and a devoted congregation of a greatly beloved pastor; the church at large of a safe and experienced counselor, and the community in which he lived of one of its best members.

His death occurred on the evening of the 11th of August, at his residence near Cutler Station, Perry county, Illinois, from dysentery. A few weeks before his death he had an attack of bronchitis, which caused him to cease from his accustomed pulpit exercises for two Sabbaths; but from this throat affection he had apparently recovered when he was prostrated with *enteritis*, which in eleven days ran its course and eventuated in death.

He soon became so prostrated that much conversation was to him painful but in his affliction he gave abundant evidence of the supporting and comforting influences of the Holy Spirit. He was greatly respected by his brethren in the ministry, and in his last illness those who were informed of his malady were often at his couch to manifest their sympathy and console him in his affliction. On the morning of the day of his death he calmly and affectionately bade farewell to his loving wife, about to be left a widow, and to his four children, two sons and two daughters, about to be left fatherless, commending them to the care of their covenant God. He appeared through the greater part of the day to be wrapt in meditation,

In 1840 Mr. Harshaw was by his Presbytery licensed to preach the gospel. This took place in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Neshannock, Lawrence county, Pa., Rev. Dr. Guthrie presiding. At that time the Pittsburgh Reformed Presbytery had quite a number of small vacancies and missionary stations under its care, but no vacancies ripe for settlement. Among these, for one year, Mr. Harshaw labored with great acceptance to the people; and by direction of Synod he then traveled and preached extensively in the West and South-west. In 1842 he received a call from Six Mile Prairie congregation, Perry county, in the bounds and under the jurisdiction of the Western Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. This call he accepted, and was ordained and installed on the 9th of Nov., 1842. The congregation was then small, the country comparatively new, the inhabitants mostly poor, many of them commencing their farming operations but he braved every difficulty that he might be instrumental in planting the church in one of the rich and fertile parries of Illinois. Gradually his congregation increased and became a spiritual power in the region of its location. In the proper sense of the term reform he might be called a reformer. His pulpit exercises were characterized by profound thought, and in his manner he was ornate, pointed, logical and earnest. He had no pretensions to what in modern days is called a popular orator. He never courted the applause of men, but the approbation of a good

till he sweetly, and without a struggle, slept with Jesus.

Mr. Harshaw was born in County Armagh, Ireland, in 1807, and, in company with his mother and other children of the family, migrated to the United States in 1826, and for some years settled in Armstrong county, Pa, and thence to Mercer county in the same State. In Ireland the family were all connected with the Associate Church, and during their stay in Armstrong county the connected with the Associate Church of Rich Hill, under the ministry of Rev. Dickey; but on their removal to Mercer county they became members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. In early life Mr. Harshaw was by death bereaved of his father; but he was blessed with the training and godly example of a pious and devoted mother; and much of his usefulness may be ascribed to his early training and the prayers of his devoted mother.

The location of the family in Mercer county was near the village of Jamestown, where at the time a classical school of great importance was in full operation; and to this institution Mr. Harshaw resorted, and there became an excellent classical scholar. From this grammar school he entered the junior class of Western University, Pa., (Note: This later became the University of Pittsburgh.), where in 1838, under the Presidency of that far-famed scholar, Rev. Dr. Bruce, he graduated with honor to himself the University.

At a called meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, on the day after he received his university diploma, he placed himself under its care as a student of theology and had subjects assigned to him to prepare pieces of trial, in order that Presbytery might, at its next meeting in October, be

conscience. In the pulpit, in the prayer meeting, and at the family altar Christ was his theme. Humility, that adorning attribute of the Christian, shone conspicuously in his life and conversation. His profound acquaintance with the Bible and its teachings, and his humble manner, whether in or out of the pulpit, made him a desirable companion for both the learned and the unlearned.

In 1835 the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church had taken initiatory steps towards effecting a union with the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches, and when Mr. Harshaw, entered the ministry he espoused zealously the cause of the union of those churches. From 1835 till 1847 the Synod and members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church were prominent on the question of union; but in that ill fated year for the Reformed Presbyterian Church, her Synod, by a majority of one, drew back from her position, and then commenced alienation and a process of disintegration. The other churches, however, in accordance with the advancement made in conventional deliberations, proceeded with the work in hand, and in 1858, In the city of Pittsburgh, a happy union was consummated.

In 1859 the Assembly of the United Church addressed a communication to Synod asking her to consider the basis of union and take her place as an integral part of the United Presbyterian Church in defence of the great principles of the Reformation. Synod refused, and assigned reasons against an incorporating union. A protest against the historical truth of the reasons of non-compliance with the request was entered by a member of Synod, in which Mr. Harshaw concurred, and signed the protest. This was in the city of Philadelphia. On his way home from Synod he

acquainted with his proper theological theological status. These were a homily on the fall of Adam as our representative, and an outline of the history of the church during the first three centuries of the Christian era. On hearing these pieces, Presbytery was so well pleased with his performance that, after a rigid examination of his knowledge in didactic theology, he was recognized as a student of the second year, and placed under the immediate care of Rev. John Black, D. D.

stopped over a Sabbath and preached in a church not far from Pittsburgh. At that time there were two vacant congregations in the bounds of the...

--- I don't have the rest of the obituary. I assume it's from a paper that was local to Cutler Station. If anybody knows what that newspaper may have been, let me know. Judging from the length of this obituary though, it's entirely possible that the writer expired before it was completed.