

# REV. MR. LANE RESIGNS.

Rev. Walter E. Lane, pastor of the 2d Unitarian church read his resignation from the pulpit last Sunday morning. His letter is as follows:

TO THE 2D UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF ATHOL.  
DEAR FRIENDS:—In justice to you and to myself I resign the charge which you intrusted to my hands, and wish the resignation to take effect at the close of this, the second year of our engagement.

You must understand so well the reason of this step that words of explanation from me are now unnecessary. It will suffice to say that ill health, the result of mental overwork, during a series of four or five years, has made it impossible for me satisfactorily to fulfil my hopes of usefulness here. And although very gradually improving, the progress is so slow that I cannot ask you to wait longer for the strong man that should be your minister. Moreover to bear the responsibility of this charge another year, or a part of it, would be to incur my own as well as your more serious detriment.

I have a deep feeling of gratitude toward you all. You have given me the encouragement constantly of disinterested friendship and have honored me as a minister with your confidence and loyalty.

I feel that the possibilities of this church are glorious and believe that you will go forward more and more earnestly and rapidly toward their fulfilment.

Hard as my own experience now is, I am by no means discouraged, but confidently expect, through obedience to Him, who orders all things, to do sometime in the great church of our town a work worthy of the opportunity, worthy of you and of myself.

As a society, in all kindness to me, you will not for a moment doubt the wisdom and need of accepting this resignation; but lest possibly a few might entertain the idea of a reconsideration, I wish to state clearly that my decision is necessarily positive and final. Affectionately yours,

WALTER E. LANE.

This action on the part of the pastor was received with general surprise, while profound regret is felt and expressed that he feels it necessary and desirable to sunder his relations with the church. His health, though now considerably improved, has been such as to prevent him from taking upon himself the work that his ambition and hope marked out for him, and it has been known that he might feel it desirable to lay down his duties as pastor, at least for the present. But the tender of his resignation was unexpected in its suddenness. Mr. Lane is now in his second year as pastor. He and the church have cause to look back upon his brief work with great satisfaction. His preaching has been marked by a high order of ability, and in his social relations with the church and members, though he has not been able on account of his health to cultivate them as he desired to, have been entirely harmonious and pleasant. Not a word of discord has ever arisen. It will be seen in the letter that Mr. Lane's action is final. In retiring from this pulpit, he takes with him the love, respect and admiration of the church members and the best wishes of the whole community.

Gen. Grant's estate paid since his

—At an adjourned Parish meeting of the Second Unitarian society held at Unity Hall, July 24th, to act upon a communication from Rev. Mr. Lane, tendering his resignation as Pastor, E. F. Brown, Esq., was chosen moderator and Mr. Lane's letter read by the Clerk. After remarks by members, the following preamble and resolutions were offered and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Rev. Walter E. Lane has felt obliged to tender his resignation as Pastor of this society on account of ill health, necessitating rest and freedom from all pastoral work, and requests, in terms that may not be denied, the society's acceptance of the same, therefore

RESOLVED, that we, members of said society, in compliance with his expressed wishes, accept the resignation thus tendered by our Pastor, to take effect on the first day of September next; at the same time assuring him of our sincere regret at this severance of the pleasant and tender relations that bind him to this society, and of our deep sympathy and warm interest in his present state of ill health, and of our earnest prayers for his early restoration to health and the duties of his profession.

RESOLVED, that we bear willing testimony to the uplifting influence of his labors with us; to the charm and beauty of his spirit and character; to the fidelity of his ministry, and to the devotion and ability he has brought to the discharge of his duties. And we shall ever hold him in affectionate remembrance.

RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to our Pastor, and inscribed on the records of this society.

dispensed with.

At the meeting of the Ministers' Club on Monday, upon the announcement being made that Rev. Mr. Lane had presented his resignation as pastor of the Second Unitarian Church, great regret was expressed by all present, and the Revs. Messrs. Shrimpton and Gould were appointed a committee, by the chairman, Rev. Mr. Thomas, to give suitable expression to the sentiment of the Club. The committee therefore present the following as in some measure expressive of the feelings of the ministers of the town:

Whereas, We have heard with deep regret of the resignation of our beloved young brother, the Rev. Walter E. Lane, of the pastorate of the Second Unitarian Church, and that the low state of his health makes this step an absolute and unavoidable necessity, and

Whereas, We have felt a constantly growing regard for Mr. Lane, personally, an admiration of his abilities, and a sympathy for the beauty and charm of his spirit and character, and are deeply sensible of the purifying and healthful influence he has exerted during his stay amongst us, therefore be it

Resolved, That the prospect of his removal is a matter of the sincerest sorrow to every one of the members of the Ministers' Club, and we hereby express the hope that something may yet be done to prevent his departure from the town, or, failing in this, that his health may be speedily restored and his future brightened by the success which we believe he heartily deserves.

Signed by the Committee,

C. J. SHRIMPTON,  
E. S. GOULD.