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In Memoriam Benjamin Thomas Hoyt

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Boston University
IN MEMORIAM.

Benjamin Thomas Hoyt was the son of the venerable Rev. Benjamin Ray and Lucinda (Freeman) Hoyt, now residing in Windham, New Hampshire, and was born in Boston, Massachusetts, October 18, 1820, when his father was the pastor of the Bromfield-Street Church. He was fitted for college at Newbury Seminary, Vt., by Rev. Osman C. Baker, now Bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and graduated with honor at the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, under the Presidency of Rev. Dr. Olin, in 1846. He served with great success for several years after his graduation as the Principal of the High School at Middletown, Conn.; afterwards, from 1849 to 1852, occupied a similar position at Chelsea, Massachusetts; and in 1852, through the influence of friends, went to Indiana and took charge of the Lawrenceburg Institute, where he continued to be preeminently successful as an instructor. In 1856, he was elected to the Presidency of the Indiana Female College, at Indianapolis; and in 1858, to the chair of Latin in the Indiana Asbury University. This position he filled with fidelity and success till 1863, when he was transferred to the chair of Belles-Lettres and History, which he held till his death. For the duties of the latter chair, his tastes, fine elocution and polished style of composition specially fitted him. He was a model teacher—industrious, systematic, prompt and thorough. Under the influence of his
example, his classes acquired the habit of making careful preparation for the recitation-room. As a governor he was equally successful. He was tolerant of nothing that savored of impropriety or neglect. Hence his class-room was a model of order, energy, thoroughness and propriety. Himself generous, open-hearted, manly and truthful, he scorned disguises and indirect methods in all relations, whether social or professional; and, hence, led his pupils as he did men in general, by appeals to their sense of truth and right.

In the early Spring of this year, after the close of the revival meetings in Simpson Chapel, continued through many weeks, and from which he was seldom absent, he began to complain of weariness and exhaustion. He had labored beyond his uncommon powers of endurance; but he continued, nevertheless, to discharge his regular college duties till the close of the term. He was soon after prostrated with typhoid fever, which, after seven weeks, terminated fatally.

A touching incident occurred at the funeral worthy of notice. At a meeting of the choir some months before his sickness, after the singing of a piece of music entitled, "There is a light beyond the river," he said, "When I die, I wish this sung at my funeral." After the funeral sermon, the choir with which he had so long sung, complied with that request amid the tears and sobs of a crowded assembly.

He left a wife and three daughters to mourn for him and cherish his memory. May his zeal, devotion and success inspire many a teacher to be abundant in labors in hope of a crown of life!

LETTER FROM PROF. JOHNSTON.

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, 1
Middleton, Conn., June 7, 1867.

MY DEAR MRS. HOYT,—

THOUGH an entire stranger to you, personally—for I do not recollect ever to have met you—yet, having been so well acquainted with your late lamented husband, my feelings prompt me to say a word of condolence and sympathy, in this time of your deep affliction and sorrow. But what can I say, at such a time, that will not tend to excite anew the unbidden tear, rather than to repress the gush of feeling now seeking to overflow from the deep fountain within?

My acquaintance with him began with his becoming a member of the University, twenty-five years ago; and my esteem for him has uniformly increased with the progress of time and the steady development of his character.

Soon after his graduation, being a member of the Board of Education of this city, it was my privilege to afford him some little aid in obtaining the place of Principal of our High School, the duties of which he discharged with signal ability and success for several years. He was at length taken from us by the offer of a more lucrative place, as Principal of some school in Boston or vicinity, and I do not recollect hearing much of him for several years, except of his general success.

Since his connection with the Board of Instruction in the Indiana Asbury University, only one report has come to us, and that has been of his uniform success and increasing popularity and usefulness.

It has been particularly gratifying of late years to learn of the increasing depth of his religious convictions, and his
unselfish devotion to the Sunday school, and to the cause of religion generally, as well as to the cause of education to which his life had been devoted.

But he has gone, and we mourn; but not as those without hope! We rejoice in the good work he has done, and the excellent name he has left for the inheritance of his children. Be assured of our prayers, both for yourself and the dear daughters whom he loved so tenderly.

Sincerely and truly yours,

MRS. E. L. HOYT.

JOHN JOHNSTON.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE INDIANA ASBURY UNIVERSITY.

At a meeting of the joint Board of Trustees and Visitors of Indiana Asbury University, held on the 25th of June, 1867, the following resolutions relative to Professor Hoyt were passed:

Whereas, Since the last meeting of the Board an inscrutable Providence has removed from our midst Professor Benjamin T. Hoyt, who for the past nine years has been a member of the Faculty of the University, and who has devoted his life to the work of Christian education; therefore,

Resolved, That we feel called upon to record our high appreciation of his worth as a man, as an efficient and successful educator, a genial companion, a ripe scholar and a devoted Christian.

Resolved, That his devotion, energy and sacrifice in his connection with the University have been eminently successful, and that while we deeply feel our loss of his services, we are thankful in the assurance that his labors for the promotion of Christian education have been fruitful of much good.

Resolved, That we tender our kindest Christian sympathies to the widow and fatherless children of our beloved brother, and offer our earnest prayers to Heaven for the Father's blessing upon them; and that the Secretary of the Board be instructed to furnish Mrs. Hoyt with a copy of these resolutions, and also copies to the Western and North-Western Christian Advocates.

JAMES C. JOHNS, SECRETARY.
RESOLUTIONS
OF THE FACULTY OF THE INDIANA ASBURY UNIVERSITY.

Professor Benjamin T. Hoyt having been called by his Heavenly Father from his earthly labor to his heavenly rest, we, his former co-laborers, deem it due to his family, to the Church, to the community as well as to ourselves, to make public expression of our regard for his virtues, and sympathy for his surviving friends.

In the death of Professor Hoyt we realize that the Faculty of Asbury University has lost an eminently earnest, faithful, zealous, strict, conscientious and efficient co-laborer, who was ever devoted to the best interests of the University; while at the same time, in turn serving the Church, the Sabbath school, the city, the county and State, in various influential and honorable positions.

Ever revering his memory, we shall live and labor on in cheerful hope of a Heavenly reunion, hoping and praying that the religious example and teaching of our brother may produce their legitimate and blessed fruits upon the hearts and lives of the students and others who have had the privilege of receiving his instructions; and that the bereaved family may ever live in the enjoyment of those peculiar consolations and blessings so abundantly promised by Him who styles himself the God of the widow and fatherless.

THOMAS BOWMAN, Pres't.
JOSEPH TINGLEY, Vice-Pres't.
JOHN LOCKE.

PHILANDER WILEY,
J. A. REUBELT.
LEWIS A. ROGERS.

RESOLUTIONS
OF THE STUDENTS OF INDIANA ASBURY UNIVERSITY.

At a meeting of the students, held Saturday, May 26, 1867; the following resolutions were passed:

Whereas, It has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst, by death, our beloved Professor, Benjamin T. Hoyt; therefore,

Resolved, That in his death the University has suffered the loss of an able and efficient instructor; a man, who, during his connection with it, has been a strong and active supporter of its interests.

Resolved, That as students, we have been deprived of a preceptor, strict and precise in his requirements, and always deeply interested in the welfare of those under his care, seeking to make them good students and thorough scholars.

Resolved, That in him is lost a man whose moral character was unexceptionable, and whose Christian life was an example worthy of imitation by us all. He was a good man.

Resolved, That we tender to his bereaved family and friends our deepest sympathy, assuring them that the affliction which has fallen upon them so severely, touches our hearts also with grief.

Resolved, That we will endeavor to profit by his moral and Christian life, and follow his footsteps along the narrow way to the better world.

Resolved, That in token of respect for the memory of our esteemed Professor, we will, during the remainder of this term, wear a badge of mourning.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to his family, and that they be published in the Western Christian Advocate and the Asbury Review.

JOHN OVERMYER, 
S. R. DOWNEY. 
J. W. CULLEY. 
Committee.
RESOLUTIONS
OF SIMPSON CHAPEL SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Whereas, a strangely mysterious but all-wise Providence has seen fit to remove from among us, in the midst of his usefulness and in the vigor of his manhood, our dearly-beloved Superintendent; one who, by his kindly manner and his many manly virtues, had endeared himself to the hearts of all who knew him, and upon whom, as a Sunday school Superintendent, we had long since learned to look with pride and the fondest affection; therefore, be it

1. Resolved, By the Simpson Chapel Sunday School, that in the death of Professor Benjamin T. Hoyt, we have lost an earnest, faithful, and devoted Superintendent; one, indeed, whose place we can scarcely ever hope to fill; and while we look upon his vacant chair, and realize that we shall no longer enjoy his society; that we shall never again listen to his tender words of instruction, our hearts are weighed down with gloom and sadness, and we can find no words to express our sorrow; but trusting in the wisdom of Him who is too wise and good to err, we humbly submit to this judgment, well assured that our loss is his certain and eternal gain.

2. Resolved, That we will ever cherish with the fondest affection, the memory of our departed counselor and friend; that we will strive to emulate his pure Christian example; that we will endeavor in all our lives never to forget his many warm and tender words of affection, exhorting us to a higher life. And now that he has "passed over the river," we recognize another "light in the window;" another star shining above us; another pilgrim who has safely ascended the hill of Zion; another pure spirit gone to "join the angels in the air;" another

friend gone on before to lead and beckon us to "that bright land of joy and beauty."

3. Resolved, That to the widow and family of our departed friend, in this sore affliction, we extend our warmest sympathies. No words of ours can alleviate their grief. We can only point them to the Hand that has stricken, that is abundantly able and willing to heal and that "doeth all things well."

A. BIRCH,
W. N. STEVENSON, Committee.
G. W. TELLE,

W. W. LYON, SECRETARY.

Greencastle, Ind., 4th June, 1867.
FUNERAL SERVICES.

[From the Indianapolis Journal of May 27, 1867.]

For the first time in the history of the Indiana Asbury University the corps of instructors has been broken by death. This fact, coupled with the character of the deceased, rendered the death of Professor Hoyt an event of peculiar and impressive solemnity. Those acquainted with student-life know how students come to love and esteem their teachers; and that when to the value of the ripe scholar and skill of the practical instructor are added the affection of a fine social nature and the tenderness of a devoted Christian, this love and esteem ripened into veneration, differing little in intensity or character from that felt for a father.

Such was preeminently true in the case of Mr. Hoyt. While he was one of the most active and efficient members of the Faculty, he was a leading officer in the Church and a valuable citizen, exhibiting in an unusual degree the points of a complete man.

The funeral services took place in the college chapel, at Greencastle, on last Sabbath afternoon, and were indescribably affecting. There were present the bereaved and mourning relatives, the faculty, students of the University, two hundred Sunday school scholars, and an uncounted crowd of citizens. The services were directed by the faculty, but carried out mainly by the students.

The sermon by Dr. Bowman, from the text, "There is but a step between me and the grave"—was full of instruction and exhortation to the living, rather than of praise for the dead. The singing was the finest we ever heard on such an occasion.

His remains were laid in the new and beautiful cemetery south of the town, and as the large concourse slowly and sadly—in groups and singly—wended their way back to the village, the question was asked again and again, "Who can fill his place?" and was as often answered, "No one." Another may come and perform the duties he was accustomed to discharge—sit in his chair, occupy his room, take charge of his Sunday school, but in the hearts of professors, students and children, Professor Hoyt’s place will ever be vacant.

EXTRACTS.

FROM THE EVANSVILLE (IND.) JOURNAL.

As a literary character, few men of Indiana enjoyed a higher reputation than the late Professor Hoyt. His compositions were the fruits of no common mind. A voice peculiarly fitted for oratory, and a soul to mean what he said, together with natural grace and elegant culture, made him a model lecturer. He drew audiences, despite rain and storm, when he spoke. He was announced to lecture in this city a few weeks since, but death left the lecture undelivered.

Noted as a scholar, he was also remarkable as an instructor. Our State has had few more successful educators. Armed with fine executive ability, he had a magic power over his classes that made them blush to appear in his recitation-room ignorant of their lessons. He loved faithful students, and made little effort to conceal his preference for such. The Professor was dignified in appearance, gentlemanly in conduct and social in disposition. His sensibilities were exceedingly large and tender; but he wore a cloak of formal dignity which kept...
the world at large away from him, and admitted only a few comparatively to the favor of intimate friendship. In these days of Sunday schools, the tact for conducting them is not considered a weakness. Mr. Hoyt was the acknowledged chief of Sunday school Superintendents.

His death leaves a vacancy in the University which it will be difficult to fill; for he was a man who filled up a large measure of influence. In him the College has lost a faithful teacher, the Sunday school a kind shepherd, the Church a warm member, the State a good citizen and the world a useful workman.

FROM THE WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE OF JUNE 5, 1857.

BY REV. ERWIN HOUSE.

In the death of Mr. Hoyt, of the Indiana Asbury University, not only has the cause of education, but the Church and the Sunday school interest, suffered the loss of one of the most efficient and faithful of laborers. He knew but one guiding impulse—duty. On the Sabbath, as well as in the recitation-room, his time and strength were given without reserve to the advancement of others. His home during the last Commencement was also ours, and the memories of the occasion will not fade or grow dim. As a lover of men—of young men—and of little children, there was none to excel him. The last look we had of his genial face, and the last words that dropped from his lips on our ears, were, “Good-by. Your visit has done me good. We shall some day meet in the good country.”

FROM THE WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE OF JUNE 12, 1857.

BY REV. THOMAS BOWMAN, D. D.

INTELLECTUALLY, Professor Hoyt was entitled to high rank. To sound judgment, delicate taste and fine imagination, he had added high intellectual culture. No one as a lecturer appeared upon the rostrum of the University that gave more general pleasure to students and citizens than he. His discourses were always prepared with care, and were fine specimens of sound thinking and polished writing. His lectures and addresses before literary societies, the State Teachers’ Association and at College Commencements, were by general consent classed with the best of such productions.

He was possessed of fine social qualities. Gentlemanly in his general intercourse, genial in the society of his friends, kind and attentive to the sick and dying, he secured warm friends wherever he went.

The last months of his life were a fitting close to his successful and useful career. During the early part of last Winter his religious experience was largely deepened and enriched, and he became intensely interested in the prosperity of the Church and in the salvation of souls. There are many who will not soon forget his fervent prayers, earnest exhortations and joyous songs of praise. The Master, to whom he had consecrated his life, seemed to be fitting him for the change which was so near at hand.

He now “rests from his labors, and his works do follow him.” The immense concourse that followed his remains to the cemetery bear testimony to the worth of his character and the profound respect cherished for his memory.
HE was our class-mate. For four years we sat by his side in the recitation-room and in the chapel. He was a gentlemanly and agreeable associate, easily making and keeping troops of friends.

His career since as an educator has been highly honorable to himself and to the Church.

He died suddenly, in the hour of his strength, with his eye undimmed and his natural force increasing. We saw him one year ago, a portly and vigorous gentleman, seemingly with years of usefulness before him.

But the Lord had other work for him than earth's.

To his class-mates comes again the warning, "Watch ye!" To his students, his kindred and the Church is left the lesson of a faithful life and a triumphant death. May they copy the former, that they may enjoy the latter in those testing moments which will soon overtake them!