

**IN MEMORIAM, THE  
REV. WM.  
TREAT BURNS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649318711

In Memoriam, The Rev. Wm. Treat Burns by D. H. Taylor

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**D. H. TAYLOR**

**IN MEMORIAM, THE  
REV. WM.  
TREAT BURNS**



IN MEMORIAM.

---

THE REV. WM. TREAT BURNS.

---

BY THE REV. D. H. TAYLOR,  
A CLASSMATE.

---

1890

PHILADELPHIA.

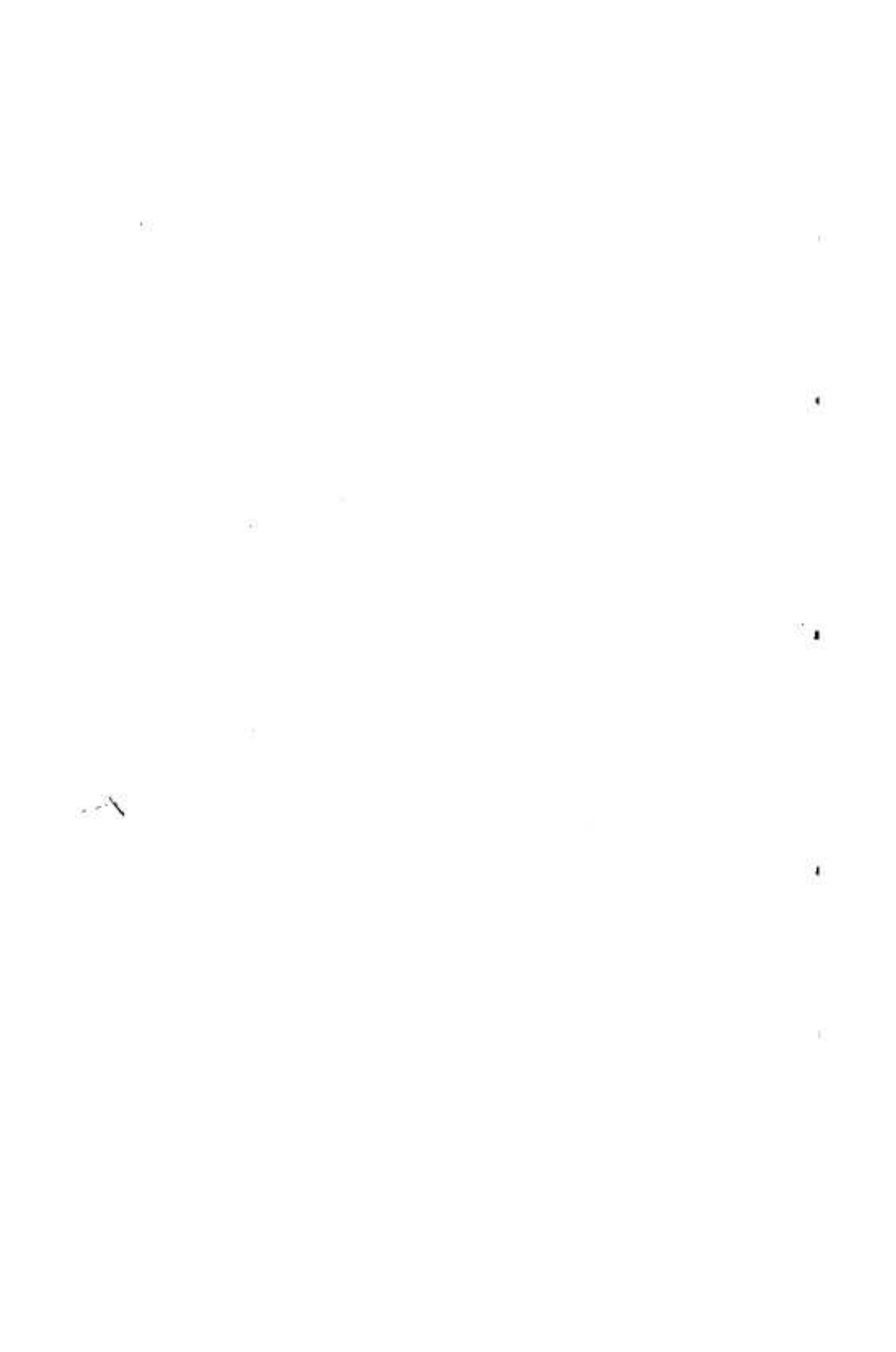
943  
Bap. 85  
B967.  
T239 i

NOTE.

This sketch was prepared, in the first place, at the invitation of the Boston Baptist Ministers' Conference. Being unable at the time to write it myself, it was composed from my notes and suggestions, by my wife; and was read to the Conference by the Rev. Philip S. Moxom, D. D. It was then published in the *Watchman*, of Boston. I have since had an opportunity to make some additions and slight alterations, and it is now printed by the courtesy of Mr. F. W. Ayer, of Camden, N. J. I have written it for the sake of him whose memory it attempts to preserve; as also for her sake, who sits in the ever-lengthening shadow of her affliction; and for the sake of the children, of whom it is expected that they will be not less noble than their noble father.

Norwich, Conn., Nov. 8th, 1889.

D. H. T.



### WILLIAM TREAT BURNS.

William Treat Burns was born March 14th, 1848, in Milford, Conn. His ancestors for several generations had lived in this pleasant old town, and are remembered as contributing to its social forces in no stinted measure that sturdy quality of character, which constitutes the strength and durability of so many New England communities.

We are not accustomed in our country to laying much stress upon ancestry. It is rather the fashion to assume that each person, by using and displaying his individual qualities, and by developing them in combat with the peculiar circumstances which surround him, is to stand or fall on his own merits, without reference to the personal qualities and character of his ancestors. But the laws of heredity are not to be gainsaid, and the person who is the heir of generations of strong, temperate, God-fearing progenitors has an inheritance, the value of which can scarcely be



#### IN MEMORIAM

---

computed. Of such an inheritance Mr. Burns was the fortunate possessor. As we recall the striking features of his character we will find that they answer to prototypes appearing in clear lines in the character of his parents and grandparents.

The paternal grandfather of W. T. Burns was a shoemaker by trade, and he brought up his four sons to the same occupation. They were steady and assiduous workers, applying themselves to their vocation, and providing comfortably for their large families. From their persistent industry, no doubt, Burns inherited that untiring application to work, which was his most marked characteristic. The Tibballs family, to which Burns' mother belonged, were also old residents of Milford. That they were lovers of books is indicated by the fact that one of Burns' uncles, Mr. N. Tibballs, has been for many years a noted publisher and book-seller in New York. Through his mother, perhaps, Burns inherited his great fondness for books, as well as an insight into deep spiritual truths; for that mother was a woman of keen intellect, a careful student of the Bible, a devoted and spiritual-minded Christian. She not only read the Holy Scriptures for herself, but, like Eunice, the mother of Timothy, she instructed her boy in the knowledge of them, so that from his youth he showed a remarkable familiarity with the Word of God.

Under influences for good so clearly marked as these, our brother began his strong, busy, beautiful, though short, life. In after years it was one of his delights to spend a day or two, snatched from incessant toil, in Milford, rowing or fishing or resting among the scenes of his boyhood and with the friends and relatives whom he loved.

When William was about ten years old his father removed with his family to New York City. To the eager boy the metropolis was an El Dorado, and during the five years passed in the city his vision was set steadily toward its manifold chances for advancement. He was ambitious; he meant to win; he had no intention of occupying a place among the insignificant. Conscious of his budding powers, feeling the thrill of their hourly unfolding strength, he proposed in his boyish heart to do great things. His parents kept him at school; but he had surplus energy, and for this he sought other employment. For two or three years he took his place regularly every afternoon in the line of boys who delivered the *Evening Post*. That he did this work faithfully no one will question; though it was under the influence of these associations that he was led into a youthful enterprise which years afterwards his sharp conscience condemned.

In 1864 we follow young Burns, then a lad of sixteen, from New York to Ohio. If he had been a

#### IN MEMORIAM

---

year or two older it is more than probable that his native patriotism would have carried him into the army, for those stirring times were charming away the hearts of some of the noblest young men. His youth, however, protected him and held him in reserve for a still grander sacrifice. In Cleveland he joined the Sunday-school of the Second Baptist Church, where there soon came to him that knowledge of his Lord which determined his subsequent career. He was baptized and united with that church, now the Euclid Avenue, March 17th, 1865, three days after his seventeenth birthday. From that time his mind was fixed upon the service of the Lord Jesus. All his zealous ambition was transferred to his new Master, and with his accustomed vigor he began at once to prepare himself for some sphere of Christian service, either as teacher or preacher, to both of which his natural talents were admirably adapted.

His college course was taken at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, from which he graduated in the class of '71. Those were the years when Dr. Sanson Talbot was leaving the impress of his enthusiasm upon the minds of the young men who gathered at Denison, and Burns came from his collegiate work with all his intellectual life aglow with flaming enthusiasm, kindled at the fires of the eager and ambitious spirit of his master.