

Was the second son of Deacon Augustus and Mrs. Kezia Thompson. He had advanced in his course of collegiate education into his his Senior year in Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., with his heart fixed upon the Christian ministry as his profession. He died in 1823 at the age of 23. His history is derived principally from the following sources: First, a letter of reminiscences respecting the family of Deacon Augustus Thompson by an intimate female friend and associate of the daughter, Mrs. Lucretia L. Day. Second, a letter from the Rev. Joseph Harvey, D.D., many years pastor of the church in Goshen. Third, letter from intimate Christian associates in study, while Mr. Thompson was a member of college. Fourth, his own letters, written principally while in college.

By Rev. Henry V.D. Johns, (Class of 1823). Letter under date of December 2, 1852; "I have reason to believe he ranked well as a member of his class; and had his health permitted, might have secured a high position as a scholar." "Religion was then at a low ebb in Union College." "When I heard of his declining health, I was not surprised. He was extremely delicate while in college."

Letter from Gerrish Barrett: (Class of 1824):

"Charles and myself entered college at the same time, joined the same literary society, roomed near each other, sat close together in the class, and cherished for each other a strong and uninterrupted affection. At nine o'clock in the evening, we used to have prayers in some rooms, where all who chose attended."

From letters by Charles J. Thompson:

June 22, 1822.-"Commencement is on the 3rd Wednesday of this month. Mr. Johns and myself have concluded to leave this place the same evening for Albany."

Feb. 27, 1823.-"I have an Address to the Adelpic Society to write, and perhaps for another; and considerable reading to do, meanwhile, which will occupy the principal part of my time, so that I shall have but little for visiting."

Since a class about to graduate, and knowing the feelings of many of them, I am led to anticipate the time when I shall leave this institution, and feel a kind of regret that it is so near. But when I reflect that I am not here for my personal pleasure merely, but to prepare for usefulness; that I have my duties to perform in the world. Upon which I ought to enter as soon as prepared, my feelings are of a different nature. ---I was struck with an observation of Dr. Nott the other day: "Young men," said he, 'you are commencing a train of thought which will continue to all eternity.'

"The evening previous to next Commencement, there is a Junior exhibition, in which two from each of the societies take part. The orators are chosen by the

societies. Some of the most influential members of the Adelpic Society, to which I belong, solicited my permission to put me up as a candidate, in which case I should have been Junior orator. My reasons for not acceding to the proposal were three: I should, of course, lose a great part of next session studies, which are important; should receive little advantage for accepting,-----and should have suffered some anxiety; all, for an honor which would be of little consequence afterward; and probably should have lost my membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society, which I shall probably get, the first election,--and which is not only an honor, but a real benefit."

"We have some additions yet to our room meetings, and a peculiar spirit of friendship and freedom."

Day of Prayer for College, Feb. 27, 1823:

"Honored father, having spent an interesting day, I feel inclined to communicate the cause of this happiness to you; hoping, indeed knowing, it will not be uninteresting to you. Perhaps you have noticed the proposal in the Recorder, to the various literary institutions, and to the churches in general, to observe this as a day of fasting and prayer in behalf of our Colleges, that God would pour out his Spirit upon them, and bless them. It has been observed here this day; and I hope not in vain. The faculty, and those students so disposed met in the chapel at 8 o'clock in the morning, when Dr. Yates and Prof. Proudfit made remarks and prayed. Notice was given at the close, that the students would meet at noon. We did so, and had an interesting meeting. Many seemed much engaged, and another meeting was appointed after tea when the faculty met with us. Professors Potter and Nott prayed, after which Dr. Nott gave a most excellent address; urging the importance of a Christian deportment and conversation; showing the influence it would have upon others, and noticing the influence which educated men have upon society, and the effect which the conversion of a single individual might have, down to a thousand generations. His whole soul seemed wrought up. He went on in a most affectionate address, and his feelings became so interested that he continued till it was so dark that we could not see him across the room. He then offered up a most fervent petition for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There was the utmost solemnity during the exercises. There has been more apparent solemnity in College this day than on any since I have been here. Whether it shall be like the morning cloud and early dew we cannot tell."

Memorials of the Families of  
Mr. James Thompson & of Deacon  
Augustus Thompson of Goshen, Conn.

Parts of pp.15 to 32.

Hartford, Conn. 1854

CLASS OF 1824

CHARLES J. THOMPSON

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FROM Memorials of the Families of Mr. James Thompson  
and of Augustus Thompson of Goshen, Conn. pp15-32  
Press of Case, Tiffany & Co.  
Hartford 1854

In this sketch of Thompson there is a letter from his classmate Gerrish Barret, and other interesting letters and comments on life at Union College.

CHARLES J. THOMPSON, non-graduate of 1824, of Goshen, Conn., was a member of the Adelpic Society. He died in 1823.  
Adelpic Catalogue 1830