

Rev. Jeremiah Blake, M. D.

Died, at Gilmanton Iron Works, N. H. 30th, at nearly 90 years of age, Rev. Jer. Blake, M. D.

He had been a resident of the Iron Village for twenty-five years, and in his the community lose a revered, useful honored citizen. He came to Gilmanton Works from Pittsfield, and ably discharged duties of medical practitioner, and for years was acting pastor of the Congregational church.

He was a man of clear discernment, sympathies, and of cheerful and devoted. He had known in his long life prosperity trials—the common lot—but in all the of the earthly pilgrimage his confidence present and loving God was abundant restful. Through many years he saw with eye of faith the “better country, even heavenly;” and was zealous not only to an abundant entrance but to bring many to glory.

Dr. Blake was born in Pittsfield, April 17th, 1800, and was thus near the ending out of 90 years. In 1826 he graduated from Dartmouth Medical College, and practiced medicine in Pittsfield the following years. In 1832 he hopefully experienced religion. In 1836 he entered the theological seminary at Gilmanton, and was licensed to preach the gospel by the Deerfield Association in January, 1838.

Rev. M. T. Kunnels in one of his late volumes of family histories says truthfully of Dr. Blake, “he was a successful worker in both professions, being ordained and installed over the Congregational church at Wolfeboro, N. H., five years, and Tamworth seven. He preached and practiced medicine in Ireland and Dracut, (Mass.) Barnstead, Pittsfield, Gilmanton Iron Works, N. H., (since 1865) besides performing missionary revival labor in several other places. He preached in sixty towns and cities, in three states, and has practiced medicine and surgery in three states. He has had efficient participation in thirty revivals of religion, some of the great power, and has witnessed the conversion of scores and hundreds.

In far advanced life he prized every opportunity of waiting upon the ministry of his predecessors in the pulpit, and could say with the Psalmist “How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!” He loved the old doctrines of the gospel and of the fathers, and expressed a strong feeling that the modern falling doctrinal preaching stood connected with falling off of powerful revivals.

Under the loving care of wife and family with a host of friends, the retired even his days was calm and beautiful. For eternal light he waited patiently, “as one watcheth for the morning,” and “life’s well done,” he passed away gently as an old toiler sinks to slumber.

Under the able conduct of Hon. Thos. Cogswell, a large congregation gathered Sabbath morning, Feb. 2d, for funeral services. Rev. S. S. N. Greeley of Gilmanton, preached the sermon, in accordance with the request of Rev. Dr. Blake, of years’ standing. He was once a pupil of the Dr.’s—in the district school—eventually a class-mate, and highly esteeming him for his works’ sake and excellence of character.

The ministers of the place, Revs. H. H. the Congregational church, and Munsey of the Free Baptist, rendered appropriate aid in the exercises of the solemn hour. s. s. N.