

**THIRTY YEARS IN
LANE: AND OTHER
LANE PAPERS**

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Thirty years in Lane: and other Lane papers by Edward D. Morris

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EDWARD D. MORRIS

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-AND-

OTHER LANE PAPERS.

BY EDWARD D. MORRIS,

PROFESSOR OF CHURCH HISTORY, 1867-74,

PROFESSOR OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1874-87.

Walk about Zion, and go round about her ;

Tell the towers thereof :

Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces,

THAT YE MAY TELL IT TO THE GENERATION FOLLOWING.

INTRODUCTORY.

CINCINNATI, O., December 8th, 1896.

THE REV. E. D. MORRIS, D.D., LL.D.,

Dear Brother :

The Lane Club has heard with pleasure your paper on "Thirty Years in Lane." It is their judgment that this paper and others which you have prepared on the history of the Institution are worthy of preservation in permanent form.

The undersigned, therefore, acting in behalf of the Club, and under their appointment, request that you place such papers as you may choose in their hands, to be published by them as a souvenir of your retirement from your life of active service as a Professor in Lane Seminary.

Respectfully,

J. N. ERVIN.

W. P. MILLER.

COLUMBUS, O., December 31st, 1896.

REV. J. N. ERVIN and REV. W. P. MILLER,

Beloved Pupils and Brethren:— In grateful response to the request presented by the Lane Club, through you as their committee, I place in your hands the paper recently read before the Club, entitled "*Thirty Years in Lane,*" in the hope that it will be kindly read by many Alumni and others as in some sense a record, not merely of my own prolonged service as professor, but also of the history of our beloved Seminary during the latter half of its existence as a theological institution of the Presbyterian Church.

In accordance with your suggestion I have appended the following papers prepared at various times, which will contribute something further toward such a history, namely:

LEAVES FROM THE EARLY HISTORY OF LANE.—A paper read at the fortieth anniversary of the Seminary, November, 1869; in conjunction with the Reunion of the Presbyterian Church.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF LANE.—An address delivered before the Centennial General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, at Philadelphia, May, 1888.

THE DOCTRINAL PLATFORM OF OUR CHURCH.—An address delivered at the opening of the Seminary year, September, 1882.

THE THEOLOGIANS OF LANE. — A paper read by appointment before the Club, at the sixtieth anniversary of the Seminary, December 1889.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR ALLEN. — Presented to the Club, December, 1887.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS ON PROFESSOR EVANS. — Delivered before the Club, January, 1893.

I trust that these papers, selected from a considerable number of manuscripts and printed documents, written on various occasions, in the interest of the Seminary, may be of some value in the way of preserving in some measure its remarkable and precious history, and of stimulating the affection of those who have studied within its walls, and the confidence and devotion of its generous friends.

Your teacher and friend,

EDWARD D. MORRIS.



[The formal resignation of Professor Morris, tendered in May, 1886, and the action of the Board of Trustees thereon, may, in view of their biographic and historic value, be properly incorporated in this memorial volume.—*Committee on Publication*]

The Letter of Resignation.

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
LANE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Brethren:—In 1863 I became a Trustee of the Institution now under your charge. During the winter of 1864-65, while still a pastor, I gave instruction here for several months in the department of Homiletics. In October, 1867, I was elected Professor of Biblical Exegesis, but on the following day was transferred to the chair of Church History. In 1870 I was again elected Trustee in order that I might, in an emergency which had arisen, serve also as Treasurer and Superintendent. In 1874 I was transferred to the chair of Systematic Theology, and for twenty-one years have held that position. My connection with the Seminary in these various ways now covers quite one half of the entire period of its existence as a theological institution.

Of the Board of Trustees to whom I owe my first election as Professor, your present President is the only member remaining in office; most of the other members have passed from life. Of those who voted for my transfer

to the chair of Theology in 1874, but one other member remains. Within this period six Professors have died, one holding an emeritus relation, the others in active service, and all but one several years younger than myself at their death. Seven Professors have resigned their chairs; and since July, 1893, I have been the only inaugurated Professor in the institution, standing alone in a sphere where everything about me has been passing through almost incredible change.

It is not needful that I should detail my endeavors to serve the Seminary in the two departments of instruction successively assigned to me. My beloved colleague, recently deceased, for whom the chair of Church History may be said to have been created, had during the four years preceding my election, done admirable work in that department—work to which it became my privilege for seven years thereafter to give further expansion and prominence, especially in the line of the History of Sacred Doctrine. During these years my studies in that line led me to accept afresh, with matured conviction and with increasing earnestness, that type of Reformed or Calvinistic Theology inculcated here by my honored predecessors, Beecher and Allen and Nelson, and represented elsewhere by such men as my beloved teacher, Dr. Hickok, of Auburn Seminary, and the revered Professor Henry Boynton Smith, of Union Seminary. And when the unanimous voice of the Board called me to serve in that department, I esteemed it alike my duty and my privilege to uphold, as far as I was able, the historic teachings and best traditions of the