

**Minutes of the annual session of the General Congregational Conference of
Minnesota - 1881** [BX7108 .M72 – call number Minnesota History Center library]

Appendix E p. 45-46.

In Memoriam

Rev. Cassius M. Terry, son of Silas and Polly Terry, was born at Clymer, Chautauqua County, New York, studied at Westfield, N.Y., and entered Am-College, Massachusetts, in 1863. He ranked high as a writer and speaker, and graduated with honors in 1867. In his freshman year Mr. Terry was converted, and decided to enter the ministry. As an inducement for him to return to his former intention of studying law, his brother-in-law, a member of Congress in Western New York, offered Mr. Terry a partnership and his magnificent law library, which were conscientiously declined.

He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in the spring of 1870, and was married in Boston, May 18, 1870, to Emily, daughter of the late President Hitchcock of Amherst College.

He would have immediately accepted a call to New Bedford, Mass., but a severe hemorrhage of the lungs prostrated him. Weeks of horseback-riding among the New Hampshire hills restored him so that he insured his life and began his pastoral work in New Bedford in September. Two years work found him again with broken health, he took a trip to Minnesota and preached in Plymouth Church, St. Paul. This was a church of 60 or 65 members, upon whose history the shade had fallen in broader bands than the light, who felt that unless exactly the right man should come, their church must be given up. When this young man appeared before them they enthusiastically determined to secure him. He consented to entertain a call on condition that they would build a new church, for, as he said, "no respectable man would consent to preach in such a house" as the Goodrich Street Chapel was then. They immediately began arrangements for building, and gave him an unanimous call in October, 1871. But Mr. Terry, somewhat restored by his visit to Minnesota and the Indian Agencies, was working vigorously in New Bedford, and hoping for the future there, he pocketed the call. But the Atlantic coast winter broke him down, he accepted in March and began work in St. Paul, June, 1872. The corner stone of the new church was laid June 27, 1872. It was first occupied for public worship Oct. 6th, and was completed in March, 1873, at a total cost of about \$33;000, It was dedicated July 19, 1873, and Mr. Terry was installed pastor at the same time. The death of their little boy shortly after the laying of the corner-stone was a terrible blow. With a natural fondness for children, he was so broken from grief at the loss that his people gave him a vacation until Fall.

In spite of all his efforts to throw off the disease, he slowly but surely weakened. Vacation trips rallied him for a while, but a few months of absorbing work would dissipate his strength. In the spring of 1877 he went to Colorado, without avail. He returned to St. Paul, resigned his pastorate of the now strong church of 250 members, and left for Florida, where he supplied the pulpit of the Presbyterian church in St. Augustine, till May, 1878. This visit south did him no good, but rather harm. Everything seemed to pull him down. In May, 1878, he took charge of the First Congregational church in Minneapolis during the pastor's absence in Europe. Here, though weak, Mr. Terry was the mainspring of a great deal of labor. The organization of the Young Ladies' Flower Mission, and its first year's work were due to his solicitous care.

The summer of 1879 was passed with the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, in the northern part of the State. "Camping out" seemed always to restore him. Passionately fond of fishing, after the exposure and weariness of one day, sound sleep would fit him for another full day.

During the winter of 1879-80, Mr. Terry was occupied as laboratory assistant on the geological and natural history survey. His work was labeling and arranging specimens in the museum of the University, and preparing their sections of works for microscopic study. [thin sections] The following summer, 1880, he was assistant geologist, studying the lakes and water powers of the State, with many notes on the forest trees and other points in botany.

He completed his report of work done in this field in February, 1881. This was his last intellectual labor. He started at once for the South, hoping Florida would prove less a drain upon his vital force than a Minnesota winter. A severe cold, contracted on his way to the South, was never wholly thrown off, and after one month spent in St. Augustine, and two months in Aiken, South Carolina, he reached his home in Minneapolis the first of June. The first of a series of severe hemorrhages came July 8, and he passed calmly away, August 18.