

YALE OBITUARIES.

THE LATE REV. GEORGE I. WOOD, '33.

[From a Sketch read at Mr. Wood's funeral by his pastor in Washington, D. C., January 16.]

His career as an ordained minister began in this city in 1840, when he was pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church. Afterwards he was pastor of West Hartford and other congregational churches of Connecticut. His ministry also included a brief pastorate in Minnesota. His last pastorate was in his native State, at Ellington, where in 1871, on account of ill-health, he was obliged to lay aside the active duties of a pastorate. I would not say that he laid aside the active duties of the ministry till 11.30 last Monday night. Anyone who ever heard him talk in a prayer meeting, or lead in a public prayer, or even conversed with him, will count such times as occasions of spiritual blessing. Since 1891 he has resided with his daughter, Mrs. Vinal, in this city, and during this period has been active in the life of this church. When health permitted, and until these late weeks health did permit, he was at every service of the church. Gradually the creeping embrace of the last enemy drew him from the fellowship of the public worship of God. And yet, until within a few months he was able to come to prayer meeting, and until within a few weeks able to come to Sunday morning service, and until within a few days in the full possession of his faculties, feeling, as he said, the exceeding seriousness of exchanging worlds, knowing he was going to die,—going into the valley of the shadow eyes open,—and yet not afraid. \* \* \*

He was married on April 24, 1840 to Miss Susan T. Merwin, daughter of Rev. Samuel and Clarissa B. Merwin. To them four children were born, of whom two survive them: Mrs. Emily W. Vinal of this city, and Mr. Oliver T. Wood of the United States Army.

EDWIN WRIGHT, '44.

On Saturday, January 21st, at his home, 295 Beacon street, Boston, occurred the death of Judge Edwin Wright, Yale '44, brother of Professor Arthur W. Wright, Yale '59, and the late A. H. Wright, Yale '63. Mr. Wright was born at North Coventry, Conn., 1821. He was valedictorian of the Yale Class of Forty-Four. After leaving College, he taught in the English High School in Boston, and was afterwards Principal of the Medford High School. Later he was at the head of the Eliot Grammar School in Boston. He was very successful in his teaching, and maintained a very warm interest in education through his life, and gave a long service to the Boston School Board.

Mr. Wright studied law in Harvard, and was admitted to the Suffolk Bar in 1850. His specialty was Real Estate Law. In 1861, he was made Justice of the Boston Police Court, and served there for five years, until the abolition of that court in 1866. It is interesting to know that no decision of the Court made during his term was ever overruled. Judge Wright made special efforts to redeem young offenders by means of parole and suspended sentences. He was very successful in this direction, and succeeded in turning the course of not a few into safe ways.

After leaving the Bench, he resumed his practice of the law and saw clients up to within a few days of his death. The Boston Transcript has the following paragraph concerning him: "Judge Wright was a profound student of ethical and religious questions, and read widely on all these subjects. He gave many lectures before the Law School of the Boston University, and frequently lectured before literary societies. His powers of oratory were early recognized, and in the Massachusetts General Court, of which he was twice a member, his voice was heard on all important measures. He was a staunch Republican, and had the privilege of voting for every Republican candidate for President. In Masonic circles, Judge Wright was widely known. He was a Past Master of Massachusetts Lodge A. F. & A. M., and had taken the highest degree in the Order."

He married Helen M., the daughter of Paul Curtis, who survives him. His surviving children are Rev. M. St. C. Wright and Mrs. Theodore Williams, both of New York.

The late A. H. Wright, Yale '63, one of Judge Wright's brothers, was a successful lawyer in New York. He died

in 1896. Professor Arthur W. Wright, another brother, is the present Professor of Experimental Physics at this University. A sister, Miss Philura Wright, lives in Boston.

WILLIAM THOMAS REYNOLDS, '45.

Rev. William Thomas Reynolds, of the Class of Forty-Five, died January 24, at his home in North Haven, Conn., at the age of seventy-five. Mr. Reynolds was born in West Haven, Conn., November 16th, 1823. After graduating from the College, he entered the Divinity School, from which he graduated in 1848.

He held two successive pastorates at Sherman and Kiantone, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., at the time when Western New York was regarded as a field for pioneer missionary work. In 1862 he returned to New England, and accepted a pastorate in North Haven, Conn. He remained there for thirty years, and at the time of his resignation, was holding the second longest pastorate in the Congregational Church of this State. He was eminently successful in his pastoral work, but at the same time maintained a keen interest in the College and Theological Seminary, and was unusually well-posted in current theological literature. He was also interested in the work of the Connecticut Historical Society, and made frequent contributions to it.

He married Sarah M. Painter of West Haven, and leaves behind one son and daughter. His son, James T. Reynolds, is a graduate of Eighty-Four, and is now engaged in philanthropic work in New York City.

REV. BENJAMIN TALBOT, '49.

Rev. Benjamin Talbot, '49, died Monday, January 16th, at his residence, 640 Franklin avenue, Columbus, O., after an illness of a week. Grip complicated with heart trouble was the cause of his death.

Mr. Talbot was born at Brooklyn, N. Y., on May 22, 1827, but his family removing to Colchester, Conn., he lived there for some years. He entered Yale with the Class of Forty-Nine, at the end of Freshman year in May, 1846. After graduation, he lived for a year at the College as a graduate student, and spent three years in the Yale Divinity School. Until August, 1854, he occupied the position of Classical Teacher in Williston Seminary, Easthampton, Mass.; then becoming a teacher of the deaf and dumb, was connected in this capacity with the Ohio Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, until 1863. For the next five years Mr. Talbot was Superintendent of the Iowa Deaf and Dumb Institution in Iowa City, and while in that city was ordained in 1864 a minister of the Gospel. He lived in Council Bluffs, Iowa, from 1870 to 1880, but in the latter year returned to Columbus, O., and resumed his work of instructing the deaf and dumb.

Mr. Talbot, as an ordained minister of the Congregational Church, often preached to the deaf mutes, and occasionally filled pulpits in various churches.

Mrs. Talbot died four days after her husband, from an attack of grip.

THE LATE CHARLES ANSEL WATROUS, '84.

Funeral services for Charles Ansel Watrous, '84, who died in New York on January 20th, were held on January 23d at 3.30 P. M., at the residence of Mrs. George H. Watrous, on Whitney avenue, New Haven. The services were read by Rev. Newman Smyth. Many friends and classmates of Mr. Watrous were present from out of town. The bearers were William B. Bristow, John R. Halsey, Leonard M. Daggett, Henry C. Hopkins, Paul E. Jenks, Frank D. Trowbridge, Joseph Wood, Henry T. Shelton, Edward I. Sanford, all of Yale '84; S. R. Bertron, '85; Russell Sargent, '84 S., and Edward F. Coward of New York.

One who knew Mr. Watrous has written this of him: "There is no one who knew 'Chas.' Watrous who will not, hearing of his death, feel a deep sense of personal bereavement, as well as regret that his life was not spared to permit the full development of power and success which it promised. Such a combination of happiness and warmth of feeling, readiness of mind, soundness and strength of perception, is very rare. His life had many interests. In business he was already successful and his

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judgment, ability and energy would surely have won his high position.

"But what a man achieves in business is not the measure of his manhood. Watrous will be best remembered for his social qualities—not mere good companionship, but the higher qualities of friendship and affection, which are founded in character, together with the readiness of mind and wit which quickens fellowship. From men and books, and from all things, he selected what was true and discarded what was false and trivial. His friendship was of the loyal, hearty and generous kind which forgives weaknesses without overlooking them—which helps without wounding.

"Those who knew him intimately, know, too, that he loved books almost as much as he loved people, and that he could give with his pen a happy turn to the little incidents and specially the humorous incidents of life. While editor of the *Yale Record* he wrote many good pieces of light prose and verse. Later he contributed occasionally to *Life*.

"As a man should, he grew in power and enthusiasm, so that, while all loved him, in College and out, those who have been closest to him in the later years will realize best how full his life was of promise, both to himself and them."

The New Haven Register of Jan. 22 contained the following editorial referring to Mr. Watrous: "Charles A. Watrous of New York, a New Haven boy whose untimely death was announced yesterday, was a son of the late George H. Watrous. He was a young man of uncommonly winning ways and substantial ability, which he used as only a thorough man can, to steadily advance himself in the world. He had worked in positions of high authority upon the staff of the New York Sun and graduated from that school of human nature to enter upon a successful business career. His Class at Yale was '84, but his interest in his Alma Mater never relaxed; in fact it grew stronger as he grew older. Personally he was most attractive and loyal, making his way into one's heart, and then resting there in a spot undisputed by others. He was the sort of man who is bound to occupy a position of influence among his fellow men, for he was honest, clean, industrious and able."

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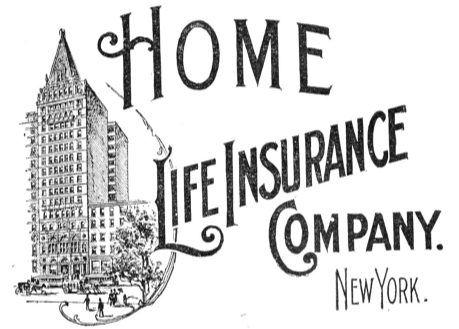
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