ADDRESS ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF WILLIAM SMYTH, D. D.: LATE PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY IN BOWDOIN COLLEGE; DELIVERED BEFORE THE ALUMNI OF THE COLLEGE, JULY 7, 1868

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Address on the Life and Character of William Smyth, D. D.: Late Professor of Mathematics and natural philosophy in Bowdoin College; delivered before the alumni of the college, July 7, 1868 by Alpheus S. Packard

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ALPHEUS S. PACKARD

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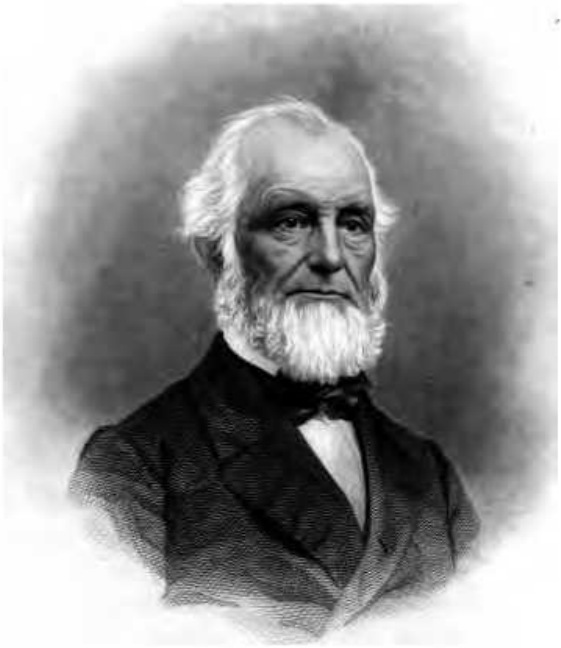

Wm Smyth.

ADDRESS

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

WILLIAM SMYTH, D. D.,

LATE PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY
IN BOWDOIN COLLEGE;

DELIVERED BEFORE THE ALUMNI OF THE COLLEGE,

JULY 7, 1868,

BY ALPHEUS S. PACKARD, D. D.

BRUNSWICK:
JOSEPH GRIFFIN.
1868.

(977)

BRUNSWICK, APRIL 30, 1868.

PROFESSOR ALPHEUS S. PACKARD, D. D.

MY DEAR SIR;

Arrangements have been made with the Athenæan and Peucinian Societies to waive their usual public exercises on Tuesday afternoon of Commencement week, and I earnestly invite you in the name of the Alumni to deliver before them at that time a Discourse in commemoration of the life and character of our lamented Professor Smyth. From your long association with him and with us, we feel that this would be a peculiarly befitting and acceptable service.

In the belief that such a discourse would be beneficial to many who may not have the privilege of hearing it, and of permanent historical value, I trust you may also be able to furnish a copy for publication.

I am, my dear sir,

Your friend and servant,

J. L. CHAMBERLAIN,

President of the Association of Alumni, Bowdoin College.

BRUNSWICK, MAY 1, 1868.

GOVERNOR CHAMBERLAIN, LL. D.

MY DEAR SIR;

Your note of yesterday has been received requesting me to deliver a Discourse in commemoration of the life and services of the late Prof. Smyth before the Alumni at the next Commencement. I cannot well decline such a service in memory of the colleague of so many years and a life-long friend, and will endeavor to meet the wishes of my brothers of the Alumni as I best can.

With sincere respect and regard,

Ever yours,

A. S. PACKARD.

BROTHERS ALUMNI:

THE office, which through your President has been laid on me and which under the circumstances I could not well decline, I never anticipated. It never occurred to me, that I remember, that I should be called to bury my life-long friend and colleague. Boys together at Wiscasset, our acquaintance and friendship continued until he entered college, when, as one of the Tutors, I assisted in his examination for admission. A single year passed after his graduation and we were Tutors together, then colleagues in the Professorship. We began married life the same year, 1827, built together the dwelling which was our common home for forty years, our families growing up around us in undisturbed harmony, sympathizing in each others labors, joys, trials and bereavements until the sundering of life-long ties came so suddenly without a moment's premonition. And therefore it is, that the duty of this day seemed to fall upon me, of testifying, so far as

I may, in behalf of the college and the community, to the eminent claims of that steadfast friend, the faithful officer of government and instruction, the citizen of the highest tone of public spirit, and the true man, to the affectionate respect of us all.

It was his expectation, as it was yours, that at this Commencement an important meeting of Alumni would be held, at which he would present a report of what had been done in the work of the Memorial Hall and a new impulse be given to the most signal enterprize yet undertaken by and for our Alma Mater since the corner stone of her first Hall was laid. His report, with his own inspiriting enthusiasm to give it effect, we cannot hear. But, what is more eloquent than any words his living voice could utter, the facts of his life, his works are to speak for him to day. I do not stand before you to eulogize the departed. Happily for us, and for me, a plain simple statement of the facts of his life is such a eulogy as few can receive. Unassuming and with the simplicity of a child, he was emphatically a man of mark here, and would have been any where. No graduate of the forty or more classes that have passed under his instruction but has some distinct recollection and characteristic incident to recall of their instructor. Estimated by what he has done for the college, or the parish, or the town, or for yet wider interests, in teaching, in preparing text-books of the highest class, in efforts and positive labor for the church and religious society of which he