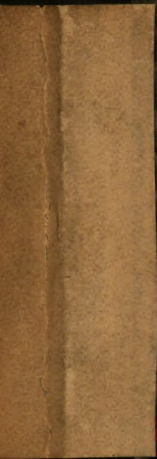




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AT THE FUNERAL

OF

George Macintosh Maclean, M.D., Ph. D.

PRINCETON, MARCH 11TH, 1886,

BY THE REV. HORACE G. HINSDALE, ¹⁵²

Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.

PRINCETON, N. J.:

PRINTED BY C. S. ROBINSON & Co.

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GEORGE MACINTOSH MACLEAN, M. D., Ph. D., died at his residence in Princeton, New Jersey, March eighth, 1886, aged eighty years.

At the funeral, which took place in the First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, March eleventh, the services were conducted by the Rev. Horace G. Hinsdale, pastor of the church, assisted by the Rev. James A. Worden, D. D.

Some of the facts stated in the earlier part of the address are drawn from the Memoir of Professor John Maclean, M. D., by his son, John Maclean, D. D., LL. D., ex-President of the College of New Jersey.

ADDRESS.

IN the spring of 1795 a young Scotch physician, John Maclean by name, left his native country with the intention of becoming a citizen of the United States. He was twenty-four years of age, of an old and highly respectable lineage, and had pursued classical and scientific studies under eminent teachers in Glasgow, Edinburgh, London and Paris. He was especially distinguished for proficiency in Chemistry, having embraced the new system taught by Lavoisier, and other French scientists of that period.

By the advice of Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, Dr. Maclean settled in Princeton. Soon after his arrival, at the request of the President of the College of New Jersey, the Rev. Samuel Stanhope Smith, D. D., he delivered before the students a short course of lectures on Chemistry, which gave so great satisfaction that at the next meeting of the trustees he was appointed Professor of Chemistry and Natural History. The esteem in which he was held may be learned from the remark of the Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander in his narrative of a visit to Princeton in 1801: "Dr. Maclean emigrated to America in 1795, and became one of the most popular professors who ever graced the College. He was at home almost equally in all branches of science. Chemistry, Natural History, Mathematics and Natural Philosophy successively claimed his attention." The justly celebrated Professor Benjamin Silliman, Sen., of Yale College, said: "I regard him as my earliest master in Chemistry, and

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Princeton as my starting point in that pursuit." The younger Professor Silliman in a paper on American Contributions to Chemistry, describes Dr. Maclean as "ever deserving honorable mention as one of the earliest and most successful teachers of our science in this country."

In November, 1798, Dr. Maclean was united in marriage to Phebe, the eldest daughter of Dr. Absalom Bainbridge, of New York, and sister of Commodore William Bainbridge, of the United States Navy. They were blessed with several children, the death of one of whom—their fourth son—we mourn to-day.

George Macintosh Maclean was so named in honor of the faithful guardian and devoted friend of his father's youth. He was born in Princeton in February, 1806, and had reached the ripe age of four score at the time of his decease. A graduate of the College of New Jersey in the Class of 1824, he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the City of New York in the year 1829. His disposition was quiet, retiring and studious, and he was always noted for truthfulness and candor. After practicing medicine for some time in Princeton and in New York City, he was compelled by pulmonary weakness to seek a milder climate and went to Holly Springs, Mississippi, where he engaged for a time in teaching. He was subsequently Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in Hanover College, Indiana. Still later he was connected as a lecturer on scientific subjects with a medical school at Cincinnati, Ohio, and with the Western University of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh. To every position which he filled he brought a conscientious fidelity in the discharge of duty which made him far more solicitous to be useful to others than to win fame and emolument for himself.

That Dr. Maclean inherited his father's partiality for the natural sciences appears not only from the direction given to his studies and his teaching, but also from his writings. He was the author of a treatise on Somatology. Several papers of interest written by him were printed in the New York Journal of Medicine. Among them was one on "The Diseases Prevailing in Princeton in the Year 1836 and 1837," and another on "A Case of Amaurosis caused by Lightning During Sleep, successfully treated in 1856." He was author of two Reports on the Progress of Medical Chemistry, published by the Indiana State Medical Society in 1853 and 1854. He also wrote papers on "Teaching Chemistry," on "Flame," and on the "Elements of Chemistry." He prepared an extended work on Chemistry which was not given to the press.

Of his religious character it is surely not necessary to speak at length before his friends and neighbors, who well know what manner of man he was. On the fourth of May, 1839, he was admitted to full membership in the Church of Christ on the profession of his faith. He had previously been one of the trustees of this congregation for two years. In the year 1845, while a resident of New York, he was elected a ruling elder in the Duane street Presbyterian Church in that city, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. Dr. James W. Alexander. In February, 1867, he was appointed to the same office in the First Presbyterian Church in Princeton. As a Christian man he always seemed to me unselfish and unassuming, the soul of courtesy and honor, orthodox in his beliefs, frank and courageous in the avowal of his opinions, and earnest in the endeavor to live in accordance with the Word of God and to fulfill the obligations of his high calling. As a church officer he was diligent and exact, intensely loyal to his church, an intelli-

gent and competent member of her judicatories, and deeply interested in her progress at home and abroad. In short our deceased brother belonged to a class of men—would that it were a larger class!—who are more anxious to be than to seem, and who so cordially busy themselves with well-doing in the service and for the honor of the Lord Christ as to be little disturbed by the ambition of pre-eminence among men. When such are removed from us we recognize, as never before, the real worth of their lives, and are constrained to echo the Psalmist's cry: "*Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.*"

It were but a little thing to assure the household, now bereft of a beloved husband and father, and the venerable men who survive the brother and companion of their later as well as their earlier years, of our profound sympathy. This, indeed, is the best that human friends can give, and we give it with all our hearts. But it is also our higher privilege to invoke for them the healing sympathy and sustaining grace of the Redeemer who is not ashamed to call us brethren. The Saviour of our departed ones is our Saviour as well. The blood that has cleansed them from the guilt of sin has also cleansed us. The Divine Spirit who has given them newness of life, winning them from the love of sin, has likewise quickened us with the resurrection life of our Lord. The inheritance of glory into which they have entered is equally our inheritance, and we shall share it with them. Beyond the clouds and the sunshine, the smiling and the weeping that checker the way of our mortal pilgrimage; beyond the infirmities of age, the pains of sickness, the partings of the dying hour, the last rites at the open grave; our faith enables us even now, amidst the surroundings of death, to obtain a ravishing view of the

serene beauty and fadeless light of the home of God's redeemed—the true Home, in which the members of sundered Christian households, brought together in the final unity of the Family of God, never more to taste of death, shall look with unclouded vision upon the face of Him who is their Life and Light, and adoringly rejoice in the infinite wonders of Redemption.

“ O, happy, holy portion,
 Refection for the blest,
 True vision of true beauty,
 Sweet cure of all distrest !
 Strive, man, to win that glory ;
 Toil, man, to gain that light ;
 Send hope before to grasp it,
 Till hope be lost in sight ;
 Till Jesus gives the portion
 Those blessed souls to fill—
 The insatiate, yet satisfied,
 The full, yet craving still.”

At a meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church held on Saturday, April third, 1886, the following minute, relative to the death of Dr. Geo. M. Maclean, was adopted :—

It having pleased God to remove from us, by death, Geo. Macintosh Maclean, M. D., Ph. D., a useful and honored Ruling Elder in this church for the past nineteen years, we, his surviving associates in the Session, do hereby place on record our high appreciation of our deceased brother's many excellent qualifications for the position which he held, his intelligence and assiduity in performing its duties, his unvarying courtesy, transparent candor, and earnest piety.

We desire, also, to express our cordial sympathy with his bereaved family, and commend them to the tender care, the abundant mercy, and the healing grace of Him who is the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.

A true extract.

Attest :

HENRY E. HALE, Clerk.