

Burpee

It will be remembered by those who were present at the meeting of this Convention in 1852, that our late beloved Missionary the Rev. R. Burpe was then present aiding us with his counsel and prayers. We were encouraged by the good degree of strength and energy manifested, to hope that he yet might cultivate some section of the christian harvest-field. In this the Lord has disappointed our hopes; with the approach of winter, bro. Burpe's health evidently declined, and his physician finally advised his spending the winter in the southern States. Late in October last he left Nova Scotia for the more genial climate advised, but without the hoped for effect. Continuing to fail, he was urged to seek a situation yet more southern, he accordingly left his family in Philadelphia, and himself took a sea voyage to Florida, hoping there to feel the influence of its far famed health restoring character. A wise Providence had not so determined. His days below were now numbered and his work complete, separated from his beloved wife and little ones, in a strange land on the 26th of February in the town of Jacksonville, East Elorida, after much bodily suffering his spirit passed from time to eternity, from earthly scenes to the joy of heaven. Our brother's character as a christian, as a minister, and a Missionary is before the world, and so familiar are our Churches with all that pertains to him, that at this time lengthened observations seem uncalled for. We can bow to the hand of the Lord and say "Thy will be done," and in tendering our christian sympathies to his bereaved family and friends, pray that God will raise up in our Church, many men of like zeal, faithfulness and devotedness to the missionary work. It affords us much consolation to know, that though among strangers in a foreign land, our dear departed brother found kindred friends, and in his last moments was aided and comforted by those who loved him for the love they bore to his Divine Master.

The Board has already recorded its expression of thankfulness to the christian friends now referred to and the same has been forwarded to their address.

Our departed bro. Burpe has left a widow and four children. Mrs. Burpe, it must be remembered is the Missionary of this Board recognised and sent by us to a foreign field of labor. In all the toils, anxieties and privations of her devoted husband, she bore her part, and returned with him to this country, at the request of the Board. Mrs. Burpe's claim upon this Board, arising out of the relation above referred to, will appear in the following extract from a document put into Mr. Burpe's hand by the Secretary of this Board when about to depart for India. It bears date April 14th, 1845. "All Missionaries supported by this Board, shall with their wives and children be considered as having claims on the mission funds for equal support in similar circumstances, the rate of allowance being fixed by the Board, and widows of missionaries when they continue such, and orphans until the age of sixteen, shall receive the usual allowance." The duty of the Board thereon in reference to this subject is distinct and plain.

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