

[Priest, Henry]

DR. HENRY PRIEST

The people of the village of Canton received a severe shock Friday morning when it became known that Dean Henry Priest of the College of Letters and Science of St. Lawrence University had died suddenly as the result of stroke of apoplexy while in his office at Richardson Hall at about nine o'clock that morning. It was known to his family and intimate friends that Dr. Priest's health was not all that could be wished, but that he was on the verge of earthly end was not anticipated. He was alone at the time the stroke came. His son, Professor Ward Priest, was near at hand and heard Dr. Priest fall and rushed to his assistance. Professors Ford and Hulett and Instructor Laidlaw were within call and calls were sent out to physicians about town, but when medical assistance arrived, earthly aid had passed.

Funeral services were held at the Universalist Church Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, the Rev. I. M. Atwood officiating. Dr. H. P. Forbes of the Theological School made a touching address, filled with deep feeling, dwelling upon the character, traits and work of the dead educator. President Gunnison of the University also paid a feeling tribute to the dead, whom he justly termed "A man among men."

Previous to the services the faculty and students met at Richardson Hall and marched to the home of Dr. Priest and there standing on either side of the walk saw the coffin, borne by Professors C. K. Gaines, R. D. Ford, G. r. Hardie, F. C. Foster, G. H. Chadwick and E. L. Hulett, carried to the hearse. The line of march was then taken up to the church which was filled to its capacity.

Burial took place at Evergreen cemetery, Dr. I. M. Atwood conducting the services at the grave.

The following brief history of the life of Professor Priest is taken from yesterday's Hill News:

Henry Priest was born at Mechanicsville, Vt., the youngest of ten children. His father was Ethan Priest, and his mother's maiden name was Hannah Dawley. His boyhood and youth were spent on the farm, under the direct supervision of his father. The elder Priest was opposed to higher education and refused to permit the boy to prepare for college. Nothing remained for him to do but stay on the farm until he was twenty-one. He was, however, determined to obtain an education; and assisted by one of his brothers, he entered Perkins Academy at South Woodstock Vt. He finished his preparatory education at Dean Academy.

He entered Tufts College in 1869, graduating four years later with the degree of B.A. He then became principal of Goddard Seminary in Vermont and remained in that position some years. From 1880 to 1884 he was a

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member of the Vermont Legislature, and served as chairman of its Committee on Education. During that period he was instrumental in the passing of several bills favorable to the cause of temperance.

In 1884 Dr. Priest was called to St. Lawrence as Professor of Mathematics. Besides mathematics he taught several other subjects, notably physics and chemistry, during the period when the Faculty was much smaller in number than now and cruelly overworked. Later he was relieved of the work in mathematics, but continued to teach both physics and chemistry until 1905. It was during this period that St. Lawrence was struggling for [its] very existence, and Dr. Priest became a potent factor in winning that struggle. He had been a student at Tufts when that institution, too, was contending with many difficulties, and his training there under similar conditions had admirably fitted him for his arduous duties at St. Lawrence.

In 1900, a separate chair of chemistry having been established, he became Hayward Professor of Physics, continuing in that capacity until the present year. In 1911, in view of the long and valuable service rendered to St. Lawrence by Dr. Priest, the Board of Trustees granted him a leave of absence of one year, his son, Ward C. Priest, being at the same time appointed Instructor in Physics.

Dr. Priest, together with Mrs. Priest, spent the past year visiting various parts of the world. The summer of 1911 was spent in the west. Among the places visited were the Canadian Rockies, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and the Yellowstone Park. After spending the month of November in New York, Dr. and Mrs. Priest spent about a month in Panama, Central America, and adjacent regions. Then after resting in Canton for a time, on May 14, 1912, they sailed for Europe and spent a large part of the summer in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, France, and England.

Dr. Priest married Miss Flora Eaton on the eleventh of August, 1881, Two children were born to them, Alice Eaton, who died July 4, 1907, and Ward Curtis, now Professor of Physics in St. Lawrence. Dr. Priest is [also] survived by one brother, Charles Wesley Priest, of Belmont, Vt.

Commercial Advertiser, Canton NY, Tue. 1 Oct 1912

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DR. PRIEST'S FUNERAL

St. Lawrence Faculty and Students at Services for Dead Teacher

Canton, N.Y., Oct. 5.—The funeral of Prof. Henry Priest of St. Lawrence University occurred Sunday at 2 P.M., at the First Universalist Church of Canton. The services were conducted by Dr. J. M. Atwood, former dean of the Theological School. Although the weather was stormy and very cold, the students met and marched in a body to the home of Dr. Priest. They formed a double line along the walk leading to the house, and stood bareheaded in the rain while the coffin was carried down between the lines to the hearse. The pallbearers were Profs. Ford, Chadwick, Hulett, Gaines, Foster, and Hardie, all of the university. The students followed the body to the church, where they again formed a double line while it was carried into the church.

The services were very simple. The pulpit of the little church was banked with a wealth of flowers presented by friends and students and societies of the university. Mr. Forbes, Dean of the theological school, an old friend of Dr. Priest, spoke of his early life on a Vermont farm and his later struggle for an education. He told of his sincerity of character and earnestness of purpose which won for him the success he attained.

Dr. A. Gunnison, President of the university, spoke of the great loss suffered by the college in his death, and of the great service he rendered St. Lawrence since he became one of its faculty.

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