

Samuel Chesley Potter

(- 5 Jul 1835)

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From the Alexandria Gazette, Obituary

Samuel Cheslyn Potter -- To eulogize the sacred dead has immemorial custom for its authority, and justice for its object.

If respect and affection be due to the high moral virtues of the living, they are not the less so to departed worth. Memory cherishes with fond delight the recollection of such virtues. They are dear to our feelings and sacred in our estimation.

If the loss of beloved and valued friends, who, like the seared leaf of autumn have lived out their season, scarce ever fails to excite painful emotion, how much more must we feel in contemplating the loss of one who had hardly attained the summer of life? To say that the subject of this memoir was pre-eminently generous and frank--that he possessed moral courage and lofty honor--an entire stranger to every selfish consideration--warm and affectionate in manners--prepossessing and polished--talented and learned--possessing a heart ever ready to feel, and a hand equally ready to relive the unfortunate; are truths which none will deny, but all who know him can truly aver. Samuel Cheslyn Potter is no more! and yet, but a little while ago, he was in all the pride and beauty of youthful manhood. But, he lives, and ever will live, fresh in the love and respect of his numerous friends, whose tears for his untimely end, while they embalm his memory, will consecrate his many noble and manly qualities. This brief tribute of respect is paid his memory by one who knew him well and loved him more. S.