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YNTEMA MEMORIAL
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Prof. D. B. Yntema

In Memoriam

It was with feelings of deepest regret that the friends of Hope College were informed of the death of Mr. D. B. Yntema, A. B., A. M., at his country home east of Holland, on Thursday, Nov. 4th. Those who were his former students, to whom he gave his best manhood; his associates in the professional and the business world, and all who came in contact with his splendid Christian character, take this means of paying to his memory their simple and heartfelt tribute.

Professor D. B. Yntema was the son of Hessel O. Yntema, who came to this country from the Netherlands in 1846. He inherited from Christian parents those sterling qualities of perseverance, fortitude and determination, which characterized his later life and which his rough environment only aided in developing. With this early preparation Mr. Yntema entered Hope College in the days when the college was a small, struggling institution. In spite of the difficulties it had to contend with, financial and otherwise, the college, administered by men who knew how to face difficulties with a Christian courage and zeal, made real men. His contact with and study under these sturdy pioneers rounded out his early home training. He graduated in 1876 with a class of five, of whom Dr. Henry E. Dosker, Rev. A. Pfanstiehl and Rev. C. Van Oostenbrugge, remain alive. After his graduation Mr. Yntema attended the Michigan State Normal College for a year in preparation for teaching, where he received his A. M. degree. During the next sixteen years he served as superintend-

ent of schools at St. Johns, Mich. In memory of his long and excellent services the alumni of that school in 1913 paid him a high compliment by dedicating to him a Memorial Elm and Boulder. At the request of President G. J. Kollen, he came to Hope College in 1893, leaving his more remunerative work in the public schools to take up the larger sacrificing services of instructor in a small college. As Professor of Physics and Chemistry he continued for twenty-three years to give his best to the building up of these departments, besides laying the foundations for strong departments in Astronomy and Biology, preparing and equipping a laboratory for each. He partially saw the fruits of his earnest efforts in the planning of the science building now known as Van Raalte Memorial Hall. He supervised the erection of the Ackerman-Hoyt Observatory and looked after all the details of the manufacture of the large telescope it contains. Later the departments of Physics and Chemistry were separated and he became Professor of Physics. This position he held until 1913, when ill health compelled him to reluctantly leave the work to which he had so earnestly and zealously devoted himself.

We who remember Prof. Yntema as a teacher fail to express in words the respect and reverence we hold for his memory. His personality was so impressive and his large human sympathy was so appealing that he gave his students something more than a knowledge of science; he also furnished them the splendid example of a Christian life and inspired them to a better effort by his true manhood. His interest extended to each individual student, not only those in his immediate classes, but to all in every phase of college life whenever and wherever he was able to

lend a helping hand. Even after graduation he frequently inquired interestedly into the well-being of his former students. Such service and such interest bring their rewards in the young men and young women whose lives were bettered and beautified in their Christian growth by reason of his influence upon them.

In his personal and family relationships his life was even more largely productive than in his professional duties. His family was thrice blessed in that he bequeathed to them the real worth and abilities of his own good parentage, and they in turn enter upon their heritage with full promise of reflecting full credit and honor upon their parents. Employing that same wise foresight and judgment which rendered his services so valuable in all his relations of life, Professor Yntema planned a college course for each of his six children. Three have already graduated from Hope College which Prof. Yntema loved not only as an alumnus, but whose best interests was a large part of his own life; two others are now in attendance, and the youngest child is a member of the Preparatory School. By means of this college training the broad-minded, scholarly father hoped to enrich the development and education of his own children with high and noble Christian ideals. To these earnest purposes in his life, and what he most desired for his children, Godly fear based upon a sound scholarship, we cannot but pay our humble tribute. These earnest purposes in his life undoubtedly induced him to leave public school work and enter upon his greater tasks in college work. These high ideals in life made him a man of strong integrity; a teacher of quiet and unassuming disposition, and an associate who would not

countenance a departure from honesty and religious reverence of integrity in thought or action. For these qualities he was respected and loved by his colleagues in college life and trusted and admired by his associates in the business world. These noble purposes we would cherish as our ideals and emphasize in paying our respects to Prof. Yntema's memory.

It is not alone as a teacher and father and associate that his memory is held dear by those who knew him, but in a larger sense if possible his life appeals to us. His was the life of a true American. True, he had a quiet life in his country home, but it was not the secluded life of an ascetic. Because of high purposes in life, without pretense or alloy, his quiet home life was the true American home life of peace, plenty and hospitality. His worth and the value of his character consisted in this nobility of mind and heart. In all of his simple and quiet life, he possessed all the graces of a refined soul, and in his home life all the beauties of his character blossomed and bore fruit. In his classroom, too, his occasional inspiring talks, though not spoken in rhyme, nor voiced in pastoral sentiments of Milton's poesy, contained and voiced the ideals of a soul in full communion with nature, which only proved that his quiet life aided in rounding out his life as a scholar. In his simple home life, his scholarly attainments enabled him to grasp the greater national problems which he felt free and competent to discuss. His excellent judgment proved him a worthy advisor and a reasoner in shaping the lives entrusted to his wise teachings. His large grasp of national problems, combined with his scholarship and good judgment made him an American of true worth. His unswerving devotion to truth and his strict honesty while serving

as the foundation stones of true manhood, are at the same time the very cornerstones of our national life. These are the principles of true Americanism Prof. Yntema would leave to those who reverence his memory and pay tribute to his character and ideals.

In paying our silent and humble tribute to Prof. Yntema, as his former students, from whom we have learned some of the most valuable lessons in life; as his associates and colleagues in Hope College, and for whom we hold profound respect as a scholar, teacher and Christian character; and as friends of Hope College who highly cherish the noble ideals so clearly exemplified in his long and serviceable life devoted to the best interests of the college and its student life, we respectfully dedicate this number of the Bulletin.

