

N. Y.,

October 20th, 1888, ~~at~~ Bonesteel, wife of Jacob W. Elseffer, Esq., aged 67 years and 17 days.

The deceased was a descendant of the Nicholas Bonesteel who settled in the Hudson River Valley as early as the year 1714, and whose many grandsons up to the middle part of the present century devoted themselves to trade as merchants. In her father's family were brothers who entered the legal profession, her brother Peter Bonesteel having practiced law in the city of Hudson, N. Y., where he was favorably known. Having ministered to and intimately known the departed during a pastorate of nearly seven years, when in charge of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran church of Rhinebeck, N. Y., of which she was a faithful member, it may be fitting that I should add a brief testimonial of her character.

Mrs. Elseffer was a finely endowed, cultivated, genial and lovable woman. In disposition, she was amiable and affectionate; in demeanor, modest and somewhat reserved; in her general intercourse with others she was kind and generous, gentle and cordial, and always candid and true. By those who shared the hospitalities of the home over which she presided, whether socially distinguished or obscure, she will now be remembered as always the same self-possessed, thoughtful and attentive hostess—qualities which made that home so attractive to a large circle of congenial and appreciative friends.

Her Christian life was not demonstrative; but her regard for sacred things was profoundly reverent; and her faith, always simple and trustful, was productive of those beautiful graces of the spirit, which make the cultivated refinements of life increasingly attractive. She was bravely unselfish; and when occasion required was not remiss in substantial sympathy and helpfulness. The realm in which she lived her life and in which her virtues shone with the brightest lustre, and in and through which she exerted her best and sweetest influence was the family. To make this what God designed it to be she devoted her best energies; and for reward she enjoyed the constant devotion of a husband who cherished her as his own life, and the filial love and reverence of a son and daughter who now bless God that he gave them such a mother. Such was the personality of the departed, who now rests from her labors, while her works do follow her.—Behold the woman whose “price is far above rubies.” “The heart of her husband trusteth in her.” “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” “Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her works praise her in the gates.”