

Sarah Wilkins Barnard

(5 Mar 1801 – 2 Mar 1829)

Barnard. In this city on Monday the 2d inst., Mrs. Sarah W. Barnard consort of the Hon. Daniel D. Barnard, Member of Congress from New York and daughter of the late Henry Gilbert and Ann Livingston, Esq. of New York.

The National Intelligencer, Friday, March 6, 1829

A Tribute to Departed Worth

The National Intelligencer of Monday last, contained a notice of the death of Mrs. Sarah W. Barnard, the wife of Hon. D.D. Barnard, one of the Representatives of the State of New York. Her funeral obsequies were performed on the following day, at the Congress Burying Yard; and the last sad offices of respect to her memory were paid by several members of the Senate and House of Representatives, accompanied by numerous other sympathizing friends.

The uncommon worth of this lamented lady demands of those who knew her something more than a passing notice. The circumstances of her decease are calculated to awaken unusual interest and sympathy. She possessed a large portion of the best endowments of our nature. She united no ordinary share of personal attractions, with those amiable manners which give a grace to social intercourse. Her intellectual powers were naturally strong and active, and had been improved by the best advantages of early education, and, in riper years, by intercourse with congenial and cultivated minds. An acute sensibility and ardent feelings were associated, in her character, with sound judgment, practical sense, and affectionate regard to the feelings of others. Her moral and religious principles were settled on the basis of deliberate conviction, and had been so long cherished and strengthened by practice, as to form an essential part of her character.

Thus endowed with everything that could excite the interest and win the regard of those around her, she was remarkably happy in the relations of domestic life. She discharged all the duties of an affectionate wife, and a fond and judicious parent. She had reason to look forward upon the events of life as to a scene of flattering good fortune, which she was eminently calculated herself to promote and to adorn. But it pleased the all-wise Disposer of Events to remove her prematurely from a world in which so large a portion of blessings had been allotted to her, and where she herself seemed formed to be the source of so much happiness to others. Scarcely entered on life, in the possession of the abundant means of usefulness and enjoyment, she has been suddenly called away. At the commencement of the late session of Congress, she accompanied the now desolate partner of her affections to the Seat of Government. Although not prepared, in consequence of recent domestic afflictions, to partake in the gaieties of the season, there was nothing to give a warning of her approaching melancholy fate. Little was it then foreseen, by those who had the good fortune to make the journey to Washington in her company, that they would be called, on the last day of the session to follow her to her long home.

A few weeks only have elapsed, since alarming symptoms of disease disclosed themselves. Her own conviction was soon settled, that the event would be fatal; and her only solicitude was, by an exhibition of fortitude rarely equaled, to conceal from him, whose happiness was dearer to her than her own, the approach of that calamity which was soon to overtake her. Her last days and hours, and even moments, were filled up with acts of kindness and love. She departed in the full possession of her reason, resting calmly on the faith and hope which she had early embraced and cherished, and which now sustained her in the hour of trial.