

**MEMOIR OF THE LIFE OF CHARLES
SHORT, LATE PROFESSOR OF THE
LATIN LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE IN COLUMBIA
COLLEGE, NEW YORK**

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Memoir of the life of Charles Short, late professor of the Latin language and literature in Columbia college, New York by Charles Lancaster Short

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CHARLES LANCASTER SHORT

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MEMOIR

OF THE LIFE OF

CHARLES SHORT, M. A., LL. D.,

LATE PROFESSOR OF THE LATIN LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE IN COLUMBIA COLLEGE,
NEW YORK,

BY HIS SON

CHARLES LANCASTER SHORT,

RECTOR OF ST. ANDREWS'

NEWCASTLE, MAINE.

*Hæc studia adolescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant,
secundas res ornant, adversis solatium et per fugium
praebent, delectant domi, non impediunt foris, pernoctant
nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur.*

Cic. *pro Arch.*

1892.

MEMOIR

CHARLES SHORT, the eldest son and one of twelve children of Charles and Rebecca (George) Short, was born in Haverhill, Mass., Tuesday, May 28, 1821. His parents' birthplace was Newburyport, Mass., the father being descended from those of the same name in the list of the original settlers of Newbury, Mass., in 1635, and, "the descendants of Henry Short now occupy the same farm and live on the same spot where their ancestor resided more than two centuries ago."*

At eight years of age the boy Charles was sent to the West Bradford Academy, the principal being Benjamin Greenleaf, the author of the mathematical series. In a printed copy always carefully kept by Mr. Short, of the "Order of Exercises, for Exhibition, at Bradford Academy, July 23, 1833," was the announcement—"Destruction of Sennacherib's Host—C. SHORT."

At the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of the town of Haverhill, observed in July, 1890, in the poem of Dr. John Crowell mention is made of Mr. Short, as one who by his scholarship had reflected honour upon his native town.

After a school life at Bradford of six years, and two spent at home, the youth of sixteen entered Phillips (Andover) Academy, then under Dr. Samuel H. Taylor.

*See Coffin's History of Newburyport, (1845) pages 15, 317, 379.

He there finished the classical course in 1840, the third in his class, at the graduating exhibition delivering an oration, *Περί τοῦ εἶναι τὴν ψυχὴν ἀθάνατον*. Among his classmates were students who afterwards became distinguished, as the Hon. Jonathan White, (State Senator in Mass.), Moses G. Farmer, in the first rank of American electricians, the late Major General David Bell Birney, commanding a division at Gettysburg, and Professor Francis Wayland, LL.D., now Dean of the Yale College Law School. Of his school life at Andover, Mr. Short said, "I used to open my eyes very early in the morning, waiting impatiently for daylight, that I might rise and be at my books."

The next two years were spent in teaching and study, and he then entered the academic department of Harvard College, being graduated in 1846, his commencement part an English oration, "Shelley." At a College exhibition, the year previous, he delivered a Latin oration, "De Philosophis, qui vocantur, Somniantibus." In connection with a College exhibition in 1844, is the following incident. John C. Adams, then instructor in rhetoric and oratory, under date of July 9, wrote to Rev. E. E. Hale, "I have a great favour to ask of you. Enclosed you will find a copy of 'The Belvidere Apollo' by Milman. This has been done into Greek hexameters by Mr. Short, Sophomore, in a manner never before equalled at Cambridge. I wish Short and the audience, who may listen to him to-morrow, at exhibition, to have every possible advantage of the version. But I fear many of our friends, particularly the ladies, will not be able to follow the speaker as he deserves, unless they know something of the original. Now then, I wish to ask you if you can smuggle these lines into one corner of the "Daily" in

time for to-morrow's paper." The request was granted, and Milman's English prize poem appeared in the Advertiser of July 10. The same day Mr. E. S. Dixwell, master of the Boston Latin School, wrote to Mr. (now Professor) Francis J. Child, "I return you the copy of the beautiful and finished Greek verses you were so good as to procure me a sight of. They are masterly. Thank the writer for the pleasure it has given me both in the reading and delivery. I was much gratified by all the exercises I heard to-day." Mr. Short was fourth in his class, receiving honorable mention for high distinction in Greek, Latin, Philosophy, and History, and distinction in Rhetoric. Others of the class were Francis J. Child, Calvin Ellis, George M. Lane, Charles Eliot Norton, all afterward Professors in Harvard University; George F. Hoar, United States Senator from Mass., Nathan Webb, Judge of the United States District Court of Maine, John Austin Stevens, the historical writer, and Fitz Edward Hall, the Oriental scholar.

After graduation Mr. Short spent a year in Cambridge as a resident graduate, studying with Professor Sophocles. In Sept. 1847, he received the appointment of first assistant master in Phillips Academy, and in November was chosen head master of the Roxbury Latin School. Here he remained six years, receiving in 1849, his Master of Arts. That year he married Anne Jean, fourth daughter of the late Hon. Elihu Lyman of Greenfield, Mass., and grand-daughter of Major Elihu Lyman of the Revolutionary Army. There were four children, three sons and a daughter. During this time he sent to the *Bibliotheca Sacra* and to the *Christian Examiner* nine articles, classical reviews, and also translations from the Latin and German.

In 1853, Mr. Short removed to Philadelphia, establishing a private classical school for boys, over which he presided for ten years. In the summer of 1860 he visited England, carrying letters which gave him the privilege of an interview at Fox How with the widow of Dr. Thomas Arnold; and with Sir John T. Coleridge, the nephew of the poet, at whose country seat, Heath's Court, at Ottery St. Mary in Devonshire, he passed some days. In 1860 he was elected into the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and was a member also of the Shakespere Society of Philadelphia, a small number of *litterateurs*, meeting every winter for the minute study of the dramatist. During these ten years his pen continued busy with translations from the German, with reviews, and with revisions of classical books.

The life of Mr. Short in Philadelphia ended in 1863, upon his acceptance of an election to the Presidency of Kenyon College, at Gambier, Ohio, with the professorship attached of moral and intellectual philosophy. At the end of four years he resigned this position, and the sudden death of Dr. Charles Anthon soon after, called him through his friend of long standing, Professor Henry Drisler, to temporary work in the Latin and Greek departments of Columbia College. Before the close of the academic year, Dr. Drisler having been transferred from the Latin to the Greek chair, on the second of March, 1868, Mr. Short was elected Professor of the Latin language and literature, and held that position during the remainder of his life. The same year the new professor received from the College over which he had presided, the degree of Doctor of Laws, it being conferred at the same time upon an alumnus of Kenyon

College, Rutherford B. Hayes, then Governor of Ohio, and afterward President of the United States.

In 1868 also, Professor Short was elected into the Century Club. His tastes would naturally lead him to value membership in the American Oriental Society, and in 1849, he had been received into it. From 1849-51, he was its recording secretary, and for the two succeeding years its treasurer. In 1869 he was chosen one of its seven directors, holding that position for life. Between 1869 and 1885 he prepared six papers for the Society's meetings, abstracts of them appearing in its journal. Upon April 22, 1869, in conjunction with President Barnard and four professors he assisted in founding in Columbia College the Delta Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He was its first vice-president from 1869-73, and also for 1875-76. In 1870, to Dr. Drisler's edition of Yonge's English-Greek Lexicon, Professor Short prefixed an article, "The Order of Words in Attic-Greek Prose." This, the work of his leisure hours for seven years, he termed an essay, but it was really a work of considerable magnitude, covering one hundred and fifteen compactly printed double-columned pages. Of this production Professor W. W. Goodwin of Harvard said, "Professor Short's Essay gives great additional value to the work, and does great honour to American scholarship," and the words of Professor W. S. Tyler of Amherst were, "we doubt if any such original and thorough work on the Greek language has been done by any other American scholar as Professor Short has done in this Essay."

In February, 1872, Professor Short's father died, at the age of eighty. The son always felt grateful to the father for his interest in his early education, and between the son and the mother existed a peculiar attachment, her

death during his last year in college making him very thoughtful.

At the meeting for completing its organization Professor Short took his seat as a member of the American Committee on the Revision of the English Authorized Version of the Bible, to serve on the New Testament Company. At this meeting, Oct. 4, 1872, he was also elected treasurer of the entire Committee, resigning this office in 1875. He became also recording secretary of the New Testament Company. Afterward Professor J. Henry Thayer was also elected recording secretary, and relieved Professor Short of much of the work, which became very laborious as the revision proceeded.

On the evening of June 5, 1874, and again on March 15, 1881, Professor Short lectured before the professors and students of the General Theological Seminary upon "The Vulgate Edition of the Scriptures;" and between these dates had accepted an election to the then formed Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, with membership upon its council. On the evening of May 10, 1881, before the American Ethnological Society he read a paper upon the Rev. Samuel Osgood, D.D. In 1878 he prepared a number of articles for Johnson's Universal Cyclopedia, and in the succeeding year appeared Harper's Latin Dictionary, to which Professor Short had given some years of attention and labour, although accomplishing much less than he would have liked, "but for his reluctance to let anything pass from his care until he had exhausted his ability upon it."

In the summer of 1881, Professor Short again visited Europe. At Rome through his letters of introduction he was allowed the unusual privilege of examining at his leisure the *Codex Vaticanus*, to write out a description