

**EXERCISES COMMEMORATING THE  
TWO-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BIRTH OF JONATHAN EDWARDS,  
HELD AT ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY, OCTOBER 4 AND 5, 1903**

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Exercises Commemorating the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Jonathan Edwards,  
Held at Andover Theological Seminary, October 4 and 5, 1903 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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JONATHAN EDWARDS

1703 - 1803

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THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
EGBERT COFFIN SMYTH, D.D., LL.D.  
CHRISTIAN SCHOLAR  
THEOLOGIAN, HISTORIAN  
PROFESSOR IN ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
1863-1904





## PREFACE

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As the oldest Congregational school of theology in America, Andover Seminary esteemed it a duty, while she also counted it an honor, to celebrate the bicentenary of America's foremost theologian. Within her lecture-rooms the system of Jonathan Edwards has been diligently studied and sympathetically expounded. Her first professor of sacred theology, Dr. Leonard Woods, is commonly represented as a mediator between the two divisions of orthodox Congregationalism in his day, yet in substance he was a vigorous advocate of the Edwardean system, and his successor, Professor Park, was even more widely known as its interpreter. If Edwardeanism no longer controls the doctrinal instruction at Andover, the fact is due to no lack of reverence, on the part of her teachers, for the power of philosophical analysis and logical construction which has made Edwards famous for all time, or for the fundamental truths which he strove in thought to apprehend, but rather to causes whose operation no philosophical or theological system of the past is able permanently to withstand.

The aim of the bicentennial celebration was not merely to honor the memory of a great Christian leader, but also to attempt a discriminating estimate of the enduring value of his work,—an attempt which the lapse of time and the subsidence of dogmatic strife have at last brought within the range of possibility. Accordingly, in addition to representatives of her own faculty, the Seminary invited scholars of widely different antecedents, from outside of New England, to participate in the proceedings. The reader of the papers here published will observe differences in point of view which will at least relieve the record of monotony, and, it is hoped, will not detract from its value.

## PREFACE

The celebration began on Sunday, October fourth, with public worship in the Chapel, where a large congregation gathered to listen to the commemorative sermon by the Reverend William R. Richards, D.D., an alumnus of the Seminary, now pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York. For the public exercises on Monday afternoon a distinguished audience was assembled, including a large number of alumni and other ministers from neighboring towns, together with professors from Harvard and from Boston University. The church had been handsomely decorated for the occasion, and portraits of President and Mrs. Edwards, loaned by Miss Park, stood on either side of the pulpit. Professor Day presided, and on behalf of the Seminary extended a welcome to the guests. By way of introduction to the more formal papers, Professor Platner sketched in outline the religious conditions of New England in the time of Edwards, after which Professor Woodbridge, of Columbia University, presented a critical analysis of Edwards's work as a philosopher. At the close of this session the invited guests adjourned to Bartlet Chapel, where a reception was held and supper was served. Many took advantage of this opportunity to examine the loan exhibition, consisting of the principal editions of Edwards's works, unpublished manuscripts and letters, and other objects of historical interest.<sup>1</sup>

Another large audience assembled for the evening exercises, at which Professor Hincks presided. The first address was a sympathetic presentation of the salient features of Edwards's theology by Professor Smyth, who was a life-long student of the subject. A poem, entitled "A Witness to the Truth," was read by its author, an Andover alumnus, the Reverend Samuel V. Cole, D.D.,

<sup>1</sup> A list of the most important objects exhibited will be found in Appendix II.