

OBITUARY.—In the decease of Miss Hannah P. Dodge, January, 11, Littleton has lost one of the most distinguished talented and widely beloved citizens in its history, and the cause of higher education one of its best endowed and most successful teachers. Miss Dodge was born in North Littleton, February 16, 1821. From her parents, Barnabas and Sarah Dodge, and from her ancestors, at least three of whom served in the war of the revolution,—one of them being a captain in Col. Gerish's regiment in service at the battle of Bunker Hill,—she inherited certain sturdy and self-reliant traits of mind and body, which in her case found expression in an early and absorbing thirst for knowledge. After teaching in the district schools for several terms she became successively principal of the Townsend female seminary, of which she was a graduate in 1844, Oread institute, Worcester, Codman Hill young ladies' school, Dorchester, ladies' department of Kalamazoo college, Michigan, and of Colby academy, New London, New Hampshire. After retiring to her native town in 1877, she became superintendent of schools for four years. In 1859 she laid aside her school cares for a year in Europe where she studied the modern languages and art. She had also travelled widely in her own country.

Miss Dodge possessed a fine mind filled, with rich stores of knowledge, and carefully disciplined for exacting mental labors. She was a poet of considerable ability, a ready writer, a delightful correspondent and an artist of unusual skill. In the delineation of her character it were not easy to exaggerate so varied were the rich qualities of her nature. She was also practical in matters of daily life, precise in manners, accurate in language, keen in business, wise in finance. She was one whose friendship was indeed a privilege. Her religious experience grew in richness and beauty with her mental growth and was thoroughly genuine and real with a manifest abhorrence for all sham and cant.

Uniting with the Baptist church in Littleton in 1840, she loyally retained her membership with it, thereby imparting to the home church the lustre of her fame and character. She was glad and willing to share with others whatever brought joy to her own life. Her benevolences, especially in missions, were frequent and many.

Her influence in the town has been felt in all departments of its life. She was actively interested in the lyceum, the library, the schools, the temperance cause and in all the work of the church and Sunday school. Today in hundreds of hearts by whom her death is already known, there is sorrow and the number will ever increase as the sad news finds its way to former associates and more remote pupils. Her funeral services were held in the Baptist church, January 13, her pastor, Rev. William J. Cloues, conducting the services, Rev. R. G. Johnson a former pastor, offering prayer. An appropriate memorial address and sketch of her life and character was given by Rev. W. J. Cloues, and many letters were read by him from friends and eminent persons by whom she was well beloved. She was laid to rest in the cemetery at Littleton.

W. J. C.