JOSEPH AUGUSTINE BENTON: IN MEMORIAL

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Joseph Augustine Benton: In Memorial by Joseph Augustine Benton

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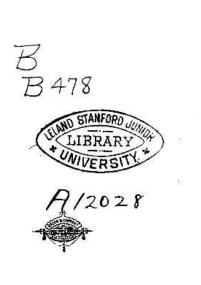
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Joseph Augustine Benton.

IN MEMORIAL.

SAN FRANCISCO. Frinted for the trustees of The Pacific Theological Seminary. 1892.

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INTRODUCTORY.

OUR brother, in whose memory the following pages have been compiled, during the last half dozen years had been several times laid aside by rather serious attacks of sickness, but after a few weeks had rallied and resumed his work as usual. He and his friends, therefore, hoped for a similar issue, when at the opening of the Seminary Yerm, after the Christmas recess, he was unable to take his accustomed place. The hope, too, appeared about to be realized, for after a month he did for three or four days venture to meet his classes. Though he was obliged to return to his sick-room, the hope of recovery remained. But he did not rally, and his symptoms indicated some serious disease of the liver, which the autopsy plainly showed was beyond medical relief.

Our brother retained clear possession of himself during the failing weeks, almost to the last, and, it need not be said, was calm and trustful. On the morning of April 8, 1892, he passed quietly away.

The funeral services were held on Monday, April 11, in the First Congregational Church, Oakland. "Though," said *The Pacific*, "the day was exceedingly disagreeable, there was a large gathering of ministers, pioneers, old parishioners, students, and other friends. Rev. Professor Mooar had charge. The Scriptures were read by Professor C. S. Nash. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Drs. J. H. Warren and S. H. Willey. It was Dr. Benton's wish that these two old friends should officiate at his funeral. We give their addresses to our readers. Professor Mooar made fitting and feeling remarks, and Rev. Dr. McLean offered prayer. The organ and choir rendered sweet music. Once more we looked upon the face of our friend. The coffin was closed, and borne away by students of the Seminary. The grave is in a beautiful spot in Mountain View cemetery. It was lined with green branches, and the coffin was covered with flowers. There we left the sleeping form of him whose soul has gone home to God."

The two memorial addresses are printed as they appeared in *The Pacific*. To the editorial notes which were printed at the same time, have been added others suggested by examination of manuscripts and other documents left by Dr. Benton.

In connection with the twenty-third anniversary of the Seminary, a special memorial service was held, Apr. 25. Rev. Dr. McLean, President of the Board of Trustees, presided, and introduced the speakers. Prayer was offered at the opening by Rev. F. B. Pullan, of San Francisco, and at the close by Rev. C. W. Hill, of Berkeley. Besides the addresses of Rev. W. H. Cooke, Rev. W. C. Pond, D.D., James M. Haven, Esq., and the letter of Judge E. D. Sawyer, which

have been furnished for publication, and are printed among the Tributes from Friends, Dr. R. H. Mc-Donald spoke of Dr. Benton as a citizen, and the Rev. John Kimball of his service as an editor.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES.

ADDRESS BY DR. J. H. WARREN.

He was a good man, and he has come to a good end. It will never be your privilege, my friends, nor mine, though we may live as many more years as we have already, to pay the tribute of our love and praise to the worth of a better man, a truer friend, a more consistent Christian, a more princely character, than our Joseph Augustine Benton. Whatever limitations he would have made as personally applicable to himself, no one who knew him will hesitate to say of him, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

He lived his allotted time. All that time he was young in heart, regnant in intellect, never old in presence or person. God spared him from those added years the strength of which is "labor and sorrow." His work, so large and varied, was done. His mission, so opulent with good to the church, the school, the commonwealth, the world, has on it today the sign and finish of success.

A few details—pertaining to the Theological Seminary—he wanted a little more time to adjust.