

**TRIBUTES TO WILLIAM  
LLOYD GARRISON:  
AT THE FUNERAL  
SERVICES, MAY 28, 1879**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649321346

Tributes to William Lloyd Garrison: At the Funeral Services, May 28, 1879 by John Greenleaf Whittier & James Russell Lowell

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Cover @ 2017

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**JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER & JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL**

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WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

Act. 72.

*From the bust by Anne Whitney, 1838.*

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TRIBUTES

TO

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, <sup>or</sup> 7

AT THE

FUNERAL SERVICES,

MAY 28, 1879.

NEW YORK  
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BOSTON:  
HOUGHTON, OSGOOD AND COMPANY.  
The Riverside Press, Cambridge.  
1879.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS  
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*The Riverside Press, Cambridge.*  
Printed by H. O. Houghton and Company.

NEW YORK  
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FRANCO

THE announcement of the critical illness of Mr. Garrison, speedily followed by that of his death while absent from home, took his friends and the public on both sides of the Atlantic by surprise ; for though it was known that he had long been infirm in health, the vigor of his recent contributions to the public press (the latest of which, in denunciation of the Anti-Chinese Bill, and on the exodus of the freedmen from Mississippi and Louisiana to Kansas, had appeared within a few weeks) had made it difficult to believe that his health was at all precarious. Only his family and immediate friends knew that those letters were written while he was suffering such pain and discomfort that the feeling that he must lift up his voice, and bear his testimony once more on the question of human rights, alone enabled him to accomplish the task. The exhaustion and prostration which followed these efforts made it evident to himself that his forces were nearly spent, and gave his family much concern.

Even from Mr. Garrison's seventy-third birthday (December 10, 1878), his private letters were marked by forebodings of his approaching end, which he welcomed as a relief from his physical infirmities. In the following April, 1879, the feeling which he described as a giving way of the internal organism became so strong, and his malady (a chronic



affection of the kidneys) so intolerable, that, at the solicitation of his daughter, he went to New York to put himself under the care of her family physician. He arrived at the Westmoreland Apartment House, where she resided, on Monday afternoon, April 28th. On Wednesday the treatment began, with immediate promise of good results, which was, however, of necessity soon disappointed. On Saturday, May 10th, Mr. Garrison took to his bed, but even then those about him did not fairly realize the gravity of his condition. At the end of another week, however, the symptoms became unmistakably alarming, and on Tuesday, May 20th, the members of the family in Boston were summoned by telegraph and arrived the next day. The final changes proceeded slowly, and the death-struggle did not set in till half-past ten o'clock on the evening of Friday. Up to that time Mr. Garrison, though disinclined to talk unless spoken to, or to indicate his wants, retained all his faculties, and recognized his children and grandchildren by voice and by sight; and only an hour or two before he lost this consciousness, he listened with manifest pleasure to the singing of his favorite hymns, to which, as he lay outstretched, he beat time both with his hands and feet. He expired peacefully at a few minutes past eleven o'clock on the succeeding night, Saturday, May 24th. His illness had been in many respects a distressing one, even in comparison with the wretched months that preceded it; but the prevailing sense was of weariness — frequently expressed in a desire to “go home” — rather than of acute bodily pain, though that was not

wanting. His vitality was remarkably illustrated throughout.

A post-mortem examination having been made on Monday, Mr. Garrison's remains were removed the same night to Roxbury, Mass. On Wednesday afternoon, May 28th, the funeral services were held in the neighboring church of the First Religious Society, which the Trustees had kindly placed at the disposal of the family and the public. At sunset the body was interred beside that of Mrs. Garrison in the cemetery at Forest Hills.

**William Lloyd Garrison.**

BORN IN NEWBURYPORT, MASS., DECEMBER 10, 1805.

DIED IN NEW YORK CITY, MAY 24, 1879.