

our nation in Great Britain. Of the service which he rendered in that period of his life, it is for others to speak more fittingly than I can, and at another time than this. But those years bore testimony, we may fitly say to one another even at this hour, in an impressive manner of the highest manliness and gentlemanliness in our best national life, and in this way no less truly than in others, he was an honor to his countrymen and deserves for his work their most grateful remembrance. Certainly he merits such remembrance in our academic brotherhood and in this circle of friendship. The man who has rendered such service has honored us all, and has given to our individual lives and to the common life something which is an addition to our possessions. We are more than we should have been had no such work been accomplished, and had no such influence come upon us.

AS A TEACHER.

He seemed to me in his work as a teacher to be one who laid hold upon great principles rather than upon minute details. The latter were not unimportant in his view, but the former were the great essentials, and to them he would have his students turn their most eager and earnest thought. For this reason, as well as for others, he seemed to me to have a peculiar stimulating force for all who listened to his words. He showed himself always and everywhere to be thoroughly equipped with the learning of his profession, but his chief desire was that the young men before him should become possessed of what was broadest and most fundamental—that they should be mentally awakened in the sphere of their own science, and thus be enabled to use their trained powers with the utmost efficiency, and in the wisest way, with reference to any call which might be made for their exercise. For this reason it was, as well as because of the clearness of his statements and the felicity of his language in the expression of his thoughts, that he became an attractive guide for those who were in the first stages of their legal studies, as truly and fully as for those who had moved farther onward in their course and had seen more of the open field. For this reason also, as well as because of his high ideals, he led his students to elevated conceptions of the professional life upon which they were about to enter, and thus quickened them to the appreciation of manliness, while he was impelling them to enthusiastic devotion to their work. He presented to them the dignity and worth of manly living and, at the same time, he gave them new thoughts and new knowledge.

THE MEANING OF THE LIFE TO OTHERS.

This gift to us, and all these other things which have been spoken of as connected with our friend's personality, are among the good results of his career as related to ourselves. We enter into other men's labors. No less truly do we share, in our measure, in the life-work and the life-influence of those with whom we have been associated and who have passed on into another sphere of living before us. The inheritance which we possess, and in which we rejoice, has come to us from generations and has entered into our present personality and experience. The life within us, precious and central to our souls as it is,

THE ACADEMIC SLOUCH,

(Reference being to a hat), has a style of its own, no matter what its hues and age. That is true of most anything a College man puts on his head. So many College men wear Knox Hats!

is in part the life of other men, of the past or the present, who in a way they knew not of and in accordance with a measure which we do not fully understand, have entered by their influence within the doors of our inmost selves. So we move onward and upward in our living until in some future day of blessed retrospect and outlook "the sower and the reaper," as the words of Jesus are, "shall rejoice together."

The good things which have come to us from our friend's life are centered in the life itself and its work—in these as I have recalled them to my own mind and yours, and as some of you may perchance recall them more fully and vividly than I have been able to do. In a peculiar sense this life and work of his have passed, so far as the University brotherhood is concerned, into its life. They are to abide here as a part of the rich inheritance from the by-gone time, and are to have their silent influence for good in the experience of many men of the future years who may have little thought or knowledge of the source from which the blessing came. But that it came will be a cause of thankfulness.

THE COMPLETENESS OF THE LIFE.

The life has now reached its end. My thought of it in these passing days has been and is of its completeness. If we think of the years only, it has moved on through them with fullness of powers and of enjoyment almost to the utmost limit of age. There has been no oncoming of infirmity or darkening of the mental vision, but the brightness and vigor of manhood have continued until the last illness, the messenger from beyond, came to summon the spirit to a new world. What could have been happier or more complete? What better could we wish for ourselves than to pass onward so joyfully beyond the three-score years and ten, and far on towards the fourscore years, and to keep within ourselves the youthful spirit until the end.

But life does not consist or have its significance in its years. Let us think of it in its progress and development. Our friend had the privilege of birth and childhood in a home of culture and refinement, with influences and inspirations about him which sent him forward happily, as well as successfully, toward the season of youth and early manhood. He had the blessing of education and of the higher education—a blessing which is beyond almost any other that the world can give, and which no man who has known it in his experience can ever cease to appreciate or to be grateful for with a soul-stirring gratitude. He had a favorable entrance into an honorable profession and a prosperous life-work in the line of its studies and duties. He gained the esteem of men near to him and remote from him, and reputation of a most worthy and satisfying character. He was called, as the years of ripest maturity came, to positions of high distinction and wide-reaching usefulness. He knew the best life of his own nation, and the best life also of a most cultured nation beyond the sea. He had the richest of earthly happiness from early manhood to the latest age—that which belongs to the home life. He knew the blessedness of giving and receiving in that life—a blessedness that grows with the years. He was ready and willing to pass on to the future and its revelation of greater and grander things as the end drew near. The Father's voice called him, and we see him no more.

Surely, the life in its every aspect—as in its years—was complete, and we may well look upon it, at its ending, with gratitude to God for the vision as it reveals itself before our minds.

THE GREAT FUTURE.

And now the great future is beyond. What is its life and what its work? We cannot tell, for the veil that hides the reality is not lifted from our eyes. But the life here which is rounded out to its fullness, and knows at the close of the years no diminution of its force and energy, gives to us its own word of suggestion and teaching. This word is of continued activity, of a larger sphere of thought and action, of higher themes for the mind to dwell upon, of richer experiences in which the soul may rejoice. The man has been, with all his growth and what we call his maturity, in a period of education, in which he has found himself, after coming into

possession of everything that has been gained, only fitted for the reception of more and reaching out after what is yet greater and better. The end is like the earlier days. There is the same eagerness of desire—the same outgoing towards what has not yet been attained—the same deep sense of the greatness of the man as compared with what has already come to him—the same feeling deeply seated in the soul that it is itself more than the world in which it has been living. The pointing of the inner life is toward what is beyond and above—the grander life whose possibilities and whose years are unmeasured.

Such must be our thought, as we bid farewell to our honored and beloved friend. He has passed from our sight to clearer vision, to wider and larger thought, to knowledge above our highest reach, to possibilities of outlook and attainment beyond the dream of our imagination. May we not count the passing on a happy thing—the happiest thing in the soul's experience. May not our farewell word have fitly intermingled with its sorrowful sense of loss for ourselves an element of joy as we think of the completed years here turning for him into the opening years of the hereafter. And may not we all—even those of the innermost circle of love and friendship—take into the mind the peaceful and victorious thought of a brighter day when there shall be a reunion of loving souls for an endless life of love. May we not comfort ourselves with the most precious and delightful words which Jesus spoke to His disciples on the last evening of His life with them—the hour of parting from His chosen friends—"In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you to myself." Yes—this was His word, with all its fullness of meaning—"To myself."

A Sketch of His Life.

The Hon. Edward J. Phelps, Kent Professor of Law at Yale, died Friday afternoon, March 9, at his home in New Haven, after an illness of about two months. He contracted a very severe cold at the beginning of the Winter term and the cold rapidly developed to pneumonia which affected both lungs. A wonderfully strong constitution carried him through the attack, and hope was beginning to be felt for his recovery, when symptoms of an abscess of the lungs appeared on March 2. In his weakened condition Prof. Phelps was unable to rally and sank gradually to the end.

Edward John Phelps was born July 11, 1822, at Middlebury, Vt., and was the son of Samuel Shethar Phelps, Yale 1811, a member of the Vermont Supreme Court and later United States Senator from Vermont. After graduating from Middlebury College in 1840 he studied one year at the Yale Law School and took two years in the law office of Mr. Horatio Seymour, of Utica, New York. He was admitted to the Vermont bar in 1843. He began at once the practice of law in his native town, but two years later removed to Burlington, Vt., continuing his practice there with unusual success. His first public appointment was in 1851 when he was given the post of Second Comptroller of the United States Treasury under President Fillmore, which he held until 1853. In 1870 he was a delegate to the Vermont Constitutional Convention, and seven years later presided over the ceremonies of the centennial celebration of the Battle of Bennington. In 1880 the American Bar Association made him its President and in the same year he ran for Governor of Vermont on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated. In 1881 Yale offered Mr. Phelps the Kent Professorship of Law in the Academic Department, which he accepted and held until his death, taking only temporary absences during his terms of public service abroad.

In 1885 President Cleveland appointed Prof. Phelps Minister Plenipotentiary to England, succeeding James Russell Lowell. He filled the position with conspicuous success and bore its honors with great grace and dignity. He was one of the United States counsel in the Behring Sea arbitration.

On his return from his work as minister to England he took up his College work at Yale, delivering two lectures a week on Jurisprudence and Law in the Academical Department, where the work of the Kent Chair of Law lies. He also delivered two lectures at the

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Law School on Equity and International Law. His lectures were very popular with the students.

Prof. Phelps held the degree of LL.D. from three institutions, Middlebury College, University of Vermont and Harvard, and the degree of M.A. from Yale. The latter was conferred in 1881. Among his published writings were, a "Sketch of the Life and Character of Charles Linsley," a "Memoir of the Hon. Isaac F. Redfield," an address on "Chief Justice Marshall and the Constitutional Law of His Time," and a series of articles in the Nineteenth Century on the "Constitution of the United States."

In early manhood, Prof. Phelps married Miss Mary Haight of Burlington, Vt., who survives him with two children, Mrs. Horatio Loomis of Burlington and Charles P. Phelps, Yale '83 of Boston.

LAW SCHOOL RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were adopted by the students of the Law School at a mass meeting held Monday, March 12:

Whereas, It has pleased God to remove from the post he has so fully occupied, Professor Edward John Phelps, the students in the Yale Law School desire to record their sense of the loss which they have sustained by his decease, and of the still heavier loss sustained by those who were nearest and dearest to him, and therefore be it

Resolved, That it is but paying a grateful tribute to his memory to say that this event calls us to mourn for one who was in every way worthy of our respect and regard, a teacher whose kindly instruction, as clear as it was profound, will ever be among the most cherished recollections of our Law School work,—a citizen whose upright and noble life will ever afford an inspiration to us, and,

Resolved, That the heartfelt sympathy of his pupils in the Yale Law School be extended to the members of his family in their affliction and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to Mrs. Phelps in token of our affectionate respect for a good man and great teacher gone to his rest.

George Zahm, 1900, Henry H. Townsend, *Committee*.

Professor Phelps, the Teacher.

[Hartford Courant.]

A great lawyer, he was also a great teacher. He carried his weight of learning lightly, his lectures were models of lucidity; even the dullest pupils profited by them perforce. In every new class that passed through his lecture-room he mustered out a new company of devoted admirers and friends. We doubt whether any other teacher in the University, young or old, was more beloved. His life was pure, his heart full of kindness, his manners charming, his face benignant. His "boys" all over the country will see it to-day as they read the news. The University to which he so loyally gave of his best will hold him in proud and loving remembrance.