

# THE CHRONICLE.

NINETEENTH YEAR.

FRANKLINVILLE, N. Y., FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1894.

C. A. PERLEY, EDITOR.

IN MEMORIAM.

Henry Van Aernam.

DIED JUNE 1, 1894.  
AGED 75 YEARS, 2 MONTHS, 19 DAYS.

DR. VAN AERNAM.

He died as he had lived—plain, unostentatious Henry Van Aernam. His long and honorable record as physician, Assemblyman, Army Surgeon, Member of Congress and Pension Commissioner was surpassed by his record as citizen. Splendid as were his public services it was in his home life and his dealings with his townfolk that his character and worth were best shown. Honored for his services at Albany and Washington, he was loved for his deeds at home.

Dr. Van Aernam is dead. The love we had for him, the esteem, the respect, the confidence—all were deserved. No man ever deserved more from his townfolk, nor had it. It was love, esteem, respect and confidence well bestowed. Now that he is gone, it is necessary to teach as the true worth of the man and patriot.

A great deal of history and a great deal of usefulness was crowded into Dr. Van Aernam's seventy-five years of life. Seldom is more accomplished by one man in three quarters of a century. The hardships of a log-school house education and of clerking in a country store, while preparing for his medical studies, trained him well for his life work. In the State Legislature his course reflected the wisdom which was maturing with the young Assemblyman. In the army his frequent promotions and the love of his comrades attested the true value of his services to the nation. In Congress his marked abilities made him a leader in the work

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

A SKETCH OF HIS NOTABLE CAREER  
BY ONE WHO KNEW HIM BEST.

THE following brief biographical sketch of our lamented townsman is from the pen of Hon. Alfred Spring, a friend whose intimacy with the Doctor and whose daily association thoroughly qualified him to write of the noble life and aspirations of such an honorable citizen:

Of the many eminent men who passed their boyhood in Cattaraugus county not one has made so marked an impress upon its people as Dr. Henry Van Aernam. Born in Marcellus, Onondaga county, N. Y., March 11, 1819, he came to the present town of Mansfield with his father, Jacob B. Van Aernam, in the spring of 1822. His early life was that of the other pioneers of the county. A log school-house education, a close study of a very few standard books supplemented by a term or two as a district school teacher, made the rutted road to success in that period of self-denial and hardship. In the spring of 1824 Van Aernam, at 15, was a clerk in the store of William Elliott, and the August of the succeeding year found the youth in Virginia in the employ of William L. Pierce & Co., who were engaged in the construction of the James River & Kanawha canal. He was the paymaster and confidential clerk of this company for two years. Returning home he attended school in Springville Academy from 1837 to 1841, and his academic course was barely ended when he began the study of medicine with Dr. Levi Goldsborough, of Waverly (now Otto). He attended the Geneva Medical College in the winter of 1842-43, but received his diploma from Willoughby College, Ohio, in 1845. After his graduation he began the practice of his profession in the present village of Allegany, remaining there until the spring of 1848, when he removed to Franklinville, where he has since continuously resided. On the 30th day of November, 1845, he married Amy M.

comrades, and the few survivors of the 154th Regiment to-day have great respect and veneration for their old surgeon. If they are afflicted with hero-worship for him there is much in his conduct to warrant the devotion. In the fall of 1864, and while he was still with Sherman at Atlanta, he was elected to the Thirty-ninth Congress from his home district and was re-elected to the succeeding Congress. No Legislative body ever surpassed in ability these two Congresses. Stevens, Shellabarger, Bingham, Butler, Conkling, Davis, Blaine, Garfield and Boutwell were then in the prime of their sturtevant manhood. They were confronted with problems the like of which were never presented for solution. Four millions of people whose intellects had been dimmed and ambitions repressed by continued bondage were to be exalted to citizenship. Their destiny was to be worked out in the south by the side of their former masters. Rampant hostility to the north and to the civil rights of the black man must be crushed out.

his vouchers and of collecting the pension. Under the legislation organized and pushed through by the commissioner the present mode was engrafted on the statute.

After leaving the Pension Department Dr. Van Aernam returned to Franklinville and sedulously practiced his profession. The faculty of money saving was never well developed in him and he followed his calling to earn a livelihood, although he had an abiding faith, which was almost eccentric in its sensitiveness, in the nobility of his profession and an affectionate regard for his fellow-workers in it.

In the fall of 1878 he was again elected to Congress and re-elected in 1880. In the latter Congress he was chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, and the economic agitation made his position important and arduous. The hearings on the representatives of all classes pertaining to the labor question were frequent and Dr. Van Aernam applied himself closely to a study of the problems growing out of the antagonism of organized labor and cor-

## THE FUNERAL.

NOTED MEN FROM FAR AND NEAR DO  
HOMAGE TO A DEAD COMRADE.

THE death of Dr. Van Aernam had been expected at most any time. For the past five or six years his feeble condition foretold his coming death and confined him to his home, and his frequent sinking spells, when it seemed the last spark of life had gone, set the mind of the community in expectation of the end at any moment. His strong constitution time and again would allow him to pull through, and when it was announced Friday that he was very low it was thought this was a repetition of his former frequent spells. All run down by the prolonged sickness of years and lately by rapidly succeeding severe pains, he was unable to longer ward off death, and Friday, evening surrounded by his sorrowing family, completely worn out, he passed peacefully to sleep.

his army comrades was given, and the emblem of "victory" gently placed on his bier, the best wish that could spring from the heart of any one there was that they, as individuals, might emulate the glorious example of the departed.

## WORDS OF SYMPATHY.

FROM ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS WHO  
REALIZE THEIR GREAT LOSS.

DR. VAN AERNAM'S extended acquaintance with prominent men was realized by but few at his own home. The true merit of the man and his extended acquaintance, together with the general regret at his death are in a measure shown in the following brief words of sympathy, which have been selected from the many received.

HON. THOMAS B. REED,

CONGRESSMAN AND EX-SPEAKER OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 4 June, 1894.

C. A. Perley, Franklinville, N. Y.

My Dear Sir: I read your letter with profound regret. Dr. Van Aernam was to me a valued friend to whose kindness and sympathy I have been indebted. I join with you and his other friends in sorrow and regret for his loss.

Sincerely yours,  
T. B. REED.

CONGRESSMAN HOOKER.

Mrs. Henry Van Aernam

I deeply sympathize with you in your affliction. We all loved him and will greatly miss him. W. B. HOOKER  
Fredonia, N. Y. June 2, 1894.

COUNTY JUDGE A. D. SCOTT.

Hon. Alfred Spring

Please make my kindest regards to Mrs. Van Aernam and family. They have my heartfelt sympathy in their great sorrow. A. D. SCOTT.  
Buffalo, N. Y. June 2, 1894.

EX-SENATOR VEDDER.

Mrs. Henry Van Aernam

qualifications for professional and business success and his distinguished and meritorious public service.

His admirable characteristics were not simply those of mental strength and intellectual brilliancy. To these were added generous impulse, warm sympathy, strong friendship, large benevolence, strict integrity, rare social and conversational gifts, set with gems of most exquisite humor.

I never once approached him that I did not feel the charm of his delightful personality, and I never left his presence but with regret.

I have always accounted it a personal misfortune that removal from his village and his county many opportunities afforded only to see him often and not be greatly entertained, instructed and improved. MANLEY CROSBY.

Corry, Pa., June 4, 1894.

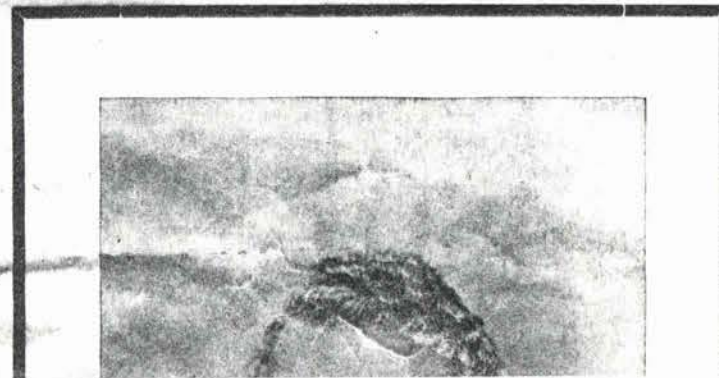
EX-ARMY SURGEON J. L. DUNN.

Mrs. E. M. Van Aernam:

Your telegram informing me of the death of your beloved and honored husband and my ever respected and valued friend reached me on the 2nd inst, and my first thought was that I would attend his funeral, and so intended, but professional duties prevented. I can be content in writing, tendering you and yours my warmest sympathies and heartfelt condolence in your great bereavement. The relationship existing between your husband and myself was born of comradeship during the terrible conflict of arms for national existence and I am happy to say that our intercourse socially and professionally during those days that tried men's souls, were of the most cordial nature. My own feelings are fully expressed in these old familiar lines:

"When I remember all the friends so linked together;  
I see them around me fall, like leaves in wintry weather;  
I feel like one who treads alone some banquet hall deserted,  
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My own estimate of your husband and my friend and comrade was that in



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the confidence—all were deserved. No man ever deserved more from his town-folk, nor had it. It was love, esteem, respect and confidence well bestowed. Now that he is gone, it is not necessary to teach us the true worth of the man and patriot.

A great deal of history and a great deal of usefulness was crowded into Dr. Van Aernam's seventy-five years of life. Seldom is more accomplished by one man in three-quarters of a century. The hardships of a log-school house education and of clerking in a country store, while preparing for his medical studies, trained him well for his life work. In the State Legislature his course reflected the wisdom which was maturing with the young Assemblyman. In the army his frequent promotions and the love of his comrades attested the true value of his services to the nation. In Congress his marked abilities made him a leader in the work of reconstruction. After that he was progressive as Pension Commissioner under Grant, bringing about a great reform in the methods of the bureau. Several years spent in the successful practice of his profession were succeeded by four years more in Congress. Then came the return to private life, with its help to neighbors and the advancement and development of the town in which he lived for nearly half a century. Truly an honorable record!

In politics Dr. Van Aernam was a Republican, being one of the party's charter members. He hated slavery and was a strong abolitionist. In Congress his associates in thought and action were Stevens, Shellabarger, Garfield, Condit, Bingham, and Blaine. Says the Hon. Alfred Spring in a sketch of Dr. Van Aernam republished herein: "They were confronted with problems the like of which were never presented for solution. Four millions of people whose intellects had been dimmed and ambitions repressed by continued bondage were to be exalted to citizenship. Their destiny was to be worked out in the South by the side of their former masters. Rampant hostility to the North and to the civil rights of the black man must be crushed out. These were among the stupendous issues to be crystallized into legislative enactment. Dr. Van Aernam was soon in touch with the most eminent of this galaxy of statesmen."

In affairs of state he was a wise counselor, whose advice was freely sought by Secretary Stanton. During those dark days Dr. Van Aernam put the nation through his life. He proved himself one of the men born for the hour, and his part in the great crisis was performed manfully and well.

We at his home mourn deeply the great loss in Dr. Van Aernam's death. He was what all men should strive to be, and what few men are. As physician, as soldier, as statesman, as neighbor, he had a work to do. He did it and did it well.

A long, an honorable, a useful career

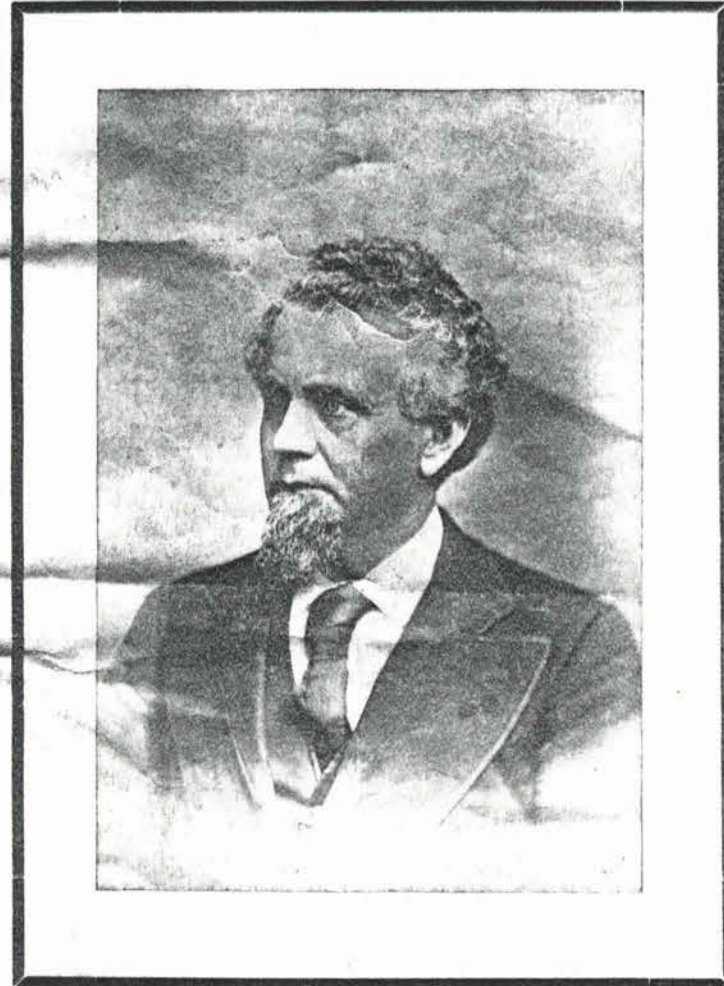
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Dr. Van Aernam early acquired prominence in the practice of his profession. Of excellent judgment, accurate in his diagnosis of a disease, with an intuitive insight into the mental characteristics of his patient, sympathetic in temperament and yet vigorous in his treatment, and with a willingness to ride with his pillbags to the hut of the poor as well as to the residence of the rich, were qualities that alike established his reputation as a skilled practitioner and endeared him to the people of eastern Cattaraugus. No physician ever retained for forty-five years the undiminished confidence of his neighbors in his medical skill to a greater extent than has Dr. Van Aernam. His decision on the pathology of a disease has been the *derriere resort* in difficult cases in the vicinity of Franklinville for more than a generation. And even when crippled by disease and debarred from active practice, his ripe judgment was still deferred to as the ultimate authority.

Dr. Van Aernam early turned his attention to politics. He was a charter member of the Republican party with decided leanings toward abolitionism. He had a most intense hatred of slavery and he rarely could brook a compromise. Local politics were then dictated by a coterie of politicians residing in Ellicottsville, and his first reputation as a practical organizer was acquired in his successful endeavor to disrupt this political machine. Many an aspirant for political honors can tearfully certify that the doctor's ability as a convention organizer did not end in the fifties. In the fall of 1857 he was elected to the Legislature from the First Assembly District of the county. When the rebels of the south sought to dismember the Union Dr. Van Aernam was energetic and unequivocal in his fidelity to the Republic. August 20, 1862, he was mustered into the State militia service as surgeon of the 15th Regiment, New York State Volunteers, and on the 26th of the following month into the United States service with the rank of major. On the 5th of October, 1862, he was assigned to duty as surgeon-in-chief of the Second Brigade, Second Division,

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porate capital. Returning home after his public service he again resumed the practice of his profession and continued in it until he was stricken with paralysis in 1889, and had since been an invalid. His house was a Mecca for the survivors of the war of Cattaraugus and Chautauqua, and especially of his own regiment, and also of the politicians of the two counties. He was ever alert to aid the soldier in securing a pension, for he had no sympathy with the clamor now so fashionable against pensions, and retained a deep interest in the welfare of the party with

The announcement spread a sorrow over the community for there was none more dearly loved than Dr. Van Aernam. The public funeral was held Monday at the First Presbyterian church, Rev. R. R. Watkins officiating. Brief services preceded this, at the late residence of the deceased. Friends from far and near were present, and the presence of many distinguished persons in the audience was another criterion by which to judge of the esteem in which he was held. The local G. A. R. Post was present in a body, and delegates from

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WASHINGTON, D. C., 4 June, 1894.  
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EX-SENATOR VEDDER.

*Mrs. Henry Van Aernam*  
I deeply sympathize with you in your great sorrow. Permit me to mingle tears of friendship with those of profoundest love. C. P. VEDDER.  
Albany, N. Y., June 2, 1894.

SENATOR FRANK W. HIGGINS.

*Chas. D. Van Aernam*  
I have just learned of the death of your honored father which is the breaking of another link in our chain binding us to our heroic past to be replaced only by undying memorials. Your family have my sincerest sympathy. FRANK W. HIGGINS.  
Duluth, Minn., June 4, 1894.

JUDGE HAMILTON WARD.

*My Dear Madam*  
A telegram has brought me the sad intelligence of the death of your distinguished and lamented husband. Words are vain at such a time, but I cannot forbear extending to you my deep sympathy for you and the children in your great loss.

As you know, the Doctor (as we familiarly called him) and I have been close friends these many years. We were in Congress together, representing adjoining districts, at a time when most important legislation was matured and the constitution amended in vital parts. We thought alike and worked together. He left Congress a term before I did and became the Commissioner of Pensions; our close personal and political relations continued while he was Commissioner and to the time of his death.

He was a great and good man. His heart was in the right place and warm and sympathetic. He was an able, industrious and incorruptible legislator and public officer. He filled every relation of life with ability, care and energy. Such a man seems to be of human nature to increase our confidence in mankind and to cast a beautiful and instructive example over the world. He rests in peace now that "life's fitful fever is over."

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My own estimate of your husband and my friend and comrade was that in every way he was a manly man, true as steel in every relationship in life. As such I mourn with you of yours.  
Sincerely yours,  
JAMES L. DUNN  
Titusville Pa., June 5th, 1894.

THE COUNTY CLERK.

*Editor Chronicle*  
In my boyhood days I counted on the Doctor as one of my truest friends. Having known him for 45 years, the news of his death came as a very sad blow to me; and I realize the loss of a friend who can never be replaced. At the age of 15 he was instrumental in getting me into a printing office which I consider the best schooling I have ever had; and during my army service he always took a deep interest in my behalf and I believe he was a warm, true friend, both public and private. I never expect to be able to do for others what he has been able to do for me. The remaining members of the family have my sincere sympathy.  
HENRY S. MERRILL.  
Little Valley, N. Y., June 4, 1894.

EX-EDITOR OF THE LOCKPORT EXPRESS.

*To Charles Van Aernam*  
All too soon, the long expected, yet sad news comes to me. At rest at last; free from pain he is sleeping the sleep of the brave, the generous, the loyal and the true.

Standing in the shadow of a selfish sorrow, twenty years of intimate association and correspondence with you, father, passes in review before me.

For humanity, friends, kindness and country, others may have done as much, but none have labored more intelligently or accomplished better results during the time given to man for work, than has Henry Van Aernam. The silent memory of his life seems to be of human nature to increase our confidence in mankind and to cast a beautiful and instructive example over the world. He rests in peace now that "life's fitful fever is over."

Living in an era of strong men, with strong passions, made more intense by the strife of civil war, he was the peer of those whose names have become the heritage of the nation, the pride of the present, and the hope of the future.

Measured by his works, he had passed the century mark, and the time had come for him to rest. We who are left to labor and wait until "the shadows shall have a little longer grown" may



presented for solution. Four millions of people whose intellects had been dimmed and ambitions repressed by continued bondage were to be exalted to citizenship. Their destiny was to be worked out in the South by the side of their former masters. Rampant hostility to the North and to the civil rights of the black man must be crushed out. These were among the stupendous issues to be crystallized into legislative enactment. Dr. Van Aernam was soon in touch with the most eminent of this galaxy of statesmen.

In affairs of state he was a wise counselor, whose advice was freely sought by Secretary Stanton. During those dark days Dr. Van Aernam put the nation much in his debt. He proved himself one of the men born for the hour, and his part in the great crisis was performed manfully and well.

We at his home mourn deeply the great loss in Dr. Van Aernam's death. He was what all men should strive to be, and what few men are. As physician, as soldier, as statesman, as neighbor, he had a work to do. He did it and did it well.

A long, an honorable, a useful career has ended. Would that more men were Van Aernams. The world would be better for it.

We much regret the crowding of this Memorial. Many more letters have been received than we can find a place for, hence, some of them will be found in the regular issue of THE CHRONICLE, while others, owing to their late arrival, are necessarily omitted entirely.

Received but not appearing in this sheet, are letters from: Hon. Wm. G. Laidlaw, Ellicottville; Hon. W. E. Wheeler, Portville; Hon. F. D. Smith, Springville; Ex-Surgeon D. W. Day, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Hon. D. P. Richardson, Angelica N. Y.; Col. L. D. Warner, Colonel of the Doctor's Regiment, Portville, N. Y.; and many others.

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When the rebels of the south sought to dismember the Union Dr. Van Aernam was energetic and unequivocal in his fidelity to the Republic. August 20, 1862, he was mustered into the State militia service as surgeon of the 154th Regiment, New York State Volunteers, and on the 29th of the following month into the United States service with the rank of major. On the 5th of October, 1862, he was assigned to duty as surgeon-in-chief of the Second Brigade, Second Division, of the Eleventh Army Corps, and on the 28th day of December, 1863, surgeon-in-chief of the Division, and in April of the following year surgeon-in-chief of the Second Brigade, Second Division, of the Twentieth Army Corps, and was discharged at Atlanta, Ga., by reason of disabilities, November 7, 1864. This military life of Dr. Van Aernam, though compressed in a sentence, signifies much to the army with which he served. He came of fighting stock, for the two preceding generations of Van Aernams had shown their valor in their country's service—the one with the Continentals of '76 and the other in the second war with England. So the third in the descending line was not a theoretical surgeon, but was on the operating staff and became famous among famous experts with the knife. He gained the ardent affection of his

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porate capital. Returning home after his public service he again resumed the practice of his profession and continued in it until he was stricken with paralysis in 1889, and had since been an invalid. His house was a Mecca for the survivors of the war of Cattaraugus and Chautauqua, and especially of his own regiment, and also of the politicians of the two counties. He was ever alert to aid the soldier in securing a pension, for he had no sympathy with the clamor now so fashionable against pensions, and retained a deep interest in the welfare of the party with which he had so long been identified. Upon the death of Jonas K. Button in 1884 Dr. Van Aernam was appointed a trustee of Ten Broeck Free Academy in the village of Franklinville, the location and endowment of which were accomplished largely through his influence with its founder.

Doctor Van Aernam was always zealously in favor of public improvements, and in all local matters has exercised a dominating influence for the elevation of the people of the community.

His widow survives him and two children: Mrs. James D. McVey, who resided with him when he died, and Charles D. Van Aernam, who is engaged in the practice of law, and is the present Supervisor of the town of Franklinville.

*Dr. Van Aernam*

The announcement spread a sorrow over the community for there was none more dearly loved than Dr. Van Aernam.

The public funeral was held Monday at the First Presbyterian church, Rev. R. R. Watkins officiating. Brief services preceded this at the late residence of deceased. Friends from far and near were present, and the presence of many distinguished persons in the audience was another criterion by which to judge of deceased's extended acquaintance and popularity. The local G. A. R. Post was present in a body, and delegates from similar organizations were present from Salamanca, Delevan, Olean, Machias and Ischua. The Sons of Veterans were also represented and acted as escort to the funeral car. Floral tributes were plenty and most beautiful.

The bearers were life-long acquaintances of deceased in the persons of Messrs. Wm. Ely, Wm. Swinton, Dexter C. Weed, H. D. Walker, A. P. Adams and Dr. Terry, of Ischua.

Never before were services so solemn and full of regrets. The pastor spoke from Matt. 10: 29, many words of consolation to the survivors of the family, and eulogized the deceased in words fitting, but too feeble to do justice to such noble dead.

At the grave the ritualistic ceremonies of the G. A. R. were performed in an impressive manner by Alanson Greshy Post and when the farewell salute of

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Sincerely yours,  
HAMILTON WARD.

Belmont, N. Y., June 2, 1894.

THE EX-MAYOR OF CORRY.

Editor of the Chronicle:

Although the death of Dr. Van Aernam has been expected for some time as an event likely to occur, its announcement was, to me, a sad surprise; and can be regarded by his friends and neighbors only as an individual affliction and a public loss.

To me he seemed in many ways, an extraordinary man. To large, strong, clear and comprehensive mental endowments, he added the grace, the polish and refinement of acquired knowledge—his mind a store-house of varied and useful information ready and available at all times and all occasions; and so he entered his career of business life equipped as are but few, with the requisite and necessary qualities and

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Standing in the shadow of a selfish sorrow, twenty years of intimate association and correspondence with you (father, passes in review before me.

For humanity, friends, kindness and country, others may have done much, but none have labored more intelligently or accomplished better results during the time given to man for work, than has Henry Van Aernam. The silent years of his life were filled with a record of complete and faithful stewardship.

Living in an era of strong men, with strong passions, made more intense by the strife of civil war, he was the peer of those whose names have become the heritage of the nation, the pride of the present, and the hope of the future.

Measured by his works, he had passed the century mark, and the time had come for him to rest. We who are left to labor and wait until "the shadows shall have a little longer grown" may study with profit the lesson his life has given to us. If we will practice the virtues that have made his name a household word, the rest, when it shall come to us, will be one of peace and joy.

To yourself and family; to your mother and sister, I wish to extend my sympathy, and may the kind and protecting care of all that is pure and true be bestowed upon you all. Faithfully,

PHIL M. MILLER,  
Buffalo, N. Y., June 4th, 1894.

Mrs. Van Aernam:  
Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. Our family mourn with you and for yours.  
CHRISTINA McLENNAN.  
Syracuse N. Y., June 3rd, 1894.

The schools and business places were closed Monday as a mark of respect to the departed.