

[Forbes, Henry Prentiss]

EDUCATOR AND SCHOLAR GONE  
DEAN HENRY P. FORBES OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
SUCCUMBS AFTER LONG ILLNESS

A Ripe Scholar, Dr. Forbes Gave to St. Lawrence University a Third  
of a Century of Faithful Service and His Going will be a Distinct  
Loss to the Department of Which he was the Head

After many months of illness which he bore without complaint and with that cheerfulness of spirit that characterized his entire life, Dean Henry Prentiss Forbes, D.D., died at his home on University Avenue, Thursday morning, October 2, at 5 o'clock. The end had been awaited by Dr. Forbes and his family, for the malady from which he suffered was of such type that hopes of recovery were not entertained.

AT Chapel exercises that morning at the University, President Almon Gunnison conducted a memorial service. Fitting words were feelingly spoken of the dead dean in which his work was reviewed. Dr. Forbes had been connected with the University as professor and instructor for thirty-three years and his work had been such that the vacancy left by his going hence seems hard to fill—the loss is irreparable.

Funeral services were held from the Universalist Church Saturday afternoon. A body of university students, members of the Board of Trustees of the institution and members of the faculty went to the Forbes residence and escorted the hearse to the church. Students of the Theological School acted as bearers.

At the church Rev. H. P. Morrell said the opening prayer; Dr. Geo. E. Huntley read the Scriptures; President Almon Gunnison spoke of the work of the dead Dean and of the years he had given unstintingly and ungrudgingly to the institution. Prof. J. M. Atwood of the Theological School paid a very touching tribute to the dead, speaking with deep feeling. The service closed with prayer by Dr. I. M. Atwood, the pastor.

Burial was made at Evergreen Cemetery, Dr. I. M. Atwood conducting the last rites at the grave.

Dean Forbes was born at Paris, Me., the son of Eldridge and Julia Prentiss Forbes, on July 4, 1849. In the fall of 1869 he entered Canton Theological School as a student, from which he graduated in 1873. The two years following his graduation he was a student in the University of Leipsic [sic], Germany. In 1874 he was ordained to the Universalist ministry, and his first charge was at Gaysville, Vt. Later he went to Danvers, Mass., where he assumed the pastorate of the Universalist Church. Here he remained till 1880 when he received a call to come to Canton as a member of the faculty of St. Lawrence University Theological School, coming here that year to assume his duties as professor of Biblical Languages and Literature. In the

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years that have followed Dean Forbes has spent his energies and ripe scholarly attainments untiringly and ceaselessly in this field of labor. He was a man with a pure nature and without guile and those who went forth from the school ever spoke with warm affection of the teacher and friend whom they left behind.

Dr. Forbes was a scholar of exceptional attainments and he was recognized as such outside of his own denomination. As a student of Biblical research he was recognized widely and his work commanded the attention of those who have been attracted to this field. He was the author of the handbook of the New Testament entitled, "The Johannine Literature and the Acts," published in 1907.

Dr. Forbes was a companionable, loveable man, retiring seemingly almost to the point of diffidence, but when pressed into duty or faced with a problem could act quickly and with a command and vigor that delighted friends and confounded opponents. In the pulpit or on the rostrum he was at home, and he took a live interest in the affairs of the day and worked unceasingly and untiringly for the betterment of social conditions.

In 1910 Dr. and Mrs. Forbes went abroad and attended a meeting of the Liberal Congress in Berlin and afterwards made a tour of the continent.

On September 12, 1876 he was joined in marriage with Miss Harriet E. Wood, a niece of the late Dr. John Stebbins Lee of Canton Theological School. Their married life has been one of happiness and content. Mrs. Forbes with the following son and daughters remain: Harry W., St. Lawrence, '98, an attorney in New York City; Lelia G., '08, Librarian at Wells College; Phyllis K., '12, engaged in teaching at Norwood; Ruth D., '11, and Portia, '13, residing at home. A brother also survives who is editor of a paper in South Paris, Me.

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