

In Memoriam.

IT is fitting that when *a* man of eminence passes away from earth, a more lasting tribute to his memory, and a more appreciative estimate of his worth, should be put on record, than can be given in the usual brief resolutions of condolence. Among some of the Oriental nations a reverence for the memory of ancestors was carried to the extreme of worship. We may properly reverence the worthy and the great among those, who once cheered and brightened and instructed our lives, and have left us a heritage of good principles and noble deeds, without the idolatry. If we have faith in the perfectibility of human nature, we cannot afford to dispense with the wisdom and instruction of such examples; they encourage us in our humbler strivings, they advise us in our more limited knowledge, they give us strength to battle with difficulties and tell us most impressively that the earthly reward of every such a career of consecration and usefulness, is a crown of glory. With such sentiments we may take up our record of the life and activity of our late revered President, the Reverend

JOHN GOTTLIEB MORRIS, D. D., L. L. D.

The earthly career of Dr. Morris was almost concurrent with the 19th century. He was born in York, Pa., on the 14th of November, 1803, but four years after the death of the immortal Washington, and lived through all those long years that have seen our country grow from national infancy to the proud, position she has reached among the civilized powers that now rule the world. His father was a native of Wurtemberg, but emigrated to this country and settled at York. When the revolutionary war broke out, he was commissioned as a surgeon in the army in Col. Arnaud's First Partisan Legion, unattached to any regular regiment, but kept in service where most needed. It was a tradition in the family that he changed his name from Moritz to the English form, lest, if he should fall into

the hands of the enemy, he would be treated as a Hessian deserter. His commission as surgeon, as well as his certificate of membership in the Order of the Cincinnati, signed by Washington, are cherished heirlooms in the family. He must have been a man of force and intelligence, as he secured for his son, John G., personally or through a guardian the best educational advantages of that day. His older brothers, Charles and George, were likewise men of education and lived and died in York, eminent in social position and influence.

Dr. Morris received his preparatory education in the Classical Academy at York, where he was prepared for the Sophomore year in Princeton College, N. J., by Rev. Samuel S. Schmucker, the father of Samuel D. Schmucker, Esq., of this city, one of the members of our own Society. For some reason, his guardian transferred him in his Senior year to Dickenson College, Carlisle, Pa., then under Presbyterian auspices. There he graduated in 1823, and at his death was her oldest alumnus. Having determined to enter the ministry of the Lutheran church, in the absence of any regular Theological Seminary, he betook himself to New Market, Va., and placed himself under the instruction, for two years, of his former classical tutor, Rev. Mr. Schmucker. He spent a third year in special study of German and Hebrew under the Moravian Bishop Schultze at Nazareth, Pa., and finally completed his studies at the recently established Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, graduating in 1826.

After this unusual preparation, for that period in educational advancement, he applied for licensure to preach the Gospel at the meeting of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia in session at Winchester, Va., in October 1826, and was admitted to its membership, never changed for sixty-nine years, until death sundered the tie. He was promptly invited to visit a small band of English Lutherans in Baltimore, and his pulpit efforts proving acceptable, he assumed full charge of the little flock of about thirty families in February 1827, and for thirty-three years was its pastor, in a sanctuary, several times enlarged as the congregation increased and located on West Lexington Street near Howard. He had taken the prize for oratory as a student at Princeton, and in the pulpit he established a high

reputation for effective delivery and attracted to his church many that were not born to the Lutheran faith. During his pastorate, with his full consent and approbation, colonies went forth and formed the Second and Third English Lutheran churches. Since that time he gave his hearty support to every effort to extend the church of his love. The proud distinction must be accorded him of having been the Patriarch of the English Lutheran church in Baltimore.

After his resignation of the First church he accepted the position of Librarian of the Peabody Institute, and helped to lay the foundation of the splendid collections, contained in its halls. He resigned this office after three years of service. Thereafter he served the Third church, first as temporary supply, and then as settled pastor for six years. He rendered a like service to the church at Lutherville from 1879 to 1885. This ended his regular ministerial career, though he frequently preached until about a year of his death from pure love for the vocation be filled with such acceptance and honor.

But such was the activity of Dr. Morris' mind, that he could not limit his efforts to the pulpit. It was a transition period in the church of his choice from the language of the Fatherland to the English. Periodicals had to be established to meet the new want and as early as 1831 he assumed charge of the editorship of the "Lutheran Observer." He subsequently passed it over to Rev. Dr. Benjamin Kurtz. Institutions of learning were called into existence to educate the young for the Church and the State, and for many years he gave his best efforts, both as director and lecturer, to the upbuilding of the Seminary and College at Gettysburg. He discerned that if the sons of the church needed a liberal education, the same was due to its daughters, and he may justly be called the Founder of Lutherville Female Seminary, at one time staking well nigh his whole fortune upon its success.

Nor did his mental activity limit itself to the promotion of Christian literature and education; he early in life developed and sedulously cultivated scientific tastes. He made etymology his special pursuit and attained to considerable eminence in this department; so much so, that, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, he published the results

of his researches and was brought into correspondence with eminent German, French and Scandinavian scientists abroad. Among his papers was found the following memorandum of the learned scientific, literary and historical societies, with which he had been connected during his long career. It is headed: "Offices to which I have been elected."

"This list includes only the most important positions of this character which I have filled:

- President of the Baltimore Lyceum.
- President of the Linnean Society of Pennsylvania.
- President of the College, Gettysburg.
- President of the Young Men's Bible Society, Baltimore.
- President of the Maryland Bible Society.
- President of the Maryland Academy of Sciences.
- President of the Maryland Historical Society.
- President of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.
- President of the Historical Society of the Lutheran Church.
- President of the Academy of Lutheran Church History in America.
- Vice President for Maryland of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.
- Professor in the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.
- Professor of Natural History in the University of Maryland.
- Lecturer on Zoology in Pennsylvania College.
- Lecturer on the Connection between Science and Revelation and on Pulpit Elocution in the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.
- Learned Societies of which I am a member:
 - Corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences in Philadelphia.
 - Corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, Boston.
 - Corresponding member of the Academy of Natural History, Nürnberg, Germany, with diploma.
 - Corresponding member of the New York Lyceum.
 - Corresponding member of the Iowa State Historical Society.
 - Corresponding member of the Northern Antiquarians, Stockholm, with diploma.

Corresponding member of the Royal Historical Society, London, with diploma.

Member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Member of the National Society of Sciences, Washington, D. C.

Member of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

Besides these I have been chosen a member of eight or ten minor and local Scientific Societies."

To have held membership and high official position, in such a variety of distinguished literary, scientific, philosophical and religious organizations, is plainly indicative at once of the Versatility of the Doctors' attainments, as well as of the high esteem in which he was held by the intelligent and learned on both sides of the ocean.

But what requires especial notice at our hands is the fact, that few men had the historic sense, if we call it such, more largely developed than he. *No* labor too great, no patient research too protracted, to get at the true data in the history of our country or of the church he so ardently loved. We, as a Society, know well how eager he was to get upon the trail, as it were, of anything that could add lustre to the German name and give just credit to any noble deed or praiseworthy attainment of any of our ancestry or fellow-citizens. He died the President of four historical societies.

He was untiring in the use of his pen and whilst constantly availing himself of the press in its daily or weekly issues, he was the author of a number of volumes and essays on religious or scientific subjects. As long as he could leave his bed his one diversion was to write.

As a citizen, he was alive to all questions that pertained to the good morals and civic advancement of the community. He took an especial interest in the Male House of Refuge, and as a member of its governing board, gave it his time and thought as long as he could travel to its gates.

But the longest and most useful life must obey nature's stern decree and come to an end on earth. His last illness was brief and almost painless. His lifeforces simply wore out and

death asserted its claim. He died at his summer residence at Lutherville, surrounded by the members of the family, at about 11 o'clock P. M. on the 10th of October, 1895, within about one month of attaining the extraordinary age of ninety-two years. If he was honored in his life, so he was in his death. The funeral services were held in St. Mark's Church and were largely attended by many of the most distinguished citizens of the city, as well as by former parishioners and by the Synod of Maryland in a body. The devotional services were conducted by Drs. Valentine and Studebaker and addresses delivered by Dr. B. Sadtler, Dr. Charles S. Albert, Rev. O. C. Roth and Dr. W. H. Dunbar. The Peabody Institute, Pratt Library, Maryland Historical Society, Board of the House of Refuge, Sons of the American Revolution and the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland were represented by honorary pall-bearers. The active pall-bearers were taken from his church friends. The Synod of Maryland appointed six of its leading members to accompany his remains to York, Pa., where beside his wife and other kindred they were laid to their rest, in the hope of a glorious resurrection unto eternal life.

Thus has passed from our midst a man of learning, as a scholar, of eloquence, as a preacher, of incessant activity, as a writer, and of untiring zeal, as a philanthropist. His convictions of Christian truth were profound, and his life in holiest harmony with his convictions. To him moral worth, whatever was good and pure and noble were held in higher esteem, than the eminence of rank, of intellectuality or any attainments that simply expand the mind or cultivate the taste. To him piety was above culture. In his last illness, he calmly awaited his summons; the peace of God was in his heart. He has entered into his reward. Long may we cherish his memory and imitate his worth!

B. SADTLER, D. D.