

Mary Cook, to Winsted, Conn., where he purchased a small house with an acre of ground near the "meeting house" on the green, built a shop and set up business as saddle and harness maker for the town. His means were quite limited after paying for his place, but by faithfulness to his customers, with industry and economy, his business increased so that the large family were always above want and in a condition of moderate comfort. Mr. Alvord united with the Cong. Church during the "Great Revival" in 1816. His wife having joined the church two years previous and all the children then born were baptized.

In 1836 he was chosen deacon of the church in which office he continued until its active duties were resigned on account of age and infirmity in 1865. He was for a number of years a leader of the choir, greatly enjoying the exercise of singing and until old age was called upon to "set the tune" in social meetings. His love for music also found scope in being for many years professional drummer in the militia company of the town. At one time or another he filled nearly all the minor offices of the town and society; was always interested in the promotion of schools, often "school committeeman" and was school society's treasurer nearly all his active life.

In politics Dea. Alvord was a Whig, in olden times he was called a Federalist. He early espoused the Anti-Slavery cause and party, and when the Abolitionists in this country were few, he was the well known and staunch friend of the enslaved. In town meeting he was one of the six who first voted for freedom. It was on the question of the "Right of Petition, etc." He invariably voted for the same principles, no matter who voted otherwise and at the age of eighty this was almost the only secular subject on which his mind remained clear. Without remarkable powers of conversation, he was ever a shrewd observer of men and things; and his terse criticisms on the follies of the times, his sharp hits at laggards in duty, and his pithy sayings on all subjects, increasing as age advanced, have been noted.

A strict disciplinarian in his family, rigid after the old school, in that little old house the children all "had to mind" and come in at sun-down on Saturday nights, when a longer chapter than usual was read at family devotions. On Sundays the assembled group had to say the Catechism, no child daring to venture anywhere else before sunset on that day, except into the burying ground.

All Dea. Alvord's traits of character were distinct and influential.